

# FAWCO Region 5 Conference 2013 AIWC Cologne



*Friday, November 8*

Guests began arriving and excited greetings could be heard in the hotel lobby; joyful FAWCO reunions!

The evening began with a warm and witty welcome by AIWCC President, Janet Davis. After recognizing our honored guests - Vice Mayor Angela Spizig; Mrs. Consul General, Ute Hubler; and Wiltrud Hammelstein, the new managing director of the Amerika Haus, NRW- Janet showed off her gift of poetry with her newly penned...

## *My Ode d'Cologne*

I welcome you to fair Cologne, our city on the Rhine  
For those of us residing here, we find it just divine

Our quality of life is good, here along the river  
Although the winter's not so great; it's cold, it's gray - we shiver

Cologne is old, 2000 years, 'Twas once a Roman city  
Its seven bridges span the Rhine; they make our city pretty

If Roman ruins are your thing, I think we got ya covered  
As o'er the last 800 years, they keep on being discovered

Our claim to fame, our point of pride, is our majestic Dom  
It's bigger than most everything in Prague, Milan and Rome

It took 600 years to build, a feat of engineering  
We'll offer you a bird's eye view, unless it's height you're fearing

Cologne is home to Karneval, a joyous celebration  
A time for singing, dancing and well, yes...inebriation

You should dress up and have some fun, though no one will require it  
It's a chance for you to get in touch, with your inner pirate

The beer we drink, our local Kölsch, is cherished by the masses  
At toasting time you always clink the bottom of the glasses

Christmas time is magical, the markets are appealing  
Drinking glühwein in the cold evokes a special feeling

So there's a look at our Cologne, our special little Stadt  
We're glad you're here, we're thrilled to host, and as for me...that's that.



## Celebrating Home: *A Musical, Political and Literary Tribute to the Place We Love*

With nearly 60 guests in attendance for the evening, the entertainment began with a classical piece on the viola, performed by AIWCC member, Carol Habich-Traut, followed by a very moving reading by author, Robin Meloy Goldsby (also an AIWCC member), about the meaning of home; *"it is where we feel understood."* Carol and Robin then joined forces for a lively, comic performance. Cologne's Vice Mayor, Angela Spizig, treated us to an informative and entertaining history of Cologne's famous female citizens. We now know that despite the dearth of landmarks, Cologne would not be the city it is today without the contributions of its women residents!





*Saturday, November 9*

### *Morning Session*

Saturday morning began with a laugh: “Eierlegendewollmilchsau”... a welcome, introductions and presentations by both the FAWCO Board and The FAWCO Foundation.

Sallie Chaballier, FAWCO 2nd VP, began with a presentation about FAWCO’s mission and how the organization is structured to accomplish its goals. It was a wonderful introduction for those new to FAWCO and a great refresher for the more seasoned FAWCO-ites. A key message was that FAWCO is a strong organization, doing important work - “FAWCO has gravitas!”

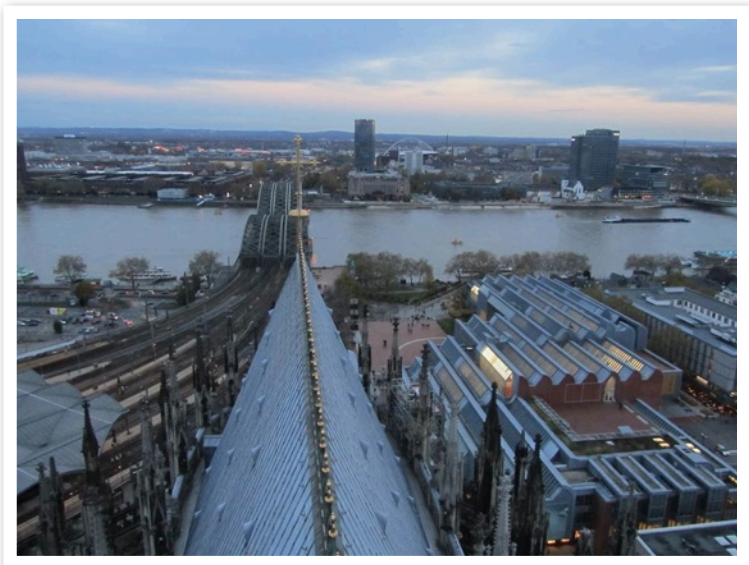


Michele Hendrikse Du Bois, President of The FAWCO Foundation, spoke about the philanthropic work they are doing on our behalf – elucidating how member clubs and individual members can benefit and how they can contribute!

Laurie Richardson, FAWCO 3rd VP, gave an introduction to the new Target Issue: Human Rights for Women. This was followed by a moving presentation by Sybille Fezer, Program Manager, Liberia of medica mondiale e.V., about their work in Liberia assisting women and girls who are subjected to sexual and gender-based violence (sgbv).

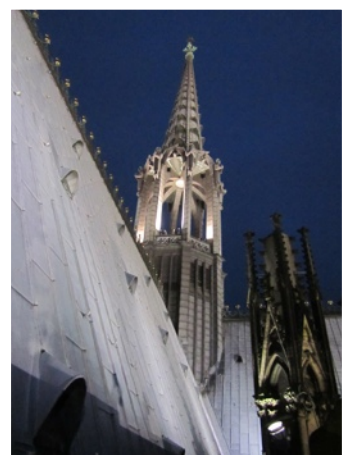
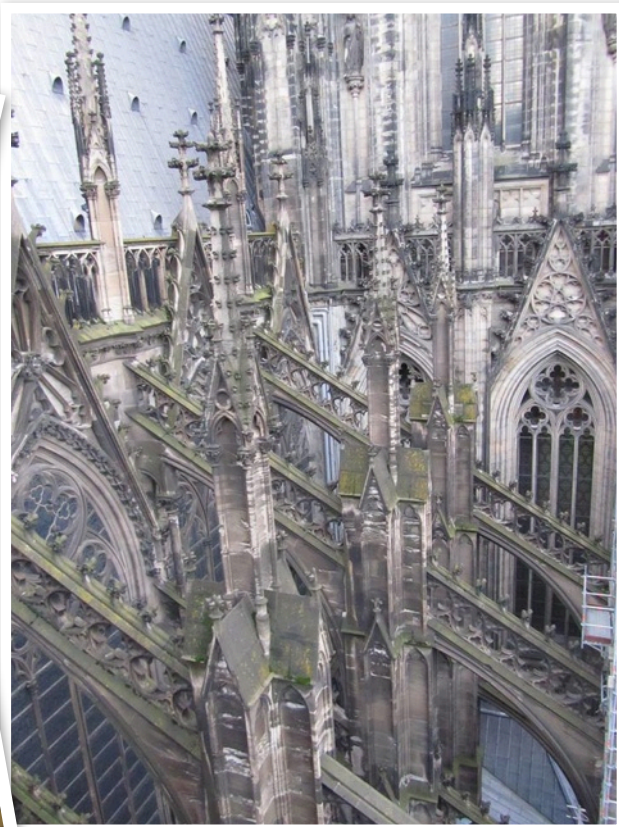


Then the working sessions began. Liz Janson, Munich IWC, facilitated a dynamic session on Communications.



## Rooftop Tour of the Cologne Cathedral and Cologne Walking Tour

Following lunch, the group split up. Most strolled along the Rhine with Friedel Schumacher, AIWCC member, and were treated to a rooftop tour of the Cologne Cathedral - a special opportunity to experience this amazing gothic cathedral from a unique perspective. A smaller group, who wished to remain grounded, enjoyed a guided tour through the Altstadt and the main hall of the Cathedral by AIWCC member, Corinn Lutz.





## Dinner @ Bar Tabac and Fashion for FUNds: Charity Fashion Accessory Show benefiting Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V.



After a brisk walk from the Dom through the center of Cologne, the group enjoyed dinner at French bistro, Bar Tabac. Then the fun began. Fashion for FUNds: A Charity Fashion Accessory Show kicked off, featuring the trend-setting accessories brand INVUU. The show got underway with a musical arrangement by singer/songwriter talent Amy Antin, AIWCC member.



Following her heartfelt performance, a bevy of well-heeled ladies stormed the runway outfitted in key looks from INVUU's Fall/Winter 2013 collection. Models included some of the best and the brightest from the Cologne club, member daughters, and FAWCO President, My Linh Kunst - all of whom captivated the crowd in a plethora of colorful lightweight shawls, chunky scarves, snug winter caps, cozy gloves, and an assortment of eye-catching costume jewelry.



At the conclusion of the show, AIWCC President, Janet Munger Davis, was the lucky guest to walk away with one of the complete looks showcased on the runway, as part of the evening's raffle prize. The fun continued on as attendees had the opportunity to "get up close and personal" with the collection, with all looks featured on the runway, as well as a large assortment of product from the collection, made available for purchase at significantly reduced prices. For more photos please [CLICK HERE](#). The password is F4F



With an eye to the Target Issue - Human Rights for Women - Frauenhauskoordinierung e.V. ([www.frauenhauskoordinierung.de](http://www.frauenhauskoordinierung.de)) will be the recipient of the proceeds of the evening's sales. Frauenhauskoordinierung (The Association of Women's Shelters, in Germany) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing violence against women throughout Germany. The 2300+ Euro collected will help fund the creation of a series of web-based videos geared towards helping the hearing-impaired community access valuable information about the services they provide.

The video project is budgeted at 4500 Euro. If you or your club would like to further contribute to help reach this goal, please contact Tricia R. Saur at [fawco@aiwccologne](mailto:fawco@aiwccologne) to learn more.

*Sunday, November 10*

### *Morning Session*

The group was up early again on Sunday and back to work. They met to discuss common issues all clubs face in their daily operations, offering a platform for the exchange of ideas and information.

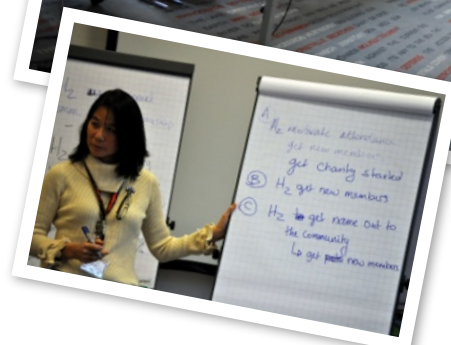
My-Linh began by asking each club what their primary challenge is today. Sallie then facilitated a discussion on how club's members perceive FAWCO and what can be done to better promote FAWCO among members. My-Linh followed with the topic of External Relations which encompassed PR, advertising and corporate sponsorship.



Michele from The FAWCO Foundation covered the session on fundraising and shared that a "How To" toolkit on corporate sponsorship is in the works.

My-Linh took up again addressing the issue of volunteers: how to increase participation and motivate members to help.

Session notes for all of these topics and Liz's session on Communications are available on the FAWCO website at: [Region 5 Rocks!](#)





## *FAWCO Youth Program*

Barbara Bühling of AWC Düsseldorf, FAWCO Youth Program Chair, introduced two FAWCO Youth Volunteers to speak about their experience in Dubai. Julia Goldsby and Stephanie Metz, both daughters of AIWCC members, had the privilege to participate in the pilot project to Dubai in July 2013. They began by showing their project video and followed this with a question and answer session. It clearly was an extraordinary experience and I think there were a few of us wishing for the chance to chaperone.



## *Tribute...*

The day ended with a tribute to Frauke Rademacher-Heidemann, who, after 10 years, stepped down as Region 5 Coordinator. "Frauke, thank you for your leadership and guidance in making Region 5 such a strong and cohesive group." Taking over is Angelika McLarren of AWC Berlin - "as a die-hard FAWCO-ite who has good bonds with all the clubs and is well respected, we are lucky to have you."



Cologne is happy to hand the baton over to Hamburg - we'll see you in the Hansestadt next fall (and Brussels in March)!

It was a fabulous weekend; thank you to all who came. We hope you left with a few new friends and new inspiration to take back to your clubs.

A few thank yous are in order. We had tremendous help from our local members who offered both their time and talent to proudly represent our club to our sister clubs in the region. We also received a great deal of support from FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation as well as numerous individuals from other clubs. We would like to recognize everyone involved...

### *Conference Planning Committee*

Tricia R. Saur, FAWCO Rep and Conference Chair  
Janet M. Davis, President  
Christine Funke, Vice President  
Robin Meloy Goldsby, Parliamentarian - Celebrating Home  
Kendall Griffin, Member - Fashion for FUNds

### *Volunteers*

#### **Conference**

Barbara Bühling  
Sallie Chaballier  
Arandeep Degun  
Julia Goldsby  
Carol Habich-Traut  
Michele Hendrikse Du Bois  
Liz Janson  
My-Linh Kunst  
Corinn Lutz  
Angelika McLarren  
Stephanie Metz  
Carolyn Pollard  
Frauke Rademacher-Heidemann  
Laurie Richardson  
Friedel Schumacher  
Melanie von Gersdorf  
Sally Webersinke

#### **Fashion For FUNds**

Amy Antin  
Stacey Kimmig  
My-Linh Kunst  
Gina Chiapparine  
Michelle Grams  
Julia Goldsby  
MaLinda Hill  
Isha Muthuraaman  
Uma Muthuraaman  
Gina Palmisano  
Katrín Rüffer  
Lisa Tancredi  
Carol Windfuhr



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