



## Our Fiftieth Year

As I came down the stairs outside Lerbach Castle on the gorgeous, mild afternoon of March 22, 2011, all I had to do was follow the noise. Some 90 women, including new members, a former member who belonged to the club in the 1960s, one with a Southern accent who'd flown in from the States, one who works playing the piano right there at the castle, European women with a soft spot for the American idiom, moms with infants and surely a great-grandma or two had made the trip across the Rhine to Bergisch Gladbach for high tea to celebrate a long history of fellowship, speaking English, getting to know Cologne and the Rhineland, saving each other's sanity, "creating a common ground" and "joining hearts from home to home." We were greeted by a song these two lines are from, "Close to Home," written and performed by singer-songwriter Amy Antin and pianist/composer/writer Robin Meloy Goldsby.



We went out on the steps and the beautiful grounds for photos and then settled in for a party that went by in a flash and marked the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the American International

Women's Club of Cologne e.V. in 1961. Club President Jenny Taylor gave a special welcome to lifetime members Luise Wengatz, Dorothy Boventer, Anne von Aulock, Lynda Rosenkranz, Ulrike Geißler and Irene Ehlers, and Membership Chair Marisa Cid introduced the former presidents who were in attendance.



Past Presidents: Jenny Taylor, Mary Aiken, Tricia R. Saur, Dorothy Boventer, My-Linh Kunst, Lynda Rosenkranz and Cynthia Lehmann



Longest-standing member, Dorothy Boventer, and oldest member, Luise Wengatz

Jenny's personal talk about finding the club and what it's meant to her resonated with many of us. My-Linh Kunst, former AIWCC President and now President of FAWCO, brought the federation's best wishes for our extremely active club. As we watched an AIWCC family slide show, Carol Traut played Bach on the viola – was that a nice German touch, or what? – and we stole a peek at the colorful, 40-page anniversary booklet edited by Robin Goldsby and Sharon Reamer and designed by Heather Northcott, donned our shiny new AIWCC pins and felt a lot like my parents at their fiftieth wedding anniversary: We did it! Fifty years! We haven't done a bad job. And we'd like it to keep doing it for as long as possible.



Thanks to Julie Holter, Tricia Restivo Saur, Marie Bénédicte Luxem, Marisa Cid and the booklet editors for their advance work that made this an afternoon to remember.

*Cynthia Lehmann*

## Current Board



Helen Antebi - VP  
Marie Bénédicte Luxem – Charities  
Robin Meloy Goldsby – FAWCO Rep  
Marisa Cid – Membership  
Audrey Thomas – Treasurer  
Jennifer Taylor – President  
Janet Davis – Secretary  
Tricia R. Saur (accompanied by Noah) –  
Parliamentarian

Many thanks as well to our talented club photographer, Sara Hartmann, who took the photos you see here and many more, which can be viewed on her website: [www.rheinfotografie.com](http://www.rheinfotografie.com)  
Just click on "Gallery" and you will see "AIWCC 50th Anniversary Tea" listed. If you would like to purchase a Jpeg for 5€, please send Sara an email with the number(s) of the image(s) you would like: [sara@rheinfotografie.com](mailto:sara@rheinfotografie.com)