

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAMBURG

# CURRENTS

APRIL 2014

[WWW.AWCHAMBURG.ORG](http://WWW.AWCHAMBURG.ORG)



## Currents

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Please read with kindness and tolerance! Each columnist carefully proof-reads the articles submitted for her column. Errors are nevertheless sometimes overlooked. Please be aware that we are an international club, with American and British spelling differences, and many non-native English speakers. In addition, we are all volunteers and merely human!

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**Currents Magazine**

© 2014 American Women’s Club of Hamburg e.V.,

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Banking: Sparda Bank Hamburg e.V., ABC-Straße 38, 20354 Hamburg

BLZ 206 905 00 Konto-Nr 0000 911 771

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April 2014 Issue Column Editors: Ulrike C. H., Shawn K., Karen M., Tracy M., Becky T.

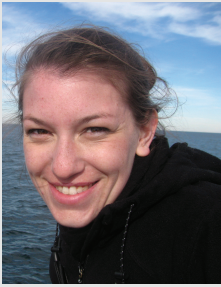
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## What Karen has to say



Once again I jumped off the nervous breakdown train with destination: insanity, right past Currents town. This month I prepared two versions of Currents, the printed and the online version. Needless to say, let's stay diplomatic, I was a tad busy.

However, by the time you will be reading this, I will be in a far away land of good beer, Weißwürschtla, and Brezeln somewhere in a magical Biergarten of Bavaria. I'll be on vacation, dog sitting my mom's little pup. We'll see how much of a vacation little Max will let me have :-)

I wish you all a lovely month of April, with sunshine and laughter and the Frühlingsgefühle all around you.

See you at the next Proofreading Session or General Currents Meeting!

**Karen; your Chief Editor**



Max, who will gladly ignore me for most parts of our ten days together...I'll only be the source of food and walks.

## The New Board is "on Board"

by Brooke V.



from left: Shawn K., our President and Chris L. our new treasurer taking over from....Brooke (below) who seems quite happy with being the new membership chair.

Tracy recently attended in Brussels. They were excited to report that Free The Girls was chosen as FAWCO's new target project. Other points of discussion included updating our Facebook and member advertising policies, as well as making plans to publish "Bloom



Where You Are Planted" as an E-book. Karen reported that the

first digital versions of Currents have had over 150 views, each (good job, Karen!). We have had a total of 17 new and new "returning" members who have joined the AWCH so far in 2014, with a total overall membership of 122 members. Chris reported that, as such, we are well on-track for our 2014 budget. Tracy brought up that we could develop a club motto to put on a club banner that we could hang at events, such as the Outreach Day at the US Consulate. We ended the meeting by discussing ideas for upcoming events. Keep your eyes open for Evites for a Girl's Night Out, a visit to the Cherry Blossom Festival (Kirschblütenfest) and English Movie Nights at the Savoy, among other activities!

The new AWCH board officially "took over" with a meeting at Ristorante Pergola Due. New faces to this year's board include Kim Reer, secretary, and Chris Lorenzen, treasurer. We are excited to welcome Kim and Chris back to the AWCH board. As this was the first board meeting of 2014, we had a long "to-do" list. At the top of that list included an update on the great work the regional FAWCO planning committee has done in organizing the upcoming conference, as well as a recap from the FAWCO conference that Shawn and



from left: Tracy M., our fantastic FAWCO Representative and Kim, who took over the Secretary's position from Karen.

## Comments

### What is Health, Really?

by Tiana D R.

When most people think of health, images of young people with fit bodies doing various „healthy“ activities like running or yoga usually pop into their heads. The media would like you to believe that there is only one way to be healthy, and they mean *skinny, slender or thin*. But this is not true at all. What passes for healthy can vary from one person to another. Health is widely variable and extremely personal. It does not only encompass what you eat and how much you move your body, but it also includes your state of happiness and satisfaction with life.

Notice I said nothing about weight. That number on the scale tells you nothing except how much you weigh, how much mass you consist of and how gravity is acting upon it. Simple physics. Depending on your individual makeup, like how muscular you are, how finely or broadly structured your bones are, how many organs you've had removed through the years, or even how efficiently your digestion works, your weight can be vastly different from that in the supposedly "healthy" range dictated by the BMI (Body Mass Index) chart which only takes into account your weigh and your height. True, there is

evidence that when your BMI is in the range dubbed as healthy, between about 21 and 25, you are less likely to suffer from lifestyle diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

However, the question of weight always polarizes the health debate into the camps of the goods, the bads, and the uglies. Yet this is unfair. All bodies are different, and what is healthy for you may not be healthy for me. Health is completely individual.

Your health is simply a result of how well you nourish yourself. This nourishment comes from more than just what you eat, which are considered Secondary Foods. Your Primary Foods are the foods that feed your soul, the ones that help you to be joyful and fulfilled, things such as your relationships, spirituality and career. Your physical activity and water intake can also be counted as Primary Foods.

So what is health, really? It is not about weight. It is about all that you are as an individual. Health is when you have reached a place in your life where your Primary and Secondary Foods are in balance, resulting in true happiness and satisfaction.

### A Lunchbreak in London

by Karen M.



I'm taking up on Tiana's comment on health and will tell you what keeps me healthy, or let's say mentally healthy: good food!

So, you can imagine how excited I was to find one of my favorite American sweethearts in a London shopping mall on Oxford Street:

#### **CINNABON!**

The rest of the day was a breeze after the deliciousness I experienced, though there was something missing....maybe an American salesperson selling it to me....., maybe, perhaps a sweet tea to go with it.

The best things were the little special mini cinnamon rolls, for only 1 Pound which I got for my colleagues who were in London with me. Our lunchbreak then turned from a timewasting necessity to a real pleasure, at least I think so! And I was able to convince my colleagues that not only the Swedish

know how to make delicious cinnamon rolls.



**Mission Accomplished!**



## Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas

By Tracy M.

### Great News!

**Free the Girls** is the New FAWCO Target Project beneficiary of the FAWCO Target Program: Human Rights for Women!



The FAWCO Target Program was initiated to unite the power of almost 12,000 individual members of the 64 FAWCO Member Clubs in 33 countries to make a significant and sustainable impact on critical issues that support the effort to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals. The AWC Hamburg is one of these clubs striving to make a difference.

#### What Free the Girls Does

Free The Girls is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides job opportunities for survivors of sex trafficking. Gently used bras are collected and donated to the women as starting inventory for their own business selling the bras.

### Why Bras?

Women who Free The Girls works with were sold into prostitution, often as children. Bras are luxury items and are in very high demand. Bras provide the following:

1. **Great Income**
2. **Safe Environment**
3. **Flexible Schedule**
4. **Sustainable Model**
5. **Minimal Effects on Local Markets**



### Expanding The Reach

#### What the AWCH is Doing

We will be holding events throughout the year, in addition to our regular club meetings, such as Stitch n Bitch , English Night at the Movies and the AGM and using these opportunities to collect your gently used bras and sending them to a collecting station (hopefully here in Hamburg) where they will be sorted, packed and sent on their way. Little effort = Huge Difference

Look for a Bunco Games Night and a Book and DVD Exchange coming soon.



## What in the Heck Is FAWCO?

by Tracy Moede

Okay, so it isn't a big secret that I am a big fan of FAWCO. I caught the fever at the conference in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2009. Since then I have tried to bring my enthusiasm for this organization to the members of the AWC Hamburg. It hasn't been an easy job. If you have never been exposed to a Annual conference or a regional meeting, it is hard to understand what FAWCO is, what they do and how they do it.

For those of you who have never heard of FAWCO before, it is the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas and is our „Mother“ organization. Your membership is automatic when you join the AWC Hamburg. This 15,000-member, 100% volunteer organization comprises 64 clubs in 38 countries on six continents. It is the oldest and largest organization representing the needs of Americans living overseas and keeps Americans abroad up to date on their rights & responsibilities, including voting rights, equitable taxation, and citizenship for children born and/or adopted abroad. If you are a non-American member of the AWC Hamburg, you might be interested to know that FAWCO also deals global issues by addressing public, social and health policies and issues throughout the world. FAWCO also promotes a wide-range of philanthropic efforts by donating more than \$1,000,000 per year to various global charities.

Whew! That is a lot of information to take in and process. Not to worry I have had the chance to introduce the AWCH to FAWCO in a variety of ways. Through fundraising events like the many BUNCO game nights and the silent auction at the AGM. I have motivated friends to donate quilt squares to the FAWCO quilt and sold raffle tickets for the quilt fundraiser at the yearly conferences. There have been informational reports (and quizzes!) at the AWCH annual general meetings. For a time I also sold raffle tickets for one lucky winner to have their conference fees paid for them so they could attend a yearly conferences more easily, thus also being able to “catch the fever”.

You don't have to be as big a fan as I am. Really, you don't. However, if you are looking for a way to do something for yourself, find a place where you are not seen as a wife, mother or employee, to get active in projects that make a difference, FAWCO just might be the place for you. All you have to do is to find something that interests you and take action! Check out the FAWCO web site and log in for additional information [www.fawco.org](http://www.fawco.org). It really is very user friendly.

We often think that one person cannot make a difference in the world but through FAWCO, an organization of like minded women, we can.

Dear esteemed AWC Hamburg Member,  
We are thrilled to invite you, in cooperation with The American Club, to an exclusive evening at

### **The English Theatre of Hamburg**

**for Dennis McIntyre's National Anthems**  
on May 9 at 7:00 pm.

This will surely be a fun and entertaining evening for members, family and friends. Complimentary drinks and small snacks will be served before the play (which begins promptly at 7:30), at intermission, and after the play when you will also have the opportunity to meet and mingle with the cast.

**Host:**  
**AWC Hamburg + The American Club of  
Hamburg**

**Where:**  
**The English Theatre of Hamburg Lerchenfeld 14  
Hamburg, 22081**

RSVP and kindly transfer payment (30 € per member, 40 € per guest or non-member) to:

The American Club of Hamburg e.V. Commerzbank AG Hamburg IBAN: DE28 2008 0000 0905 5575 00  
BIC: DRESDEFF200

Please book your place early. After back-to-back years of great performances and wonderful hospitality from The English Theatre of Hamburg, we hope to fill up all 160 seats this year!

For more info email Shawn Klug at [pres@awchamburg.org](mailto:pres@awchamburg.org)

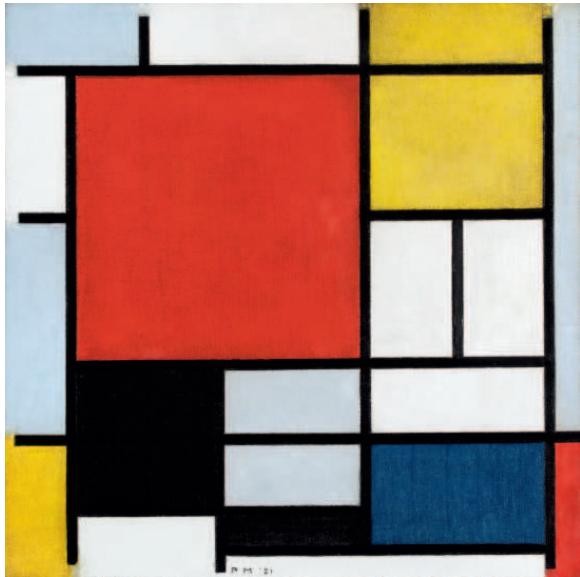
# Art in the City

by Ulrike C. H.

Buscerius Kunstforum

## Mondrian. Color Through May 11, 2014

Piet Mondrian's work is known for his use of red, yellow and blue in his paintings. By 1921 he had begun to paint only in these primary colors, combining them with white planes and black lines. From his early successes in 1900 painting Dutch landscapes, Mondrian developed into the pioneer of Color Field painting. The exhibit Mondrian. Color will examine this central aspect of the artist's oeuvre. Initially, Mondrian saw color as the material of reality in the tradition of Rembrandt. The earthy colors of the landscape dominated his early work. Goethe's theory of colors drew his attention for the first time to the primary



Piet Mondrian (1872-1944): Komposition mit großer roter Fläche, Gelb Schwarz, Grau und Blau, 1921, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag © 2013 Mondrian / Holtzman Trust c/o HCR International USA

colors. Paintings in blue and red attest to his interest in theosophy. He discovered the color of light beneath the glittering impression of the summer sun shining on the sea. In his dune paintings, Mondrian transformed color to create abstract works of art. During his Cubist period he developed a structure of lines that allowed him to apply color without relying on the object itself. He painted numerous variations of colors in perpetually changing relationships in a never-ending series of images. In his experiments, Mondrian sought a universal harmony that could automatically be understood by viewers. This effect appears when one encounters the original works in which one can clearly see his working method. The paintings, which seem so deliberately planned, were created during a long process in which Mondrian applied the paint layer by layer, always in response to the colors.

Check opening times at: <http://www.buceriuskunstforum.de>

Hamburg Museum

## Inklusion „Geht doch!“ erfahren. Eine Erlebnis- Ausstellung Through April 21, 2014

No matter if old or young, man or woman, with or without disability – Inclusion (disability rights) means to be with the crowd. Although disability rights have historically existed as a relatively cohesive movement, the movement centered around inclusion has only recently begun to take shape and to position itself in the eye of the general public.

On the basis of poetic staging, interactions and media installations the visitor dives into social environments of people with and without handicap and experiences playfully their everyday life. For example: “inclusion” tabletop soccer in a bar or shopping from a wheelchair driver's point of view. The visitor gets right in the middle of the life of different people, gets to know them, proceeds interactively in her situation and becomes sensitive for different living conditions. There is also room for humor: With the push on a button a man in a wheelchair appears on a screen and says: „My handicap is that I cannot yodel.“ At the end you will ask yourself, where does a handicap actually begin? With a psychic or physical handicap? As a wearer of glasses? As a leftie? What is my handicap?

Check opening times at: <http://www.hamburgmuseum.de>



Tamara Keitel vom Künstlerkollektiv barner 6 mit Exponat; Foto: Axel Nordmeier

This isn't all! Sometimes special events come up after the *Currents* deadline. In this case we will use **Evites** and our e-Newsletter to notify members. Check your email and our online calendar for the most up-to-date event information.

### **German Practice Circle “Kaffeeklatsch” on summer break!**

Our weekly german practice circle will go on summer break starting in April. The group will meet again in fall. Watch out for evites and announcements then.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

### **HH Helpers**

This group helps new AWCH Club Members to live the good life in Hamburg! If you have recently joined our club and need some assistance, you are encouraged to contact Regina D.

She will not only give you details about the next New Members' Event but also refer you to the HH Helper in your area and to the groups and committees that might interest you. If you have already been a club member for some time and are interested in assisting new members in your area, please let us know. We are looking for more HH Helpers – especially in the western and southern parts of Hamburg. Contact Regina at [hhelpers@awchamburg.org](mailto:hhelpers@awchamburg.org)

### **Opera Club**

At the monthly meetings of the Opera Club, we are discovering opera. One masterwork at a time. We meet several times to get to know a selected opera and then attend a performance together. Beginners are particularly welcome! Meetings are held Friday mornings in Hamburg-Poppenbüttel. Contact Elizabeth R. at [opera@awchamburg.org](mailto:opera@awchamburg.org)

### **Film Reviewers' Group**

The film group attends free press showings of films slated to open in Hamburg and writes reviews for *Currents* and other media. Communication is via email or fax. For more information, contact Becky T. at [filmgroup@awchamburg.org](mailto:filmgroup@awchamburg.org)

### **English Movie Night at the Savoy**

New AWCH Event!

Starting in 2014 there will be a new monthly event at the Savoy Movie theater in St. Georg: English Movie Night at the Savoy.

Here is how it works:

Respond to the evite and tickets will be reserved for you at the theater. You arrive no later than 30 minutes before the movie begins to pick up and pay for your tickets at the ticket desk. Easy!

If you can't make the showing, your tickets will be deleted from the system at no charge to you.

If you are not there 30 min prior to the showing, your reservation is cancelled and seat reassigned, so don't be late!

### **Stitch'n'Bitch**

Tuesday, April 1 and 15 any time after 19:00.

Otherwise known as Portable Hobby Night. Come join us for lots of laughs and snacks, a glass of wine, and some crafting.

Where: Watch the newsletter for location information

### **German Practice Circle “Kaffeeklatsch”**

Our Member Sylvia T. organizes a regular meeting to chat and meet in german. For all those working and practicing their new language. Feel welcome to join.

Summerbreak starting in April!



## ACTIVITY CALENDAR April 2014

Please check with activity leaders to confirm meeting times and places. More details on all meetings can be found in the membership section and on our AWC website: <http://www.awchamburg.org>

### April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Stitch 'n' Bitch	2 Walking tour of St Georg	3	4	5
6 Dim Sum Sunday	7 Pillow Sewing	8	9	10	11	12
13 Book Club Brunch	14	15 Stitch 'n' Bitch	16	17	18	19
20 Currents Deadline	21	22	23	24	25	26 English Movie Night
27	28	29 Stitch 'n' Bitch	30	31		

**Upcoming events in May**

Cherry Blossom Festival

GNO, the Girls Night Out is back around! Watch out for the Evite for a Thursday night get together!

The English Theatre with the American Club May 9.

The English Movie Night May 25.

And lots of more fun activities!

**Congratulations April Birthday Girls!**

Michele S.     4	Nancy B.     16	Thelma F.     20	Denise S.     28
Petra R.     5	Geraldine S.     16	Adele R.     21	Natalie W.     28
Coppelia H.B.     8	Liz E.     17	Tina G.     22	Ingrid O.     28
Karen P.     15	Shawn K.     17	Silke L.     24	

AWC Cancellation Policy:

All events for which participants must reserve in advance and pay at the door must be paid for whether or not the person attends the event. However, if the cancellation is called in before the sign-up deadline, there will be no charge. If a person cancels after the sign-up deadline, she need not pay if a confirmed substitute can be found.

**David Opperman**  
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## THE NEW MEMBERS' EVENT WITH COCO

Yet again Regina D. organized our wonderful New Members' Event. One of our club's favorite events which always has a big turnout. This time at the Chanel exhibition at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe. Here are a couple of impressions from our members....

I thought Regina's event was wonderful. The exhibition was a terrific idea and very interesting. Our Tour Leader, Ms. Riley, (the curator of the show!) was lovely and informative. But I must admit, I was disappointed by the dearth of clothes by Chanel herself. Especially the "Little Black dresses" which were all from other designers. The C&A copies reminded me of the same thing in New York in the 60's at Macy's-- and my mother made herself a "Chanel Suit" from a Vogue Pattern at the time. What did come across was the enormous influence Coco Chanel had on the world of fashion and a bit of her checkered history. In all, I wanted more, more, more! But it was great fun to see what we did, and I like the Karl Lagerfeld room very much!!

**Adele R.**



Adele R. and Ulrike C. H. (from left) enjoying the atmosphere at the "Destille".



from left: Brooke V., Jess M. and Stelle K. R.

As i have never been to this Museum before, i was happy to have the opportunity to attend the guided tour.

I was surprised to see that the neat little museum has so much to offer.

The new members event started out in the restaurant where we all had a bitt o nibble on.

The AWCH members were divided up into small groups. The guide we had was ever so informative, personable, and interesting. That was the first time that most of us were told of Coco Chanel's rise to fame and success. The costume and jewelry collection were enlightening . For the first time, i got to see the start of the famour `Little Black Dress` that every woman should have. It is also interesting to know how Chanel incorporate costume jewelry with real gems for accessory.

Her famous profile was explained and featured in most of her creations. The members got to see a lot of the collection and it was an evening well spent. We got to meet some new members and a chance to talk to existing members and future activities were planned.

Welcome to our new members and we wish them good luck in this wonderful country.

Our special thanks to Regina and we look forward to the next event. **Stella K.R.**

## New Members' Event

### Inspired by Coco

The room full of Little Black Dresses was stunning: you could imagine yourself wearing each of the dresses (okay not THAT one dress from Japan) and looking fabulous. What's hard to imagine is how women survived without the Little Black Dress for so long.

*"Simplicity is the keynote of all true elegance."*

Coco Chanel may have said this, but her suits said it better for her. Her influence on the styling of women's suits was obvious as you looked at all of the designers that have copied her work. Yet, the true mark of one of her suits is not the outrageous price tag of an original piece, but the subtle and unmistakable elegance and class.

*"Dress shabbily and they remember the dress; dress impeccably and they remember the woman."*

The exhibit showed beautiful woman wearing Chanel, but funnily enough I don't remember exactly what the women were wearing. Chanel was right...I can remember all of the hideous Lady GaGa outfits, but when it comes to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, I think only of her charm and grace.

*"I don't understand how a woman can leave the house without fixing herself up a little - if only out of politeness. And then, you never know, maybe that's the day she has a date with destiny. And it's best to be as pretty as possible for destiny."*

The exhibit inspired me to look for a couple more daring Little Black Dresses, to buy a bottle of Chanel no. 5 with its perfect blend of rose and jasmine, and to always dress up for possible dates with destiny.

(All quotes in Italics from Coco Chanel.)

**Katherine R.**

The New Members' Event at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe was great! A good opportunity to get to meet other members. I enjoyed the open and friendly atmosphere. Thank you for this event!. **Katie D.**



from left: Eileen P. and Katie D.

What a delightful afternoon. It was great to catch up with so many new and "old" members at the attractive museum restaurant 'Destille'.

And what a treat to take a guided tour to the exhibit "The Chanel Legend", our tour guide being Ms. Ripley the curator of the show. As a movie buff, I was fascinated by Marlene Dietrich's exquisite Chanel wardrobe, which is on loan by the Deutsche Kinemathek - Museum für Film und Fernsehen in Berlin.

**Ulrike C.H.**

# THANK YOU, REGINA!



from left: Katherine R. and Karen M.



from left: Thelma F., Monika M., Veronika



## MOVIE RATING SYSTEM

- \*\*\*\*\* Excellent flick! Don't miss it!
- \*\*\*\* Good movie, worth going to
- \*\*\* Not a bad way to spend a few hours
- \*\* OK, but read the review to understand my reservations
- \* Bad, but we've got to give them credit for making a movie!

*compiled by Becky T.*



### Out of the Furnace (Auge um Auge) \*\*\*\*\*

USA 2013

Opens 03 April 2014

Directed by Scott Cooper

Writing Credit: Scott Cooper

Cast: Christian Bale, Woody Harrelson, Casey Affleck, Forest Whitaker, Willem Dafoe, Zoe Saldana With Sam Shepard

Length: 116 minutes

This riveting, extraordinary thriller is, no doubt, an edge-of-your-seat film, but it is much more than that. Writer-Director Cooper (whose directorial debut was *Crazy Heart*) chose an unusual place to shoot his compelling study of family loyalty, love and revenge: Braddock, Pennsylvania. Once a thriving steel town in the heart of the Pennsylvania hills, Braddock is today, a tight-knit community of strong, courageous people still holding on to hope after the downturn in the American steel industry in the 1980's, caused the closing of their mill.

The opening scene with Harrelson, (brilliant as Harlan DeGroat), the scariest psychopath you'll ever hope not to meet, prepares you for violence and fear. And then-- cut, the film diverges down another road and begins the story of two brothers, their family, and their lives.

Russell Baze (Bale) is working at the huge furnace in the mill. Hard, dangerous, exhausting work, but a job Russell is glad to have in a town where jobs are almost impossible to find. His brother, Rodney (Affleck) won't work in the mill. He has made three tours to Iraq and, like many soldiers, is expecting orders for a fourth, which he cannot legally refuse, although he is tormented by his memories of the war.

Rodney prefers to spend his time at one of the betting centers run by a friend, John Petty, (Dafoe) or drinking. The two brothers are close, bound by strong family ties. Their father is dying, and Russell shares his care with help from his uncle Red (Shepard). Russell is deeply in love with a beautiful kindergarten teacher (Saldana) who wants desperately to have a child, but the couple has no luck. And then the story escalates. Russell works double shifts at the mill to pay Rodney's betting debts, and Rodney leaves for his Iraq duty. A great deal of unexpected things happens in his absence.

On his return, Rodney takes part in the well-paid street fights also run by his buddy, Petty, and he is determined that Petty take him to fight in New Jersey where he knows Petty owes big money to DeGroat, who lives hidden in the hills with his unscrupulous and brutal band. It is a fatal decision.

I do not want to reveal more of the plot-- it is a great story, full of warmth, and completely unexpected twists, and it will enthrall you and keep you deeply engrossed. But do not misunderstand; the film is not for the faint of heart. Harrelson's portrayal of DeGroat is the personification of evil. The street fights are bloody and hard to watch. But Christian Bale's vivid, intensely personal performance as Russell -- his fate, as well as that of his brother and uncle, is the hook which will hold you in your seat. It is a remarkable film, and every member of the star-studded cast is great. Suffice it to say---I will see this movie again! (Adele Riepe)

## Snowpiercer \*\*/\*\*\*\* 1/2

South Korea | USA | France | Czech Republic 2013

Starts April 3, 2014

Directed by: Joon-ho Bong

Writing credits: Joon-ho Bong and Kelly Masterson; Jacques Lob & Benjamin Legrand and Jean-Marc Rochette 3-volume comic novel

Cast: Chris Evans, Jamie Bell, John Hurt, Tilda Swinton, Octavia Spencer, Ed Harris, Kang-ho Song, Ko Asung, Ewen Bremner, Luke Pasqualino, Clark Middleton

Length: 126 minutes

The time is the future and the world is a frozen mass of ice and snow. The few remaining members of humanity are trapped forever in a train which has circled the earth for eighteen years. If this introduction catches your imagination then this is a movie for you.

A megalomaniac called Wilford (Ed Harris) is the owner of the train and the person responsible for keeping it going. He is also helped cause the global warming which made the earth become a snowy wasteland. There are twenty carriages on the train but the bulk of the people are crammed into the back one and are condemned to suffer unspeakable cruelties, including systematic torture, while wealthier ones live in comparative luxury at the front. Why isn't everybody evenly dispersed throughout the train? Well, the movie couldn't have been made is the answer. The scene is set for a peasants' revolt, or a good triumphing over evil sort of movie and it will be played out over two long hours and six long minutes.



44 STILL - 166-kleiner.jpg <http://va-movie.com/content/media/img5-large.jpg>

Spartacus – sorry- Curtis (Chris Evans) is the worthy though reluctant leader of the oppressed masses, ably supported by Edgar (Jamie Bell) who was born on the train and Tanya (Octavia Spencer.) Gilliam (John Hurt) urges Curtis to break through the iron doors between the carriages to reach the engine and its driver. Gilliam is too old and ill to do it himself, being “a shadow of the shadow of my former self.” Sit back and prepare yourself for violence and mayhem for the rest of the movie.



32 STILL - 60-\_.jpg <http://va-movie.com/content/media/img5-large.jpg>

There have been failed uprisings in the past but the present one is precipitated by the cruel actions of Mason (Tilda Swinton) who does Wilford's dirty work for him. She enters the carriage to carry out a so-called medical inspection of the children and picks out two to leave their parents and go with her. Tanya's boy and the son of Andrew, who has already been tortured, are the unlucky children selected and their loss is the catalyst for a new assault. Brute force isn't enough to succeed and Curtis must first find and enlist the help of Namsoong Mingoo (Song Kang-Ho) who, in turn, won't co-operate without the help of his daughter Yona (Ko Asung.) Father and daughter are addicted to a drug made from industrial waste and are unable to function without it. After a lot of noise and a great deal of fuss Namsoong hands over the keys which unlock the carriages and the revolt can proceed. Mason reappears and, using a magnificent Yorkshire accent and a sporting a memorable set of false teeth, orders the guards to shoot those who disobey her orders. Well, the train rattles on, the frozen wasteland continues and the merciless violence becomes ever more brutal. If you are stay in your seat until the bitter end of the movie then your reward will be a silly and sentimental finale.

Director Bong Joon-Ho has spent forty million euros making Snowpiercer, the most ever spent on a Korean movie. Despite the wonderful creation of Mason and the fine acting of just about everybody there is nothing new in this movie. Why won't somebody make a sci-fi movie where the future holds a promise of happiness and harmony rather than one of horror? If someone did then it might be one to enjoy. (Jenny Mather)

(Marinell Haegelin \*\*\*\* 1/2 Review: available on AWC website and KinoCritics.com)

## Lego (The Lego Movie) \* ½

Australia | USA | Denmark 2014

Starts April 10, 2014

Directed by: Phil Lord, Christopher Miller

Writing credits: Dan Hageman & Kevin Hageman and Phil Lord & Christopher Miller story, Phil Lord & Christopher Miller screenplay

Cast: Will Arnett, Melonie Diaz, Elizabeth Banks, Will Ferrell, Morgan Freeman, Liam Neeson, Chris Pratt, Jadon Sand, Channing Tatum, Alison Brie

Length: 100 minutes

An ordinary guy, Emmet (Pratt) lives according to a list of instructions. Leaving work he sees a hooded figure, investigates, and encounters Wyldstyle (Banks) who leads him down the proverbial rabbit hole. Eight-and-half-years earlier the Wizard, a.k.a. Vitruvius (Freeman) prophesied a Special One would someday come to lead MasterBuilders against the controlling tyrant. Pressures escalate, Lord-President Business (Ferrell) relentlessly markets Taco Tuesday, and then The Piece of Resistance lands on Emmet's back. All assume the Special One is arrived! Until the MasterBuilders conclave—time to rethink alternatives.

Licensed comic, sports, and cartoon characters, and favorite Minifigures from LEGO theme sets—many as cameo or bit parts—dizzily whirl on/off screen with decent voice acting and the ubiquitous 3D. Using stop-motion and CGI animation everything moves like actual LEGO pieces might: people, vehicles, and natural elements, e.g. water, sky, fire. The story is borderline boring. The film is pontifical and advocates conformity; the numerous clichés are embarrassing. Story pieces haphazardly pop in place at the end. Might appeal to young boys, but for adolescents and adults it will depend on their level of sophistication, product knowledge, and patience. No wonder LEGO is scrambling to devise girlie theme sets. Echoing LEGO's current brand statement "Play On" The Lego Movie goes on, and on...— the tradeoff? Merchandise endorsement rather than an imaginatively fun film. (Marinell Haegelin)

## Watchtower \*\*\*\*\*

Turkey 2012

Starts April 17

Directed and Written by Pelin Esmer

Cast: Olgun Simsek, Nilay Erdonmez, Laçın eylan

Length: 96 minutes

Esmer's story circles around the small town of Tosya near the Black Sea. It opens with two individuals who are escaping their pasts and moving in a direction to start a new path. Seher (Erdoenmey) has escaped from the next major city where she was studying literature and has taken on a job as a tour guide on the local bus route of Tosya. She sleeps in a small room at the bus station and has become the responsibility of the bus driver and the restaurant tour organizer. She collects her money, reads her literature and waits. No one really understands her since she is working and not studying and most importantly not contacting

her family like a good daughter should. The other is Nihat (Simsek) who has taken up the job of working high



WATCHTOWER\_hi.jpghttp://watchtowerfilm.com/#press

in the mountains in a watchtower. His job is to search for possible fires set off by thunderstorms which are prevalent to the region. As their fate begins to slowly weave together, their dark secrets emerge to the point that they are both confronted with their unbearable pasts. The Cinematography takes us deep into the Turkish mountains and explores the cultural aspects of this Turkish region. It also

reveals the difficulties that face an unwed Turkish woman and, unlike other films, gives a sympatric face to a Turkish man who chooses not to follow a conservative path like many others. Watchtower has won many awards from at least nine different countries including Germany and the United States. This is a film worthy of being watched, so don't miss it. (Shelly Schoeneshoefer)

## Dom Hemingway \*\*\*

UK 2013

Starts April 17

Directed by Richard Shepard

Writing credits: Richard Shepard

Cast: Jude Law, Richard E. Grant, Demian Bichir, Emilia, Clarke, Kerry Condon, Jumayn Hunter, Madalina Ghenea, Nathan Stewart-Jarrett

Length: 93 minutes

Jude Law obviously had much fun portraying Dom Hemingway, a safe-cracker who has spent 12 years in prison. The film opens with him obviously naked, although we only see him from the top up. He is in deep concentration, reciting a soliloquy which would do Shakespeare proud: a five-minute "Ode to his own Penis." Here soliloquies seem to be a form of announcing a change in the action. In this case, Dom learns shortly afterwards that his prison term has come to an end; he will be released. Once free he confronts Sandy Butterfeld, the man who cavorted with his wife, until she died of cancer, while he languished behind bars. That done he meets up with his former partner, Dickie. Together they visit Mr. Fontaine in his luxurious French villa, a place that "looks like a whorehouse belonging to Elton John." Mr. Fontaine surely owes him a pile of money. After all, Hemingway never once squealed on his former boss.

This relatively short film (nowadays anything under two hours is short) portrays Hemingway as he comes close to the money owed him, is fascinated by Fontaine's exclusive

girl friend, causes a car wreck with six people (preceded by another soliloquy), saves a life, visits his wife's grave (which involves a soliloquy), and tries to make amends with his unforgiving daughter. The plot is relatively simple, almost fairy tale format. The charm comes from Jude Law as he bumbles through his new life, trying to find foot in the real world. This is an excellent chance to see talented actors, breathing life into mundane characters, whom you normally wouldn't notice if you met them any other way, e.g., Richard E. Grant as Dickie or gorgeous Madalina Diana Ghenea as Paolina or Jumayn Hunter as Lestor, (who still wants revenge for the death of his tom cat Bernard). They more than fill the screen with their charismatic performances. The photography of location sites in France and London is excellent, too. Each shot is perfect—something you could frame and hang on your wall. And Emilie Clarke, who plays his daughter, really does sing "Fisherman's Blues" in the night club. I had to watch the film in German, but would love to see it again in English, especially the first five minutes. (Becky Tan)

## 20 Feet from Stardom (Twenty Feet from Stardom) \*\*\*\*\*

USA 2013

Starts April 24, 2014

Directed by: Morgan Neville

Writing credits: Documentary

Cast: Merry Clayton, Darlene Love, Lisa Fischer, TÁta Vega, Stevie Wonder, The Waters Family, Jo Lawry, Judith Hill, Mick Jagger, Bette Midler, Mable John, Ray Charles, Sheryl Crow, Tabitha Fair, Lou Adler, Sting, David Lasley  
Length: 91 minutes



20\_Feet\_From\_Stardom\_PhotoCredit\_Weltkino.jpghttp://www.mm-filmpresse.de/film.php?film=207

Bruce Springsteen opens and closes the show: "It's a walk... people make that leap... I know tremendous backup singers who aren't comfortable with that position. It can be a pretty long walk." Artists may be atypical but musicians are unique. The Blossoms were the first trio to break through the white backup singer wall; they worked prolifically

in the 1960s once people felt and heard their freestyle singing with legendry including Buck Owens and James Brown. "Voices reared in the church bring a world with them"; many singers' fathers were pastors. These incredible artists share insights about what it takes to be out

front, the many personality types on the ladder of success' rungs. Diamond-like aphorisms are scattered throughout. Twenty feet can be infinite as this documentary gloriously, heartening, and poignantly with a dash of bitter, portrays.

Skimming through decades of a century ago to present-day—thanks to Douglas Blush, Kevin Klauber and Jason Zeldes' dexterous editing—we learn how Ray Charles taught Merry to sing lead; the secret of Phil Spector's "wall of sound"; dance with Ike & Tina Turner and the Ikettes; join Sting and Lisa's rehearsal; attend Michael Jackson's 2009 tribute. The English "trying to be black" was initially amusing to backup singers, yet they allowed singers freedom to "go for it" that was exhilarating. As music evolved so did material; songs' hooks really belonged to the backup singers. When performers went on the road, realities set in: war, civil rights, et al; the 1990s was when industry purse strings tightened. Director Morgan Neville's tapestry is unequalled: extraordinary music, fascinating archival material, historical components, and a sense of national pride regardless of color. Audiences should relate well to the music and performers, although I think the underlying themes will resonate on its deepest level with Americans. Here is a bittersweet reminder of a less greedy world when people were driven by the love of what they were doing rather than for money. Perhaps there are "no guarantees in entertainment," yet the 2013 Oscar® recipient for Best Documentary must-see is a guaranteed winner. English with German subtitles. (Marinell Haegelin)

## One Chance \*\*\*\*\*

USA/UK 2013

Starts April 24, 2014

Directed by: David Frankel

Writing credits: Justin Zackham

Cast: James Corden, Alexandra Roach, Julie Walters, Colm Meaney, Mackenzie Crook, Jenima Rooper  
Length: 103 minutes

With One Chance writer Justin Zackham and director David Frankel (*The Devil Wears Prada*) created a delightful comedy that is very moving but not the least bit sentimental.

The film is based on the trials and tribulations of amateur opera singer Paul Potts, from age 9 until he wins—at age 37—the 2007 "Britain's Got Talent" competition and the hearts of millions of viewers. It's easy to understand why; the music goes straight to the heart. (The wonderful soundtrack includes music performed by Potts). A convincing cast—each character bestowed with a solid sense of (British) humor—grounds the story firmly in a Welsh portside working-class neighborhood: James Corden in the lead, Alexandra Roach as his wife Julz; veterans Julie Walters (*Educating Rita*) and Colm Meaney as Pott's parents; Mackenzie Crook as Pott's boss at the mobile phone shop and the best friend you could wish for. (Carola A)

Deadline for May's Issue is  
**April 20.**

Gimme all you've got!

Big Headliner next month is  
**the Cherry Blossom Festival.**

Have you been to one before?  
Maybe in Washington DC? or  
Tokyo? the one in Hamburg?  
Send in your photos, stories or  
comments.

We are excited to read about it!

**DANKE! DANKE! DANKE!**

To Tracy M. for doing a fantastic job in organizing the silent auction at the AGM and doing all the follow up work.

To Regina D. for yet again organizing our club's favorite activity - the new member's event at the Coco Chanel Exhibit. What a fantastic idea!

To Frauke for taking over the lead of the Region 5 FAWCO Conference Committee.

To Becky T. for everything she does for this club.

To Ulrike C.H. for all her good advice at the first Currents Meeting.

To all supporters at the second Currents Meeting! Thank you, Marinell H. Becky T. Jenny M. and Ulrike C.H.

To Karen M. for hanging in there, when Currents seems like a mess.

To Chris L. for opening up her/Wolfgang's home to the SnB group.

To Tracy M. for hosting the Oscar Party.

To Nancy T. for staying up all night to tape the entire Academy Awards.

## AWCH Contacts

Has your contact information changed? Not receiving email from the AWC loop? Or want to put something on the loop yourself?

Contact: [secretary@awchamburg.org](mailto:secretary@awchamburg.org)

Want to join the club?

Contact: [membership@awchamburg.org](mailto:membership@awchamburg.org)

Want to locate your HH Helper? Contact: [helpers@awchamburg.org](mailto:helpers@awchamburg.org)

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Want to write, edit, or proofread for Currents?

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Rose F. at Tracy's Oscar Party

**THE OSCAR PARTY**  
HOSTED BY TRACY M.



back: Tracy Moede, Karen Schollemann front: Pat Frickey; winners of the Oscar party. All three correctly chose 19 winners out of 24 categories



left to right: Birgit S., Jeny M., Tracy M., Pat F., Karen S., Rose F; Oscar party participants, not pictured: Becky Tan

**The Laughs**

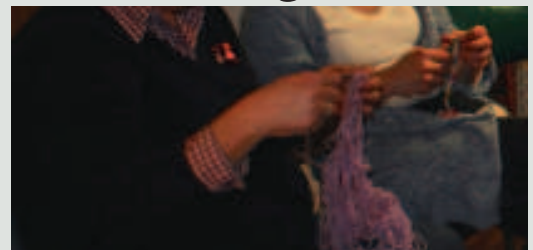


Shawn and Karen laughing about....something hilarious, as it seems.

**STITCH 'N' BITCH**  
AT JESS M.'S HOME

Our club's crafting group does craft a lot, and eat, and laugh, and eat....and sometimes craft again.

**The Crafting**



Tracy M. teaching Brooke V. how to crochet. Yes, we even teach each other

**The Food**



Everyone brings a snack, fruit or chips and dips to share.