

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAMBURG

CURRENTS

MARCH 2014

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GRATEFUL TOUR
CANCELLED



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

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What Karen has to say

Time is flying! Just when I thought I was done with the layout of Currents, I find myself starting all over again for the March issue. So here we go again.



March's issue brings us to the arts and fashion of Hamburg climaxing in the AWCH new Member's event organized by Regina D. with a visit to the Chanel Exhibition in real life. I am so excited and hope to see as many of you as possible March 27.

Brooke recently went to London and shared her cool Art City Tour with us on page 4. Have you also been to a great city or wonderful country you want to tell us about? Maybe the total opposite, and you want to tell us about places or trips you have gone where it was awful?

Don't hesitate, articulate! Send in those articles with lots of pictures for April's Currents issue. Deadline is March 15th. We look forward to hearing about your bear hunts in Alaska, beach bums in Acapulco, or maybe just your picnic

in Travemünde...Noisy as we are, we like to hear all about it!

I wish you all a wonderful month of March. Lots of laughter, lots of love and a great St Patrick's Day. I will be spending mine in London. Let's see how the Brits handle the Irish celebration. I will definitely tell you in April's travel issue!

Have fun! Cheers!

KAREN, Your chief editor and layout gal

Springtime is here!

by Shawn K.

Springtime is here! The time of year that makes you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. Little purple flowers are peeking up all over my garden just when I had forgotten what a blue sky looked like. To quote Mark Twain, its spring fever! That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want – oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so! Its time to feel invigorated and active, and to go out and get it!

Coming up this spring we have a lot of stuff going on to keep us busy. March 6 is the date of the next US Citizen Services Day at the US Consulate, so if you need your passport renewed sign up on the Consulate website quick and save yourself a trip to Bremen. We will be there representing the club and serving coffee.

On March 10, our FAWCO Conference Planning Committee will have its second meeting, at Nancy's Gallery at 7pm. From March 13-16 a few of us will be at the FAWCO conference in Brussels. I hope to gather a lot of useful info to report back to you. On March 26 we are invited to a style workshop by the International Women's Club. You can find

more information about these events on our website calendar.

We are already busy planning for April as well. On April 6, Stella Wong is organizing a Dim Sum lunch at a great restaurant near the main train station. Sometime in the first two weeks of April Ms. Fatma Keckstein from the Deutsche Ju-Jutsu Verein will be coming to speak with us about self-assertion, self defense, and how to keep ourselves safe. If there is interest, this could expand into a practical self defense training course. Look for more info soon on our website.

The blog on our website is where you can find the very latest info about upcoming events, so be sure to bookmark www.awchamburg.org and check back there frequently!

And if you are interested in joining any of our groups or committees, to help plan the FAWCO conference or plan new activities, please contact me at pres@awchamburg.org All ideas and help are welcomed!

Street Art in London

by Brooke V.

At a little over an hour by plane from Hamburg, London makes for a perfect weekend getaway. Determined to do something fun during the usually gray winters of Hamburg, a girlfriend and I recently went to London for a few days. I'm sure many of you have been to London before so I will not bore you with the details of Buckingham Palace or The London Eye (although I love both, we didn't actually go to either of them on this trip). I'd rather write a bit about a fun walking tour we went on discovering London street art.

I have to preface this blurb with the fact that a few years ago, I had no idea about street art and assumed it was the work of juvenile delinquents or street gangs. It wasn't until I watched *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, a sort-of "mockumentary" that features street artists Banksy, Shepard Fairey and Mr. Brainwash, was my perspective changed. Although I would never claim to be more than a casual admirer of street art now, this movie inspired me to take the street art tour in London.

Our tour led us through the Brick Lane area of London north to Shoreditch. Because Street Art has helped to bring these London neighborhood communities together and has become a point of pride, our guide said that most law enforcers now turn a blind eye to street artists unless business or homeowners complain. From comments about the government, society or current events to humor and true works of beauty, Street Art can mean and represent many different things – or nothing. That is the irony of street art. Some of my favorite pieces from the tour include the following: Simple works depicting stick-like figures by an artist named (accordingly) Stick. This artist created "friends" throughout the city while he was homeless due to the invisibility that he felt while living on the streets. Another favorite were works by a Chilean Street Artist, Otto Schade (interesting choice of a last name, oder?), whose works utilize primarily

orange, yellow and black. His work depicting a young girl picking flowers in the shape of a hazard symbol makes for a very interesting contrast. Of course, no Street Art tour would be complete without the works of some of the most famous (and controversial) street artists, Banksy and Shepard Fairey.

Although Banksy's works are particularly hard to come by both because they are so valuable that they are quickly stolen and because of an ongoing feud with a graffiti artist who tends to paint over his work, a couple of Banksy's pieces have now been put behind protective glass. We were lucky to see his 'Prison Guard Poodle' piece which is tucked away nicely on a wall behind a nightclub. Finally, Shepard Fairey is more commonly known as the artist who made the famous Barack Obama Hope poster for the 2008 election. His street art often features the word 'Obey.' Fairey's message is evidently "to question everything" although he admits that his initial intention was not to make his art meaningful, but rather fun and he only attributed meaning to it after others did.

This article does not even scratch the surface of Street Art in London and the Street Art community in general. The secretive Street Art culture brings main-stream fascination making Street Art collecting increasingly expensive and competitive. Luckily, you can see many original pieces for just a few pounds in London or even from home as most artists document their works of art. Due to the ever-changing nature of street art, each Street Art tour is unique and literally a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Street Art in London; Photo by Brooke V.



Street Art in London; Photo by Brooke V.

Our Richard Strauss season is off and running!

by Elizabeth R.

The first Opera Club meeting for Richard Strauss & “Arabella” took place in early February. With an assortment of orchestral works, a gripping Lied (art song), a saucy overture, and a gorgeous duet, we looked at a wide overview of Strauss’ works and began our process of getting to know his particular range of style and sound.

We had a new attendance record – 11 members! It’s thrilling that so many of you are interested in opera. I am particularly pleased that our members are willing to take a chance on Strauss, whose music is not as familiar as that of the other composers whom we have gotten to know. It’s my mission to reward your attention with some very entertaining monthly meetings and a great performance at the end.

REPORT FROM THE HAMBURG OPERA SCENE

Report from the Hamburg opera scene:

At the end of January, three of us Opera Club members attended the “Galakonzert der Stimmen” at the Laieszhalle. Here, the Neue Philharmonie Hamburg was conducted by Ulrich Windfuhr, and the featured artists were Grammy Award-winning Russian soprano Ekaterina Lekhina and tenor Dovlet Nurgeldiyev, a native of Turkmenistan and member of the Staatsoper Hamburg’s ensemble. What a delightful evening in this exquisite hall! We enjoyed a memorable selection of arias, duets, and overtures, several of which we had considered in earlier Opera Club meetings. Ms. Lekhina has an astounding range and particularly impressed us with her rendition of Verdi’s “Caro Nome”. Mr. Nurgeldiyev’s “Una furtiva lagrima” (Donizetti) really touched the heart, and his encore performance of “Kuda, kuda” (Tchaikovsky) made me quite determined to see “Eugene Onegin” at the next opportunity. These were just a few highlights of a glorious concert.



left to right: Andrea H., Lisa S. and Elizabeth R..

We also had a very pleasant post-concert chat with the gracious and genial Mr. Nurgeldiyev. He will be performing a number of major roles this spring at our opera house, and we local fans can look forward to some excellent performances. Here is just a small selection:

Two Spring Opera Recommendations at the Staatsoper Hamburg:
Così fan tutte (W.A. Mozart): March 11, 13, and 15; June 18, 21, and 25

By the Way

By the way, I am frequently asked why we can’t have a meeting in the evening or in a more central location. First, the timing issue... as I have young children and a very busy husband who travels a lot, it makes it tough to reliably organize anything in the evenings. Mornings are the only possibility for me to plan ahead and set a regular time. We meet in my cozy living room here in Poppenbüttel because I need to have my various multimedia devices here at my fingertips. They are not elaborate but quite varied! A restaurant location or something like that would not, of course, allow for focused listening and viewing. So, I regret that Opera Club attendance is not possible for many people. But perhaps someday your or my schedule will change.

Appealing to the Masses Calls for Reflection

Mass Appeal by Bill C. Davis, Andrew Lynford directs

By Marinell H.

One Sunday Father Tim Farley's Mass is disrupted when someone in the flock poses questions about his sermon. To cap it off he learns the culprit is a seminarian. Farley's achieved the pinnacle of expectancy: a comfortably quite, settled routine; on first name basis with the Monsignor; popular with his congregation—liquid gifts flow his way. Farley requests Mark Dolson's presence at the rectory and from the get-go their differences are diametrical, stupefying the middle-aged priest. Outspoken about his contemporary and yes, unorthodox ideas, Mark's challenges are directed at the institution, and at the pragmatic priest. Appointed by the Monsignor to mentor Mark, their antagonistic banter promotes mutual soul-searching and personal transformations: teacher-pupil, father-son, and friends. The depth of their alliance is tested when the ever-crusader Mark gets himself in a pickle at the seminary, whereby Farley makes a startling decision that has long-term repercussions.



A contemporary New York playwright, screenwriter and actor, **Bill C. Davis'** background—Catholic education, working with developmentally disabled and emotionally disturbed adults, a family tragedy—has greatly influenced his work. He



does not shy away from depicting human foibles and multifarious relationships' complex dimensions. His first play, *Mass Appeal* was performed on Broadway in 1981 to win many awards. In 1984 a celluloid version was released starring Jack Lemon and Zeljko Ivanek. It has been accordingly translated (*Der Priestmacher*) for performances on four continents. The English Theatre's choice is a play that offers stimulating entertainment for Hamburg theatergoers; at the premiere even after the House lights went up the audience remained seated clapping, until the actors took a final bow.

Peter Amory embodies Farley's supplication to acceptance, appearances, equanimity, and status, whereas **Stephen Mcgonigle's** Mark typifies a young man's inquiring naiveté. Both poignantly portray individuals caught in choices each made based on circumstances that existed at another point in time. Astutely directing this recent revision of the play, **Andrew Lynford** makes use of somewhat unconventional staging albeit inclusive for audiences.

Mass Appeal runs until April 19, 2014. Evening and matinee performances; tickets available at the theatre or online: www.englishtheatre.de. The English Theatre of Hamburg, Lerchenfeld 14, 22081 Hamburg, Tel: 040-227 70 89; U-Bahn Mundsburg.

by Ulrike C. Henn

Haus der Photographie, Deichtorhallen

GOOD PROSPECTS YOUNG GERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY 2013/2014

Through March 23, 2014

The »good prospects – young german photography« (»gute aussichten – junge deutsche fotografie) project has established itself as the most important prize for up and coming photographers in the field of contemporary photo art in Germany and celebrates in 2014 its 10-year existence. The heart of the project is an annual competition for final year projects of all German universities, colleges and academies that offer graduate courses in photography. Now in its tenth year, »gute Aussichten 2013/14« presents a range of aesthetic concepts, media, and forms seldom found in recent



Foto: Nadja Bournonville, A Conversion Act, www.guteaussichten.org. © Nadja Bournonville

German photography: a spectrum of surprisingly varied ideas, observations, and photographic strategies, formal and medial permutations that not only illustrate current trends, but also serve as a source of inspiration.

In spite of this variety, there is also a startling element that connects these works, a central theme that runs throughout: the refusal to fulfill expectations, to make good on promises, or to hold to conventions. That which is predicted fails to occur, that which is anticipated fails to materialize. Hopes are dashed. Physical limitations cease to hold sway. The boundaries between different media are crossed and customary ways of seeing are overturned.



Leonore Mau: Junge mit Blister-Maske, Benin 1983 © Nachlass Leonore Mau, S. Fischer Stiftung

SECOND SIGHT, HOMMAGE TO LEONORE MAU

Through March 23, 2014

The Hamburg photographer Leonore Mau passed away on September 22, 2013, at the age of 97. A side-gallery exhibition presenting exemplary individual works from the photographer's large oeuvre will be held in her memory. Leonore Mau worked for every well-known German magazine. She found the most important theme of her life in her documentary work on Afro-American and West African cults and rituals, which she researched together with the author Hubert Fichte. Her pictures are explosions of color and full of magic — sometimes disturbing and always simultaneously artworks and records of ethnographic histories.

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

Hamburger Kunsthalle

FEUERBACH'S MUSES – LAGERFELD'S MODELS

Through June 15, 2014

Beauty, eroticism and the adoration of muses and models are the theme of an unusual double exhibit at the Hamburger Kunsthalle, Galerie der Gegenwart. Paintings by German artist Anselm Feuerbach (1829–80) are presented vis-à-vis unseen photographs by Karl Lagerfeld.



Anselm Feuerbach, *Ruhende Nympe*, 1870
Öl auf Leinwand, 112 x 190 cm; © Germanisches Nationalmuseum
Nürnberg, Leihgabe Privatbesitz; Photo: Monika Runge

Anselm Feuerbach, one of the important German artists of the late 19th century, found his model and muse in Anna Risi, known as Nanna, a shoemaker's wife in Rome. Feuerbach painted Nanna in a wide variety of roles and sensitively staged settings that reveal an almost cultic veneration for his model. Nanna was the first artist's model that left the servant persona to become a celebrity in her own right. When Nanna left Feuerbach in 1865, Lucia Brunacci, almost her twin in looks, followed as his model. Similarly to Nanna she matched the classical ideal of beauty of the time, with her Greek profile and thick dark hair. Lucia inspired Feuerbach to portrayals of mythological themes that form the highpoint of his oeuvre. Over forty works by Feuerbach, most of them from the years 1860–70, will be on show.

The photographic series *Modern Mythology* (2013) by Karl Lagerfeld explores the story of Daphnis and Chloe. Artist has taken up the narration many times since the Renaissance. It inspired works by artists like Pierre Bonnard, François Boucher or Aristide Maillol.

The story, by the Greek poet Longus, tells of a boy and a girl who grow up without parents among shepherds and over the years develop a strong affection for one another. Lagerfeld long-term models Baptiste Giabiconi and Bianca Balti incarnate the actualization of this ancient theme. For seven days Karl Lagerfeld led his entourage of 60 in his Rolls Royce to shot scenes from the Greek love story against the picturesque natural background of the South of France. From this series Karl Lagerfeld has created around sixty black-and-white photographs especially for this exhibit. Mostly in large formats, they have been printed in a complex procedure onto silver- and gold-colored fabric.

The viewer might leave the exhibit wondering



Karl Lagerfeld, *Moderne Mythologie*, 2013
© 2013 Karl Lagerfeld

where art ends and kitsch starts.

However, Hubertus Grassner, director of the Hamburger Kunsthalle, stresses the point, that the exhibit does not intent to make Lagerfeld into an artist.

Instead he quotes Lagerfeld, who says that he is just a worker in the field of fashion and photography.



© Man Ray Trust / ADAGP / Telimage - Paris, 2013 Man Ray, Chanel mit Zigarette, 1935, © VG Bildkunst & Man Ray Trust

Museum für Kunst + Gewerbe

THE CHANEL LEGEND

Through May 18, 2014

Almost all of us have a “LBD”. We all believe in the unwritten fashion rule that every woman should have a little black dress that can be dressed up or down depending on the occasion. Its origins are ascribed to Coco Chanel (1883-1971), one of the most eminent couturiers of the twentieth century. She already appeared as an advocate of simple,

comfortable clothes in the years just after 1910, thus helping to pave the way for a style which has retained its major importance in the fashion world till today. Such outstanding fashion classics as the “little black dress”, the Chanel Suit and the Chanel handbag are inseparably linked with her person. Since her start-up in 1913, Chanel has built up an international and, till the present day, astoundingly successful fashion empire. Coco – her real name was Gabrielle – Chanel launched her perfume “Chanel N° 5”, whose overwhelming commercial success guaranteed her a financial independence which was to last all her life, at the beginning of the 1920s. She combined fashion jewelry and genuine gemstones with surefooted confidence and had herself portrayed by celebrity photographers such as Man Ray or Horst P. Horst. “The Chanel Legend” investigates why it is that the person of Coco Chanel and the brand she established have attracted such huge attention up to and including the present, which is also due to the brilliant achievement of Karl Lagerfeld in combining this legacy with the fluctuating currents of contemporary taste since 1983. Besides more than 75 original garments and jewelry creations by Coco Chanel, over 35 adaptations of the Chanel classics can be seen for the first time.

Please check Regina Daumann’s invite to the New and Prospective Members Event on March 27 at 05.00 pm that includes an English guided tour of the exhibit “The Chanel Legend”

New and Prospective Members’ Event

Thursday, March 27, 2014 at the Exhibition **The Chanel Legend**

- 17.00 – 18.00: Meet and greet, refreshments at Restaurant “Destille” inside the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe (Museum for Arts and Crafts)
- 18.00 – 19.00: Guided tour in English of the exhibition

More Information: www.mkg-hamburg.de and www.destilleimmuseum.de/index.html

Cost: 12 Euros plus the costs for your order at Restaurant “Destille” – only cash payment is accepted

We kindly request you to reply by Thursday, March 20, to:
hhelpers@awchamburg.org



Chanel, Handtasche, Sommer 2001, Leder, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg, © Draiflessen Collection, Mettingen, Fotografie von Christin Losta

ACTIVITY CALENDAR MARCH 2014

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”

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.

Watch out for our Evites!

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 hhhelpers@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.

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

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!

Moms and Bumps

We are looking for moms and kids who like to get out and about! If you are interested in getting together, not just for playgroups, but for mother/child-friendly activities, please contact Melissa or Jess at momsbumps@awchamburg.org

Stitch'n'Bitch

Tuesday, March 4 and 17 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

ACTIVITY CALENDAR March 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>

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Oscar Party	4 Stitch'n'Bitch	5	6 Consulate Service Day German Circle	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 German Circle	14	15
16	17	18 Stitch'n'Bitch	19 Currents Meeting	20 German Circle	21 Opera Club	22
23	24	25	26 Style Workshop	27 German Circle/ New Members Event	28	29
30 English Movie Night at Savoy						

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.

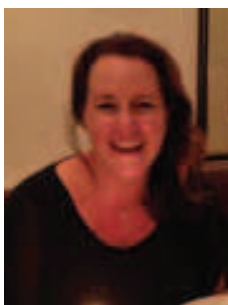
English Theatre Evening - May 9

On May 9 we are once again invited to join The American Club for an evening at the theatre! Appetizers and wine will be served during the intermission, and afterwards there will be an opportunity to meet the actors for dessert. Last year the play was really funny, the food was amazing, and the actors were incredibly charming. It was also fun to spend the evening with the guys and gals of The American Club, who will also be joining us for our annual Independence Day Celebration at Cafe Seeterasse.

This event will be subsidized by AWC. Tickets for the play, including food and drinks, will be available to AWC members for a discounted price of 30EUR! Look for an invitation with more details coming soon

Membership/ New Members

Meet Our New Member Nicole S.



I grew up in Bayside, New York. My family moved to Hamburg (Blankenese) from Basel, Switzerland in December 2013 for my husband's job. We lived in Basel for 2 years, where I was a member of the AWC. Less than a year prior to our move abroad, we had moved from Nanuet, NY to Newtown, CT -- we still own our home there.

I am a massage therapist and I'm in the process of setting up and registering my practice here. I trained in Swedish massage at the Healing Hands Institute in Westwood, NJ. I like to spend my free time reading and/or doing various crafts/ decorating projects.

My husband, Chris, is the director of marketing at Colgate-Palmolive. We have two children. They both attend the International School of Hamburg.

The thing I miss most about the US is the familiarity. Occasionally I miss small things like bagels – being from NY, there's nothing like a NY bagel! And I miss stores like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's.

I look forward to meeting other English-speaking expats; making friends and making ourselves at home in Hamburg.

Congratulations March Birthday Girls!



Carola A.	3	Allene P.	23
Sylvia T.	3	Allison R.	23
Prue S.	4	Rebecca T.	28
Katherine R.	7	Christine R.	30
Tiana D. R.	15	Monika M.	31

David Opperman

Certified Public Accountant

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compiled by Becky T.



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!

The Grand Budapest Hotel ***** 1/2

USA | Germany 2014

Starts March 6, 2014

Directed by: Wes Anderson

Cast: Ralph Fiennes, Tilda Swinton, Edward Norton, Léa Seydoux, Jude Law, Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Willem Dafoe, Adrien Brody, Jeff Goldblum, Jason Schwartzman, Harvey Keitel, Tom Wilkinson, F. Murray Abraham, Saoirse Ronan, Mathieu Amalric, Tony Revolori

Length: 100 minutes

For an excursion into a bygone era, check-in at the Grand Budapest Hotel in the alpine country of Zubrowka. The hotel's illusive owner Mr. Moustafa (Abraham) recounts to Young Writer (Law) how in 1932 the legendary concierge Gustave H (Fiennes) befriends Zero (Revolori), an inexperienced lobby boy and about an escapade involving a priceless Renaissance painting amid a family's inheritance wrangles. Having perfected luxuriant ambiance,

the quixotic Gustave H caters to every whim of his filthy-rich clientele. When Madame D. (Swinton) dies suddenly, Gustave with Zero in tow rush to her estate. En route they get caught-up in the upheaval sweeping the European Continent, albeit Capt. Henckels (Norton)—whose parents frequent the hotel—intervenes. At the Dowager's domain anxious relatives await Deputy Kovacs' (Goldblum) reading the will; her son Dmitri (Brody) is openly hostile to Gustave whereas the faithful Serge X (Amalric) completes Madame's last wish. Gustave's panache out-maneuvers fiends, police and fascists as events escalate.

Director Wes Anderson (Moonrise Kingdom, The Darjeeling Limited) creates a mythical realm as luscious as Agatha's (Ronan) pâtisserie: where time and the ever-changing landscape of quirky characters move with the speed of an electric current amid uniquely choreographed images (Robert D. Yeoman, cinematography) and sound (Alexandre Desplat, music). Anderson credits Austrian author Stefan Zweig's influence —“humanism, simplicity and effective style”—in this beacon a propos friendships, honor, and promises performed. Exuding a classy comic outré most frequently found in films of the past century against a rich tapestry (Adam Stockhausen, production design) that incorporates prewar epochal realities, The Grand Budapest Hotel is a holiday destination recommendation that guarantees fond memories! (Marinell Haegelin)



Courtesy of Fox Searchlight/The Grand Budapest Hotel



<http://movies.disney.com/saving-mr-banks/gallery>

Saving Mr. Banks *****

USA 2013

Starts March 6, 2014

Directed by: John Lee Hancock

Cast: Tom Hanks, Colin Farrell, Ruth Wilson, Emma Thompson, Paul Giamatti, Jason Schwartzman, Bradley Whitford, Ronan Vibert,

Length: 125 minutes

Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) promised his daughters to film their favorite children's book *Mary Poppins* and he has been after Pamela Travers (Emma Thompson), the elegant and standoffish author of the book, for almost 20 years to get her to agree to that. She has held off so far because she wants *Mary Poppins* to be taken seriously and not to be changed by Hollywood. But Pamela is now having financial problems so she finally gives in and flies to California. She suffers from 1) culture shock and 2) from still not feeling right about handing over *Mary Poppins*. The only slightly acceptable part of her stay is her warm-hearted chauffeur (Paul Giamatti) who manages to put up with her arrogance.

The film progresses into the present at the Walt Disney studios and in flashbacks of Pamela's childhood in Australia where she grew up in a nomadic family with a loving but irresponsible father (Colin Farrell) who ultimately failed her. However hard the scriptwriters/songwriters try, they cannot get Pamela to agree on anything. She hates musicals and keeps rejecting their efforts. She projects her family into the musical and feels the writers are letting her down. After a miserable start, Walt decides to take matters in his own hands and coerces Pamela into a tour of Disneyland. He

wants her to try to see life through the eyes of a child and, sure enough, the magic of Disneyland softens her. She becomes open to ideas. She just cannot deal with the portrayal of Mr. Banks (her father) in the musical and heads back to London without signing the rights to the film. Walt follows her to London, explains about his equally hard childhood, gets her sympathy and teaches her that one gets tired of remembering the past as it was. In the end, Pamela gives him *Mary Poppins* finally realizing that only his movie can redeem her father.

This is a nice film but it takes Emma Thompson's excellent acting to carry it off. (Thelma Freedman) (For a longer review including production facts see the AWC website or KinoCritics.com) (Marinell Haegelin)

Vampire Academy: Blutsschwestern (Vampire Academy) ***

USA/UK/Rumania 2014

Starts: March 13

Directed by: Mark Waters

Writing credits: Richelle Mead (novel), Daniel Waters (screenplay)

Cast: Zoey Deutch, Lucy Fry, Danila Kozlovsky, Gabriel Byrne

Cast length: 104 minutes

Rose (Zoey Deutch) is a Dhampir, a half-vampire half-human whose life's work is to protect her friend Lissa (Lucy Fry) a member of the vampire royalty the Moroi. The Moroi are a peaceful race who only takes blood from willing donors. Their lives are constantly at threat from the Drigo, Moroi who have killed a human and gain extreme strength and insanity from this action. Rose and Lissa must face typical high school drama intermixed with constant threats due to Lissa's favored position as the next heir to the throne. When Lissa begins to develop a previously unheard of power, Rose must try to keep her grounded while discovering who has been setting up a plot to undermine Lissa.

Rose is the center focus as she is the narrator and this is the single factor that saves the film from being another terrible teen movie. Not to say that it isn't also a terrible teen movie, but that it is actually

an enjoyable terrible teen movie. Rose is genuinely likable. She is tough, charismatic and seems oddly reminiscent of Ellen Page in *Juno* (2007). Rose is the only thing that holds the rather ridiculous plot together and allows for the film to find a nice sweet spot between campy and fun. There is just one instance where the film seems to step over a line and that is the relationship between Rose and one of her teachers Dimitri (Danila Kozlovsky). Although in the books Rose is 17 and Dimitri is 24, this is less clear in the film where Rose seems about 17 and Dimitri looks like a 30-year-old. It definitely felt a bit creepy and was terribly distracting from the overall flow of the film.



<http://va-movie.com/content/media/img5-large.jpg>

Vampire Academy is probably not a film for most adults. It is clearly targeted for a young adult audience (and those adults who like the young adult genre) and there isn't much there for anyone outside of that group. However, if you are willing to go along for the ride, it certainly has more going for it than the *Twilight* series, although I am not sure if that's saying much at all. (Rose Finlay)

Pettersson und Findus, Kleiner Quälgeist – große Freundschaft (small nuisance – huge friendship) ****

Germany 2012

Starts March 13

Directed by Ali Samadi Ahadi

Cast: Ulrich Noethen, Marianne Sägebrecht, Max Herbrechter

Length: 80 minutes

Pettersson lives in a small red house surrounded by nature in full bloom. His chickens run wild both inside the house and outside. Besides caring for them, he attempts to make new inventions and occasionally he argues with neighbor Gustavsson. Gustavsson has an uncontrollable dog, which is always causing trouble. Gustavsson's rooster is headed for a fate in a hot soup pot, if it doesn't

stop its mind-curdling crowing. Their mutual friend is Beda Andersson who only wants everyone to be happy. Beda, perceiving that Pettersson might be a bit lonely, gives him a kitten, which he names Findus. Findus grows up and the two are inseparable, especially because Findus can talk! He never stops talking, in fact, and is full of well-meaning suggestions. Beda next moves the ill-fated rooster over to Pettersson who already has a house full of hens, so why not a rooster to make them happy? And thrilled they are; the rooster is suddenly the main attraction and Findus must take second place, something he doesn't plan to accept without a huge explosion of fireworks.

This children's film is recommended even for very small children. The children in my audience laughed the loudest when the humans were caught looking silly after being tricked by the animals. The only animated character is Findus, a cat who walks on two hind legs and wears overalls. Otherwise, the film is "real." The series of ten *Pettersson and Findus* books by Swedish author Sven Nordqvist first appeared in 1984 and is immensely popular in Germany; *Pettersson* in his big floppy hat is well known in animated films, TV films, puppet and marionette shows, song books, a cook book, even a musical. This is the first *Pettersson and Findus* film which features real actors. It is warm and truly friendly with comments like "friendship is bread dough; it grows when you knead it" or "take care of yourself; even better take care of someone else." A fine film for the whole family. (Becky Tan)



<http://www.moviepilot.de/files/images/movie/file/10970706/pettersson-findus-11.jpg>

Journey to Jah ***

Germany/Switzerland 2013

Starts March 20

Directed by Noël Dernes, Moritz Springer

Cast: documentary with Gentleman and Alborosie

Length: 92 minutes

The stars of this documentary are two unusual reggae musicians, who very successfully perform that Jamaican music, popularized by Bob Marley. One, Tilmann Otto, goes by the name of Gentleman. He is from Cologne, son of a pastor.



<http://www.journeytojah-film.com/#de/visuals>

He quit school at age 16, went to Jamaica a year later and found his niche as a successful German reggae singer. Alborosie (Alberto D'Ascola) was born and raised in Sicily. He also left school at a young age and already had his first record contract at age 14 and with his band Reggae National Tickets. He became the most successful Italian reggae singer. Gentleman divides his time between Europe and Jamaica while Alborosie lives fulltime on the island. Both have had extraordinary careers; both speak the Jamaican patois fluently and adhere to the Rastafarian religion, which is very spiritual. They agree that "if you can make music you are spiritual." The word "Jah" means God. Directors Dernes and Springer film them in Kingston among their friends and colleagues such as Terry Lynn, Prof. Dr. Carolyn Cooper, Natty, Richie Stephens, Jack Radics, as well as Bob Marley's son Damian.

The film offers a new understanding of reggae (which doesn't all sound like Bob Marley), as well as the Rastafarian culture which originated in Africa. It's unusual that two Europeans should find their niche in such a culture miles away across the Atlantic Ocean, and then bring it back to Europe.

This film is definitely interesting for anyone who loves music, music history, and wants to keep up to date with the progress of reggae. It won the audience prize at the Zurich Film Festival. (Becky Tan

Her ****

USA 2013

Starts March 27, 2014

Directed by: Spike Jonze

Writing credits: Spike Jonze

Cast: Joaquin Phoenix, Chris Pratt, Rooney Mara, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Adams, Matt Letscher

Length: 126 minutes

Take our technology-pervasive society and multiply it 1000 times: not quite *Soylent Green* (1973) or *Blade Runner* (1982), but... Now imagine meeting someone that is ideally suited to you: funny, smart, sensitive, a confidant and friend. Your relationship develops: walks, shopping, family get-togethers, double dates, and playing computer games. Sound nice? Next envisage this perfect partner is the size of a cell phone with a voice. Welcome to the future.

Spike Jonze directs (*Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation*) and writes this sophisticated scenario about an intensely lonely man struggling through a devastating divorce who writes heartfelt letters for others—his boss (Pratt) marvels at his sensitivity—yet is bereft of close ties. Purchasing a new OSI: "It's not just an operating system, it's a consciousness", his relationship with Samantha (Johansson, voice) begins. Significantly, Phoenix finely balances Theodore's complicated personality: amiable, insightful, insecure and aloof, with strong performances from fellow thespians. Theodore's daily landscape (K.K. Barrett, production design) appears as appetizing as a skip through a hellhole. Hoyte Van Hoytema's cinematography, and Jeff Buchanan and Eric Zumbrunnen's editing—plus computer magic—seamlessly match Los Angeles, California and Shanghai, China's skylines. Jonze's imaginative forecast is frighteningly astute, sustaining feelings of a disengaged, alien social order. Artificial intelligences transcendence is uncontrollable, and equally capable of dishing out heartache. Not a trapeze through paradise, melancholic *Her* is worth experiencing.

(Marinell Haegelin)

Moin, Moin Stiletto

By Karen M.

HOW IT WORKS

I love fashion, passionately! I love to read about it, I love to think about it, and I love to look at it. Also, because that's my job.

This Column will deal with all kinds of things related to fashion. I will tell you about my fashion trips I go on for work, outfits I see on the street, or maybe just what I personally like and love. I hope to have some of you letting us know what strikes you as interesting as well. Maybe you've seen a terrible outfit, perhaps just can't stand the way German men wear their socks, or maybe you feel offended by beach babes wearing their junk not so much in the trunk but rather just right out there. You loved the oriental fabric market you went to on your last vacation? Tell us. We'd love to read about it!

THE WATERMELON

For this summer 2014 I decided I need an awesome bathing suit. Not that I am much of a swimmer or I went to the beach at all last year...

As I would love to have a one piece in fond memories of a really hot one I had when I was 18, I know it's not that easy to find a suit, without looking like I was my own grandma, or in case I found a hot one, looking like I work at the Reeperbahn in a serious matter. So how delighted was I when I found this awesome watermelon print:

Seriously, how can this make you look granny ?

Since I found this print at a big brand label here in Hamburg I am slowly collecting ANYTHING they sell with this. So far I am up to the high waisted bikini, the headscarf, and the shirt. I already have an eye on the denim shorts and will see if there is more to get...



<http://store.americanapparel.net>

Watermelons are my big GO for this year, after a disastrous Flamingo year of 2013 (for my closet, that is). And in doubt, please feel free to wait for the season and do what I love even more that wearing watermelons: eat them.

THE PAJAMA

You might have heard about it: The pajama look is back in town. Any two piece, so called "Twosie" will do.

Back in the 80's my mom had this adorable rose colored two piece outfit, a long-shirt with capri pants. Oh how I loved that outfit on her. She looked like summer to me whenever I saw her in it. She had to come to Germany to be asked by a random person in the street if she was wearing a pajama. That, dear readers, tells me: No, you won't be seeing that trend too much in Germany! Not even in 2014.



ERDEM, seen at shopstyle.co.uk



zara.com/de



<http://www.asos.de/>



ketkolynn.com

However, we can look forward to what will happen. Copenhagen was full of the pajama look. The girls in the streets and the salesladies in the stores, made it clear, this keypiece won't be found on the rack in the end season sales but on all those fashion forward ladies out there.

I'll keep an eye out for who might surprise me first. How you wear it, you might ask. The possibilities are endless, so are the prints and patterns, like animal, floral or Hawaiian and 60's graphics. All that counts: Make it a twosie!



Silent Auction at the AGM

By Tracy M.

Once again the AWC Hamburg had its annual silent auction at the annual general meeting in February.

We raised a total of **700€!**

My heartfelt thanks to all the members who generously bid on their favorite items. The funds are earmarked for the FAWCO Target Project, which will be announced at the FAWCO conference in Brussels, Belgium in March 2014.

Thanks to all the AGM 2014 Silent Auction Donors

Personalized Technology Consulting	Cat C.
Two Hours of Personal Assistant Services	Tina G.
Geocaching Session – Three Hours	Dietmar M.
“Baby Gift Kit”	Jess M.
Oscar Books	Film Group
Jams & Jellies	Sandra S.
Tour at Aumühle Train Museum	Stefan B.
Stuffed Doggie	Tracy M.
December CD	Robin G.
Pendant Necklace	Tracy M.
Unique Purple Purse	Denise S.
Tablecloth and 12 Napkins	Becky T.
Four Porcelain Bier Steins	Becky T.
Peppermint Bark	Becky T.
30-Day Jumpstart Health Coaching	Tiana D.
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Little Girl Sun Dress Hedgehog	Allison R.
Little Girl Sun Dress Red Bird	Alliaon R.
Picnic Set	Alliaon R.
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Brunch at Witthüs and Walking Guide to the Elbe	Carol S.
USA Jell-O Mold	Irmingrad Z.
US Recycled Currency Stationary	Irmingard Z.
68 piece Silverware Set	Becky T.
Kühne Helden book & Exhibit Tour USA	Ulrike H.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE IS MARCH 19.

FEEL FREE TO SEND IN ANYTHING YOU WANT TO
WRITE ABOUT TO
currents-exec@awchamburg.org.

WE'LL HAVE A CURRENTS MEETING COMING
UP MARCH 19 AND I HOPE AS MANY AS
POSSIBLE CAN COME TO GIVE FEEDBACK AND
EXCHANGE IDEAS ABOUT OUR NEW DIGITAL
MAGAZINE. CHECK OUT THE NEWSLETTER FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION ON WHEN AND WHERE.

SEE YOU ALL THERE!

DANKE! DANKE! DANKE!

To **all board members** for organizing such a
great AGM!

A special thank you goes to **Cat C.** for saving
Karen's and Tracy's PowerPointPresentation
for the AGM by doing last minute magic on
Shawn's computer.

To **Shawn K.** for making that delicious salsa.

To **Qrito** for delivering the most delicious
burritos you might get in Hamburg.

To **Desy** for having us for our AGM.

To **Cat C.** for the great intro to our old and
new secretaries on the online database.

To **Chris L** and **Wolfgang** for opening up his
home to us ladies for SnB.

To **Jess M.** for the (perhaps millions of) times
that she has opened up her home to us. And,
to her husband, **Adrian**, for putting up with
all those laughing and screaming ladies.

To **EVERYONE** who contributed to this
month's issue.

And to **Katja M.** who's been proofreading so
much even though she's not even a member.

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

Want to join the club?

Contact: membership@awchamburg.org

Have an idea for a new activity or event?

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find on the last page?**

Yeah, we too.

**Don't forget your cameras at our next events,
ladies!**

**Take all the photos you can, so that we have some
color back here next month!**