

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAMBURG

CURRENTS

PREMIUM ONLINE VERSION

MAY 2014

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Currents Editorial

| | |
|--|----|
| Currents Editorial | 2 |
| Walking Tour Of St. Georg | 3 |
| The AWC Book Club Leans In..... | 4 |
| Dim Sum Sunday | 5 |
| The “Heart” Of It All | 6 |
| The Butterfly Garden | 7 |
| Carrying Forward Literary And Culinary Anglo-Tradition | 8 |
| Taiko Drumming Taiko (Big Drum) | 9 |
| Celebrating The American Food And Culture | 10 |
| Member’s Tips / Opera Club | 10 |
| Opera Club..... | 11 |
| Art In The City..... | 12 |
| New And Prospective Members’ Event | 13 |
| Events | 13 |
| Activity Calendar May 2014..... | 14 |
| Walk Around The World | 15 |
| WANTED; Layout Editor..... | 16 |
| At The Movies | 17 |

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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EDITORIAL

What a ride! Currents is an adventure, let me tell you! How much I learn every day from our valuable members. It is amazing what input I get on all questions I wouldn't even have thought of asking. Wow!

That is why I would like to take a moment here and say: Thank you to all supporters, especially Brooke, Shawn, Becky, Eileen, Kim, Ulrike, the whole SnB Club and Jana.

This magazine has grown and blossomed so much in the last months, it is incredible how many submissions we receive since we have gone online. I believe there is some good that we do here with Currents after all.

Y'all have a great month of May, I'll be thinking of you when I have my Super Combo at Denny's these days

Yours,

Karen , chief editor of Currents Oline

RECRUITING COMMITTEE HELP NEEDED!

ON MAY 15, FROM 10:30 TO 13:30, THE US CONSULATE WILL BE HOLDING ITS NEXT US SERVICES DAY. ONCE AGAIN THE AWC HAMBURG HAS BEEN ASKED TO SET UP A TABLE TO SERVE COFFEE AND COOKIES, AND TELL PEOPLE ABOUT OUR CLUB! WE NEED HELPERS! IS ANYONE ENERGETIC, OUTGOING, AND WILLING AND ABLE TO COME HELP OUT FOR AN HOUR OR TWO TO GREET PEOPLE? CONTACT: SHAWN KLUG AT PRES@AWCHAMBURG.ORG

Walking Tour of St. Georg

by Sandra Sm.

April 2nd turned out to be a really lovely day for our walking tour around St. Georg. About 12 of us met Wolfgang Shuler in the Hansaplatz in St. Georg at 16:00 for our tour. We were also accompanied by another gentleman and a woman who was Wolfgang's assistant. (Sorry I don't remember names.) Being very new here I had no preconceived notion of the area. Apparently it was an area that was in decline and overrun with drunks, addicts and prostitutes as recently as 14 years ago which was when Wolfgang was hired as the District Manager for the area.

At that time people didn't want to live in the area so housing prices were low and many of the stores and businesses were empty. While the problems have not totally gone away buildings have been restored or replaced, and appear to be mostly occupied and real-estate values have soared.

There are lots of fruit and vegetable stores, ethnic restaurants and bakeries in the area. Yes, there are some sex shops too just for variety. We walked through some variety of a middle eastern grocery store. Wolfgang said that their meat was very good and the prices looked good so I would like to go back and check it out when I have time to stop and shop.

Also in the area is the Savoy Theatre, a large Mosque with 30,000 members, the Applied Science part of the University with 13,000 students plus a number of buildings for disadvantaged

seniors. The headquarters of the Applied Science University is a new architecturally interesting building.

While this area is really not that old or interesting as a tourist area it is very conveniently located near the main train station and many museums and now has many new hotels. However having said that the original buildings on two sides of the Hansaplatz and the fountain which date from the 1890's are lovely (Jenny lives in one of these), the buildings on the other two sides were bombed during the war and their replacements are fine but nothing special.

The tour ended at the coffee shop of the Archotel where we were treated to our choice of a hot beverage and cake. There were a variety of cakes to choose from so I had a slice of chocolate mousse cake. Yum.

Afterwards Jenny led us back to the Hansaplatz and we were invited to her lovely apartment where she had prepared to serve us tea and coffee and a vast amount of food. Unfortunately most people had to head to leave so only three of us came up to her apartment but while we had some tea or coffee we had eaten too much already to partake of her goodies. However thank you Jenny for your hard work in arranging the tour and preparing such a feast.

The AWC Book Club

LEANS IN

I suppose there are people in this world who read a book and DON'T think, "Oh I wish I could talk about this with someone."

I am not one of those people.

Luckily for me and the members of the AWC, there is a group of women in our very own midst who both love to read and love to talk about what they've read.

The new AWC Book Club held its inaugural meeting in April to discuss 'Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead' by Sheryl Sandberg.

This controversial book by Facebook's COO provided great material for the group to mull over. For example,

- How people perceive female success vs. male success: Sandberg cites a study that shows groups of people shown a work history and list of accomplishments of a successful

businesswoman will judge her considerably less 'likeable' than a businessman with an identical work history and list of accomplishments. Sandberg proposes that success and ambition work highly in a man's favor, but are seen as negative liabilities for women in the American culture.

- Women are often forced to defend the life choices they've made: Women who pursue their careers feel judged for not investing more time and energy in their families. Women who leave the work force to care for their families are called on to justify their decision. The author encourages women to stop judging each other and the individual choices each woman has made.

- The myth of doing it: Woman with both a career and a family are stereotyped in the media as frenzied people who are trying but not really succeeding in juggling kids, the household, and work obligations. (Think Michelle Pfeiffer in *One Fine Day*.) In 'Lean In', Sandberg argues

that this picture we see doesn't have to be our reality if we are more clever with our energy and time. 'Every job will require sacrifice. The key is to avoid unnecessary sacrifice.'

'Lean In' gave us an interesting perspective on women in (and out) of the workforce today.

Next month, we will read the Pulitzer Prize-winning book 'The Goldfinch' by Donna Tartt. If you...

...love to read and love to talk about what you have read...

...love to read but have never thought about how fun it could be to talk about what you've read...

...or...

...don't love to read but you love to talk over brunch in the classy Café Paris...

...then please join us for brunch and discussion of *The Goldfinch* at Café Paris on May 25 AT 10:30 A.M.

HAPPY READING!



Book Club Meeting at Café Paris (from left): Katherine R., Shawn K., Ulrike C.H. and Eileen P.

D I M S U M S U N D A Y

by Nicole S.



Thank you, Stella for such a great of a DimSum Sunday

It was a rainy dreary day, but the atmosphere at the Dim Sum Haus was warm and welcoming. Our party of 13 had a wonderful time getting to know each other well while feasting on some truly delicious Dim Sum and green tea.

Our host, Stella Kwong suggested that we have the true experience of Dim Sum and share "family style." And what a fabulous idea! With so many options, it was nice to get to try a little of many dishes. We shared several plates of each of the following: "Har-Gau" Steamed Prawns Enveloped in Bamboo, "Siu-Mai" Steamed Enveloped Pork and Shrimp, "Cheung Fan" Steamed Pastry Rolls, "Cheung Fan" Steamed Pastry Rolls with King Prawns and Soy, "Bambusrollen" Bamboo Tofu Rolls with stuffing in Oyster Sauce, Baked Crab with mayo dip, "Wo-Dip" Fried Dumplings with Pork and Leeks, "Xiao Lung Bao" Meat and Broth-Filled Dumplings with Vinegar dip. We topped off the meal with "Ma-Lai Goa" Steamed Sweet Sponge Cake, which was just the right amount of sweetness for balancing out the meal.

It wasn't all food though - I learned a few things during our many conversations, my favorite of which was from Stella - the reason for consuming green tea with the meal is to assist in the digestion of the fats. Who knew?!

A big THANK YOU to Stella for arranging and hosting this wonderful event! It was great getting to meet more members. I look forward to the next one!

WATCH OUT FOR STELLA'S NEXT YUMMY EVENTS ALL ABOUT ASIAN FOOD!



The Dim Sum were shared. That way it was possible to try more flavors.. Tiana brought her husband:



Regina and Nicole seemingly enjoy the atmosphere



The “Heart” Of It All

By Allison R.



from left: Allison R., Susan S.W., Tracy M., Jessica M., Sandra S., Abby B.

It’s been said that helping others is helping ourselves, and despite motivations for charity and giving, there really is no way to make acts of kindness more fun than to combine it with a hobby. This is the second year that participants of the Tuesday night group, Stitch n’ Bitch, have teamed up to contribute to the Heart Pillow Project, which will be donated to local hospitals this year. The “heart pillow” is placed under the arm to ease the pain breast cancer patients experience after surgery.



Susan S.W. sewing a heart pillow

Last year’s bagel sales not only brought back a scrumptious taste of home for members, but allowed supplies such as fabric and filling to be purchased to make the pillows. Whether you’re just a beginner, an advanced seamstress, or have never made it past sewing on a button, there are always ways that any member can join in on the fun, even down to picking matching fabrics. Plans for another assembly line get-together are to be announced, and we would love to invite anyone to join in on the chattering, laughing, catching up, and carrying on that are the rule, and not the exception at SnB events.

THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN IN FRIEDRICHSRUH

by Tracy Moede

For over 25 years butterflies have been flying in Germany's oldest butterfly park and over 80,000 visitors come every year to see them.

This park is an ideal weekend afternoon destination for families and couples who just want to get out of the house and do something together. This was our goal when we went last weekend with our daughters. This is by no means a park only for parents and kids – people of all ages enjoy the colorful show the butterflies put on.

We visited on the first weekend that the butterfly house opened after the long winter break. The butterflies had slipped out of their cocoons and were flying about the hothouse. Here you have the opportunity to experience the entire life cycle of the butterfly and their daily rhythm. In the morning they hatch from their cocoons, between 11:00 and 14:00 is the most active part of their day when they fly and in the afternoons they mate and lay eggs. Plan your visit accordingly!

You will not only see butterflies indigenous to Europe such as the Swallow tail, Owl and Passion butterflies, but also Monarch butterflies and even the 25 cm-large Atlas butterfly usually found in Taiwan.



Tracy sure didn't see that one coming

Many species come from Malaysia, Australia and South America. Each day over 300 butterflies can be seen and most live for six to eight weeks.

They are all colorful and it is such a treat when one of the larger butterflies lands on your shoulder for a little visit. There are so many flying around, it is difficult to know where to look. Be careful, though, there are also little quail chicks running about your shoes.

The park is not only all about the butterflies. There is the tropical house with turtles and Koi fish of all sizes, a "House of Trees", where you can learn to identify trees by feeling their bark, a bamboo house, a small island with picnic tables, a dragonfly pond, rabbits and playgrounds.

It is a fun place to go and make sure you don't forget to take your camera!



Garten der Schmetterlinge Friedrichsrh
Am Schlossteich 8
21521 Friedrichsrh
Telefon 04104/60 37
info@Garten-der-Schmetterlinge.de

Open: March-October 10:00-18:00, daily
Closed on Mondays and throughout winter
Entrance: Adults 7€; Children 4-16 4,50€;
Group rates for 20 or more people. Discounts for seniors.

Carrying Forward Literary and Culinary Anglo-tradition

by Marinell Haegelin

For twenty-eight years Robert Berridge has been providing English-language books—weren't exactly growing on trees in 1986—for readers in Hamburg. His profusion of good deal used books was like an oasis in the desert. So when he moved from his first shop on Eppendorfer Weg to Stresemannstraße in 1990, and living just around the corner, I made a beeline for English Books. One of my passions is reading, and *Krimi*'s (thrillers / crime novels) are my literary-candy, so like candy I usually bought more than I should have.

In March 1995 Robert's photograph graced the *Currents* cover in conjunction with a feature article about where to find English books in Hamburg. Acknowledging that reading and eating go together like ducks and water, Robert added British foodstuff to the inventory in 2000, renaming his shop English Books and British Foods and divided it accordingly.

Enter through the left-side door and anyone with fervor for book browsing will be in tomes-heaven. High stacks vie for space on shelves and teetering towers on the floor fill every nook and

cranny. There's a sofa and chairs for comfortably leafing through books the range of which defies mentioning here: fiction, non-fiction, children books, biography and autobiographies, books on history, science, religion, How-to, decorating, crafts, gardening, et al. Miraculously, and surely stupefying for most of us is that Robert knows where any given author's books are, as well as which titles he has.

Manna awaits shoppers behind the door on the right. Cookies, candies and crisps, curds and jelly, bottled beers, vinegar and condiments, oatmeal, biscuits, Marmite and teas, and all direct from the Ascot area of England, a stone's throw from where he was born just outside of the Royal Borough of Windsor. The Shakespeare milieu (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*) surely had an early influence on his penchant for literature offering. In season, Robert brings back Libby's canned pumpkin and evaporated milk; the Ocean Spray cranberry sauce is available all year! It's impossible – be warned – to enter without leaving with some foodstuff in your hand.

We native English speakers have a proclivity to strike up conversations at

the drop of a hat, and that's very much an added attraction at Robert's shop. Any and all that enter are soon swept along by his affable personality and the shop's cozy ambience; visiting here is a nice interlude in one's day. There's also the chance that you'll bump in to Robert, as I have over the years, at one of the many English-language venues where Robert's literary and now culinary presence is felt carrying on the Anglo-tradition: at The Hamburg Players e.V. (amateur theatre) thrice-yearly performances, The Victorian Christmas Fair, and British Flair in late summer.

Go for a browse, to gratify your English food cravings, or just for the fun of having a natter with Robert. English Books and British Foods is located at Stresemannstraße 169 in Altona. Robert's doors are open Tuesday to Friday's noon to 19:00, and Saturdays 10:00 to 16:00. Convenient public transportation includes: S-Bahn Holstenstraße as well as numerous bus connections. Telephone: 040.8514478, Email: britishfoodshamburg@gmx.com.



Robert Berridge surrounded by English books;; Marinell Haegelin



British foodstuff; Marinell Haegelin



Robert Berridge; Marinell Haegelin

TAIKO DRUMMING TAIKO (BIG DRUM)

by Stella K. R.

As percussion instruments are generally the most primitive instruments in any society, the taiko was used in ancient Japan over 2000 years ago. By the fact that taiko we use today resembles those in China and Korea, the ancient taiko was probably introduced to Japan from the Asian Continent as far as India. The continental music came to Japan around 5th-6th century along with the waves of Chinese and Korean cultural influence based on Buddhism. Taiko is an ancient Japanese form of percussion using large drums. The drums range in size from roughly a snare drum ('shime'), to drums as large as a car (the 'o-daiko'). The most common drum size in taiko is the 'chu-daiko' which is the size of a wine barrel. During the 1900's, Taiko drumming became a musical art form that involved a music ensemble and tightly choreographed movements. This is taiko as we know it today. One of taiko's most definite aspects is its dynamic playing style. Taiko playing is loud, hard and fast and involves a lot of choreographed movements which many identify with Japanese martial arts.

There are more than 8,000 taiko groups in Japan, but it is only over the last 30 years that taiko drumming has taken root in the western world. Taiko was brought to the United States by Japanese immigrants there in early 20th century. The main usage of taiko in those days was to play in temples or in festivals as Miya-daiko (temple drum or sacred drum). The Japanese immigrants preserved their culture in the New World, probably, to maintain their identity and cooperative spirit as Japanese. Even if you have not seen taiko drumming live, you have probably still encountered it in movies with a Japanese theme, such as Rising Sun, or The Hunted.

In taiko drumming, the performers are not merely using the drum as an instrument: they are aiming to form a connection between the drum and themselves through four principles:



Kyoto 2012 doing Yattai; a different drumming in sitting.

1. attitude
2. kata(form)
3. musical technique
4. ki(energy)

Through these four principles we hope to achieve what we call the ultimate expression of taiko, when the art becomes a part of our personality, a way of being and life expression. The first principle 'attitude' refers to having a respect for one's self, other players, and the instruments in order to bring about a discipline of both body and mind. As taiko drumming is a form of ensemble drumming that has strictly choreographed movements, it is crucial that the performers develop an awareness of their body movement in space and their interaction with other players.

The famous professional taiko group Kodo was formed in 1981. The members came from all over Japan, and some of them were youths disaffected with bustling big city life. They live together on Sado Island located in the northern part of the Japan Sea, in a commune, cultivate fields, and run a marathon daily. The rigorous physical training seemed to be the group's dogma to create a good sound. Among other professional taiko groups are the Yamatos and Tao. These groups tour Europe and come to Germany about every 2 years. I am such an avid fan that I have been attending these dramatic performances since 2009. Tao will be in Lübeck February of 2015. Each of these professional groups has its own tour plan which can be found on the internet. Just this past February and March, we got to attend the wonderful Kodo concert in Hannover and the Yamatos in Hamburg.

TamaDaiko is the group I belong to. It was established in 2006 by a group of experienced taiko students. Tama is now headed by Oliver Reichelt who travels to Japan for intensive training every year. Our 'Sensei' (teacher) is Katsuji Kondo who originated from the famous Kodo group. Kondo Sensei is a renowned taiko

teacher living in Nagano, Japan. He has been coming to Germany to give weekend workshops since 2007 with abundance attendees from all over. It is more than music when we play taiko, it means our whole soul is integrated into the music. When the bodies of taiko drummers is moving, his mind is moving, learning and relaxing in the rhythm of the drums.

Tama Daiko has a new dojo (studio) in Barmbek. It is under renovation and it is a work in progress. Oliver holds monthly Beginner Workshops on Sundays. Beginner classes are on Mondays and Thursday. Intermediate classes on Thursdays. Tama Daiko performs in family celebrations, corporate functions and private parties besides participating in street fairs, and cultural activities. * Tama performed at our wedding reception and our guests still boast that it was the best entertainment ever seen! Tama Daiko will be performing at the famous KirchenBlüten Fest at the Alster on May 23, 2014 where the whole family can enjoy sunshine, ethnic food and great music. This is an annual event in the Tama Daiko calendar.



Nagano, Japan. Training with Kondo Sensei. July 2013.

have been training in Taiko since 2009, as long as I have been living in Hamburg. I must say that I am better in the Taiko language than the German language! Since I am really not a health club enthusiast nor am I good at any sports, taiko is my best form of exercise, good for my body and soul! When I play taiko, I feel happy. When I hear the sound of drum beat, my face breaks into a smile. There is nothing better than that! Last July, I was fortunate enough to go to Nagano, Japan to train with Kondo Sensei and it was the best experience ever. This year, we are looking forward to his returning to Germany in September and also looking forward to being in Japan again next year. For more information, please see: www.TamaDaiko.de, www.Taiko-Hamburg.de and /or contact Oliver Reichelt (0163 625 1995) oliverreichelt@yahoo.com BTW Oliver speaks perfect English,



Stella and Oliver training with Kondo Sensei.

Celebrating the American Food and Culture

by *Thelma F.*

A new addition to the lovely shops in the Levantehaus on Mönckebergstr. 7 is American Heritage. The shop just opened in March but they have lots of experience in selling American products since they have been online for 10 years and have shops in 3 other cities. The focus of the shop is its gourmet food products like Stonewall Kitchen Sauces (22 kinds!) and they also have a terrific selection of baking utensils (I want the pie crust protector!), rugs, soaps, gift wrap, other paper products, etc. The newest item is mason bell jars. Kelsey Markl who does the window displays and new product placement says they are used nowadays not only for canning but also for crafting. She used them at her wedding as drinking glasses.



You can find BBQ sauces galore, just like home.

I liked the country western music playing in the background and it turned out to be a CD that they sell. Everything on sale, by the way, is acquired from small family businesses in the U.S. American Heritage has a blog and is on Facebook so you can check them out for new products and recipes.

If you decide to go to American Heritage next time you are on Mönckebergstr., say AWC sent you! And when you are finished browsing, go to the post office branch next door for the complete selection of German commemorative stamps on offer and then to the „chocolatier“ to the side of the post office for a relaxing coffee.

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Opera Club Update

by *Elizabeth R.*

At our recent Opera Club meetings we have continued our survey of the operas of Richard Strauss. We are discovering more and more aspects of the composer's vibrant, complex music.

Our recent "trouser role"-themed meeting certainly led to some raised eyebrows! Trousing roles are young male characters played by a female. Strauss greatly enjoyed writing for trouser roles, but they can be a bit perplexing for listeners, and especially for viewers. Why would a composer do this? Can we take these characters seriously as young men? We have a refreshing variety

of opinions on this matter, which is just what makes for a great Opera Club discussion.

Strauss' forays into the dark corners of the human psyche in "Salome" and "Elektra" were likewise the focus of lively conversation, as we got to hear a whole new side of the composer's range. A look at "Ariadne auf Naxos" provided us with pleasant comic relief after so much darkness, and has steered us back towards the humorous Strauss we will be encountering in "Arabella", our feature opera of the season.

“PRINCE IGOR” IMPRESSIONS

by WangDi S. and Elizabeth R.

While Vladimir Putin’s expansive jaw becomes wider and more aggressive towards the West, Russian composer Alexander Borodin’s only opera, “Prince Igor”, is sweeping up major opera stages this year in London, New York, and here in Hamburg.

There are two inseparable forces in my enjoyment of operas. Elizabeth, Chair of our opera club, provides me the knowledge and vigor in operas; and my mother-in-law provides me the regular access to Hamburg Opera house. Because of them, I saw “Prince Igor” performed by the Hamburg Staatsoper.

Unyielding love across distance, race, and misery; one’s duty to motherland above all and beyond; family betrayal due to greed and power; defiance and dignity in the face of captivity; good’s triumph over evil - “Prince Igor”, an opera originally based on the 12th century, East Slavic epic poem “The Tale of Igor’s Campaign”, covers it all with its impressive, uniquely Russian-themed music. In comparison to Canadian opera productions, Germans are much more daring in their artistic tweaking of century-old operas to incorporate relevant contemporary elements for their present audiences.

Such creativity is sometimes thought-provoking, sometimes downright revolting. With “Prince Igor”, however, the Hamburg Staatsoper seamlessly integrates the brutality of the Soviet era, the cruelty of terrorists, and the courageous Pussy Riot group with the opera’s original version. I was in awe when Prince Igor in his golden, medieval armor riding high above the stage on his golden horse, the young pioneers with red scarves saluting to Prince Igor with earnest, both chorus and orchestra cheering on jubilantly. Prince Igor has reminded me once again why I love operas: gripping stories accompanied by absorbing music.



Prince Igor’s powerful finale; photo: Karl Forster.

FASCINATING RUSSIAN OPERA RIGHT HERE IN HAMBURG

Fellow Opera Club member WangDi and I recently attended performances of “Prince Igor” at Hamburg’s Staatsoper. We were quite impressed by this striking production with its unforgettable music and images, as WangDi beautifully describes in her review on this page.

Russian opera may seem completely foreign and inaccessible to those of us who have never set foot in a Slavic land. But at the opera house, the beauty of the music and singing pulls us right in to discover a new world that is perhaps not so unfamiliar after all. The next time a Russian opera is being performed nearby, give it a try!

Art in the City

by Ulrike C. H.

Museum für Kunst + Gewerbe

SMALL WORLDS

Through June 29, 2014

They are so tiny that you could simply breathe them in – the sculptures of the English sculptor Willard Wigan. In fact, it has already happened to him. The skyscrapers, trees and fairy-tale scenes are less than 0.005 millimetres in size. "It began when I was five years old," says Willard. "I started making houses for ants



Willard Wigan
Willard Wigan, Cinderella / Aschenputtel, © Willard Wigan

because I thought they needed somewhere to live. Then I made them shoes and hats. It was a fantasy world I escaped to. That's how my career as a micro-sculptor began." Each piece commonly sits within the eye of a needle, or on a pinhead. The personal sacrifices involved in creating such wondrous, yet scarcely believable pieces are inconceivable to most. Willard enters a meditative state in which his heartbeat is slowed, allowing him to reduce hand tremors and sculpt between pulse beats.

Willard Wigan's sculptures are all but invisible to the naked eye and come with their own microscope.



Willard Wigan, Skyline, © Willard Wigan

Kunstverein in Hamburg LET'S MAKE THE WATER TURN BLACK

Through May 11, 2014

Bettina Steinbrügge, the new director of the Kunstverein in Hamburg presents the first German solo exhibit by the Canadian artist Geoffrey Farmer. The unique artistic practice of Geoffrey Farmer (*1967) has its roots in Dada, Happenings, performance and process-based works.

It presents the possibility of alternate temporalities, reconfigures the opposition of the material and the conceptual, and embarks on the odyssey of performative meaning-making. After extensive research, the artist builds encyclopedias that unify aspects of visual art, literature, music, politics, history, and sociology.

The mechanical play "Let's Make The Water Turn Black", which is inspired by Farmer's interest in Kabuki theatre, is populated with sculptures, some of which are kinetic that perform the various acts in an ever-shifting, computer-



Geoffrey Farmer, Let's Make the Water Turn Black, 2013-2014 Exhibition view, Kunstverein in Hamburg Photo: Fred Dott Courtesy of the artist, Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver, and Casey Kaplan, New York.

generated score of lights and sound that play out over the course of the day. Using the life of Frank Zappa as a structuring device, the work progresses chronologically from 1940 to 1993.

Check opening times at: <http://kunstverein.de/derkunstverein/info>

Deichtorhallen Sammlung PHILIP GUSTON LATE WORKS

Through May 25, 2014
At The Falckenberg Collection,
Hamburg-Harburg

The bold and quite extraordinary oeuvre of US painter Philip Guston (1913 – 1980) was one of the most controversial and widely discussed of his time. He was the first painter to return to figuration in the post-war era and was quite pioneering in linking high art and images



Aggressor, 1978. Öl auf Leinwand/Oil on Canvas Maße/Dimensions: 122 x 152 cm. The Estate of Philip Guston, courtesy McKee Gallery, New York © The Estate of Philip Guston

from popular culture. Today he is celebrated as the pioneer of postmodern, figurative painting. The first exhibition of these paintings, with their anarchic sense of humor and feel for the grotesque, was in 1970 and caused a veritable scandal, as many critics accused him of »betraying« abstract art.

In 1950, though self-taught Guston earned his spurs in the New York art world as defined by Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning and Mark Rothko, and emerged as one of the major champions of Abstract Expressionism.

To mark the artist's 100th birthday the Deichtorhallen Hamburg-Falckenberg Collection is honoring Philip Guston with an exhibit of around eighty paintings and drawings with a focus on some 40 works from what was his most arresting period forming a milestone in American painting.

The Falckenberg Collection and the exhibit can be visited as part of a guided tour.

For booking your tour please visit www.sammlung-falckenberg.de/besuch

NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS' EVENT

by Regina D.



Anselm Feuerbach Studienkopf zur Stuttgarter Iphigenie, 1870, ©# Museum Oskar Reinhart Winterthur, Foto: SIK-ISEA (Philipp Hitz);
Karl Lagerfeld; Moderne Mythologie, 2013 © 2013 Karl Lagerfeld

New and Prospective Members' Event Tuesday, May 20, 2014

16.30 – 18.00: Guided tour in English of the exhibition:
Feuerbach's Muses – Lagerfeld's Models

18.15 – 20.00: Dinner at Restaurant **"The Cube"**
(inside the Gallery of Contemporary Art, Kunsthalle Hamburg)

More Information: <http://www.hamburger-kunsthalle.de> and <http://www.the-cube-restaurant.de/>

Cost: Museum: depends on the number of participants (not more than 15 Euros) plus the costs for your dinner order at "The Cube"

We kindly request your reply by Thursday, May 15, to: hhelpers@awchamburg.org or via Evite

Location: Gallery of Contemporary Art, Kunsthalle Hamburg,
Glockengießerwall, 20095 Hamburg,
next to the main railway station

ACTIVITY CALENDAR May 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.

WALK AROUND THE ALSTER!

On Monday evenings, a group will be walking around the Alster to contribute kilometers to FAWCO's "Walk Around the World" effort (see <https://www.fawco.org/global-issues/health/clubs-in-motion>). The route is approximately 7.38 kilometers and we will meet (rain or shine, but not in thunderstorms) at 19:00 at the Red Dog Bar & Cafe at the Krugkoppel entrance to the Alsterpark across from the Eichenpark, and can meet there afterward as well if desired.

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!

Stitch'n'Bitch

Tuesday, May 13 and 27 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 May 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>

May

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Walk around the Alster | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 English Theatre with the AC | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Walk around the Alster | 13 Stitch 'n' Bitch | 14 | 15 | 16 Opera Club | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Walk around the Alster | 20 New Members Event | 21 | 22 | 23 Cherry Blossom Festival | 24 |
| 25 Books and Brunch// Movie Night | 26 | 27 Stitch 'n' Bitch | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Congratulations May

Birthday Girls!

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Mary W. | 6 |
| Svetlana T. | 8 |
| Julie N. | 9 |
| Liz S. | 9 |
| Catherine S. | 9 |
| Tracy M. | 10 |
| Patricia N. | 17 |
| Christiane L. | 19 |
| Eileen P. | 20 |
| Azita K-S. | 23 |
| Susan K. | 26 |
| Christine Z. | 29 |

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.

WALK AROUND THE WORLD WITH FAWCO AND THE AWCH

by Eileen P.

On Monday evenings, a group will be walking around the Alster to contribute kilometers to FAWCO's "Walk Around the World" effort (see <https://www.fawco.org/global-issues/health/clubs-in-motion>). The route is approximately 7.38 kilometers and we will meet (rain or shine, but not in thunderstorms) at 19:00 at the Red Dog Bar & Cafe at the Krugkoppel entrance to the Alsterpark across from the Eichenpark, and can meet there afterward as well if desired.

Each participant may proceed at her own pace (a 12min/k pace means about a 1.5h walk). Including some running is great too! Whether the walk is the beginning of a new exercise habit, active recovery from other exercise, or simply a way to enjoy Hamburg's landscape in the summer months, it's suitable for everyone. We hope to see you there.



The view of the Alster at our first Walk Around The Alster, April 30.

At first I was worried how sporty this would get as I like to think of myself as "allergic" to exercise and because I know how sporty Eileen, who organized the event, is. But it was great! We were all going different paces, as fast as we wanted or could. We could chat or go faster and catch up with the "Speeders" if we felt like it. I am looking forward to next Monday! Maybe I can heal my "allergy" after all :-) Karen M.

WANTED

LAYOUT EDITOR

YOU ARE CREATIVE? OR WOULD LOVE TO BE?

**GOT EXPERIENCE IN DESIGN, PHOTOSHOP OR ANOTHER
ILLUSTRATION PROGRAM?**

OR NOT AT ALL BUT WOULD ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO LEARN?

BE PART OF OUR CURRENTS STAFF!

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MEMBERS TO SUPPORT OUR TEAM FOR OUR ONLINE AND
PRINT MAGAZINE CURRENTS.**

YOU NEED:

BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS AND.....

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SUPPORT AND HELP EACH OTHER, WITH PROFESSIONAL HELP
FROM SOME WHO HAVE EVEN BEEN IN THE PROFESSIONAL
PUBLISHING BUSINESS THEMSELVES AND LOVE TO SHARE
EXPERIENCE AND KNOW-HOW.**

Interested?! Contact Karen, either via email: currents-exec@awchamburg.org, or just talk to me at the next event. Not sure yet, but kinda feel interested? Come to a currents meeting, it's very casual and we discuss magazine issues as a whole in a mixed group of active staff and other members casually interested in the subject!

No strings attached!

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!



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.



The Other Woman (Schadenfreundinnen) **

USA 2014

Starts May 1, 2014

Directed by: Nick Cassavetes

Writing Credits: Melissa K. Stack

Cast: Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Kate Upton

Length: 109 minutes

Carly Whitten (Diaz) is a hard-as-nails lawyer who finds the 'one', that perfect guy, the one with flowers, wine, surprise gifts, and romantic walks in the park. Everything is perfect until she meets his wife, Kate (Mann). When this unlikely pair becomes friends, they soon discover they are not the only women that Mark (Coster-Waldau) has been deceiving. The other mistress Amber (Upton) quickly falls in with the other two and this threesome team up to ensure Mark pays for his philandering ways.

The ensuing comedic sketches can take things a little over the top, nevertheless I did laugh out loud on at least two occasions. If you like Cameron Diaz's previous comedy performances you will also enjoy her delivery in this flick. Plus, we all enjoy watching a womanizer get what he is due. (Christine Riney.)

Fruitvale Station ****

USA 2013

Starts May 1, 2014

Directed by: Ryan Coogler

Writing credits: Ryan Coogler

Cast: Michael B. Jordan, Melonie Diaz, Octavia Spencer, Ariana Neal, Ahna O'Reilly, Kevin Durand, Chad Michael Murray

Length: 85 minutes

The wrong place, the wrong time, the wrong color. So much for "keep(ing) my baby safe." San Francisco's East Bay Fruitvale BART station is the final destination for Oscar (Jordan) in the early hours of 2009. Rewind to early morning December 31st:

the 22-year-old cuddles Sophina (Diaz), allows Tatiana (Neal) to climb into her parents' bed, and sends mom (Spencer) a birthday greeting. During the day, after dropping T at daycare and Phina at her job, Oscar's mood turns pensive. Easy fixes ain't gonna' cut it anymore.



Writer Ryan Coogler admits taking some narrative license with his true-life chronicle of a police killing, albeit the holes in his story are barely noticeable. Obviously overlooked by contributors: Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART, not to be confused with local and state law enforcement) allowed Coogler to film his feature directorial debut on-site; his access to legal and court documents, and obtaining authentic videos from that night; Oscar's family cooperated fully. Jordan's phenomenal performance almost convinces us Oscar was that nice; Spencer as Oscar's mother is equally noteworthy. Rachel Morrison's cinéma vérité camerawork, Claudia Castello and Michael P. Shawver's tight back-forth editing, and Ludwig Göransson's music culminate when fates collide at the Fruitvale Station. Timely, engrossing, socially critical: an imperative reminder of one's civic responsibilities. (Marinell Haegelin)

Vergiss mein ich (Lose your self) **

Germany, 2014

Starts May 1, 2014

Directed by: Jan Schomburg

Writing credits: Jan Schomburg

Cast: Maria Schrader, Johannes Krisch, Ronald Zehrfeld, Sandra Hüller

Length: 95 minutes

This is a movie I did not enjoy, and I'm giving it only two stars because of that. It took me an hour of sunshine on the Elbe River to recover from it. The acting is excellent, but the storyline is desolate and not very convincing. The movie tells the story of a woman called Lena (played by Maria Schrader) who loses her memory due to a bout with a fever that causes brain damage. In particular, her amygdala and hippocampus are affected, which are located in the cortex of the brain, the part that makes humans different from other animals. (This is the biologist in me speaking.) The affected areas are those in which emotional information is processed and in which short-term memory is converted to a long-term mode. The damage causes Lena to lose part of her biographical memory, the part known as episodic memory, as I discovered in an on-line search. As a result she loses all memory of past experiences, emotions, relationships and people. And apparently she is unable to reactivate such capacities for future use. What Lena retains is called semantic memory, that is, factual knowledge and the ability to accumulate facts. She can still learn things by rote, even though she doesn't really "feel" or understand them emotionally. She learns to imitate laughter, recite things she wrote in her diary, and say the words "I love you." And she does this with great skill. But her behaviour is robotic. Lena also still has intact procedural memory, "knowing how," as it is called. This kind of memory is encoded in the evolutionarily older part of the brain, the cerebellum, also called the "reptile brain." Knowing how includes sex, and Lena is definitely still capable of that, as the movie shows in graphic detail. Lena has sex with a complete stranger called Roman she meets by chance in a revival service and thinks nothing of telling her husband Tore (Johannes Krisch) about it. Roman is depicted as a kind person, but you wonder why a truly empathetic person would want to have sex with a woman who is obviously mentally disturbed. For some reason Lena's husband Tore isn't aware of the consequences of her amnesia, maybe because he spends his time up on scaffolding repairing the cathedral in Cologne rather than consulting with her doctors and checking the internet. Anyway, in the end he decides he can't take the changes in her personality anymore, but still has no reservations about having sex with her.

I don't know what message the author and director, Jan Schomburg, intends to convey with this movie. It leaves me with the feeling that the horrors of a terrible kind of amnesia have been exploited in order to allow a brilliant actress to display her talent and show lustful sex. The movie tells



you nothing about how Lena "discovers a new self" as some of the comments in the internet suggest, because there is no new self to be discovered. Lena's old self has been destroyed and she is forced to construct a new one, one that will always be deficient because she has to get along without some very basic neural resources. I would rather have learned in greater depth how someone copes with everyday life without episodic memory. (Pat Nevers)

Muppets Most Wanted **

USA 2014

Starts May 1, 2014

Directed by: James Bobin

Writing credits: James Bobin, Nicholas Stoller

Cast: Ricky Gervais, Ty Burrell, Tina Fey, Steve Whitmire, Eric Jacobson

Length: 107 min



When the Muppets are convinced to go on a world tour by the suspicious Dominic Badguy (Ricky Gervais), everything seems to be coming up roses. However when no one was paying attention, Kermit the Frog was thrown into a Russian gulag and replaced by the criminal mastermind Constantine. Will Fozzy, Walter and Animal be able to rescue Kermit and stop Constantine before it's too late?

With a famous cast, many celebrity cameos and the charming Miss Piggy, the Muppets are back in action. While Muppets Most Wanted does not quite reach the same level of charm and fun as The Muppets (2011), there is still plenty of fun to be had. However with many Russian Cold War stereotypes the film comes off a bit dated and even Kermit the Frog can't save it from being unoriginal. (Rose Finlay.)

Über-ich und du (Superegos) ****

Germany/Switzerland/Austria 2014
 Starts May 8, 2014
 Directed by: Benjamin Heisenberg
 Writing credits: Benjamin Heisenberg, Josef Lechner
 Cast: George Friedrich, André Wilms, Nicolas Wackerbarth
 Length: 100 minutes



A surprisingly humorous romp focusing on a middle-aged tramp Nick (Georg Friedrich) who pretends to be the new caretaker for a famous aging psychiatrist Carl (André Wilms). Nick is hiding out from the powerful people he owes money to and Carl is preparing for a symposium to defend himself because his career began with the help of the Nazis. The two get into numerous hijinks, much to the chagrin of Carl's family, and it culminates

in Carl psychoanalyzing Nick which results in their personality quirks swapping bodies. You have to see it to believe it (and understand it!) While perhaps not the most realistic comedy, its fresh take on mature male relationships is nice to see. Andre Wilms does an amazing job at portraying the hilarity of getting older, as well as its tragedies. With many laughs and absurd moments, you won't regret giving it a watch. (Rose Finlay)

Ai Weiwei The Fake Case ***

Denmark/China/United Kingdom 2013
 Starts May 8, 2014
 Directed by: Andreas Johnson
 Writing Credits: Rosforth and Danish Documentary Production with the BBC
 Cast: documentary
 Length: 86 minutes

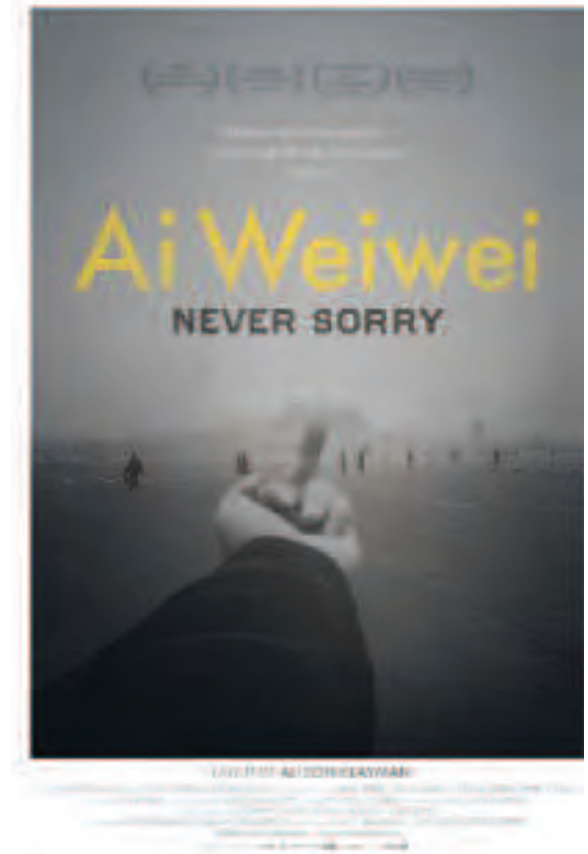
The title refers to the trumped up charges made by the Chinese authorities against Ai Weiwei.

A good documentary is one which makes you want to know more about its subject and this is true of Andreas Johnson's glimpse into Ai Weiwei's life.

People in the West first heard of the Chinese architect when he designed the "birds nest" stadium for the Olympic Games in Beijing. He followed this with an exhibition at the Tate Modern art gallery in London of millions of sunflower seeds, each one hand made and hand painted by Chinese villagers. While visitors were bemused by this unusual exhibition news came through from China that Weiwei had been imprisoned for "tax evasion." After viewing the seeds members of the public were invited to sign a petition in the art gallery requesting his release.

Mr. Johnson's documentary begins just after Weiwei leaves prison. Weiwei has been ordered not to talk about his experiences there so instead the camera films the artist's day and provides glimpses into his everyday life. Weiwei plays happily with his little boy and shares a meal with his son and young wife; he takes a walk with his mother and is begged by this anxious old lady not to fall foul

of the authorities again, as his father had done before him and he discusses the development of his artistic ideas with his agent. He also fends off questions about his future (and immediate past) from well-meaning friends and journalists from the West. Gradually a portrait of a traumatized but very brave man emerges, a man who is first and foremost an artist. When members of the public send money to help pay the fine imposed when he was charged with tax evasion Weiwei watches as it is counted but he takes some of the banknotes, shapes them into origami boats, pins



them onto his clothes and is photographed like a fashion model. He cannot talk about his eighty-one days in prison but he can reconstruct his tiny prison cell and make sculptures of himself inside it, complete with two prison guards at all times and send an exhibition of it to the Biennale in Venice. Six tiny but life-size cells show the artist sleeping eating and living out his time in this nightmare.

Since then every minute of every day must be so precious to Ai Weiwei. This documentary shows the fragility of his freedom and his quiet, brave and important stand against Chinese injustice. It also shows the importance of the media in making sure that such injustices are brought to the attention of people like us, people who may be in the position of offering support to those who suffer from them. Whether we make a stand against injustice is for us to decide. (Jenny Mather)

3 Days to Kill **

USA | France 2014
 Starts May 8, 2014
 Directed by: McG
 Writing credits: Adi Hasak, Luc Besson
 Cast: Kevin Costner, Hailee Steinfeld, Connie Nielsen, Amber Heard
 Length: 117 minutes

To work for the CIA, Ethan Renner (Costner) has sacrificed family life with wife Christine (Nielsen) and daughter Zooe (Steinfeld). His last assignment—killing “the Albino”, right hand of a yet to be identified terrorist known as “the Wolf”—didn’t go so well and landed him in the hospital where he is diagnosed with a terminal disease. Renner moves back to France to spend the few months he has left to reconnect with his ex-wife and daughter. Christine agrees to give it a try only if he quits his job for good. But along comes special agent Vivi (Heard) and Renner takes the questionable deal she offers him: within 3 days he has to lure “the Wolf” to Paris and take him out; in exchange he will receive 3 injection of a not yet proven medication that may prolong—possibly save—his life.

As one would expect—with Costner in the lead—this action film isn’t without entertainment value. It even has its comic moments. Nielsen (Christine) and Steinfeld (Zooe) are well cast and the film is beautifully shot on location in Paris “of the beaten path”. Nevertheless, the 117 minutes appear rather lengthy; ideally the story would also have made more sense. (Why enlist a sickly agent that becomes completely defenseless when the injection wears off, is just one of question that comes to mind), The team, led by McG (director) and including Luc Besson (story, co-writer and producer) - was unable to create a coherent story out of two story lines, with Renner juggling his CIA assignment and parenting his sassy teenage daughter, though Costner portrays both convincingly. (Carola A.)

Good Vibrations ****

UK/Ireland 2012
 Starts May 8, 2014
 Directed by Lisa Barros D’Sa
 Writing credits: Colin Corberry, Glenn Patterson
 Cast: Liam Cunningham, Jodie Whittaker, Richard Dornier
 Length: 103 minutes

In the early 1970s in Northern Ireland Terri Hooley opens up his record shop “Good Vibrations”. He opens it on one of the most violent streets in Belfast hoping to offer a place of peace where music is important, not religious beliefs. The record shop has few customers and Terri struggles to keep it open. When teenagers start asking for bands Terri has never heard of he follows them to a Punk concert in an abandoned building. The concert is packed with the new generation and on stage is a band playing music Terri has never heard before but immediately recognizes as the new vibration for the new generation. He decides to record the bands on his own label and Good Vibrations, the record shop and recording label, become the new meeting place of the up and coming Northern Ireland Punk scene with bands like The Undertones, Rudi and The Outcasts. Terri brings the bands on tour throughout Northern Ireland introducing teenagers to the new sound.

Unlike other Punk bands of the time such as the Sex Pistols, The Northern Ireland Punk scene is not interested in violence and rebellion, something they experience every day on the streets with fighting between Catholics and Protestants. The Northern Ireland Punks are more interested in escape and unity, bringing a more melodic almost close to Pop sound to their music. Unfortunately, this is not the kind of punk music big record labels are looking for as Terri discovers when he tries to bring the music over to London. He does manage to bring the song «Teenage Kicks» from The Undertones to the attention of John Peele, a popular radio DJ for BBC Radio 1. John Peele plays the song not one time but two times after another, a radio music sensation back then. Sire Records offers Terri 20,000 Pounds for the rights to the song. But Terri is not interested in money, he is happy that the music is recognized for its potential and accepts only 500 pounds from the record company, enough to buy a new bus for the band. Because Terri gets caught up in the moment, not on business details, he soon finds himself broke and on the verge of losing his record shop, label and house. His wife has already left him with their infant daughter after she realizes that Terri’s family is, and always will be, the music scene.

To raise enough money to save his business and house, Terri organizes a concert at the Ulster Hall. This is Belfast’s biggest concert location and bands such as the Rolling Stones have played there. While waiting inside an empty Hall, everything seems lost until Terri and the bands realize there are hundreds of people outside. The security won’t let them in because most are drunk and have no tickets. Terri manages to get them in saying most of them are on the guest list. The concert is a huge success music wise but a fiasco financially. Terri actually comes out owing more money than earned from the concert. In the following years up to July 2011 the shop «Good Vibrations» will close down and open again in four different locations. Terri Hooley, the «Godfather of Punk», has always remained faithful to his love of music and pioneered the way for modern northern Irish bands.

This is not a film for everyone. But if you want to escape for a little while into the movement of Punk in Northern Ireland in the 1970s and experience how believing in something can bring about success (maybe not success how other people see it) then sit back and enjoy the good vibrations of Terri Hooley’s story.
 (Alana Leichert)



Watermark ****

Canada 2013
Starts May 15, 2014
Directed by: Jennifer Baichwal and Edward Burtynsky
Writing credits: Jennifer Baichwal
Cast: documentary
Length: 92 minutes

Here is a film that has already made a mark at the Toronto Film festival by winning Best Canadian Film and has received the Rogers Best Canadian Award. Edward Burtynsky, a remarkable photographer teams up with director Jennifer Baichwal to give us a view of our interaction with water. This film is not like a Michael Moore film says Baichwal because they don't want us to be hit over the head with a heavy message but that we would experience places around the world visually and come up with our own conclusions. The film takes us from Xiolangdi Dam in China to the Ogallala-Aquifer in the Great Plains of America. He covers the all-American canal which is 130 kilometers in California to the desert where the Colorado River ends. We see places that we don't necessarily see but are connected to in some way. We need water to survive and yet we misuse it to the point where we need to question our own future.



The visual images are meant to bring a consciousness into the people's mind and show the global impact that it is having on us all. It makes us have a deeper respect to water when we are using it and we can remember that it has the ability to give life. They wanted their film to embellish the complexities and not just have a simple message about our relationship with

water. Jennifer Baichwal says, "It is a lot about our impact on

water but also shows our spiritual relationship with water. Water is life and without it we are nothing. We wanted to create a space where we think about water in a different way." Nicholas da Pencier, cameraman, explained how difficult it was to get some of the shots on the Xiolangdi Dam since the structure itself was only temporary and he himself is afraid of heights. There were time laps done over a couple of days and the still images needed to have the viewer understand what they are looking at since sometimes they look very abstract. It is both an emotionally as well as an intellectual film. The film allows people to decide their own which is why there is not much dialog to the film, but does include dialogue.

There Edward Burtynsky exhibit in Berlin runs until May 24 at Galerie Springer Berlin
Fasanenstrasse 13, 10623 Berlin, www.galleriespringer.de
opening times Di-Fr 12-18Uhr
Sa 12-13Uhr (Shelly Schoeneshoefer)

One Chance ****

USA/UK 2013
Starts May 22, 2014
Directed by: David Frankel
Writing credits: Justin Zackham
Cast: James Corden, Alexandra Roach, Julia 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.)

David Opperman

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR JUNE'S ISSUE WILL BE
MAY 22.

THE FIRST PROOFREADING SESSION WILL BE
IN THE MORNING OF
MAY 23.

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR EVITES FOR
UPCOMING CURRENTS EVENTS.
PROOFREADING II
WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28.

AN EVITE AND AGENDA WILL BE SENT OUT
TIMELY.

Of course we absolutely love submissions. If
there is anything you feel like writing about:
LET US KNOW!

Want to share your love for Hamburg? Want
to complain about rude people on the street?
Maybe you found a café you just want to tell us
about: we love to hear from you!

Submissions are accepted anytime via
currents-exec@awchamburg.org. Or just speak
to Karen if you have an idea but are not sure
how to implement it. I am sure we will find a
way!:-)

DANKE! DANKE! DANKE!

To Tracy M. for organizing the lovely open
house sewing to support the heart pillow
project.

Stella for the great idea and organization of
Dim Sum Sunday.

Karen for assisting Tracy for the Movie Night
organization, while she was out of town.

Shawn for her great idea organizing an all new
Book Club.

To Jenny M. for the wonderful tour of St.
Georg

To Eileen P., for organizing the Walk Around
The Alster - event, as an all new member!

To Jess M. for jumping in last minute hosting
SnB.

To Brooke for the Guacamole and hosting
SnB with little Lilly as her co-host:-).

To Ulrike for the beautiful photograph we
may use for our cover.

AWCH Contacts

Has your contact information changed? Not receiv-
ing 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

Want to locate your HH Helper? Contact: helpers@awchamburg.org

Lost your activity calendar?

Visit www.awchamburg.org/activitycalendar

Having trouble with the website?

Contact: webgineer@awchamburg.org

Want to write, edit, or proofread for Currents?

Contact: currents-exec@awchamburg.org

Want to find out more about FAWCO?

Contact: fawco@awchamburg.org



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The AWC in APRIL.....

