As I looked around the room at Parliament, I found myself reflecting on what a diamond symbolized and just how much a group of dedicated women could accomplish! The Tama Daiko Drummers with our very own Stella R. got us off to a rousing start. The new Consul General, Richard “Rick” Yoneoka and his wife Kathrin, our new honorary president, graced us with their presence and Rick even gave his first official speech. We had past members who came from all over the globe, including Erica Fox Zubusky, who served as our MC at the brunch, and Georgie Regnault, past president of the Club and recipient of the Order of Orange for her humanitarian work. Sallie Chaballier came from Paris to help spread the FAWCO fever and Angelika McClarren who came from Berlin honored us with her thoughts on the occasion. We listened to Hamburg’s Black Angel, Love Newkirk, who helped bring a little soul to the festivities. She got us on our feet with some line dancing and then the DJ helped us dance until the wee hours. We even raised more than EUR 1,000 for the FAWCO Target Project with the help of Tracy M.’s daughters.

The good feelings continued the following morning at the brunch at Vier Jahreszeiten. Erica made us laugh and regaled us with tales of years past. Kathrin Yoneoka spoke to us and we had a lovely day for the boat ride around the Alster. Everything and everyone looked so beautiful, shining bright like the “Diamonds” that they are.

Over the years, the Club has changed, but the one constant has been the connectivity that the Club brings to our lives. It gives us that Heimat feeling. We hope that everyone was able to find an event that they wanted to attend and that you enjoyed celebrating the Club. All of this, however, couldn’t have happened without a lot of work by the Diamond Planning Committee. Anna S., head of the Diamond Planning Committee, coordinated our activities around this historic event. Shelly S., Carol S., Laura O., Mary Frances L., Tracy M., Monika M., Marielle H., Carol B., Nancy T., Rachelle B. and Becky T. and so many more played role in the festivities too. Thank you all for helping make it all happen. You ladies truly do sparkle and shine!

Your AWCH President,
Laura Langford
American Women’s Club of Hamburg

Hamburg, 12/21/2016

Dear Members of the American Women’s Club Hamburg,

Congratulations on the occasion of your 60th anniversary. From a simple start as a coffee club in 1956 to the variety of activities that you support today, the club has grown and changed in response to the needs of its members. The variety of activities that you offer your members is impressive—a movie club, a book club, the Hamburg Helpers group, the opera group, and a crafting club. You even publish your own membership magazine, “Currents.”

The AWCH plays an important role in putting an everyday face on German-American relations and offers a home to Americans in Hamburg as they settle into a new environment. Likewise, you welcome into your fold Germans that have lived in the United States or are interested in the American way of life. Bolstering these socio-cultural linkages is important today as it was 60 years ago; maybe even more important as the world becomes smaller and the challenges larger.

In addition to tending to the everyday business of the Consulate General and representing the United States in northern Germany, during my tenure I plan to focus on German youth and helping them come to know America. Many youth that I have met during my short time here have never met a ‘real American’ and only know American culture from film and music. That is startling. As I have taken to saying, “We cannot assume good relations; we must continue to invest and forge relations and common understanding.” I welcome your help in this effort and furthering our common goals.

Kathrin and I look forward to working with you. Hopefully, in 60 years you will look back and reflect that the second 60 was even better than the first! Thank you for all you do to support our diverse community!

Sincerely,

Richard T. Yoneoka
U.S. Consul General to Northern Germany

The Diamond Celebration Gala.

Hamburg greeted AWCH members and guests with sensational Indian summer weather: boundless blue sky casually adorned with featherlight clouds, pale sun shining warm and festive. The membership gathered in the heart of Free Hansestadt Hamburg – in the Grundsteinkeller (foundation cellar) of Hamburg’s historic City Hall – to celebrate its Diamond Anniversary with honorable guests and past and present members. This magnificent building, designed in 1897 by a group of architects headed by Martin Haller, who also created the Little White House on the Alster, the present home of U.S. Consulate, provided an exceptional environment for this outstanding event. Guests were greeted by members of Diamond Celebration Team, and the evening began... (continued on following pages)
...with the pulsating beats of Hamburg’s Tama-Daiko Japanese Drummers. Gala Committee Chairwoman Anna Sizorina and AWCH President Laura Langford graciously welcomed us and introduced the special guests of the evening: Hamburg’s new Consul General, the honorable Richard Yoneoka...

Next Page: Consul General Richard Yoneoka’s speech held the audience in thrall.
Remarks for AWC Hamburg
60th Anniversary Gala

Happy Anniversary, AWC Hamburg! I am delighted to represent FAWCO at this joyous celebration, and bring you congratulations from the FAWCO Board. Sixty years is quite a milestone! AWC Hamburg is five years older than my own club, AAWE Paris, so I have some idea of the commitment and perseverance that have gone into building and sustaining this dynamic community of American and international women making their lives in Hamburg.

This year also marks the fortieth anniversary of the American Women’s Club of Hamburg joining FAWCO in 1976. Your history with FAWCO is substantial: you held an Interim Conference here in Hamburg in 1980 and numerous Region 5 meetings over the years, the most recent in 2014. Moreover, your club has given FAWCO some outstanding volunteers: FAWCO Counselors Becky Tan and (to my surprise!) Georgia Regnault; former FAWCO Vice President Irmgard Zahn; Carol Battenfeld, who served three terms as FAWCO Board Secretary; longtime FAWCO Advertising Chair and Region 5 Coordinator Frauke Rademacher-Heidemann, current FAWCO Foundation Vice President for Programs Tracy Moede, and of course our amazing Website Manager, Cat Conner.

FAWCO President Monica Jubayli is so sorry that she is not able to be here this evening, but she is certainly with you in spirit and asked me to read this letter to you.

[Letter from Monica]

From all of us at FAWCO, have a wonderful celebration, and here’s to your next 60 years!

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris)
FAWCO 1st Vice President

...and wonderful FAWCO representatives Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris) and Angelika McLaren (AWC Berlin).
Laura’s moderation carried us through the evening, which included opportunities to win exquisite raffle prizes, generously arranged by the members of the Diamond Team, a fundraiser which brought in €1,135 for the FAWCO Education Project...
...followed by a tremendous performance by Hamburg-American star Love Newkirk, who got us to our feet for a memorable community dance...
Tracy Moede: “It was a fabulous evening and I was glad my family, who have pitched in to help at all the AWCH family events, was there to help me celebrate!” Dietmar Moede: “The evening had a relaxed atmosphere that gave everyone the chance to talk and celebrate with each other.”

...and the night flew into the morning with a DJ and more dancing.
60 Jahre American Women’s Club

Verein engagiert sich für wohltätige Zwecke und hilft Amerikanerinnen beim Einleben in Hamburg

Von Dagmar Gehm

As a long-standing member of our club, for me the festive Gala dinner and celebration is one of the highlights in our club history. Many members from out-of-town followed the invitation and between the entertainment was time for lively conversations with members that one had not seen for a while.

During the Gala evening I enjoyed the varied program presenting TamaDaiko drummers, the lovely singer/performer Love Newkirk, and the memory slide show of members‘ activities whilst the four-course menu was served.

It was interesting to see the newly-appointed Consul General Richard Yoneoka and his German-born wife as special guests and listening to his warm and humorous speech. Thanks to the very effective public relations of Petra K. and the entire AWC Board, this very important club occasion was mentioned in Hamburg newspapers together with some photographs of members in their elegant dressing. Very impressive! (Birgit Schrumpf)

On the evening of the twenty-fourth of September, while everyone was celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of our club, a special toast to you was made from a tiny hamlet in Italy.

My nephew and the love of his life were married that day and had decided that the ceremony was to take place roughly half way between London, where Nick comes from and Vilnius, in Lithuania, where Justina was born. The wedding took place on a sunny afternoon and later, in the early evening, the wedding feast took place outdoors where we were surrounded by the Tuscan hills. We sat at a long table decorated with white candles and rustic baskets filled with herbs and read a menu written in English and Lithuanian.

When our glasses were filled with prosecco and the first toast to the new bride and groom was made, I added another to my friends in our club. The wedding toast was: “To Justina and Nick, wishing them a long and happy life together.” My toast was: “To all the members of our club in Hamburg, wishing you a wonderful evening and hoping that the next sixty years of the AWC are as successful as the last ones were.” (Jenny Mather)
The Diamond Celebration Members’ Brunch took place on Sunday, September 25, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten. Fifty current members, former members and guests enjoyed an elegant ladies’ brunch, with a welcome reception in the Jahreszeiten Salon and a variety of delicacies served at the table in the Elbsalon. There were member testimonials, a slide show highlighting our 60 years, and lots of good conversation and fun. Afterwards there was an Alster boat tour with a backdrop of beautiful sunshine.

President Laura Langford welcomed everyone and introduced our Mistress of Ceremonies, former member Erica Fox Zabusky, who came to Hamburg in 1989 as a lead singer in Cats and now lives in Kansas. Our Honorary President Kathrin Yoneoka then gave a very warm and inspiring speech.

Three pairs of members each gave short, themed testimonials on what AWCH means to them: AWCH History—Georgia Regnault and Carol Battenfeld; AWCH and FAWCO—Angelika McLarrenen Head of Region 5 and Franke Rademacher-Heidemann (in absentia); AWCH Friendship—Thelma Freedman and Allene Pistorius. Members were acknowledged for service and accomplishment: past presidents—Georgia Regnault, Rebecca Tan, Carol Battenfeld, Thelma Friedman, and Beatrice Schlicher; current president—Laura Langford; the person who has held the most offices—Rebecca Tan; the person who helped the longest with new and prospective members—Regina Daumann; the members who joined longest ago:—Georgia Regnault and Carol Battenfeld; the most recent honorary member—Kathrin Yoneoka; the person who traveled the furthest to come to our celebration—Liz Gobelle-Rudolph; and the guests from FAWCO—Sallie Chabalier and Angelika McLarren. Special thanks was given to Marinell Haegelin for her layout of the lovely program–menu for the brunch.

A heartfelt thanks to Kathrin Yoneoka and Renate Schmidt for honoring us with their participation. Thank you Erica Fox Zabusky for being our fabulous MC. Special thanks to all AWCH speakers for sharing your precious memories and reminding us of all the new friendships that we have made and will make. Sincere thanks to Laura Langford, Anna Sizorina and the Diamond Committee for their excellent organization of the Diamond Celebration events. Thanks to Laura Otto and the Currents team for the celebration invitation and program brochure. Also many thanks to Marinell for the design of her white-and-blue AWCH logo and to Nancy Tilitz for her AWCH logo featuring the iconic skyline of Hamburg. Thank you Nancy Tilitz for welcoming the brunch guests, and Petra Roitsch for your photography. Thanks to the Alsterhaus for the generous gift and to the Hotel Fairmont Vier Jahreszeiten for the hospitality and generosity.

We thank all the members and guests who participated in this celebration of AWCH. We hope everyone will remember it as a wonderful time with good friends, old and new! (Shelly Schoeneshoefer and Carol Strametz)
My First AWCH Event: The Gala Brunch

On the walk from the Jungfernstieg bus stop to the luxurious Fairmont Hotel, I was feeling nervous. The entire bus ride I was fidgeting with my rings. The excitement and anticipation ran through me. I’m surprised my pantyhose didn’t melt off. Is this what a hot flash feels like? Why on earth did I even wear pantyhose? I’m a feminist, for peats sake. As my heels clicked—rather clomped—across the marble floor, I spotted a glorious smile! A very warm welcome from Anna Sizorina. I made my way into the hive and received my name badge. This name badge sticker was like no other. It was the kind of sticker that doesn’t ruin your clothing. I’m impressed. The AWCH has won me over. I should just go home now. Then a long thin arm stretched out to me, “Hi, I’m Kathrin.” Kathrin Yoneoka and Laura Langford politely greeted me. They were incredibly friendly. “Are you guys new members?” I asked. “Well, I’m the president of the club,” Laura replied. “And I’m the honorary president. My husband is the U.S. Consulate General in Hamburg,” replied Kathrin. Gulp! My cheeks burned. Of course these two exceptional conversationalists navigated into other topics. I shimmied off to take a seat for the brunch but not until I ran into Brooke Viertel. Such a delight to catch up with her and share motherhood stories. But the most special moments were the women who spoke of their friendships within AWCH. Thank you all for welcoming me into your home.

(Marlane (Wingo) Nigbur)
Dear President of the American Women's Club,
Dear Board Members,
Dear Guests,

Wow! What a weekend this has been! Last night’s gala dinner was such an amazing event. My husband, my mother Allison, and I enjoyed meeting and chatting with so many of you. It took me a while to convince my mother to come to this event. I don’t think she had ever heard of an American Women’s Club and was concerned she wouldn’t be able to communicate with anyone since she doesn’t speak English. But she had such a good time that we had to drag her off the dance floor when we had to leave to allow our babysitter to go home.

It was great to learn more about the club and see so many active members. The committee has done a stellar job organizing this event. Thank you very much.

I would like to congratulate you all on the 60th anniversary of the American Women's Club Hamburg. This is quite the accomplishment and bears testimony to the years of dedication and hard work that have brought us here today.

We arrived in Hamburg at the end of July, but just moved to the newly renovated - Consul General’s residence about 10 days ago. As you can imagine, we are still deep into digging ourselves out of the many boxes that have arrived. After living in hotels and out of suitcases since the beginning of July, back in Washington, DC, the kids are happy to have their own rooms, their toys, and some more space. Well, we are all happy to have some more space. I look forward to using the residence for the benefit of the AWC, including the annual Christmas cookie exchange. I think my husband is especially looking forward to this one.

We can’t wait to explore more of the city. There is so much to do. Our bucket list is very long and our time here already feels way too short.

As many of you know, it is quite challenging to pack up our lives every couple of years and move someplace new. I just counted this morning: we have moved six times in the last 11 years, every time to a different continent - which adds to the excitement. New cities, jobs, houses, schools, languages; you get the picture. My husband always has his job waiting for him. For me, it is a different story. It feels like just when I have found reliable childcare, a good tailor, trustworthy doctors, it’s time to move again.

Even more difficult is saying goodbye to good friends (and helping our children to say goodbye to their friends)... Just when I get comfortable with my environment in my current location, my husband’s career forces us to move yet again.

The one thing that I have learned since joining Rick on this journey, is that when we go to new places, we need a great support network. People that become friends (who help us settle in and feel at home at our new post. I like to say that friends are the family we choose for ourselves.

Over the years, I have developed a couple of habits (which I employ) every time we move. Whenever we receive a new assignment, I check out all I can find on Google about the city. So when we found out in October 2014 that we were coming to Hamburg, I googled quite a bit. Imagine my delight when I learned that there was an American Women’s Club. Back then, I had no idea how quickly I would be able to connect with you all and get involved.

As a native German speaker you might wonder why I need an American Women’s Club to settle in in Hamburg, but as you might hear from my accent, I am from Bavaria, the Texas of Germany. So, being in the Free and Hanseatic city of Hamburg is nearly like being in a foreign country.

On Tuesday, I had the chance to meet some of you at the Consulate General and when I sat down at that table you made me feel so welcome. It was like chatting at that table you made me feel at home.

So, being in a foreign country.

The one last night. For the next 60 years I wish the American Women's Club of Hamburg as much prosperity, dedication, engagement, education, international exchange, and hospitality. What a tremendous achievement! I am looking forward to being an active member of this club for the next couple of years, meeting many of you and participating in great events like the one last night.

For the next 60 years I wish the American Women’s Club of Hamburg as much prosperity, dedication, engagement, creativity, and active members as the Club has seen in the past.

Let’s raise our glasses and wish the AWC Hamburg a very happy anniversary!

Thank you.
American Women’s Club of Hamburg

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From all of us at FAWCO, have a wonderful celebration, and here’s to your next 60 years!

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris)
FAWCO 1st Vice President

...Having spent the first years of my marriage and giving birth to my first child in Hamburg, the city remains very close to my heart. This was further strengthened by all the warmth I felt attending all the activities of the anniversary celebration. From Carol B’s welcome at the airport and our bike rides around town, to the wonderful dinner at the Town Hall, the Brunch on Sunday and the boat trip around the Alster – all made for a walk down memory lane and an unforgettable weekend. I wear with pride my AWC Hamburg apron and am appreciative of all the other gifts presented to me.

What a city – what a hospitable club and what a wonderful weekend!

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Hope to see you all again sometime.

Warm best wishes,
Georgia (Regnault)

Dear Becky!

I was so excited to receive the invitation to the AWC’s 60th anniversary! How time flies - it seems that it was only yesterday when I received the invitation for the 50th!!!

AWC Hamburg – some memories:

I arrived in Hamburg as a newlywed in June 1980. My German husband had already thought that it would be fun for me to make contact with Americans in the community and had called the US Consulate requesting information of any Clubs..... And it worked! Sometime in late June, I got a call from Carol Battenfeld inviting us to a 4th of July celebration at her home – what a blessing that was! I felt at home and met some wonderful ladies – some of which I am still in touch with! I have often returned to Hamburg since we moved back to the US – sometimes, misty, gloomy Hamburg weather, but always greeted by a special Hamburg magic that makes me feel so welcomed!

Connie

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Connie
As president of the Club, I knew I had to look great. I wasn’t sure exactly what I would be doing, but I did know that I would be on stage so I needed a gown that made a statement. Nothing in my closet was right and everything in the stores just wasn’t really me. Then it hit me – my friend Maura Declercq-Mindrila had just started a Creative Agency called STYLE AFFAIR. And so I called. I needed a gown for a gala that I was hosting for the American Women’s Club of Hamburg.

I came rather full of apprehension. I am not a stranger to stylists and the magic that they can perform, but I have never been on the receiving end. I wondered whether or not she would be just taking me to the right store to get the perfect look or what. When I arrived at her atelier in, yes May, I discovered that I had engaged her for not just the dress, but my whole look. OMG!

Maura is my friend and yes, she did take all of my measurements. But most importantly, we discussed our vision for the gown. What did I want to show? I choose Elegance, Intelligence and Freedom. Through her analysis, we chose my perfect color palette, the optimal proportions and structures for my dress which was designed by Danguole Gulbinaite, and a hairstyle by hair-and makeup artist Mai Huynh, that would hold up to the pressure of a 10 hour event. She even collaborated with shoe designer Alina Schuerfeld, who created the perfect shoe which was also, yes, ecofriendly – made from sustainable salmon leather. I mean Really? This was what it meant to be styled.

And from there, Danguole designed my tailor-made dress – which is truly amazing. If you didn’t see it, it turned into a cocktail dress! In the end, it took 6 fittings, numerous texts and meters and meters of fabric. Oh and did I mention a makeup artist/hair stylist? Mai did a great job and no, that was not all my hair. If I ever need advice on what to wear, I know that STYLE AFFAIR can help.
Blue
Words and Music by Robin Meloy Goldsby
©2016 Bass Lion Music

You're in Boston, Chicago, on the Jersey Shore,
I'm in Hamburg, or Paris;
last week was Singapore,
And I am missing you,
The world feels blue,
Tonight—

You're in Austin, New Orleans, Waukegan, or LA,
I'm in Mumbai, or Shanghai,
Dubai, or Calais,
And I am missing you,
The world feels blue,
Tonight—

My life is full of wonder,
Magical and strange,
Crossing so many borders,
I wouldn't change a thing . . .

Except that
You're in Pittsburgh, Toledo, Toronto, Montreal,
I'm in Dublin, or London; I'm waiting for your call,
'Cause I am missing you,
The world feels blue,
Tonight—

Multitalent and FAWCO member Robin Meloy Goldsby, author, composer and recognized Steinway Artist, gave a June concert at the Steinway Haus in Hamburg, sponsored by the AWCH, which was another highlight of the club’s 60th anniversary year. Robin treated us to poignant and hilarious excerpts from her books as well as her own piano compositions, a lush musical feast for the ears.

It was a great treat to have so many old and new friends together in Hamburg for the AWCH 60th anniversary weekend. While we’ve scattered again now, those friends are still on our minds and in our hearts. Here’s hoping for another meeting very soon!