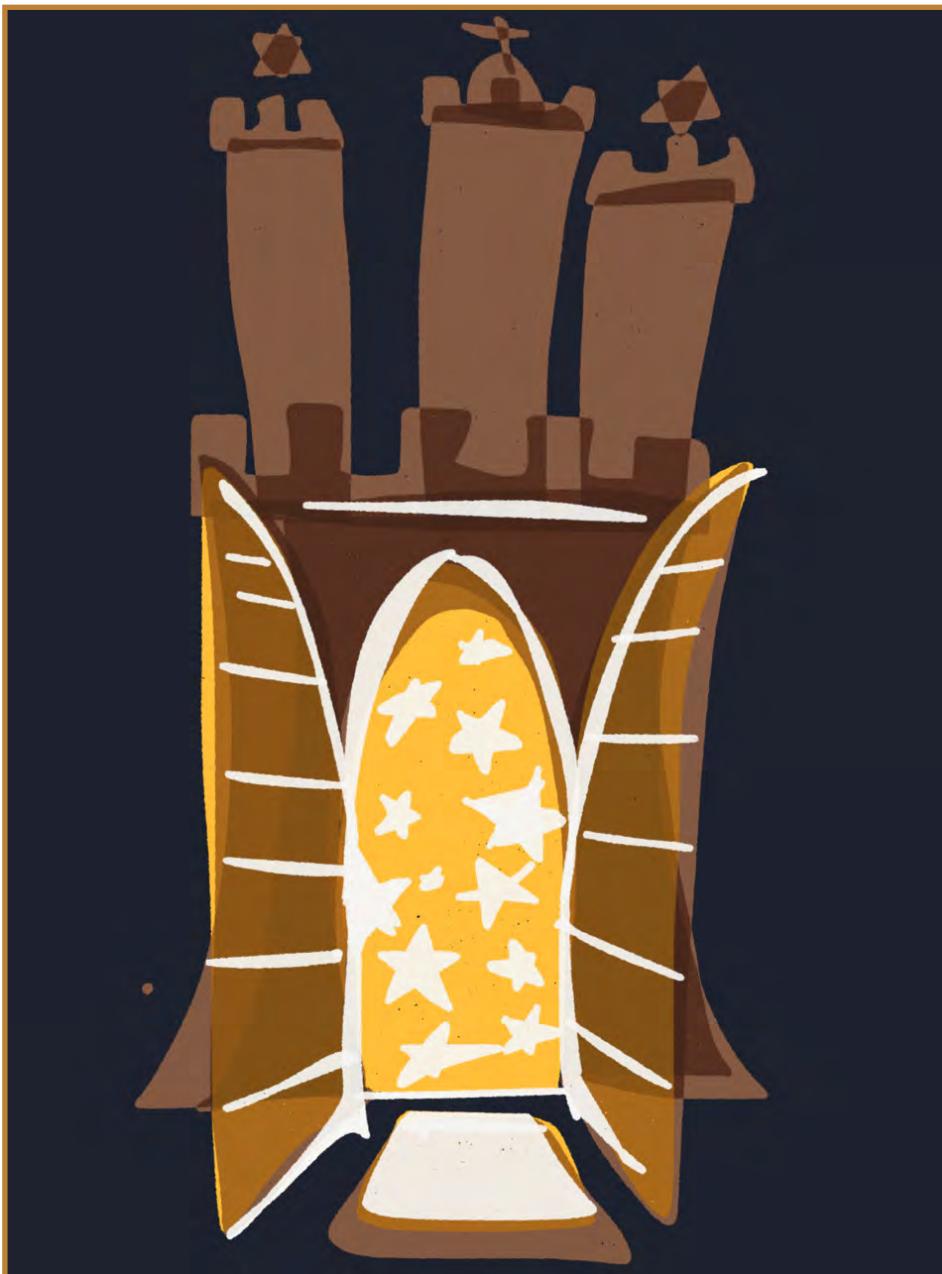


American Women's Club of Hamburg, e.V.

CURRENTS

Fall 2016 Vol. 32, No. 3 Part 1

www.awchamburg.org



Celebrating 60 years



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 Georgia 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 McClaren 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 Jahrezeiten. 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., Marinelle 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

Currents Magazine

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Dear readers, dear contributors,

Originally founded in 1931, the American Women's Club of Hamburg disbanded in 1939, and was ‘refounded’ in 1956. Beginning as a luncheon group for American women residing in Hamburg with their American families, with the purpose of helping all Americans adjust to living in Germany. The AWCH later joined the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), with the membership including more American-German families as well as citizens from other countries. Now we have almost 140 members who enjoy celebrating American holidays together, and participating in numerous groups and activities within the club. As members of FAWCO and the Landesfrauenrat, we work to strengthen ties with other clubs and women's organizations. In 2016 we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the club's refounding.

Welcome to the Family

What did the club mean to those women in 1956? What does the Club mean to you and me in 2016? What does it mean to women who left their passport countries to follow their love, family, or career; to those who made the leap to leave cozy, familiar places and land here in Hamburg – a city sometimes sunny, sometimes cloudy, and mostly fabulously rainy. Alone, with no friends or family, and no ideas of the rules of the game – where to shop, where to find an English-speaking doctor, or how to cope with the school system. Today you type in those three words – “American”, “women”, “Hamburg”, and press “enter”; and here you are on the web page of the American Women's Club of Hamburg, lovingly designed by Cat C. Suddenly you are no longer alone, you are surrounded by incredible women of different ages and occupations, who welcome you warmly – and you realize you have both your language and culture – and this feels just like family! Welcome home.

Sincerely,
Anna Sizorina

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAMBURG, GERMANY

Office of the Consul General



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

Alsterufer 27/28

20354 Hamburg

Tel.: +49-40-41171-205

Fax: +49-40-41171-222

<http://hamburg.usconsulate.gov>

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 creat-

ed 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; long-time 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.

[text of 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).



Monica Jubayli, President
president@fawco.org

September 24, 2016

Dear AWC Hamburg,

Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary, as well as your 40th Anniversary as a member of FAWCO! I wish that I could be there to celebrate with you as I know you will be having a wonderful time. Although I have to miss your special celebration tonight, I will be at the Region 5 Meeting this November and hope to see some of you in Berlin.

What an amazing list of women you have in your club, both current and former members. FAWCO Counselors, your very own, Becky Tan and even Georgia Regnault (now an AWC The Hague member) was AWC Hamburg president in 1968! Another one of your members, Cat Conner, FAWCO's Web Manager, is the behind-the-scenes genius of www.fawco.org. We cannot forget either Frauke Rademacher - Heidemann, a former FAWCO Advertising Manager and Region 5 Coordinator or Tracy Moede, a current FAWCO Foundation board member, are both AWC Hamburg members. It just goes to show you that the sisterhood of FAWCO is strong. As a part of the network, your club's members have played an important role in FAWCO history. I have a feeling it is a tradition that will continue for many years to come.

As you look back on your sixty years as a club, I am sure that you will be able to look into the future. A vibrant club with strong membership ties forms an important part of your community. So, rejoice, embrace your history and applaud yourselves while you remember all of AWC Hamburg's accomplishments.

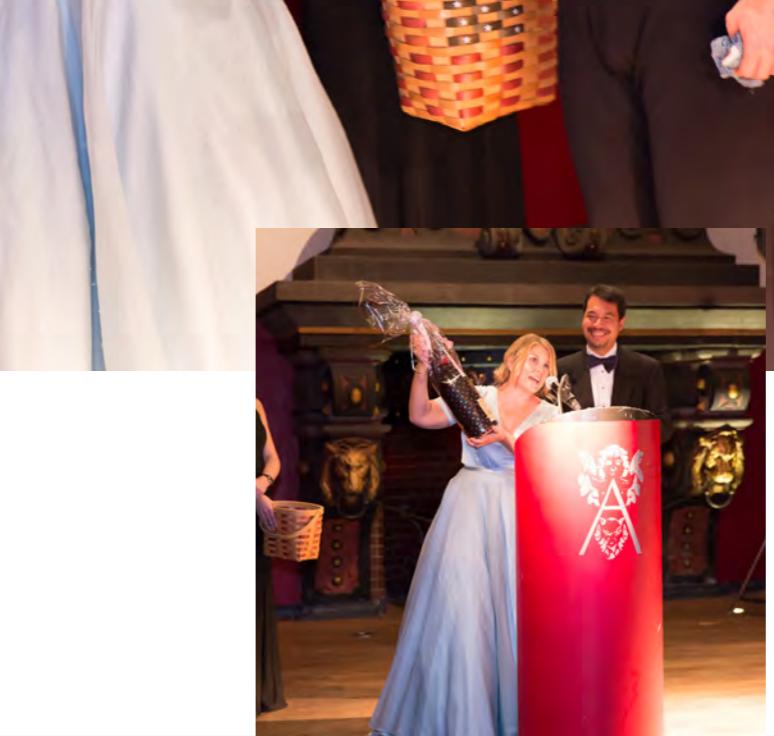
All the best,

Monica
Monica

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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 fund-raiser which brought in €1,135 for the FAWCO Education Project...



60

...followed by a tremendous performance by Hamburg-American star Love Newkirk, who got us to our feet for a memorable community dance...



60



...and the night flew into the morning with a DJ and more dancing.



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."



10 Aus dem Stadtteil

60 Jahre American Women's Club

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

Von Dagmar Gehm

HAMBURG Unter dem Motto „Diamond Celebration“ steht der American Women's Club of Hamburg (AWCH) mit zahlreichen Veranstaltungen ganz im Zeichen des Jubiläumsjahrs. Beim großen Diamond Gala Event blickt der Club auf 60 Jahre Aktivitäten, ehrenamtliche Tätigkeiten und wohltätige Projekte zurück.

An der Hamburger Uni hatte die Studentin aus Missouri ihren „Mr. Wonderful“, einen chinesischen Kommitonen, kennengelernt und eine Familie mit ihm gegründet. „Doch bald begann ich, mich klein und minderwertig zu fühlen“, erinnert sich Becky Tan. „Als alle es besser wussten, wie ich meine beiden Kinder zu erziehen hätte. Einschließlich meines Ehemanns, der inzwischen Chefzust im Rissener Krankenhaus war. In meiner Not rief ich beim amerikanischen Generalkonsulat an, ob man mir einen Psychiater empfehlen könnte. Wir haben einen ganz tollen Psychiater für Sie, lautete die Antwort – den American Women's Club of Hamburg.“ Von den Ladies des AWCH erhielt die Amerikanerin dann endlich die Bestätigung, dass es genau so richtig sei, wie sie sel-



Georgia Regnault, Carol Battenfeld, Laura S. Langford, Petra Roitsch und Mary Frances Ludolph (v.l.) vor dem Gala-Abend im Restaurant Parlament im Rathaus Foto: Gehm

ber die Kinder erziehen wollte: „Mein Selbstwertgefühl kehrte zurück.“ 45 Jahre liegt die Episode zurück, seitdem ist Becky Tan Mitglied des AWCH. Heute ist die 75-Jährige Leiterin einer der zahlreichen Hobbygruppen des Clubs. Auf kinocritics.com und weiteren Foren besprechen sie und einige der Ladies neue Filme – 2.500 Kritiken sind es bis jetzt. Als Austauschschülerin ging Petra Jette Roitsch (40) für ein Jahr in die USA: „Ich habe mich

damals sofort in Land und Leute verliebt.“ Als sie zurückkam, litt sie unter Entzugserscheinungen. Beim AWCH verstand man genau, was sie vermisste. „Andererseits habe ich gelernt, Hamburg durch die Augen der Neuankommen zu sehen und zu schätzen“, so die Kommunikationsleiterin.

1956 als American Women's Luncheon Club gegründet, verzeichnet der Club in seiner jetzigen Form 120 Mitglieder, davon rund zwei Drittel aus den USA.

Ein Drittel ist international besetzt, darunter auch von Deutschen wie Petra Roitsch. „Man hat hier viele gemeinsame Interessen – generationsübergreifend.“ Das jüngste Mitglied ist 28, das älteste 87 Jahre alt.

Viel Service für wenig Geld: 39 Euro im Jahr kostet die Mitgliedschaft. Ein Newsletter informiert alle vierzehn Tage über sämtliche Aktivitäten: Weiterbildung, Hobbygruppen, Ausflüge, Sport- und Musikangebote. Der Club hilft mit Informationen zu

Lesung: „Haus voller Wolken“

HAMBURG Charity-Veranstaltung im Hotel Reichshof Hamburg (Kirchenallee 34-36) zog gunst der Hamburgisch Regenbogenstiftung: J Streserreuter liest am 9. Oktober um 17.30 Uhr aus seinem Roman „Haus voller Wolken“ im Hotel Reichshof Hamburg. Einfühlend, schnörkellos mit leisem Humor beharrt er das Thema Leben mit einer Alzheimer erkrankten Mutter. Gemeinsam versucht sie, der Krankheit die zu bieten, schöpfen Hoffnung und stecken Niederlage weichen Stück für Stück zurück. Bis eine Entschuldigung werden muss, einmal Freunde und Freiwillige zusammengetrommelt und ein rauschendes Fest feiert wird. Die Hamburgische Regenbogenstiftung, die 2014 durch die Aktion Hamburg, will vor allem Frauen und Mädchen durch Kenntnisse und Fertigkeiten in die Selbständigkeit fördern.

Wie alle Ladies hat sich auch Laura S. Langford für den rauschenden Gala-Abend im Rathaus-Restaurant Parlament in feine Abendrobe gehüllt. Seit 2015 ist die Ex-Bankerin Präsidentin, mit 28 Jahren das älteste Mitglied. Ein Newsletter informiert alle vierzehn Tage über sämtliche Aktivitäten: Weiterbildung, Hobbygruppen, Ausflüge, Sport- und Musikangebote. Der Club hilft mit Informationen zu

Wiederholungswörtern. Jetzt kostenlos registrieren: www.hamburgische-regenbogenstiftung.de

Hamburger Wochenblatt / © 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 R. and the entire AWCH Board, this very important club occasion was mentioned in Hamburg newspapers together with some photographs of members in their elegant evening dress. Very impressive!

(Birgit Schrumpf)

5. Oktober 2016 Nr. 40

LEUTE

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

Zum 60. Jubiläum kam ein ganz besonderer Mann

„You look gorgeous“ war ein Satz, der häufig zu hören war. Die Damen vom American Women's Club trugen alle Abendkleider im „Parlament“, um einen besonderen Anlass zu feiern: das 60-jährige Bestehen ihres Klubs. Präsidentin Laura Langford begrüßte die rund 100 Gäste, zu denen neben Freunden und Ehemännern auch ein männlicher „special guest“ zählte – Richard Yoneoka. Für den neuen US-Generalkonsul und seine Frau Kathrin war es in dieser Funktion die erste gesellschaftliche Veranstaltung, die sie in Hamburg gemeinsam besuchten. Mit seinem Charme und Witz zog er so gleich die Aufmerksamkeit auf sich. Humorvoll sagte er: „Ich habe heute meinen Rauchring angezogen – die deutsche Übersetzung für Smoking.“ Einen Tag zuvor trug Richard Yoneoka noch Lederhosen und seine Frau ein Dirndl auf dem Oktoberfest in München. Ein Ort, an dem sie zuletzt vor 13 Jahren waren. „Dort hatten wir eines unserer ersten Dates“, verriet der Generalkonsul. Doch nicht nur der Süden gefällt dem Paar: „Hier in Hamburg fühlen wir uns jeden Tag etwas mehr heimisch.“ Sich wohl fühlen, darum geht es auch in dem American Women's Club, der von Amerikanerinnen gegründet wurde, die mit ihren amerikanischen Ehemännern nach Hamburg kamen, um hier zu arbeiten. „Die Frauen damals taten sich zusammen, um etwas zu erleben und die Stadt zu erkunden. Mittlerweile hat es sich ein wenig gewandelt: Nun gibt es viele Amerikanerinnen, die mit einem Deutschen verheiratet sind und für längere Zeit in der Hansestadt bleiben. Es geht darum in der Hansestadt anzukommen und gleichzeitig die eigenen Heimat verbunden zu bleiben“, erklärte Rebecca „Becky“ Tan, die schon seit 1978 Mitglied ist. Ein Grund, weshalb Tracy Moede beitrat: „Ich wollte, dass meine Kinder an amerikanischen Feiertagen teilnehmen können, denn die feiern gemeinsam mit den Mitgliedern.“ Auch Frauen wie Petra Roitsch sind willkommen. Sie ist Deutsche, war vor 22 Jahren als Austauschschülerin in New Jersey. „Seitdem bin ich mit dem Land eng verbunden – und hier finde ich Gleichgesinnte.“ Darüber hinaus werden Spender für den guten Zweck gesammelt. An diesem Abend ging der Tombolaerlös von 1385 Euro an ein Projekt der Dachorganisation FAWOC (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas).

Die Welt, 27.09.2016 / © Nina Holley

A Toast from Italy

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 AWCH are as successful as the last ones were.”

(Jenny Mather)

60

Danke Danke!

“What a brilliant Gala with one highlight after another! So many women contributed so much effort and enthusiasm to this event, and all this loving attention to detail was evident every moment of the evening.” (Elizabeth R.)

Faces behind the Celebration Weekend:

Becky Tan
Birgit Schrumpf
Carol Battenfeld
Carol Strametz
Elizabeth Reifke
Ericka Seifried
Jenny Mather
Laura Langford
Laura Otto
Marinell Haegelin
Mary Frances Ludolph
Monika Maszke
Nancy Tilitz
Natalia Ramiro
Pat Frickey
Petra Roitsch
Rachelle Blake
Shelly Shoeneshofer
Stella Kwong-Riechmann
Tracy Moede
WangDi Schadendorf
and Anna Sizorina

The Diamond Celebration Members' Brunch

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 Renault and Carol Battenfeld; AWCH and FAWCO:—Angelika McLarrenen Head of Region 5 and Frauke 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 Schlcher; 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 Gobeille-Rudolph; and the guests from FAWCO—Sallie Chaballier 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 Vierjahreszeiten 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)

All photographs of the Brunch and Alster boat ride on pages 20 -29 by Petra Roitsch. Thank you, Petra!





Kathrin Yoneoka, newly arrived “first lady,” of the U.S. Consulate in Hamburg, opened the Gala Brunch with these words. It quickly became clear to the members and friends present that Kathrin will be a great addition to the AWCH and someone who we’ll enjoy getting to know.



***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.

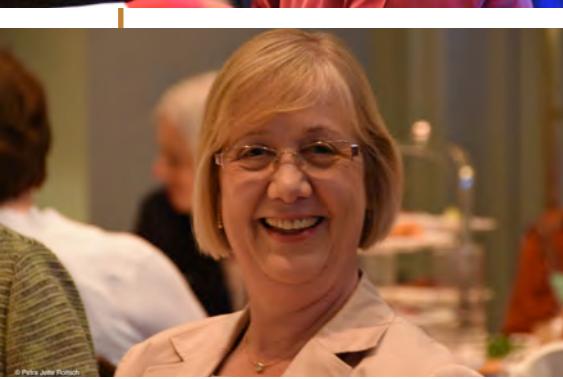
It took me a while to convince my mother to come to this event. I don’t think she had ever heard of an American Women’s Club and was concerned she wouldn’t be able to communicate with anyone since she doesn’t speak English. But she had such a good time that we had to drag her off the dance floor when 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 again for all the hard work you put in to make this weekend special for us all. I would also like to thank you all for coming to the lunch today.

It is a privilege for me to be speaking here today as your honorary president. You know how to make a lady feel special. I hope to serve you well in this function and am looking forward to making a meaningful contribution to the club as an active member. 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 my grocery stores and butcher, 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 with old friends. We have already brainstormed some projects and I think a couple of great events will happen in the next couple of months. There have been discussions about a Halloween event at the Consulate General. There will also be a cookie exchange. I think Rick is especially looking forward to this event. Be on the lookout for exciting things to come.

I also learned recently that the AWC Hamburg was started by the U.S. Consulate General 60

years ago. But what would a club be without members that keep it running? Over the last 60 years you have filled the club with life, and have helped many women settle in, find community, and feel welcome during their time in Hamburg. Your dedication and contribution to the transatlantic relationship has built many bridges through linking the best traditions and ideas of both cultures together: a strong civil society, social responsibility, civic engagement, education, integration, 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.



...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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September 24, 2016

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.

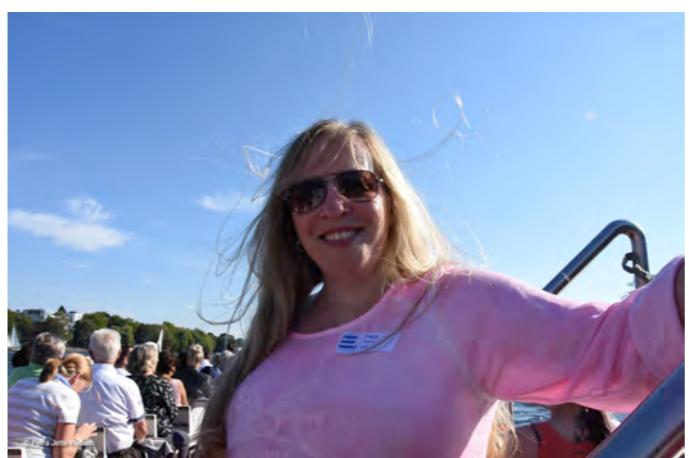
FAWCO President Monica Jubayli is so sorry that she is not able to be here this evening, but she is certainly with you in spirit and asked me to read her letter to you.

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

Sallie Chaballier

Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris)
 FAWCO 1st Vice President

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 A UN-accredited NGO with special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1997



A Style Affair

by Laura Langford



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
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*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 Orle-
ans, 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!