

# AWCH CURRENTS

## FEATURING

100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE  
CELEBRATING LOCAL BUSINESS

## NEW COLUMNS

BEYOND HAMBURGERS  
HAMBURGER HACKS  
KEEPING CURRENT

## SPECIAL THEME

# VENTURING FORTH

THE AMERICAN WOMENS CLUB OF HAMBURG, e. V.

July - September 2020 - Vol. 36, No. III  
[www.awchamburg.org](http://www.awchamburg.org)



# Editorial

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“THERE WILL NEVER BE A NEW WORLD ORDER UNTIL WOMEN ARE A PART OF IT.”

- Alice Paul -

Dear *Currents* readers,

We are excited to present the September edition of *Currents*. Special theme: **Venturing Forth: Out and About in the World**. We all know the rules regarding social distancing and other precautions, and of course travel is still limited, which is why we asked our writers to share their best “close-to-home” vacation spots and other hidden gems: strolling through a beautiful sculpture garden in Hamburg, touring the medieval town of Wismar, journeying through the misty mountains of the Black Forest, and crossing France to visit the Atlantic. We are delighted to share these magical locations with you.

Also with this issue, we begin multiple new features and columns. **Hamburger Hacks** highlights the best-kept secrets of Hamburg. From the fish market Sunday mornings to that one restaurant where you always take out-of-towners, everyone has a thing or two they love most in this city. Members share the hidden gems they discovered as an insider here.

Since we all love food and sharing recipes, and with the positive feedback for the AWCH cookbook *Let's Stay In*, *Currents* will feature a member recipe column each edition called **Beyond Hamburgers**. A good recipe often has a good story behind it, and we want to hear yours! If you would like to submit a recipe in the future, please contact us for instructions about the submission process.

With all that is happening in our world today, we want to provide you with the “current” news, and therefore we are introducing an activism column that we’re calling **Keeping Current**. Each edition, we will feature an article pertaining to the issues or historical events that relate to our modern world. This edition, in honor of 100 years of women’s suffrage, we are featuring an article about great women of the past century, written by members of FAWCO. We are looking for articles that are thought-provoking and fact-based, rather than polarizing opinion pieces. If you are passionate about bipartisan issues such as science, economics, the environment, human rights, or other topics of activism, please send us an email to discuss your next article!

It’s important to support small local businesses, which is why you will find many strong and feisty Hamburg businesses represented in this edition. From mask-making female artists in Ottensen, to tasting handmade ice cream in Sternschanze, to wandering the vast apple orchards and pumpkin fields surrounding the city, supporting Hamburg businesses is something *Currents* wants to promote! If you want to showcase a business in *Currents*, send us an email for more information.

For any questions, please email us at [currents-exec@awchamburg.org](mailto:currents-exec@awchamburg.org).

Regards,  
Beatrice K. and Mason Jane M.  
Co-Editors

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**SPECIAL THEME: VENTURING FORTH**

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**ART IN THE CITY: PETER LINDBERGH**

Executive Editor:	Beatrice King
Copy Editor:	Mason Jane Milam
Behind the Scenes:	Carol Harbers & Rebecca Tan
Layout & Design:	Beatrice King

#### Fall 2020

##### Contributors:

Julia R., Holly T., Brigitte B.-R., Callie R., Christine R., Carol H., Mason Jane M., Beatrice K., Carol S., Tracy M., Jess M., Shelly S., Stella K.-R., Diana S.P., Rose F., Pat F., Becky T., Sandra K., Joana O., Marinell H., Mary W., and Jordan W.

##### Photography:

Jordan W., Callie R., Thelma F., Beatrice K., Tracy M., Jess M., Carol H., Brigitte B.-R., Shelly S., and cover photo map by Andrew Neel

##### Proofreaders:

Mason Jane M., Becky T., Christine R., Jenny B., Diana P.-S., Carol H., Sara N., Mary Frances L., Shelly S., Morgan R., and Beatrice K.

# President's Message

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Happy fall, ladies!

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and spent quality rest time with your loved ones. My husband and I stayed in town and met up with some friends for a couple of outdoor dining dates, and it was gratifying to be out in the open air, enjoying the weather and each other's company after being cooped up for what seemed like ages. It certainly helped keep my spirits up.

This year was NOT what we had expected, and it has been disheartening that AWCH was unable to move forward with the many exciting events we had "brewing in the pot." However, being strong and determined women, we quickly adapted to the changes and met virtually online, which made the isolation slightly more tolerable and kept our sanity in check.

What have we been up to?

July: film screening of *In the Name of Your Daughter*, an inspiring and intimate true story about some of the bravest girls in the world, who run away from home to save themselves from FGM and child marriages. We were joined by the filmmaker Giselle Portenier for a Q&A session and by Tharien Van Eck, FAWCO Target Project chair, who gave us an overview of FGM.

August: the Book Club, Walking Groups, and After Work Drinks met back up, as did New Member Face-to-Face Meetup with Holly T. and Member-to-Member Meetup with Ann G. There was a screening of *Iron Jawed Angels* to honor Equality Day-100 Years of Women's Suffrage, and 36 members and guests participated in Laufend Gegen Gewalt, which raised money for the Autonome Hamburger Frauenhäuser.

September: watch for the new Harbor Explorers group with Ann G., Members Meet Members, and the Women's Circle events. Don't forget to check the Activities Calendar so you don't miss out!

After a busy summer and as the seasons change, I want to talk to you all about the importance of rest. This year I've been making conscious efforts to focus on my mental health and wellbeing, and I wanted to share some thoughts with you.

## How to rest (productively):

1. Time in nature: go out and enjoy the Elbe, the Alster, and the beautiful green spaces here in Hamburg. Silence your phone and immerse yourself in nature.
2. Be present: meditate. It's the best way to quiet the mind, and I can't recommend it enough. There are many apps available to help you get started, and I personally love Headspace.
3. Get moving: we'd love to see you at one of the weekly Walking Groups!
4. Friends: meet with your AWCH friends virtually or in smaller groups.
5. Read more books: the Book Club has some extremely powerful and compelling books lined up.

It's pretty imperative that we all work hard, but that all seems pretty futile if we collapse from exhaustion before we even reach our goals. So take a breath, use every precious moment, and take care of YOU.

Let me know how you're doing at [president@awchamburg.org](mailto:president@awchamburg.org)

Sincerely,  
Julia R.  
AWCH president

# An Important STATEMENT From the Board

## UPDATED HAMBURG REGULATIONS:

You can read a detailed version in German of the current Hamburg guidelines for containing the coronavirus at this link: [click here](#).

A shorter version is available in English at this link: [click here](#). This information is updated daily.

We ask you to respect these guidelines when planning activities for yourself and the club, for your own safety and that of others.

### Rules for Events and Activities:

The general rule for public locations is to avoid physical contact with persons outside your own household and maintain a physical distance of 1.5 meters unless circumstances prevent it. Small groups have more flexibility: enforced social distancing does not apply for groups of up to 10 people or even more if from one or two households.

### Rules for Events in Private Homes:

Groups of up to 25 people can gather indoors if adequate ventilation and hygiene are provided. Special rules apply to choirs, playing instruments,

and other activities that produce higher respiratory emissions.

### Rules for Events in Public Spaces:

The organizer must have a plan for social distancing, masks, ventilation, hygiene, contact tracing, and seating. Buffets, dancing, etc. are to be avoided. These rules become more specific the larger the public gathering.

### Indoor Rooms without Fixed Seating Plans:

Up to 100 people can gather if alcohol is not served (50 with alcohol). The room must have 10 square meters per person attending.

### Outdoor Spaces:

200 people are allowed (100 if alcohol is served).

## GET INVOLVED!

Interested in meeting members and fostering community? Why not consider board service? Help organize new and exciting events and help AWCH establish a presence in Hamburg.

We are now calling for nominations for our 2021 board. If you are interested in serving on the board or know someone you think might

be, please contact one of the nominating committee members listed at right. Right now, we are especially looking to fill the positions of membership chair, events co-chair, and FAWCO representative. Position descriptions can be found at this link: [click here](#).

### Contact Information:

Holly Todd, [membership@awchamburg.org](mailto:membership@awchamburg.org),  
Charis Habertag, [hhelpers@awchamburg.org](mailto:hhelpers@awchamburg.org)  
Teresa Perez y Landazuri, [nomcomm@awchamburg.org](mailto:nomcomm@awchamburg.org)  
Diana Schnelle, [artgroup@awchamburg.org](mailto:artgroup@awchamburg.org)  
Jordan Wagner, [communications@awchamburg.org](mailto:communications@awchamburg.org)



**FAWCO**

Inspiring Women Worldwide

# In the Name of Your Daughter

Film Screening

BY CHRISTINE R.

“A must-see! This is a powerful documentary that addresses the problem from the eyes of the girls. Hypnotising.”

— Carol H.

“The topic of this documentary is horrifying but hope is palpable throughout. The children that you meet in the film are awe-inspiring.”

— Christine R.



“This documentary offers a powerful insight into a violation of human rights—and provides a hopeful look at a community working to change the lives of vulnerable young girls. It’s a must-see for anyone wishing to understand FGM and its consequences.”

— Sara N.

AWCH, with FAWCO, held a Zoom film screening of *In the Name of Your Daughter*. The goal was to increase awareness of the FAWCO Target Project and raise funds for S.A.F.E. (Safe Alternatives to FGM Elimination). The current total from the film night is 305€, and thank you very much to all those who contributed.

**We were lucky enough to be joined for a Q&A session by the filmmaker Giselle Portenier. Here is a selection of those Q&A's.**

**Q:** The film addresses a topic that for many would be very uncomfortable to discuss or comprehend. Why did you make the film?

**A:** The film is about some of the bravest, most inspiring girls in the world, Tanzanian girls as young as eight who risk everything, including their lives, to follow their dreams. These girls do not want to go through FGM. No child, once informed of what's ahead, volunteers to be harmed in any way. They are bribed, cajoled, threatened, and forced. And, furthermore, it is about a woman, Rhobi Samwelly, who risks her own life to protect the girls.

We all have daughters, nieces, grand-daughters, friends' daughters, neighbors' daughters. Once you know about FGM, you can't unknow. It's another reason people close their eyes to the film, and to the issue.

The film is called *In the Name of Your Daughter* because it is made in the name of everyone's daughter who deserves protection from harm. How far will each of us go to protect our own daughter from the harm that is female genital mutilation? Why aren't we doing the same for other people's daughters?

We also need to remember that fighting FGM is not about colonialism; it's about protecting human rights enshrined in all sorts of international human-rights treaties, starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

**Q:** How ancient of a tradition is FGM or cutting?

**A:** As per a UNFPA document: "The origins of the practice are unclear. It predates the rise of Christianity and Islam. It is said that some Egyptian mummies display characteristics of FGM. As recently as the 1950s, clitoridectomy was practiced in Western Europe and the United States to treat perceived ailments including hysteria, epilepsy, mental disorders, masturbation, nymphomania, and melancholia. In other words, the practice of FGM has been followed by many different peoples and societies across the ages and continents."

**Q:** What was/is the main purpose or objective of FGM?

**A:** The varying cultures that practice this all have different rationales and customs behind it, mostly to control the sexuality of girls and women. The result is the same, irreparable damage to a child. There is no one religion that requires FGM.

AWCH will host another screening and an online auction to raise funds for the amazing women and girls that are supported by S.A.F.E.

In the meantime, to learn more about the Target Project, go to [www.fawco.org/global-issues/target-program/health/blog-health-matters](http://www.fawco.org/global-issues/target-program/health/blog-health-matters). Or ask me, Christine R., [fawcorep@awchamburg.org](mailto:fawcorep@awchamburg.org)

# Voting in 2020

## Overcoming Obstacles and Making It Count

BY CHRISTINE R.



COVID-19 and other factors seem to be making it extra hard for overseas voters to take part in the 2020 US elections. But we will overcome them all to exercise our right to vote, 100 years after American women first started to vote nationwide.

Spread the word about “Election Day Month(s)” and “Election Night”—the final results.

We should recognize—and share the recognition with others—that the US doesn’t have a real “Election Day.” With absentee and early voting, “Election Month(s)” is a more accurate name. People start voting as soon as ballots start going out or early voting begins. As overseas voters know, voting by mail

is safe, secure, and legitimate. It’s also nothing new—it started before the Civil War.

Voters also need to understand that there will be no “Election Night”—there will be “the time it takes to count a much higher volume of mail-in ballots than usual.” The totals available by midnight on November 3 will be far from final—this also happened with “Election Night” in 2018, for example. Though the media make a big noise about “Election Night,” and voters want to see quick results, election results are not final until all the votes have been counted and the election is certified.

This has always been the case.

Votes used to be counted much more slowly than we are used to. That’s one of the reasons why new representatives, senators, and presidents take office so long after “Election Day.” Inauguration Day used to be in March, not January, around four months after the elections were held. More recently, as most people will remember, the outcome of the US presidential election of 2000 took more than 30 days after “Election Day” to be determined.

Need the details on making these five steps? To visit the website: [click here](#).

### TAKE THESE FIVE STEPS TO ENSURE YOU CAST A VALID VOTE!

1. Learn the deadlines and requirements for your state
2. When you register to vote, ask for email/online ballot delivery
3. Vote your ballot immediately
4. Return your ballot immediately
5. Track your ballot to ensure local election officials receive it



# KEEPING Current

## OUR ACTIVISM COLUMN

### The Day I Found Out I Was White

by Peter W. Pruyin, writing for the FAWCO magazine

The Seychelles had no indigenous peoples. It was first settled by the French as a colony for slaves and freed slaves. It was then ceded to the English when Napoleon lost. Because it was along the trade routes to Asia, there was also a population of Chinese and Indians. After 200 years of ethnic mixing, the skin pigment of the Seychellois people is a continuous spectrum. As a result, this can create certain challenges for Seychellois when they travel for the first time to countries that are more segregated. The following are a couple of anecdotes from Seychellois who lived overseas, as well as one of my own. Listening to their stories helped educate me about my own racial privilege and the dynamics of power surrounding race.

The following story was told to me by a Seychellois who studied at a university in England:

*When I arrived in the town, I knew no one else there. Every afternoon I would go jogging. Occasionally I would run into a Swedish woman who happened to go running around the same time. One day the woman struck up a conversation with me. She asked if I was doing anything for dinner. That night, while they were walking down the street together to the restaurant, a car full of young men drove by. As they passed, one of them leaned out the window and yelled, "You white-woman-stealing nigger!"*

*That was the day that I learned that I was Black.*

From a Seychellois named Benjamin who attended a university in Montreal:

*One of my classes was in a large lecture hall. One day, I realized that the rest of the seats in my row always remained untaken, regardless of which row I sat in. This puzzled me. And then suddenly, I realized, "Ahhh, so this is racism."*

Brigitte was one of my students:

Brigitte briefly attended high school in Alabama. On her first day there, she was asked to fill out a registration form. One of the questions on the form was: "Check one: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American." She did not know what to put. She thought to herself, "Well, I'm from Africa, so I'll put 'Black.'"

That evening Brigitte told her mother about the incident and asked, "What am I?" Her mother had recently gone through the same experience in registering at college. She didn't have an answer.

Later on she had to fill out some other form that asked the same question. This time she asked the woman behind the counter, "Excuse me, but what should I put here?" The woman looked at

her a moment and said, "You're ... Hispanic. Put 'Hispanic.'"

When Brigitte went to take her driver's test, she filled out her application as she had for high school. The examiner took her form, read it, looked at Brigitte, looked at the form, looked at Brigitte and said in his southern accent, "You're not Black!? You're White!"

I'll end with an anecdote that happened to me at home:

One day when I was in preschool and my sister was in kindergarten, a family friend asked us, how many Black children were in our class. And we didn't know – because we didn't know what it meant to be "Black." So it was explained to us what it meant to be Black, and the next day after school we could say how many Black children were in our class.

Twenty-five years later, I realized, for the first time, that that was not only the day that I learned what it meant to be Black. It was also the day that I learned that I was White.

Peter W. Pruyin ("prine") is a psychotherapist in Northampton, Massachusetts. This piece is excerpted from his forthcoming memoir, *Up: One Man's Journey to Feminism*.

# Women's Equality Day

AUGUST 26, 2020  
100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

BY CAROL H.

Women's Equality Day this year marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of democracy and to remember the valiant and courageous women who made it possible.

To mark the day, AWCH organized a private screening of *Iron Jawed Angels* directed by Katia von Garnier. The movie takes a fresh and contemporary look at a pivotal time in the Suffrage Movement when two young, defiant, and brilliant activists, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, put their lives at stake to help American women win the right to vote.

Suffragists began their organized fight for women's equality in 1848, when they demanded the right

to vote during the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. For the next 72 years, women leaders lobbied, lectured, composed essays and declarations, petitioned, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot. It was a long struggle, accompanied by small victories, large setbacks, fierce opposition, and many disappointments. But the suffragists persevered.

From the beginning, brilliant speakers and writers pushed a

the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson in Washington, D.C., to year-long picketing in front of the White House that ended in imprisonment, hunger strikes, and force feeding—the film depicts the brilliant strategies, strong appeals, and tremendous sacrifices that the two women made for and to the cause.

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties in the world of Zoom, a discussion of the impactful film and movement was postponed.

However, there was no doubt that a sense of awe prevailed after the film.

The women's suffrage movement proved that those without power can still achieve real and lasting change, without violence, if they are willing to work, sacrifice, and organize. As author Elaine Weiss recognized in her book

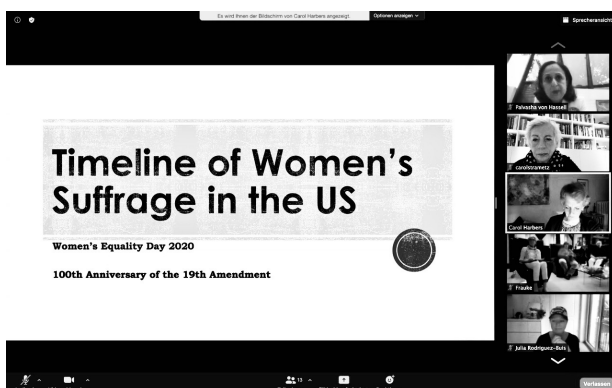
*The Woman's Hour*: "The crusade for woman suffrage stands as one of the defining civil rights movements in the history of our country, and its organizing strategies, lobbying techniques, and nonviolent protest actions became the model for the civil rights campaigns to follow in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries."

Today, more than 68 million women vote in elections because of the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality. Make sure you use your hard-earned right this year.

long campaign of education, organization, and legislative effort at both the federal and state levels to promote change. However, the bold, assertive strategies led by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns in the final decade of the fight were critical to winning both public visibility and political support. Starting with a suffrage parade of 8,000 women led by Inez Mulholland on her white horse on the day before

“When you're young, when you've never done anything on your own, you imagine that it won't be so hard.”

- Alice Paul, Co-Founder of the National Women's Party (1917)



Zoom Meeting—Introductory remarks before the film.

## QUESTIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

BY CAROL S.

**When was the first time a woman in your family voted?**

I know my midwestern maternal grandmother NEVER voted, although she had the right when she was 21 in 1920 (her husband did not approve). I found a voter registration card from my paternal grandmother in California from 1932....guess she voted for Herbert Hoover to try to defeat FDR! I am sure my mother voted in every election since 1942 and ran many a voting poll (in our garage or local school.)

— Carol H.

Unfortunately I don't know, but remembering my feisty, stubborn, and highly-outspoken maternal Grandma May, born in 1898, it would have been as soon as possible! My paternal grandmother (born 1886) was also one of the early woman voters. I cannot vouch for a certain year or a certain election, but I know she voted!

— Sanda K.

My maternal grandparents in coal-mining Pennsylvania never voted. My paternal grandparents lived in DC, whose citizens didn't have the right to vote until 1960. So my mom, who voted for Lyndon Johnson in 1963, is the first woman in my family to vote. I was the second!

— Tracy M.

I am not sure when the actual first time was, but according to a pic of my great-grandmother's

voter registration from Precinct 68, Assembly District 27, dated September 28, 1939, I believe it was for the mayoral election. And she is CLEARLY a Democrat!

— Julia R.

**Did your female relative vote the same ticket as her husband?**

That is a great question! I will have to ask my mom about her mother, but I always enjoyed my father's stories about his parents. My grandmother and grandfather voted in every election in the full knowledge that they were basically cancelling each other out because they were staunch supporters of opposing parties. I always felt like that was a good lesson, both in democracy and feminism. It is important to vote, and a wife

# Suffrage in our AWCH History

does not have to vote the way her husband does.

— Joana O.

My maternal grandparents did this, too: voted for opposing parties, religiously!

— Diana S.P.

My grandparents almost always voted the same...except for in 1960, when my Grandma voted for Kennedy because he was so good-looking!

— Jordan W.



Inez Milholland Boissevain preparing to lead the March 3, 1913, suffrage parade in Washington, D.C., Harris & Ewing (1913), US Library of Congress

## Laufen Gegen Gewalt (Run Against Violence)

BY CAROL H. AND JULIA R.

As with everything else this year, the organizers of the 13th annual charity run Laufend Gegen Gewalt, the fund-raising event for the Hamburg Autonomous Women's Shelters, were forced to reinvent the event. Instead of a traditional run with one starting line and one starting time, participants were urged to run individually or in small groups at the place and time of their choice. A great idea, as small groups of runners and walkers with bright purple t-shirts in all corners of Hamburg probably attracted more attention to the cause than a concentrated group of runners around the Alster would have.

Perhaps sensing how important the need for women's shelters are during the corona pandemic (see article about domestic violence on p. 13), AWCH members and partners were quick to sign-up—and our organizers came up with some good ideas to attract participants for the event on Sunday, August 23.

Jess M. and Julia R.-B. organized an Altona/Blankenese team, which, instead of running the 7.5 km around the Alster, walked a beautiful route of the same length in Altona and Ottensen, carefully planned by Jess to pass some of the most impressive sites of the area—going through parks, along the river to Hamburg's "beach," past many old sea captains' houses, down to the Alten Schwede landmark, then back through some of the prettiest streets the neighborhood has to offer, with lots of big shady trees, beautiful Altbau houses, and

cobblestone streets. The finish line was at the Café Schmidt, where everyone enjoyed some of the best tarts and cakes in Hamburg.

The Alster/Eppendorf group, organized by Sara N. and Carol H., decided on the traditional run/walk around the Alster. Meeting shortly after 10 a.m., the runners and walkers donned their t-shirts and set out at their own pace to go clockwise around the Alster. The path along the water provides a great view of the lake, with its sailboats, stand-up paddleboards, and tour boats; it passes rowing clubs, Hamburg's mosque, idyllic parks, several cafes, and the "Little White House." Hilary W. was our fastest runner, reaching the finish line in under 40 minutes—but our walkers were also quite impressive, returning 30 minutes later. Several children on scooters looked quite triumphant as they reached the finish line, although the gravelly path was probably not the most ideal terrain. Freshly-baked brownies and sweet apples were the reward for everyone's effort—although the real reward was the feeling of accomplishment and helping a worthy cause.

Twenty-two AWCH members registered, bringing with them husbands, children, and friends—making a total of 45 registrations and helping raise €540 for the Autonomous Women's Shelter of Hamburg. Thank you to all who participated!



Altona/Blankenese team



Alster/Eppendorf team

## Domestic Violence and COVID-19

BY CAROL H.

The UN has described the worldwide increase in domestic abuse as a “shadow pandemic” alongside COVID-19. It’s thought that cases have increased by 20% during the lockdown, as many people are trapped at home with their abuser. For many, the corona crisis is a challenge: more time at home, fewer social contacts, and, on top of that, financial worries due to reduced work or unemployment.

“We suspect that domestic violence has gone up here, too,” says a staff member of the emergency hotline of Hamburg’s women’s shelters. However, contrary to expectations, no more women than usual are coming, she says. The phones don’t ring more often, either. For many women, it is more difficult to seek help during domestic conflicts because the men are more often at home, the spokeswoman suspects. Organizations are making the plea for neighbors not to look away.

Friends and neighbors sometimes offer the only link for women who have been affected by violence to get help.

Hamburg currently has six autonomous women’s shelters. The sixth house, with room for 32 women, opened in May. Unlike the other five shelters, this shelter allows mothers to bring along sons older than 14. Hamburg thus offers protection to a total of 240 women and their children. In 2019, 512 women and 460 children found refuge in the houses. For security reasons, the locations of the women’s shelters are kept secret. Women seeking help can call the emergency reception center of the Hamburg women’s shelters around the clock. Support is provided to abused and threatened victims, regardless of origin, language, or income.

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## New Faces at LFR

BY CAROL H. AND JOANA O.

The Landesfrauenrat (LFR) elected a new board of directors at this year’s Annual General Meeting, which was held under COVID-19 regulations at the Rudolf Steiner Haus in July. Elected for three years, the board members represent six of the currently 59 clubs and associations represented by the LFR.

Petra Ackmann, from the Marie-Schlei-Verein e.V., is the chairwoman of the the new board, replacing Cornelia Creisher who with her previous team has been an outstanding spokeswoman for women’s causes in Hamburg. A complete list of the activities sponsored by the LFR in 2019, which AWCH supports through our dues, is outlined in their annual report, which can be viewed on their website. Highlights include sponsoring and coordinating events for International Women’s Day and 100 Years of Women’s Suffrage, political lobbying for gender equality (#HamburgJetztGleich), and an exciting kick-off to *Frauenorten*—a virtual map marking 300 sites in Hamburg where women have

fought for women’s rights since 1850 (and available as an app).

We wish the new team continued success!



From left to right, upper row: Dr. Rita Bake (deputy treasurer), Dr. Susanna Bunge (assessor), Christiane Klappert (deputy chair), Barbara Scholand (treasurer); lower row: Silke Martini (assessor), Annika Huisinga (vice deputy chair) und Petra Ackmann (chair)

# Supporting Women through Charitable Giving

## *Let's Stay In*



### Supports 5. Hamburger Frauenhaus E.V.

**BY CAROL S. AND BRIGITTE B.-R.**

The 5th Hamburg Women's Shelter (5. Hamburger Frauenhaus) has been AWCH's local charity since January 2019. One afternoon we decided to sit down with one of the shelter's social workers—we will call her Anke to preserve her anonymity—and ask her to tell us a couple of stories about the women she and her colleagues are sheltering. We knew that the shelter was a protective home for women, both with and without children, who are threatened by or have suffered domestic abuse and who, once there, receive temporary accommodation, counseling, and support. What we did not know was how much

the social workers of the shelter care about empowering the women under their wing, guiding them towards a life of self-determination.

Most of the stories Anke told us were full of hope. But the reality was shocking. One out of every three women in Germany has been the victim of domestic violence. They have suffered at the hands of their partners, family members, relatives, or other persons. For these women (and their children), domestic abuse was a part of their daily lives—regardless of their income or their level of education, how old they were, or where they

came from. Abuse can appear at any moment, break loose, and suddenly something terrible happens!

Anke was very protective of the women she was working with at the shelter. She never disclosed their names nor the real conditions under which they asked for shelter. Of the numerous women with whom Anke has interacted, one story stands out. It is a story of empowerment in action.

Memories rising, a voice full of emotion, Anke started. One day, at a meeting point, she met a young woman—we will call

her Hana—with her two “very, very active little girls,” two and three years old. Anke was in charge of bringing them to the 5. Hamburger Frauenhaus. Hana was an 18 or 19-year-old civil war refugee from the Middle East who had travelled more than 3,000 kilometers with her daughters before reaching Germany. She was the victim of intimate partner violence from her husband, and all three seemed terrified and confused. Anke and her colleagues gave Hana immediate necessary support, and, despite prejudice against refugees, even succeeded in enrolling her two daughters in a daycare center (*Kindergarten*), so that they could have real social contact with other kids. With the help of an interpreter, Anke started the process of empowering this young mother so that she could regain self-confidence and exercise her right of self-determination.

The process of empowerment is fundamentally about gaining power and striving for change, for greater health and well-being; for Anke, it was amazing to see the change in Hana after only a year.

Hana decided she wanted to file for divorce. She had started taking German classes and was able to maintain small conversations in German. However, she was unable to defend herself in front of a court and in the several meetings she had with the authorities; Hana needed the help of a lawyer and of an interpreter. A year and a half after she arrived at the shelter, a day was fixed for a court decision on the divorce. Hana had an appointment with a judge in family court and was waiting for

the interpreter to support her. The interpreter never showed up, and Hana had to explain to the judge, in German, the reasons why she wanted a divorce. In the absence of an interpreter, her husband could not understand a word of what was being said. Hana had then to serve as an interpreter to her husband and, at the end, translated the court decision to him. “This woman had changed so much, it was unbelievable,” recalled Anke. “In such situations, a divorce, a written document, is very important to many of these women. It means freedom, and by divorcing her husband, Hana was able to experience herself as a capable and powerful person... because at some point she believed in her abilities to change her situation.” As the husband and father had previously been indicted for violence and charged with domestic abuse, the judge ruled in favor of Hana, and she was granted a divorce by judgment of the court. Hana then also had to inform her no-longer husband of the decision of the court regarding the custody of their daughters. The power dynamics had changed.

As Anke told us, the commitment of the social workers at the 5th Hamburg Women’s Shelter is paved with moments of success and of failure, but women’s painful and life-changing experiences teach us that taking action to combat adversity can be undertaken not only on one’s own but also as part of a group. Let us be the “masters of our fate!”

Main Course: Meat & Fish

## Osso Buco

**PREP TIME**  
30 minutes

**COOK TIME**  
2.5-3.5 hours

**SERVINGS**  
4 servings

**PREPARED BY**  
Christine R.

**Ingredients:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 250-g veal shanks, you can use beef and also smaller pieces</li> <li>1 tsp. white flour</li> <li>2 onions, finely chopped</li> <li>1 garlic clove, finely chopped</li> <li>1 carrot, finely chopped</li> <li>2 sticks celery, finely chopped</li> <li>4 cl. red wine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 bay leaf</li> <li>1 spring rosemary or 1 tsp dried, if you don't have fresh</li> <li>400 g cherry tomatoes, halved or a can, if you don't have fresh</li> <li>2 cl. meat bouillon or chicken stock</li> <li>1 tsp sugar</li> <li>Butter or oil for frying</li> <li>Salt and pepper to season</li> </ul>
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**Steps for Cooking:**

1. Preheat oven to 170° C.
2. Season the meat and dust with flour.
3. Heat the butter or oil in an oven-proof cooking pot, brown the meat for approx. 2 minutes on each side. Remove the meat and place on the side.
4. Sauté the onion and garlic, add the carrots and celery, cook briefly in the same pot that held the meat.
5. Add the wine, bay leaf, and rosemary. Reduce the wine almost completely, about 6 minutes.
6. Add the cherry tomatoes/corned tomatoes, stock, sugar, and salt. Mix well.
7. Return the veal shanks to the pot, bring to a boil.
8. Cover and cook for approximately 2 hours in the lower half of the oven. Check every once in awhile to make sure there is enough liquid. You can add more stock/bouillon if needed. Don't let it dry out.
9. Remove the lid 15 minutes before the cooking time is up.
10. Remove the rosemary sprig and bay leaf before serving, season to taste.

62 | Let's Stay In

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John and Michele Davidson, friends of Brigitte B.-R., sent photos from their home in Toronto, CA of them preparing the osso buco recipe from *Let's Stay In*. John had a lot of fun preparing the veal shanks, and the result tasted great!

# Beyond Hamburgers

## FINE-KETTLE-OF-FISH SOUP

**PREP TIME:** 20 minutes

**COOK TIME:** 40 minutes

**SERVINGS:** 4-6 people

**PREPARED BY:** Mason Jane M.

### INGREDIENTS:

3 Tbsp cooking oil	½ cup onion, chopped	2 tsp turmeric	1.5 lbs. cod (or any firm, white fish) in 1-2" cubes
1 Tbsp garlic, chopped	4 cups fish or clam broth	½ tsp saffron	½ cup orzo
1 cup celery, chopped	2 cups water	1 bay leaf	Basil (fresh chopped or dried)
1 cup sweet red pepper, chopped	1 cup dry white wine	2 sprigs thyme	Cream
	3 cups tomatoes, chopped	Red pepper flakes (optional)	

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oil in a large Dutch oven. Add celery, onions, sweet red pepper, and garlic. Sauté until soft and fragrant, about 5 minutes.

2. Add the fish broth, water, wine, tomatoes, turmeric, saffron, bay leaf,

thyme, and red pepper flakes. Cook about 5 minutes at medium heat.

3. Add orzo. Cook about 8 minutes at medium heat.

4. Add fish and turn off the heat. Let

stand until fish is white and firm, about 10-15 minutes.

5. Discard bay leaf. Put soup into bowls, sprinkle with basil, and add a decorative swirl of cream. Serve with warm, toasted bread.

### STORY BEHIND THE RECIPE:

My mother left Texas in 1959 and never looked back, but after 50 years in New York she still made mistakes. Minor faux pas, mostly harmless – so many New Yorkers are from elsewhere that all was typically forgiven, but then my mother moved to Nantucket. New Englanders are a stiffer bunch in general, but the elite old guard of Nantucket are their own draconian category of social rules and regulations, and my poor mother was doomed from the start.

She's a basket-weaver, which is a thing on Nantucket – they have their own special society and a museum for it and everything. So my mother found herself early on at a lavish dinner party in a grand house on a street with the same name as the homeowners. Uniformed servants hovered discretely behind the guests, of whom there were twelve, including my intimidated mother.

The hostess, an arch woman with a helmet of hair, wanted everyone to know that she had made the first course

with her own two hands. It was a soup, and it was magnificent – chunks of cod in a creamy, aromatic tomato base. Everyone praised it, but my mother knew that the highest praise of all, at least in Texas, was to ask for the recipe. So she did.

The table was instantly quiet in that way that lets you know you've made a bad mistake. The hostess sat up very tall. "It's my mother's recipe," she said. "I would never give it to just anybody."

Her husband said, very quietly, "Give her the recipe." His wife replied, more quietly, "No." He said, louder now, "Give Her. The. Recipe." She said, "NO!"

They did that can-I-speak-to-you-in-the-kitchen thing. The guests made awkward conversation as the voices in the kitchen rose and fell, louder and louder, a lot of "why do you ALWAYS.." and "The LEAST you could do is..." until they suddenly stopped. The hosts emerged, and the dinner resumed as if

nothing had happened. Except no one was talking to my mother anymore. She suffered through the rest of the evening in mortified silence. The hostess barely acknowledged her when she left.

So it was a shock for my mother to look out her kitchen window the next morning and see the hostess huffing up the walkway. She was moving fast, looking grim. My mother opened the door just as her former hostess reached it, and she was about to speak when the woman shoved a piece of paper into her hand. "Here's your f\*\*\*\*\*g recipe," she hissed. "I hope you're happy." And then she was gone.

My mother has never been invited to another society event on Nantucket. But this soup is worth it! Serve it with a good, crusty bread and it's a meal in itself. You can make the base in advance (I keep some frozen!) and add the fish and orzo after reheating.



# HAMBURGER HACKS

## DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF HAMBURG

For each edition, we ask members to share their secrets for fun activities, where to find the best prices, and much more. If you would like to share some of your best life hacks for living in Hamburg, please send us an email and we will highlight your recommendation in an upcoming *Currents!*



*Herzapfelhof Lühs*

The Altes Land is the place to go for magical autumn activity! Wandering through a giant orchard in the shape of a heart is a key attraction for **Herzapfelhof Lühs**. Take photos on tractors, pull your wagon through the fields, and enjoy the many varieties of apple offers, such as the Red Elstar!



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Need a ticket fast? Download the **HVV–Navigation in Hamburg app** and avoid standing in line at the kiosks. Receive discounts, save paper, and take the fastest route to your destination. This app is also available in English!



*HVV app*



*Hof Adolf – Kürbisparadies*

Searching for the perfect Halloween pumpkin? **Hof Adolf** is a true pumpkin paradise located in Braak just outside the Hamburg city limits. They offer 50+ types of pumpkins, including edible ones! While you walk through the maze of neverending orange, red, green, and white pumpkins, say *Moin Moin* to the friendly sheep, and then reserve your Christmas tree for a great price and pick it up in December. A wonderful afternoon spent getting ready for the holidays!

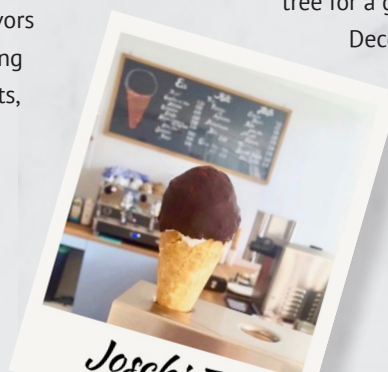


*Christmas trees at Hof Adolf*



*Joschi Eis*

Best ice cream in Hamburg? Oh yes! **Joschi** is located in central St. Pauli on Neuer Kamp and is open until mid-October! They offer handmade ice cream and delicious coffee and adapt the flavors to the season. Using organic ingredients, they offer a wide selection of tasty ice cream such as apple cinnamon!



*Joschi Eis*



Lüneburg



Sylt, Germany



Wismar, Germany



Black Forest, Germany



Schiltach, Black Forest



Titisee, Black Forest



By artist Jeppe



Heidelberg town square



Joschi Eis



By artist Katharina Grosse



Hiking in the Black Forest



Blankenese



Hof A



Dune du Pilat

# Nenturing Forth

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE WORLD



Hein



dolf - Künbisparadies



Herzappelhof Lühs

# WISMAR GERMANY

STEP BACK IN TIME

## THE MODERN USES OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN WISMAR

BY CALLIE R.

Welcome to Wismar, a mere hour-and-a-half's drive from Hamburg by car or a two-hour train ride away. This small port city sits on the Baltic Sea and is home to about 40,000 inhabitants. Take a daytrip and stroll around its quaint cobblestone streets and visit some of its medieval buildings. The town was founded in the 13th century, and although it was damaged during the Second World War, like everywhere else in Germany, a few medieval buildings remain unscathed by the attacks, resulting in the town center being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

What I love the most about Wismar is the new uses for their old buildings. For example, the Nikolaikirche, a brick Gothic-style church, is still a church, but also has a small free library where you can donate and take some used books. It also has a play area for children. The edges of the church now serve as a museum with rotating exhibits. When I was there last (in the spring of 2019), the current exhibit was portrait photography of immigrants living in Germany from all racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds, also featuring

gay couples. Accompanying their portraits were the stories of how they came to Germany, what they like in Germany, what they find difficult, what makes them homesick, etc. It was really refreshing to see an old church openly flaunt its modern beliefs.

Another building in Wismar that has multiple purposes (and is totally worth the visit) is the Heiligen-Geist-Kirche, which was built in the middle of the 13th century. The ceiling is intricately painted, which makes it worth the visit, but it also acts as a Fair Trade Shop and a small café. In addition, next to the café area (which is also donation-based and self-service), there are mats and toys for the kiddos.

The third must-see stop is another church called Kirche St. Georgen. It is a huge, mostly-empty brick church with a few medieval wall paintings. What makes this church worth the visit is the ride up a glass elevator to the rooftop for a beautiful look-out over the red-roofed city and the port. The church also is an event location for weddings and concerts.



Lastly, the Welt-Erbe Haus, or World Heritage House, looks modern from the outside but, upon entering, you are in a medieval merchant's house, filled with original half-timbered frames or "post-and-beam." It has ceiling paintings, murals, hand-written books, and is interactive with listening stations, touch-screens, and more.

Other things to see include the Gewölbe an der Runden Grube, a half-timbered house (*Fachwerk*) that sits directly over a river like a bridge, as well as the historic market square and its fountain. In addition to its historic buildings, though, Wismar also has lots of really cute shops and cafés. It's a must-do daytrip!

# GARTEN DER GEGENWART

OPEN-AIR  
SCULPTURE GARDEN

## OPEN-AIR SCULPTURE GARDEN IN HAMBURG

BY BECKY T.

The Garten der Gegenwart (The Contemporary Garden) is an open-air exhibit of sculptures by 28 contemporary artists. The sculptures, as well as benches for relaxation, are distributed in the garden behind the building at Rothenbaumchaussee 145. It opened in June and will be available until November 8, open to the public on Wednesdays, 16-18:00, and Saturdays and Sundays, 13-17:00.

For over 10 years, Margarita and Christian Holle organized the Salon der Gegenwart, an exhibit of modern art downtown in a shop at Große Bleichen 34. Now, due to COVID-19, the Holles decided that an outdoor exhibit would be more practical. Many of the artists here have exhibited worldwide. For example, Katherina Grosse was also exhibiting in Berlin parallel to her showing in Hamburg.

It is necessary to sign up online. Go to [www.gartendergegenwart.de](http://www.gartendergegenwart.de), click "Anmelden," and sign up. You will

receive an identification number to show at the door. All of the artists and their works are also available for viewing on this website. Entry is free of cost (although they are happy to receive donations).

Afterwards, discuss your impressions over coffee at Café Funk Eck, next door at Rothenbaumchaussee 137, all just a short walk from the U-Bahn Hallerstrasse. Many thanks to Thelma F. for initiating our interest in this exhibit and for taking these photographs.



# BLACK FOREST

CAMPING, HIKING, & FAIRYTALES

## BLACK FOREST & BROTHERS GRIMM

BY BEATRICE K.

Once upon a time, two people were stuck in Hamburg looking for a safe and reasonable way to vacation in 2020. One of them wanted to go trekking in Norway, and the other wanted to see the traditional 17th-century towns of Germany described by the Brothers Grimm in their fairy tales. The compromise: camping in the Black Forest.

Fast forward to the happy ending...

Peter and I spent seven days camping, hiking, boating, and touring through the enchanted woods and towns of the Black Forest in Baden-Württemberg, Germany. We had no set plan, just the idea to camp every night and a hope to stumble upon a witch's cottage in the dark forest. Every morning we called ahead to a new campsite to book that night's sleeping arrangement. Then we drove through fresh mist, on winding mountain roads, and across endless farm fields.

We began our journey near Calw and Bad Wildbad, small northern towns in Baden-Württemberg famous for traditional *Fachwerk* architecture (half-timbered style). But rather than hike in the rain on day three, we spent the afternoon at one of the many

famous thermal baths in Baden Baden. Thereafter, we drove through the twisting roads of the Schwarzwald Hochstraße, made camp near Freudenstadt, and enjoyed a long hike through the mountains the following day. We stayed two nights at Camp Langenwald; we highly recommend this site, as they offer modern and clean facilities and are adjacent to many biking and hiking trails. You can watch the sun rise and set over the mountains as you lie in your tent down in the valley.

Traveling south to the land of cuckoo clocks, we wandered through charming towns and stayed near the two largest lakes in the Black Forest. The medieval city of Schiltach, "town of half-timbered houses, raftsmen, and tanners," utterly enchanted us! And our GoPro, too. The ambiance feels like that of a Grimm fairy tale, from the centuries-old *Fachwerk* houses and cobblestone roads to the gushing river. Continuing down south, we spent two nights at the Titisee and Schluchsee, renting a boat each day and soaking up sun in the perfect 25 C weather.

We ended our trip with an 11-hour haul from the deepest, darkest part of the Black Forest all the way to heatwave-

blanketed Berlin in the north, but with a few more essential stops for sightseeing along the path back to grandma's house.

We swung through Freiburg, where we saw the Freiburger Münster Cathedral and the famous open market. Next we drove along the Badische Weinstraße, where car passengers can gaze upon vineyards and ruins.

Switching to the A3 after Baden Baden, we stopped for lunch in the old town of Heidelberg, snapped the final GoPro videos, and followed the trail of breadcrumbs all the way home.

Back to living happily ever after...





## VENTURING OUT IN FRANCE

BY TRACY M.

We were delighted with the news that France was allowing tourists back into the country as of June 24. Our vacation had been booked since December, and we had been antsy to know if we would even be allowed to go to Contis-Plage on the Atlantic. Our relaxing, lying-in-the-hammock, family-game, swimming-in-the-waves vacation was saved!!

We rent a bungalow on a campground every other year and are able to decide for ourselves how much contact we want with other people. With a complete kitchen and two bathrooms, it is like living in your own home. The campground was spectacular, with distance-friendly, one-way walk paths and mask requirements for the registration office, restaurant, and grocery store on the property. Of course, the obligatory lines on the floor and "Distance, S'il vous plait" signs were in every shop and restaurant in the next-larger town, Mimizan. There was no mask requirement in France other than on public transportation, but most people in shops and grocery stores wore masks. 1.5-meter distance-keeping was another story. No one, neither French, German, nor Dutch kept distance outdoors with or without masks. This gave me the heebie-jeebies, and I got

more than a few stares when I made a wide path around some folks. Ally, 21, in French, asked a family to keep their distance only to receive a tsk-tsk and "Les Allemandes—horrible!" The beach, however, was a different story. Sunbathers set up with more than enough distance to their neighbors, and even in the waves, swimmers were aware of their distance to one another.

The four of us were able to enjoy a semi-quarantine at the beach without undertaking any touristy trips during these two weeks except for an evening excursion to Dune du Pilat to watch a spectacular sunset, which was certainly big enough to give everyone their space!



*Badminton at the bungalow*



*Contis Beach*



*Our bungalow*



Handmade in  
Hamburg

Support your local  
female artists!

## HANDMADE MASKS AVAILABLE IN HAMBURG-OTTENSEN

PORTION OF PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT FAWCO TARGET PROJECT

BY JESS M.

Hey there, ladies!

I have been putting my sewing machine and collection of high-quality, fun-and-fabulous cotton fabrics to good use and making masks. They are available at my shop, Lítíl, in Ottensen (Kleine Rainstr. 6, 22765 HH).

All my masks have wire inside to help them form over your nose and a filter pocket on the backside. They are made with three layers of high-quality cotton, can be machine or hand-washed, and are all handmade personally by me.

A minimum of 10% of every mask sold will be donated to the current FAWCO Target Project, H.O.P.E for Girls and Women in Tanzania, which will directly support two safe houses in Tanzania for girls who are escaping female genital mutilation (FGM). For more information, click here.

Designs will vary every week, so if you see one online or have a specific request, don't hesitate to email me:

studiojamhandmade@gmail.com. I can also send them directly to you if you can't make it to the shop. Why not share postage with friends in your area?!

I am usually at the shop every Thursday from 11am-6pm, but all the girls speak English and would be more than happy to help you!

### SIZES INCLUDE:

Child—3-10 years

Adult—teenagers to standard adult.

Adult XL—for those with larger/broader faces, or simply for more coverage.

### TWO VARIATIONS AVAILABLE:

1. With super-soft elastic around the ears: 9.90€ each
2. With two handmade fabric ties: 14.90€ each



Jess's masks



Lítíl's collection



Jess at the shop



# ME & MY MASK

## A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR WEARING A MASK IN HAMBURG

BY CALLIE R.



Jess's masks



Made by local Hamburg artists



Littel's storefront

Going about while wearing a mask is important but definitely not fun. It can cause anxiety—anxiety about breathing, anxiety about the virus, anxiety because you don't want to wear one or because you want others to wear one and they are not wearing it properly.

Or perhaps it is just annoying, but I have a few tips to hopefully make the going a bit easier!

Number one is that I wear glasses and have been struggling with them fogging up all the time. My landlady suggested I use anti-fog wipes or spray, which are usually used for either safety goggles in laboratories or for swimming goggles, but work great for mask-wearing glasses-

wearers! I have no idea why no one suggested it to me before, but I bought some on Amazon and it works great! I spray it on my glasses before I leave the house and it works until I get back home. Search online or ask at your local Apotheke for "anti-fog spray for glasses" or "Antibeschlagspray für Brillen."

Second suggestion: buy or make a mask that makes you and others happy. I am someone who more or less smiles all the time and likes to connect with others via smiling. Wearing a mask deterred me from being able to express myself and silently communicate with others. I find that the only way I can "smile" is by wearing a mask that makes others smile. I bought three super-cute masks (from none other than our lovely Jess Mancuso) which have pictures of wombats, alligators, and koalas on them. Now my masks make kids, old people, and more or less everyone smile, and it makes me happy to wear a mask. I feel cute, safe, and that I can connect with others again.

Thirdly, get a well-fitting mask and buy several. I thought that I could get away with buying one cloth one and washing it often, but for me that was unrealistic. I would wash it every few days and just re-use it. I am too lazy, so in order for me to be safe, I needed to buy a few and rotate them. Another option though is to steam them with a hot iron between uses, which is a quick and easy way to kill



Me & my mask

all that nasty bacteria and, most importantly, any trace of the virus!

Lastly, be easy on yourself. It is an uncomfortable and unprecedented time we're living in, and many of us have never worn a mask before. Close your eyes, take deep breaths, and repeat positive reminders to yourself. I like to remind myself how important it is that I am wearing a mask and also repeat "you can breathe, you are brave, you are strong, you can do this, take it easy." If you see someone who is not wearing their mask at all or not wearing it properly on public transport, feel free to calmly and politely ask them to wear it properly. This could sound like, "Could you please wear your mask over your nose? I would appreciate it" or "I know someone who got very sick from the virus, and it would make me feel more comfortable if you could please wear your mask properly." Getting flustered and angry will only make you more anxious and make them less likely to comply. If they don't listen, keep your distance and take another deep breath—you can only try. Be safe, everyone, and take care.

# THE CLUBS WIT

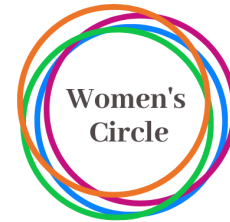
## Women's Circle

Meg will lead us through a series of sessions (via Zoom) that focus on you understanding yourself: what makes you tick and what makes you unique, the ways that you can apply yourself to projects and activities that give you a sense of satisfaction, and how to maintain balance in a world that can often feel very busy and overwhelming.

You'll come away with greater clarity and confidence about who you are, how you can use this understanding of yourself to improve your relationships, and a sense of positivity and energy to live with more clarity, meaning, and

fun. Whether you want to refocus on work or on your private life, join us for one, two, or all three in the series.

Dates:  
September 14  
September 21  
September 28  
Time: 11:00



Sign-up via AWCH or contact Christine R. at [fawcorep@awchamburg.org](mailto:fawcorep@awchamburg.org)

*By Christine R.*

## Mahjong Club

The Mahjong Club is a relatively new club within AWCH, and we have great times whenever we meet. We started with four members with Leonie H. as the teacher. She, although being German, has been playing the popular age-old game for over 35 years and is very good at it. Subsequently, she has taught a few students, and they have become good at it as well.

The four original members make a table (of four). We now have enough members (plus husbands) for two tables, and it is expanding. The Mahjong Club meets every month in a member's house, beginning with potluck. Each member brings a dish that complements the other dishes. We always have a lot of fun, and the new members learn the game within a few hours and even win some games.

The last game was to happen at Tracy M.'s house, right at the beginning of the corona pandemic, and so was unfortunately cancelled. We are looking forward to a game whenever we are "liberated" from this awful disease. There is just not enough social contact when we cannot see each other.

Anyone is welcome to join the club, and we guarantee a good time, laughter, and good food! We hope to see each other in the nearest future and continue our enjoyment of the game. Should there be any questions, please contact me, Stella Kwong-Riechmann [mahjong@awchamburg.org](mailto:mahjong@awchamburg.org)

*By Stella K.-R.*

# HIN OUR CLUB

## *Stitch 'n' Bitch*

What a crazy summer it has been for all of us. I hope this finds you and your families all well and managing through this uncertain time. As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted at the end of July, the doors were opened to us to once again meet up in person. What a thrill! Adhering to distancing and with a limit on numbers, I think I speak for us all when I say it was truly special to catch up again face-to-face.

So I can happily report our fun, crafty, sometimes crazy group will continue to meet up in person, with numbers limited to 10 people, unless restrictions change again. We will be hosted by various volunteer members around Hamburg in their homes, so if you're able to host up to 10 people, perhaps even outside, please let me know.

Newbies are always welcome, so please don't ever be shy. If you'd like to stay informed of when and where we will be meeting, please make sure you're on our mailing list and keep an eye out for the newsletter.

Can't wait to see you soon, my lovely bunch of creative, clever, crafty, comforting, cheerful, caring, dedicated S'n'B ladies. You make my day!



*By Jess M.*



Stitch 'n' Bitch is always fun with so many wonderful smiling faces. We are back to meeting at each other's homes, with a limited number of 10 people. Please note social distancing will also be required, and there will be no sharing of food. Please note, this photo was taken before COVID-19 restrictions were in place.

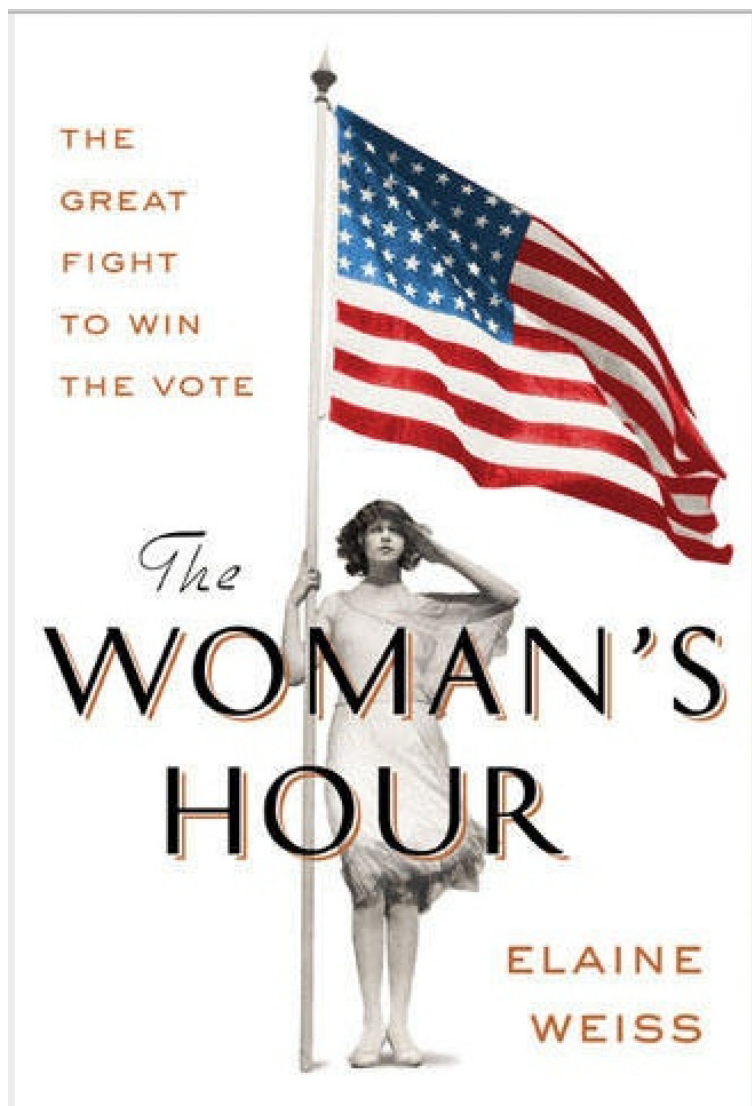
# BOOK REVIEWS

from our Book Club

## *The Woman's Hour*

By Elaine Weiss

ARTICLE BY CAROL H.



*The Woman's Hour* begins with three women speeding by rail towards Nashville to lobby and campaign—Carrie Chapman Catt, the influential president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association; Sue White, a young Tennessee activist for the more radical National Women's Party; and Josephine Pearson, a well-educated and connected Tennessean and a formidable anti-suffragist. Congress passed the 19th Amendment in 1919; ratification is needed in 36 states for it to become federal law; by July, 1920, 35 states have ratified, 12 have rejected or refused to vote, and one last state is needed. It all comes down to Tennessee, the moment of truth for the suffragists, after a 70-year crusade. "Thus, for several weeks that summer, in and around Nashville's statehouse, a frenetic pageant of political organizing, lobbying, demonstrating, and double-crossing unfolded."

Elaine Weiss retells the Nashville events through the activities of these three women, explaining the strategies and philosophies of both major "Suff" parties and how they mobilized to raise money,

“The dedication of these women to their cause and obstacles they had to overcome in this final battle in their struggles leaves one imagining how difficult it was at the beginning of the fight to gain women’s suffrage. It should remind us all not to take our voting privileges for granted.” – Anne C.

“A captivating read that gave valuable insight into the fight for the right to vote.” – Carol S.

gain votes, and keep politicians’ loyalties. She also examines how the “Antis”—whether driven by political, economic, or ideological reasons—joined forces to shrewdly block the Suff’s hard-won progress. The opposing forces include politicians with careers at stake, liquor companies afraid of prohibition enforcement, railroad cronies fearful of losing their control, and manufacturers worried about women calling for equal pay and an end to child labor. For us readers, however, the most revealing arguments were those made by women who were afraid of the ensuing moral collapse when women are forced into a man’s world and the final end to Southern civilization and supremacy, already weakened by the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Between (and within!) the scenes of the developing story, Ms. Weiss takes multiple opportunities to take side and back steps to explain the historical context of the

events and personalities, weaving over 70 years of the women’s suffrage movement into the story. I often found these well-written and informative summaries a welcome respite from the detailed descriptions of the characters gathered in Tennessee for the final showdown. Yet the Nashville story moves quickly, with drama and suspense—and a nail-biting ending.

We were a small group and unanimous in our positive rating of the book. One person

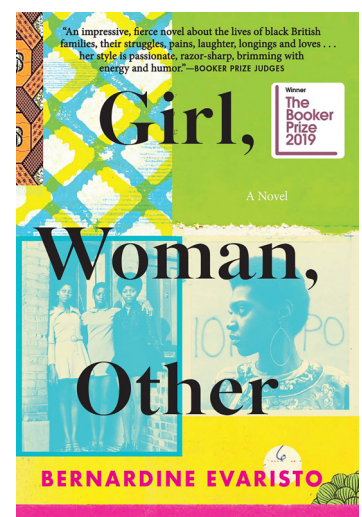
failed to finish the book, due to the multiple tangents she took investigating the “side stories” and “can’t be’s!” We all confessed we knew little of the great women and numerous events that led up to the passing of the 19th Amendment. And, inevitably, the discussion soon turned to the upcoming election in the US. We certainly will no longer take our voting rights for granted.

### Next Book Club meeting

*When:*  
Wednesday, September 16

*Where:*  
virtually on Zoom

*Book:*  
*Girl, Woman, Other*  
by Bernardine Evaristo



# ENVIRONMENTALLY MINDFUL

## Podcast Recommendation: Humanity Has Not Yet Failed

BY BEATRICE K.



Click here  
for link to  
podcast on  
Spotify



PODCAST EPISODE

### Greta Thunberg: Humanity has not yet failed

Sommar & Vinter i P1

Jun 20 · 75 mins left



Climate teen activist and Time's 2019 Person of the Year Greta Thunberg recounts her 12-month journey touring the United States, addressing world leaders, and adapting to unprecedented situations. With clarity and facts, Greta uses this 70-minute podcast to educate the public about the terrifying reality of increasing CO2 levels and declining wildlife. She urges world leaders to do more to combat climate change and treat this crisis as what it is: a crisis.

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## EASY TIPS & TRICKS FOR PRODUCING LESS WASTE IN THE BATHROOM

BY BEATRICE K., SHANAN R., JULIA R. AND CHRISTINE R.

Every edition, the Environmentally Mindful team will provide you with a list of 10 easy tips and tricks for living a more meaningful, zero-waste lifestyle. This September we are taking you through the bathroom and will guide you through every room of the house in both *Currents* and on our Environmentally Mindful Forum on Facebook. Be sure to check out Facebook every week for new zero-waste-themed posts called Tips for Tuesday, where we tie monthly themes in with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals!. Click here to visit our Facebook Forum.



## Some Zero Waste Stores in Hamburg

Stueckgut, Ohne Gedoens, Streubar, Bio Lose, & Lavatara (Altona)



1

Check out your local zero-waste stores for products, books, and ideas about living a less wasteful life. Use sturdy glass containers and refill them with soaps, oils, etc. at refill stores near you instead of buying plastic containers each time.

2

Reusable makeup-remover cotton pads: make these out of old towels or clothing. Check Google for DIY instructions!

3

DIY projects, like toothpaste: two tbsp baking soda, two tbsp coconut oil, 10 drops of peppermint oil, and store in a glass jar.

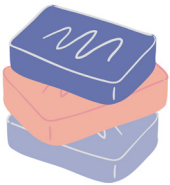
4

Keep a bucket in your shower for excess water use; for example, while you are waiting for the running water to warm up, collect the extra water for your plants!



5

Bar soap: shampoo, conditioner, and regular soap are all available in bar form. Ditch the plastic bottles! Be sure to check the ingredients if you are also avoiding synthetic perfumes, parabens, and sulfates.



6

Safety razors all the way! Don't keep throwing out plastic razors—invest in a safety razor and only switch out the blade every few months.

7

Bamboo toothbrushes, bamboo brushes, and sturdy soap holders, check!

8

Use plastic-free 100% cotton menstrual products or invest in a menstrual cup.

9

Use up your current plastic products before switching to eco-friendly ones. You don't have to throw out all of your plastics products right away! Use your products until they break or cannot be repaired. Try to reuse them, recycle them, or donate them before investing in sustainable products.

10

Follow green tips and zero-waste accounts on social media for inspiration:

@thezerowasteguide  
@easy\_green\_tips  
@ecotips\_



# Art in the City

by the Art Group

## No Creative Silence this Year!

These Art Exhibitions are Calling Out to You!

**BY SHELLY SCHOENESHOEFER**

All the museums are now open from Tuesday to Sunday. You are required to wear a mask, and they are doing tours. Please contact museums before attending to see if there are any special requirements. In addition to the many exhibits across the city, the Museum für Hamburgische Geschichte has a new director. Go check out what she has changed!

The AWCH Art Group will attempt a couple of tours before the end of the year, but they will be small events. If anyone has a review, please send it to Diana Schnelle or Shelly Schoeneshoefer. We are excited to hear about your experiences. If you are new to the club and want to join the AWCH Art Group on Facebook or WhatsApp, please contact Shelly at [artgroup@awchamburg.org](mailto:artgroup@awchamburg.org). Thanks!

## DEICHTORHALLEN



### **ARBEITSSTIPENDIEN FÜR BILDENDE KUNST DER FREIEN UND HANSESTADT HAMBURG**

Until October 18, 2020

### **MATT BLACK**

**AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY**

September 25 – January 3, 2021

### **WILLIAM KENTRIDGE**

October 23 – April 18, 2021

William Kentridge: Installation view, Shadow Procession, 1999 at Zeitz MOCAA.  
Why Should I Hesitate: Putting Drawings to Work  
Copyright: Artwork: Courtesy of the Artist and Goodman Gallery. Image courtesy  
of Zeitz MOCAA. Photo: © Anel Wessels



# HAMBURGER KUNSTHALLE



JÖRG IMMENDORFF (1945–2007). Welt der Arbeit, 1984. Öl auf Leinwand, 285 x 330 cm. © The Estate of Jörg Immendorff, Courtesy Galerie Michael Werner Märkisch Wilmersdorf, Köln & New York. © Hamburger Kunsthalle / bpk. Foto: Elke Walford

## MAX BECKMAN

FEMININE-MASCULINE

September 25–January 24, 2021

## THE ABSURD BEAUTY OF SPACE

SEVEN ARTISTS VS. UNGERS

until March 7, 2021

## BACK THEN HAS ALWAYS BEEN NOW

PAINTING SINCE 1947 RECONSIDERED

until September 5, 2021

## EIGHT CENTURIES OF ART

PERMANENT COLLECTION

until December 31, 2023

# ALTONAER MUSEUM

## FISH. PRODUCE. STOCK EXCHANGE

FIDE STRUCK PHOTOGRAPHS, HAMBURG 1930-33

until December 31, 2020

# MARKK - MUSEUM AM ROTHENBAUM



## ALCHI—MONASTIC JEWEL IN THE HIMALAYAS

MONUMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHS

until March 7, 2021

## IN THE SHADOW OF VENUS

LISA REIHANA & PACIFICA TAONGA

until October 4, 2020

Detail der Grünen Vasudhara/Tara mit dem typischen kaschmirischen Stilmittel des über den kopf hinausreichenden, abgewandten Auges. Alchi, Sumtsek-Tempel, 11. Jh.  
© Peter van Ham

# MUSEUM FÜR KUNST UND GEWERBE



Peter Lindbergh (1944–2019), Mariacarla Boscono, Paris, 2017, © Peter Lindbergh (Courtesy Peter Lindbergh, Paris)

## **LOOTED ART**

**PROVENANCE RESEARCH ON THE  
COLLECTIONS OF THE MKG**

no end date announced

## **THE LANGUAGE OF FASHION**

no end date announced

## **PETER LINDBERGH**

**UNTOLD STORIES**

until November 1, 2020

## **SUSANNE KRIEMANN**

**RECONSIDERING PHOTOGRAPHY:  
UNDERBRUSH**

until January 31, 2021

## **SYRIA 2087**

**FOSSILS OF THE FUTURE**

until April 25, 2021

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# KUNSTVEREIN

## **BACKSTAGE**

**ZEITGENÖSSISCHER KUNST**

until October 11, 2020

## **BEING LAID UP WAS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT MAKING ART**

**CORONA SOUND SYSTEM**

until October 11, 2020

# Resonance at the Kunstverein

BY SHELLY SCHOENSHOEFER

Both artist Jeewi Lee and artist/composer Ayumi Paul came together for an exhibition/performance piece at the Kunstverein this summer. Jeewi Lee was born in Korea but works out of Berlin, and Ayumi Paul was born in Germany to a Japanese mother. They both illustrate how people with roots in the East differ from those from the West in how they see the world. At one point Jeewi Lee described this difference in very concrete terms. She said when people from Europe look at a picture of an elephant, they describe what the elephant looks like. Thoughts like the age of the elephant, what the skin looks like, and even reflections on how the elephant feels will be contemplated. However, the person from Asia sees something drastically different. This person will describe the position of the elephant, what is to the left, to the right, and behind it. The environment is more important, and the outer influences on the elephant.

As I gazed at Jeewi Lee's work, I tried to put myself in her mind's eye to get an understanding of where she was coming from. Instead of looking at the

entire piece, my eyes traveled from one point to the next and determined each unit of the art piece and how it reflected on the closest objects.

Both Jeewi Lee and Ayumi Paul discussed their thoughts on the topic of resonance, such as the concept of an echo as a starting point. They also discussed their differences. Ayumi Paul then invited us to first listen to and then partake in a ritual called Tears and Waters. She used her voice and a drum that she created during the corona times. We listened to her breathing and singing, giving the effect of being in some other world. We then needed to exhale into water bottles and take them home and put that energy on some plant that needed extra care. I can say I loved the experience, which seemed very appropriate to these corona times. Both artists showed how the quarantine restrictions actually made them more creative. The Kunstverein has more events coming up, and if I were you, I would not miss them.



Jeewi Lee #Unfinished-Ashes to Ashes.



Ayumi Paul performing Tears and Water.



Jeewi Lee #Unfinished-Traces. All photos by Shelly Schoenshoefer.

## PRESERVING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

BY ROSE FINLAY

The last few months have been a challenging time for the film group as we have worked to navigate the reopening of cinemas, the shifting sands of film release dates, and the new rules required for industry screenings. Still, through it all, many of our members have continued to watch films online while others have braved the cinemas in order for us to have plenty of new film reviews to publish each month.

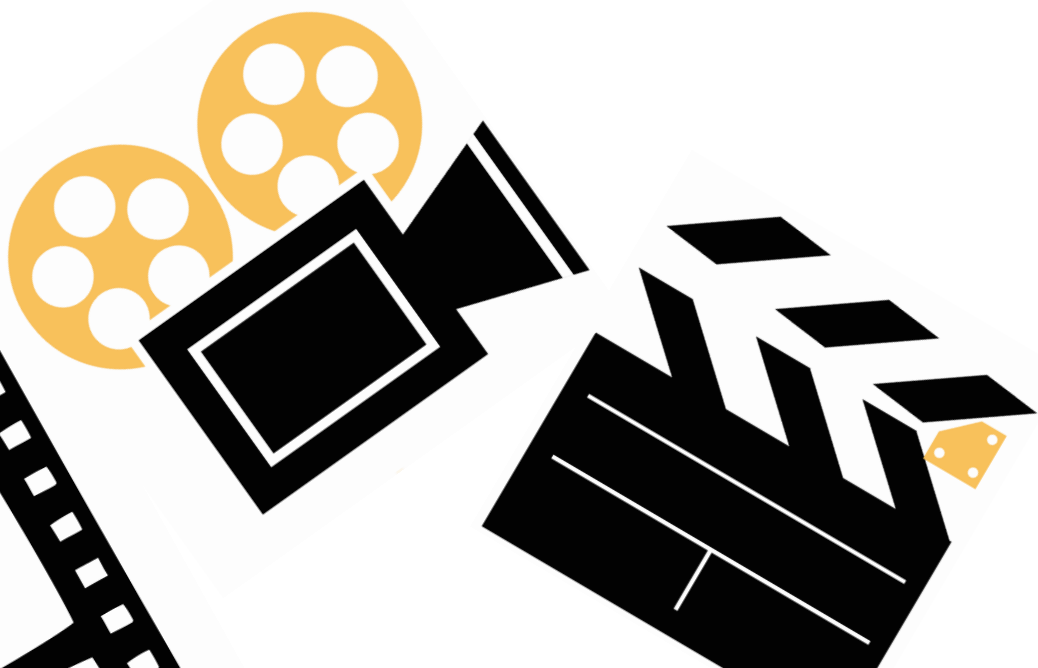
The new guidelines for attending screenings in the cinemas are a bit complex and include face masks, socially-distant assigned seating, and pre-registration with contact details in the case of an outbreak. While some members are

understandably wary about attending these screenings (myself included!), we are lucky to have several intrepid critics who venture forth to the Abaton Kino to ensure that we are still covering the new releases each month. So far, all has gone smoothly and hopefully will continue similarly throughout the rest of this pandemic.

From September 24 until October 3 of this year, the Filmfest Hamburg plans to run a compact festival. Several of our members are already working on gaining accreditation, which will include access to industry screenings online and in the cinemas. As always, we will make a special festival edition magazine with our coverage, which you can look forward to in the coming months. For the general public, films will be shown at various cinemas throughout Hamburg, while

a selection will also be available online on the complementary digital service Streamfest Hamburg. More information can be found at [filmfesthamburg.de](http://filmfesthamburg.de).

While the film industry continues to figure out a new way forward, with films released to half-empty cinemas and video-on-demand, the Film Group is prepared to rise to the challenge. Whether by streaming from the comfort of home or by following strict hygiene guidelines at the cinema, our critics are still diligently writing their opinions. What the future might bring to the film world is still a bit murky, but the Film Group is still going strong.



# FILM REVIEWS AUTUMN 2020

BY THE FILM GROUP



## Ooops! The Adventure Continues

(Ooops! 2–Land in Sicht) \*\*\*\*  
Germany/Ireland/Luxembourg  
2020  
Opening September 24, 2020

Directed by: Toby Genkel, Sean McCormack  
Writing credits: Richie Conroy, Mark Hodgkinson  
Principal actors: German voices: Christian Ulmen, Janin Ullman, Tim Mälzer

In 2015 the animated film *Ooops! Noah is Gone (Die Arche ist Weg)* entertained us with a story about animals boarding Noah's ark in order to escape the flood. Leonard the lion was the boss with the difficult responsibility of controlling all of the animals, some of which were "unusual." We met Dave and his son Finny, both Nestrians: brightly colored animals with an elephant's trunk and large ears and the ability to blow blue gas. Hazel and her daughter Leah were Grymps and looked like a cross between a cat and a raccoon.

Now they are back, still on the ark, where Dave is the ship's cook; his specialty is a gooey green sauce. However, food is running low. They send out the seagull to search for land. In the meantime, other problems arise. The children Finny and Leah are washed overboard; they set off on a self-made raft, hoping to make their way back to the ark. Along the way, they pick up a new friend: a jellyfish named—you guessed it—Jelly. Meanwhile, the parents realize that the kids are missing. The search takes them on adventures where they discover an island and a colony of hundreds of Nestrians who, having rejected the idea of boarding an ark, live independently underwater in a "fantasy colony." Now the big threat is no longer a flood, but fire, a volcano.

This sequel to the original *Ooops!* continues to entertain with imaginative animation of all sorts of animals in wonderful color, some looking like your favorite stuffed toy. Once again, Finny and Leah must learn to act "adult," to take responsibility; family ties are priceless. Also importantly, no matter one's provenance: one must cooperate for the well-being of the group. A fun film for anyone five years or older. (Becky Tan)



## Persian Lessons

(Persischstunden) \*  
Russian/Germany/Belarus  
2020  
Opening September 24, 2020

Directed by: Vadim Perelman  
Writing credits: Ilja Zofin  
Principal actors: Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Lars Eiding, Jonas Nay, Leonie Benesch, Alexander Beyer

In 1942, a young Belgian named Gilles (**Nahuel Pérez Biscayart**) is rounded up with other Jewish prisoners by the SS and driven to an empty area in the forest. They are split into groups and gunned down, but Gilles manages to escape the bullets and in desperation claims that he is not Jewish but, rather, Persian. As it happens, the officer in charge of the kitchens at the local concentration camp is looking for a Persian to teach him the

language. In order to survive, Gilles must invent and memorize an entire language and somehow teach it to this officer. Tension mounts as the difficulty of the task increases and Gilles is faced with the morality of what he must do to survive.

With a quick pace and talented cast, *Persian Lessons* presents a slick façade which is easy to market and consume. However, even a moment's reflection reveals that there is something off-putting about this new entry into the genre of Holocaust media. The circumstances feel too contrived, the images of suffering too blatantly manipulative, the message too cookie-cutter. The Holocaust is one of the worst events of human suffering in modern times, and films such as this one do little to either further our understanding of the tragedy or express much artistically; they are simply made to cash in on the odd fascination that people have with tragic events. With some more introspection and character development perhaps *Persian Lessons* could have been something more than the clichéd and calculated film it turned out to be. Unfortunately, the result was a film with promise that never reached its potential. (Rose Finlay)



**Never Rarely Sometimes Always** (Niemals Selten Manchmal Immer)  
UK/USA 2019  
Opening October 1, 2020

Directed by: Eliza Hittman  
Writing credits: Eliza Hittman  
Principal actors: Sidney Flanigan, Talia Ryder, Théodore Pellerin

The film begins with a song. A rather plain 17-year-old named Autumn (**Sidney Flanigan**) dispassionately strums a guitar and belts out a ballad of destructive love at the high school talent show, much to the malicious sniggering of some teenage boys. One calls out “Slut!” She pauses, and then resolutely finishes her song. After Autumn’s performance, her nervousness lingers. Sullen, expressionless, yet composed, she clearly has something else on her mind. As scenes of domestic (un)bliss unfold, it becomes obvious that her parents, and especially her step-father, are not the ones to share it with. So Autumn turns to her best friend and cousin Skylar (**Talia Ryder**) who immediately understands her grave plight: Autumn is pregnant and doesn’t want to keep the baby.

In Pennsylvania it is impossible for girls under the age of 18 to have a legal abortion without their parent’s permission. So Autumn and Skylar pocket some money from the grocery store where they work after school and head off on a bus

to Planned Parenthood in New York City. Innocents from rural America, they walk the streets of the city hoping for deliverance. On the bus they meet a nameless nerdy young man (**Théodore Pellerin**, who also appears in *My Salinger Year* [2019]) who takes a real liking to the blue-eyed beauty Skylar, so they swap phone numbers. Was this a grave mistake? Watching these two feckless teenage girls alone in New York City is unnerving; there is always a lingering sense of dread that they are one step away from a terrible fate.

The film is full of silences. Dialogue is scarce in this movie, which begins in rural, blue-collar Pennsylvania before moving into the bright lights of Times Square. Autumn and Skylar have very little need for conversation. They have hardly any money and no place to stay. They are two inseparable friends on a quest, inexplicably schlepping an oversized suitcase around the streets and steps of the city.

In a stirring long-take scene at Planned Parenthood, Autumn is told to answer “Never, rarely, sometimes, or always” to questions about her sexual history. As the counselor’s questions become more probing, it is clear that Autumn has endured a lot. Her stoic brushed-away tears and darting eyes tell the story of sexual abuse. She hardly says a word.

*Never Rarely Sometimes Always* is a moving film about an uncomfortable topic. Both the slow, deliberate pace and the power of silence are internalized and embraced by its exceptional actors. (Pat Frickey)



**Military Wives** (Mrs. Taylor’s Singing Club) \*\*\*  
UK 2019  
Opening October 8, 2020

Directed by: Peter Cattaneo  
Writing credits: Rosanne Flynn, Rachel Tunnard  
Principal actors: Kristen Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan, Jason Flemyng

From a small military base outside London, troops are deploying to Afghanistan. Kate (**Kristin Scott Thomas**),

the commander’s wife, based on her husband’s rank, has certain responsibilities for the welfare of the other spouses and their families that live on base. Kate takes her position very seriously. By contrast, Lisa (**Sharon Horgan**), who, due to her husband’s position, inherits the task of keeping everyone preoccupied with everything other than where their loved ones are serving, likes to keep things loose. For Lisa, having morning coffees together with no fixed agenda is just fine. Kate, however, has other very specific ideas. After a rather contentious coffee trying to set up activities to please everyone, a favorite idea emerges—either a singing club (Lisa) or choir (Kate). Both Kate and Lisa compete for directing the singers and style of music, with their battles providing some of the more humorous scenes.

Against backstories of grief, insecurity, love and forgiveness, this light but heavy-hearted film may irritate you with

its formulaic scenes while plucking a few heartstrings as background music. Eventually, singing leads to performing which leads to a dramatic performance by the choir at Royal Albert Hall.

The actors make the best of a weak script based on the true story behind the start of a military wives' choir. There is real camaraderie and, at times, heartbreaking emotion.



**Dark Waters** (Vergiftete Wahrheit) \*\*\*\*\*

UK 2020

Opening October 8, 2020

Directed by: Todd Haynes

Writing credits: Nathaniel Rich, Mario Correa, Matthew Michael Carnahan

Principal actors: Mark Ruffalo, Anne Hathaway, Tim Robbins, Bill Pullman, Bill Camp

In 1998, farmer Wilbur Tennant (**Bill Camp**) drives 130 miles (209 km) from Parkersburg, West Virginia, to Cincinnati, Ohio, with his brother (**Jim Azelvandre**) to force a meeting. They know this lawyer's grandma; eventually the lawyer, Rob Bilott, (**Mark Ruffalo**) sees them. Wilbur wants Rob to look into his cattle's unexplained deaths, which he has connected to the giant chemical manufacturer DuPont. When Rob—a corporate defense lawyer—hesitates, Wilbur thrusts a box of VHS cassettes at him and storms out. Thus begins *Dark Waters*, which is based on, unfortunately, irrefutable facts. Most unsettling is DuPont's unbridled malfeasance and that the chemical (PFOA [C-8], part of the PFAS family) is still used, hence still affecting the worldwide community. This timely corporate cover-up thriller's relevancy is universally valuable.

Director **Todd Haynes** concentrates on salient points along Rob Bilott's long journey following the farmers' visit. Haynes expressively and cohesively balances how Bilott's—brilliantly portrayed by Ruffalo—duties to his family and clients are tested. **Mario Correa** and **Matthew Michael Carnahan** developed details from Nathaniel Rich's 2016 *New York Times Magazine* article, Sharon Lerner's series in *The Intercept*, a 2015 article by Mariah Blake, and Bilott's book *Exposure* into a deliberate, compelling screenplay. For example, when Rob explains to wife Sarah (**Anne Hathaway**) about C-8's wide-ranging, deadly effects and DuPont's

Kristen Scott Thomas gives a masterful portrayal of deep compassion with a British “stiff upper lip.” And there are some beautiful voices in the mix. Enjoy the performances but bring your tissues! (Mary Wienke)

culpability, editor **Afonso Gonçalves** helps audiences understanding with enlighteningly structured, scathingly riveting sequence(s). Production values are impeccable: **Edward Lachman's** cinematography, **Marcelo Zarvos's** music, **Hannah Beachler's** production design, et cetera.

Ruffalo's facial and vocal nuances depict Bilott's increased inner turmoil while uncovering further subterfuge. The stellar cast includes: Hathaway's well-gauged wifely emotive range; Camp's perceptive, prescient farmer; **Tim Robbins**, great as the law firm's managing partner whose moral courage greenlights Bilott's crusade; **Victor Garber** as DuPont's icy attorney; **Bill Pullman** as the sharp personal injury lawyer guiding Bilott; and **Mare Winningham** and **Richard Hagerman** as the dauntless Kiger plaintiffs. These are but a few, plus hometown cast shown prior to end credits.

*Dark Waters'* deep dive into corporate cover-ups penetrates public trust. The villain PFOA (C-8) is one of many toxic man-made chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances that contain carbon-fluorine chemical bonds. Developed during wartime and repurposed for profits, PFOA is used in industrial and consumer production, e.g., Teflon. PFOA and other PFAS are unregulated by the US federal government, although contamination to the environment and living creatures' health systems (globally) is detrimental. Does its resilience outweigh its misuse? Consider, ironically, that 99% of Americans have PFAS in their blood.

Paradoxically, citizens seem indifferent and culturally tolerant toward corporate polluters continuing horrific practices—consider Flint, Michigan, Hinkley, California, et cetera. In *Dark Waters*, we feel the community's despair, isolation, and, with realization, betrayal. “[T]he system's rigged...we protect us,” clarified Bilott, still fighting corporate polluters 27 years on. Community action and activism is imperative. As this global COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates, either we take care of Mother Nature or she will take care of herself. 126 minutes (Marinell Haegelin)

## CURRENTS MAGAZINE

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Postfach 13 04 05, 20104 Hamburg  
Website: <http://www.awchamburg.org>

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American Women's Club of Hamburg e.V.  
Sparda Bank Hamburg  
IBAN: DE75 2069 0500 0000 9117 71

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