



AWCH

CURRENTS

CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEATURING
HANSEATIC HELP
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPECIAL THEME

OUR CLUB THROUGH THE YEARS

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S
CLUB OF HAMBURG, e. V.

Jan. - Mar. 2021 - Vol. 37, No. 1

www.awchamburg.org

Editorial

EDUCATION IS FOR IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OTHERS AND FOR LEAVING
YOUR COMMUNITY AND WORLD BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT.

- Marian Wright Edelman, Spelman College class of 1960 -

Dear *Currents* readers!

We are excited to present the spring edition of *Currents* with its special theme: Our Club Through the Years. With all that's happened in the last year, from the revamping of our magazine to the forced revamping of our lives, this just felt like the right time to pause and take stock, to have a look at our club past so as to see more clearly our club present, to marvel over what has changed through the years and what has stayed the same, how new "clubs within our club" have blossomed, and how the AWCH has grown as a community.

We have ten members who have been with the club for over 30 years! For this special occasion, Holly T. has conducted interviews with nine of them to get her insights into our ever-evolving club. From the early days of the "ladies who lunch" to the powerhouses of philanthropy who make the world a better place, our intrepid long-timers have seen 'em come and go. Listen to them when they say why they came, why they stayed, and what they have to share with the newbies. Plus, the not-so-easy birth (and naming) of *Currents*!

In this edition, we introduce the latest charity we have chosen to support: Hanseatic Help. Members have already raised awareness and money for Hanseatic Help with beautiful chocolate roses for Valentine's Day! We also highlight and celebrate major global events

such as One Billion Rising, Black History Month, and Women's History Month. Environmentally Mindful brings you the highlights of upcoming global events, such as Earth Day on April 22.

Our Member Spotlight this edition is Birgit S., while Morgan D. and her restaurant, Rudolph's, are featured in Member in Business. Enjoy a zero-waste spring veggie toast recipe with Beyond Hamburgers. And, as always, catch up on the latest films with the Film Group and explore Hamburg's (fingers crossed) soon-to-re-re-open museums with Art in the City.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we've enjoyed reading your reminiscences and seeing your wonderful pictures. This club has meant so much to so many, and your heartfelt stories bring that home beautifully. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, your work, your passion and compassion and your lives with us.

For any questions, please email us at currents-exec@awchamburg.org.

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

09



FEATURING: HANSEATIC HELP

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

JANUARY-MARCH 2021

AWCH NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 President’s Message
- 5 An Important Statement from the Board
- 6 FAWCO
- 8 Meet Hanseatic Help
- 10 Chocolate Roses for Valentine’s Day
- 12 AWCH Celebrates Women’s History Month
- 16 Black History Month
- 16 Philanthropic Collective
- 17 Pen Pals
- 18 Member in Business and Member Spotlight

20 SPECIAL THEME: OUR CLUB THROUGH THE YEARS

THE CLUBS WITHIN OUR CLUB

- 38 Mahjong and Film Lounge
- 39 Stitch ‘n’ Bitch
- 40 Women’s Circle
- 42 Book Club
- 44 Environmentally Mindful

IN HAMBURG

- 46 Art in the City
- 51 Hamburger Hacks
- 51 Beyond Hamburgers
- 52 Film Group



SPECIAL THEME: OUR CLUB THROUGH THE YEARS



ART IN THE CITY: WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

William Kentridge: Porter Series: Norwége, Sueéde et Danemark, 2005, Tapestry, 274 x 203 cm
© William Kentridge

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

Spring 2021

Contributors:

Julia R., Holly T., Callie R., Christine R., Carol H., Mason Jane M., Beatrice K., Carol S., Tracy M., Jess M., Shelly S., Rose F., Pat F., Becky T., Marinell H., Sara N., Jenny M., Palvasha H., Anne-Marie S., Shanana R., Brenda B., Jezelle R., Diana S., Birgit S., Morgan D., Sandra S., Emelia J., Venita K., Stella K., Carol B., Nancy B., Liz G.-R., Freda P, Nancy F., Allene P., Thelma F., Heidi K., and Anna S.

Photography:

Holly T., Carol S., Morgan D., Birgit S., Anna S., Beatrice K., Tracy M., Jess M., Carol H., Shelly S., Marinell H., front cover photo of the AWCH ca. 1979-80 and back cover photo of the AWCH at the Bucerius Kunst Forum touring the “Amerika! Disney, Rockwell, Pollock, Warhol” exhibition, 2019.

Proofreaders:

Mason Jane M., Carol H., Sandra S., and Carol S.

President's Message

Dear club members,

How has our club changed over the years? Maybe not as much as we think, relative to the many societal changes that have occurred since its founding in 1956, when American business slowly returned to Hamburg after World War II. Letters from founding members report: Germany "was a third-world, early-post-war nation when we arrived...help was needed for the American women, who were floating in a strange, backward, difficult world alone." The club was founded "to help all the newcomers...to increase their knowledge of Hamburg and...to find the things we missed."

Sound familiar? Yes, all of us have stories to tell of our first few weeks and months in Hamburg, no longer the third world but nevertheless strange and daunting for many. Whether one is newly arriving or returning after several years in another country, one is confronted with different surroundings, often a new language, and a long list of "things to do" with no one to turn to for help. Our goals have not changed and are as relevant today as ever.

In our first-ever virtual Annual General Meeting this January, thanks and appreciation were extended to the 2020 AWCH board who faced an unprecedented pandemic year that brought almost all club activities to a screeching stop. Flexibility and creativity were now on the agenda. The 2021 AWCH board, a group of dynamic young women (save the president), can benefit from this experience. We will continue to plan virtual, AHA-compliant events and to work closely with our Hamburger Helpers to assist members through these difficult times. Our board members are also brainstorming for the days when the lockdown eases—when we

can meet for a cup of coffee, enjoy an evening museum visit, or celebrate our membership in style.

The new year has already started with many activities, including events to celebrate Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. We can also be proud of the incredible philanthropic activity launched in 2021. A sincere thank you to all involved. And the good news keeps coming: as I was finishing up this letter, I learned that AWCH's two nominations for FAWCO Development Grants were awarded. Amazing!

Have you ever noticed the small but important words on the top line of our biweekly newsletter? Stay connected, keep involved! An important message to all.

Best wishes,
Carol H.
AWCH president



Jennifer L. (L) with Carol H. (R) at International Women's Day 2019

An Important STATEMENT From the Board

COVID-19 REGULATIONS, MARCH 22, 2021

Hamburg is now experiencing a strong surge in coronavirus infections, mostly of the more infectious variant B.1.1.7. The current incidence value is now considered high (between 100 and 200 for more than four consecutive days), and a new strict lockdown is in place until at least April 18, 2021. The prioritization of vaccines and all regulations to contain the virus, including possible curfews, may now change on very short notice.

You can read the current Hamburg guidelines for containing the coronavirus in detail in German [here](#). This page is always updated to show the current regulations. In English, a shorter version is available [here](#).

Medical masks (surgical masks or KN95/FFP2 masks) are mandatory for everyone age 14 and older on public transportation, in stores and markets, in places of worship, in public offices and in medical treatment centers, as well as in all offices, places of business, and public buildings. These masks are now mandatory for passengers from separate households in private cars.

The masks are also mandatory in certain highly-frequented areas of the city at defined times.

If not absolutely necessary, private visits and any kind of travel should be curtailed. This includes travel over the Easter holidays. We would ask you to respect these guidelines when planning any activities, for your own safety and that of others.

Rules for Events and Activities

The general rule for any meetup is to follow the German "AHA" rule: avoid physical contact with persons outside your own household and maintain physical distancing of 1.5 meters unless circumstances prevent it. Practice strict hygiene: wash and disinfect your hands and contact surfaces often, and sneeze into your elbow. Wear a medical mask ("Alltags-

maske") in all designated spaces; this includes the space in front of stores and in parking lots.

Curfews and place restrictions may apply to all types of events.

Tests are now being offered at many locations in the city (city test locations, Apotheken, etc.) at no personal cost (one test per person per week). Schools have begun regular testing.

Rules for Private Events and Meetups

All private events and meetings outside of the family, both indoors and outdoors, are now limited to contact with only one person from a separate household; there is no exception to this rule over the Easter weekend. Children under 14 are exempt from this rule. Adequate ventilation is essential for indoor safety; at-home rapid test kits are recommended for indoor meetups.

This contact rule includes private meetups in spaces like parks. There are exceptions for patchwork families and for emergency child care within a neighborhood.

Rules for Restaurants, Cafes, Bars, and Clubs

Bars and clubs remain closed. Restaurants and cafes may offer food and non-alcoholic drinks to go.

Rules for Stores

"Click and Collect" is allowed. Stores selling essential items (this now includes specialty stores for baby items, bookstores, flower stores, and garden centers) are open with restrictions (one customer per 10/20 square meters).

Rules for Museums, Botanical Gardens, Memorials, and Zoos

These venues are now closed.

Rules for Commercial/Public Events (sports, religious, or political events, cinemas, theaters, concerts, etc.)

These venues are still closed (some religious events with very small groups in large ventilated arenas are allowed, usually with pre-signup). The government has asked but not mandated religious communities to offer "online only" religious services over the coming holiday period.

Development Grant Recipients

Nominated by AWCH

BY CAROL S.

ENVIRONMENT

Nurturing Our Planet: \$4,000

Sponsored by Patti Meek of AWC Dublin, in memory of her parents, James and Ethel Meek.

Recipient: Harvesting and Storing for a Better Living—Palghar District, Maharashtra, India
(Nominated by AWC Hamburg)

The tribal families living in rural areas of Maharashtra, India, live in tiny one-room homes where

they have limited space to store their harvested grains and seeds. Because of the lack of storage, these families are forced to sell their crops during the harvest season at a low price. The DG funds would finance a solidly constructed 40-square-meter storage building that would allow 22 families (120 persons) to not only protect their harvest from bad weather and predators but also to obtain a minimum 20% increase in

revenue by selling when demand is high. This increase in income will provide families with basic necessities and access to healthcare and education. A better living for the tribes will sustain the successful watershed program implemented by the Nandanvan Trust, which regreened and restored desertified land in the area, making possible the cultivation of grain crops as well as fruit and nut trees.

GLOBAL ISSUES

Close To Home: \$4,000

Recipient: Empowering Refugee Women in Hamburg, Germany
(Nominated by AWC Hamburg)

Close to 60% of refugees entering Germany today are women. Many are fleeing sexual violence, forced marriages, and “honor” killings, not to mention war and terrorism. Their path to integration is especially difficult. Hanseatic Help has brought a sense of community

to refugee women through shared meals and volunteer work alongside local residents. A learning and support center was launched that will further empower these women. Volunteers will assist professionals in teaching basic computer and communication skills and help with bureaucratic applications for childcare, vocational schools, and work—filling the gap where government

-sponsored institutions fail. The DG funds would support this center by funding needed equipment, books, furniture, and supplies. Up to 40 women will benefit from the center in the first year, improving their prospects for entering the job market or pursuing a career, thus allowing them to live independently and giving them a sense of purpose, responsibility, and community.



Photo of participants at the virtual FAWCO Biennial Conference by Shelly Schoenshoefer

Canva Crash Course

AWCH Online Auction

BY HOLLY T.

Whenever I needed a catchy visual for an announcement or invitation while serving as AWCH membership chair, I relied on Karen O., Jordan W., or Carol S. to make one for me. Carol and Jordan told me about the great, free Canva website they used, and I immediately checked it out. But there were so many choices, and I wasn't sure how to save things and quickly gave up. At the AWCH Online Auction last November, when I saw that *Currents* Executive Editor Beatrice K. was sharing her trade secrets in a "crash" course consisting of two one-hour Canva tutorials, I immediately hit the "buy now" button. So did Emilia J. and Tracy M., and on a cold January morning, the three of us met Beatrice on Zoom for our first lesson.

Beatrice had created a group in Canva where we could share design attempts. She encouraged us to use the many templates offered, explaining that they are created in optimal dimensions and resolution for various media: postcards, invitations, holiday cards, calendars, posters, Instagram posts, presentations, YouTube intros, T-shirts, you name it. She showed us how to drag templates, individual photos, frames, and other shaped elements and text boxes into and around the format we had chosen, how to resize them, and how to upload our own photos and add animated elements for emphasis.

Before our next meeting, Emilia whipped off a get-well card for Tracy. At the meeting, Beatrice helped Tracy and me perfect designs for the announcements for the Bagel Fundraiser and for our Valentine's origami rose-making fundraiser, and together we created a Galentine's Day card for our fellow AWCH members.

Certain photos and design elements are available only to paid Canva-Pro subscribers, but Beatrice explained that you could still get them for a one-time fee, usually €1 per element. That hardly seems necessary—there are zillions of others to choose from. In fact, Beatrice, who gave *Currents* its sleek, exciting new look with the help of Canva, warned us, Don't go too wild—everything in moderation!

The Canva Crash Course members wishing the AWCH a happy Galentine's day by using their new skills!



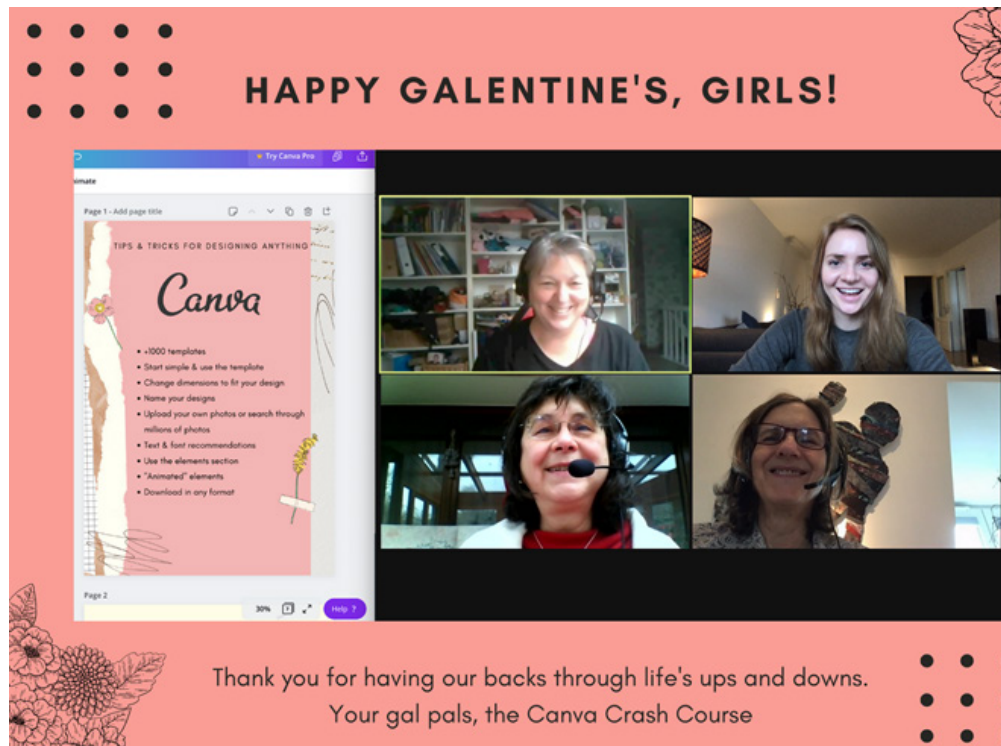
Poster for AWCH Online Auction for crash course



Members using Canva to create posters for AWCH



Members using Canva to create posters for AWCH



Meet Hanseatic Help

BY HOLLY T.

I am excited to tell you about [Hanseatic Help](#), the local charity AWCH members voted to support over the next two years at the AGM in January. Hanseatic Help collects and delivers basic necessities (e.g., clothes, shoes, hygiene articles, and school supplies) free of charge to around 200 facilities and shelters in Hamburg and the environs, which then distribute the items to people in need (the homeless, refugees, women and children in shelters, the unemployed, sick, elderly, etc.). Drawing on Hamburg’s terrific logistics as a major port city, the organization has also collected and delivered supplies to international refugee centers in Turkey, Greece, Iraq, and Syria, and to other crisis regions (Kenya, Haiti, Lebanon). Bringing this about depends on the hands-on support of volunteers who help sort and pack donations in a 2,300-square-meter warehouse space in Altona. AWCH members Jennifer L., Shelly S., Emma B., Stella K.-R., Marion L., and Deborah O., who all helped out before the COVID-19 restrictions, have described what a great way this is to get German language practice and meet Hamburg locals in a friendly, cooperative atmosphere. As soon as it is safe to do so again, we look forward to organizing a regular time slot for AWCH members to meet up there to help out.

Local companies donate large quantities of hygiene articles and other basic goods and, with everyone cleaning closets during the pandemic, there is currently a huge oversupply of donated women’s clothing. But



Photos by Shelly Schoeneshoefen

there are still needed goods. AWCH could contribute to Hanseatic Help by collecting sleeping bags and mats or men’s clothing or even raising money to purchase such unglamorous but badly needed items as men’s underwear.



Hanseatic Help began in 2015 as a way of organizing the many volunteers who wanted to help the huge numbers of refugees arriving in Germany that year. Though no longer its primary focus, Hanseatic Help still serves the refugee community by helping them and long-term unemployed locals gain access to education and employment. AWCH just won a FAWCO develop-

ment grant for “Empowering Refugee Women” by supplying and equipping a learning center for this purpose at Hanseatic Help. Many thanks to Jennifer L., Carol H., Carol S., Susan S.-W., Shelly S., and others for their work on the proposal. Going forward, we can continue to raise money to fund textbooks and supplies for refugee women and possibly offer English conversation or other lessons. We would like to participate in and help organize special evenings

where refugee and local women cook and eat together and possibly organize a swap party at the warehouse. All in all, it seems like a great place for us to get to know Hamburg better while sharing our ex-pat experience with others also learning to integrate.

Thrilled we have chosen them as our 2021-22 local charity, Hanseatic Help writes: “The American Women’s Club and Hanseatic Help share many values. We both love bringing people together. The ideal partnership!”

If you’re interested in helping out at Hanseatic Help, write to Shelly S. or Holly T. at hanseatichelp@awchamburg.org.



Rag Rugs

BY HOLLY T.

Jennifer L., who has often volunteered at Hanseatic Help and visited recently to discuss support from AWCH, recently wrote in our private Facebook group: “After hearing that they have to throw away seven tons of donated clothes yearly, (due to poor condition of the items, etc.), I can’t seem to get this out of my mind.” Jennifer’s suggestion of upcycling the unneeded clothing into colorful rag rugs, which can be braided, sewn, or crocheted, received lots of enthusiastic comments.

If you would like to join or coordinate a rug-making group, contact hanseatichelp@awchamburg.org.



Photo of Rag Rugs from Canva

Chocolate Roses for Valentine's Day

BY SHELLY SCHOENESHOEFER

The first Hanseatic Help Fundraiser for AWCH's Valentine's Day blossomed from boxes of origami paper inherited last November. Without this generous contribution from my mother-in-law, Anneliese Schaefer, this golden-Roche-chocolate-ball-engulfed-in-origami-roses fundraiser would never have taken place. Anneliese Schaefer has always been engaged in philanthropic activities because she knows how hard life can be. She has worked tirelessly for years in her church, creating greeting cards and baking cakes for

the yearly bazaars and other activities to help support less-fortunate people in her community.



This came to mind when I met Rachel C., a relatively new member of our club. She invited members of our club to hear her sing country music while strumming the guitar at her home last October. Her house was filled with various origami forms, and I soon realized that her other passion was origami. She is truly an origami factory and can effortlessly produce very complicated patterns at amazing speed. In January, I decided to do something for Valentine's Day. I felt the need to put my energy into something that would make me happy and not sink into a never-ending depression due to the lockdown. I also wanted to reach out to all of you. I have been a member for almost 25 years, and this club means a lot to me. It helped me during my pregnancy and during moves around the city, and, basically, all these fun get-togethers keep me going. The third person on the team was Lale B.-K., who runs a wonderful little grocery store down the street which supports most of the older people in the Fuhsbüttel area. Being a relatively new member of our club, she wanted to contribute something and was delighted to hear of my idea about the roses that Rachel and I created for this holiday. She offered to donate several boxes of Roche chocolates, which turned out to be a perfect match for the roses that Rachel had designed.

So the equation turned out to be simply elegant and fun: paper + roses + chocolates = Valentine boxes for our AWCH members and friends = Hanseatic Help Donation.

From a logistical point of view, this was very time-consuming but well worth it. Since we were in lockdown, it was the only chance I had to see many of you and to say hi from a distance. Rachel and I were up until two in the morning making roses and boxes to be delivered around Hamburg. We would send each other WhatsApp messages egging each other on with



Invitation designed by Holly T. in Canva!





Anneliese Schaefer



Shelly Schoeneshoefer



Rachel C.



Lale B.-K.

challenges as to who could produce the most. I have to admit that I was no match for Rachel, since she can out-produce anyone, and she was making these complicated roses and I was only making the boxes.

This fundraiser is very close to my heart. Most of us don't know anyone who died from COVID-19 in Hamburg, which is not a mystery since many of the victims were homeless. This lockdown made me realize that, despite all the restrictions, we can still rise up and do good things for others. I want to thank all those AWCH members who participated in this fundraiser. I am so proud that, through the AWCH together with the Taiwanese Women's Club and many other friends, we managed to earn close to €700 for Hanseatic Help.



Photos by Shelly Schoeneshoefer



AWCH Celebrates Women's History Month

#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE

BY CAROL H.

"A challenged world is an alert world."

Since 1995, March has officially been Women's History Month, a month to celebrate the women who came before us, the women we are today, and the generations of women to follow. As we pay tribute to the valiant and strong women who have forged ahead of us, we are reminded of the struggles that women have fought to be recognized and treated equally. We also are inspired by the legacy that these women have given us, to continue to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. Collectively, we can all help to make

the world a more just and equal place for both women and men.

The month was kicked off by a #ChooseToChallenge campaign for International Women's Day on March 8. Throughout the month, our internal clubs chose themes to honor women who have clearly been decisive in changing the ways women are recognized and look at themselves. The month ended with a virtual panel discussion entitled "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future" to honor women of today who continue to forge ahead to ensure the end to inequality.



EVENING WITH "WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP"

BY DIANA S.

To celebrate women of today who continue to break boundaries and to ensure that future generations enjoy equality, the AWCH organized a virtual discussion—Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future. The discussion featured three panelists who are leaders in their respective fields and champions of gender equality. The theme of the event was aligned with the UN theme for

International Women's Day 2021, and the main topic of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which took place March 15-26, 2021: "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls."

Taking place on March 30, the AWCH online event included Prof. Dr. Marylyn Addo, a distinguished immunologist at Hamburg's UKE who heads a research program to combat emerging infectious diseases and who has been instrumental in Germany's development of the COVID-19 vaccine. Also participating was Almut Möller, who represents Hamburg's political interests in

Germany and in the European Union as state secretary for Federal and European Affairs and of Foreign Affairs for Hamburg. She is a foreign policy expert concerned with advancing the leadership and professional development of women. The third panelist was Laurie Richardson, who serves as the UN liaison for FAWCO, and who leads a team of representatives engaged in advocacy on gender equality, climate change, and migration. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Merike Blofield, director of the GIGA Institute of Latin American Studies and a

professor of political science at the University of Hamburg, an expert whose research focuses on the intersection of socio-economic, gender, and family inequalities and the policy process in Latin America. This event was supported by the Amerikazentrum Hamburg e.V. and the US Consulate General Hamburg. The over 140 attendees experienced a lively exchange between the moderator and the panelists, who addressed the hurdles facing women as they balanced career and family.



Laurie Richardson



Dr. Marylyn Addo



Dr. Merike Blofield



Almut Möller

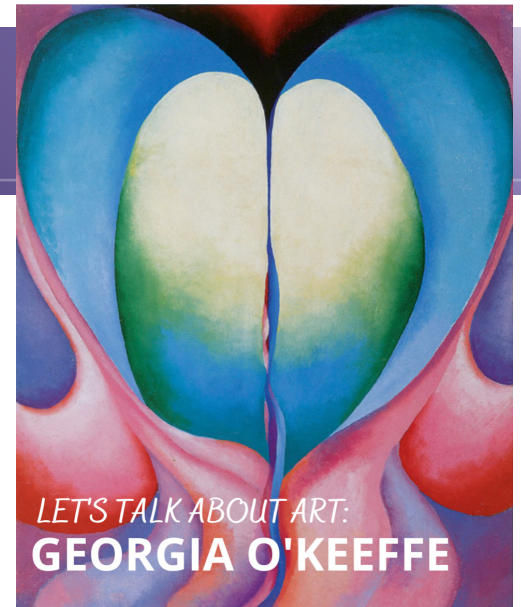
GEORGIA O'KEEFE

BY CAROL H.

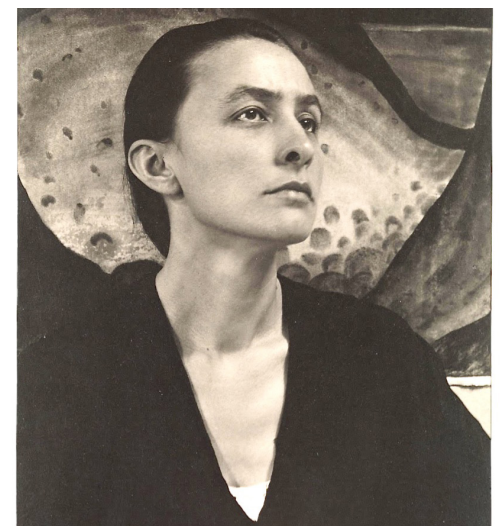
Georgia O'Keeffe was the subject of AWCH's new virtual discussion "Let's Talk about Art" organized by Holly T. Georgia is one of the most important and admired Modernist painters in the US, mostly known for her large-format paintings of flowers and for her depictions of New York City skyscrapers and New Mexico landscapes. Through her provocative and distinctively personal approach to painting, her artwork conveys her independent spirit and her "sensitivity to the vitality of natural forces." Her career was launched by Alfred Stieglitz, one of the most progressive and influential figures in the art community at the turn of the 20th century. However, by objecting to Stieglitz's sexualized interpretation of her work, O'Keeffe played a key role in changing the notion that gender was in any way a determinant of artistic competence or creativity. Although art continues

to be dominated by men, she has been instrumental in establishing a voice and space for female artists.

Our discussion of the artists was preceded by viewing the film *Georgia O'Keeffe: By Myself*, produced by Tanya Hudson in 2016 to mark the 100th anniversary of her first solo show, sponsored by Alfred Stieglitz in 1916. The film wonderfully depicts the evolution of Georgia O'Keeffe's art as she is encouraged to reject the imitative realism that she learned at the Art Institute of Chicago and to turn toward the Modernist idea of representing personal ideas and feelings in her work. Starting with simple abstract forms and shunning color, Georgia gradually developed her own style. After her success in New York, she retreated to New Mexico to establish her independence and gain the solitude she needed for her work.



Georgia O'Keeffe, *Series 1, No. 8*, 1918, Lenbachhaus, Munich.



Georgia O'Keeffe, Photo: Alfred Stieglitz (1918), Metropolitan Museum of Art, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.

AWCH Celebrates Women's History Month

RUTH B. GINSBURG IN FILM



© eOne

On the Basis of Sex
USA 2018
Director: Mimi Leder

This biographical drama is about the early life and first critical cases of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It is directed by Mimi Leder, the first female director to graduate from the AFI conservatory in 1973, and written by Daniel Stiepleman, RBG's nephew. It focuses on the initial struggles Ginsburg had as a woman, starting with the discrimination she felt as a law student at Harvard Law School and her inability to find work at

a top law firm, despite being at the top of her class. The mutual support she and her husband gave to each other is highlighted—she organizing the workload of her husband when he was undergoing cancer treatment and he supporting her goal of a successful career deserving of her intellect and skill. The film culminates in the *Moritz vs. Commissioner* trial, which set a precedent, ruling that a man was unfairly discriminated against on the basis of sex, opening up the possibility of overturning over 100 other laws that discriminated against women.

.....

Comments

The film was well-received by the Film Lounge group and provoked a lively discussion. The film has one major flaw. It gives too much credit to the supportive husband, so much so that you have the feeling she could not have done it without him. The general consensus from the group was that the film piqued interest to take a closer look at a brilliant

woman who paved the way by knocking down law after law in her fight for equal rights.

—Shelly S.

It is a great introduction to the amazing life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, with decent performances by the leads and an empowering ending which made me want to learn more about her life and the many laws she helped change for the better of all women.

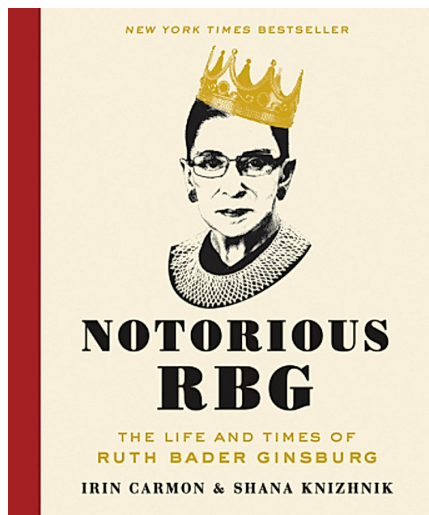
—Rose F.



RBG at Rutgers Law School-Newark 1971 Credit Rutgers University

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2015)

By Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik



ARTICLE BY CAROL S.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the woman chosen by both the book and film discussion groups for March. The second woman to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States, Ginsburg spent much of her legal career as an advocate for gender equality and women’s rights. She worked resolutely toward upending legislation that discriminated based on one’s gender, was a founding counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union’s Women’s Rights Project, and designed and taught law courses on gender discrimination laws. Ginsburg became an associate justice of the Supreme Court in 1993 and became widely known for her articulately written dissents against prominent and politically-charged cases—making her a progressive and

feminist folk hero, as reflected in the large number of books and films highlighting her important contributions.

“It was beyond my wildest imagination that I would one day become the Notorious RBG,” Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said. But she embraced her cult status. She got the nickname in 2013 after her Supreme Court dissent that likened the invalidation of a key part of the 1965 Voting Rights Act to “throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.” It started with a Tumblr blog by Shana Knizhnik, then a law student, that brought the Supreme Court justice to overnight fame, playing on the name of the rapper Notorious B.I.G.

The co-authors are both “#millennials.” Ms. Knizhnik collaborated on the research and reporting and Irin Carmon, an MSNBC journalist, wrote the book. It is a playful combination of scrapbook and photographs of RBG over the years and includes images of her portrayal in a multitude of media interspersed with personal details of her life, her strategy to achieve gender equality, and her legacy as a Supreme Court justice. It’s playful but meant to be read seriously.

.....

Comments

I learned a lot about the American legal system. But most of all I was impressed by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who dedicated her long life to changing laws that were discriminating on the basis of sex or race. She fought for equality, not only for women but for all human beings. RBG did this with immense discipline, great style, and a well-balanced diplomatic temper. To quote Bill Clinton who appointed her in 1993 to the Supreme Court: “She is too thoughtful for labels such as liberal or conservative.”

—Ulrike H.

Literally, a scrapbook full of family pictures and anecdotes of her life—intermixed with quotes from her now-famous briefs, opinions, and dissents. My favorite: “[G]eneralizations about ‘the way women are,’ estimates of what is appropriate for most women, no longer justify denying opportunity to women whose talent and capacity place them outside the average description.” *United States vs. Virginia, 1996*

—Carol H.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BY DIANA S.

On February 22, AWCH member Ericka B. presented a fantastic Zoom talk on historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the United States. Ericka organized her virtual event to celebrate Black History Month. It is a topic that's near and dear to Ericka's heart: she is a graduate of the class of 1992 at Spelman College in Atlanta, a women's liberal arts college and an HBCU.

Ericka began her slide show with an introduction to Black History Month, which was the brainchild of Carter G. Woodson, a historian and political activist who understood the importance of teaching Americans about the history and contributions of Black

Americans. She then gave an overview of the different HBCUs that were founded in the US beginning in the 19th century, highlighting various public and private institutions and the impact they've had on educating American students. Ericka pointed out that, over time, many of these colleges, which were founded to educate primarily Black students, have attracted a more diverse student



Photo from archives of Spelman College graduates, 1892 and 1992

PHILANTHROPIC COLLECTIVE

BY CHRISTINE R.

Philanthropy can be broadly defined as love for humankind. It is derived from the Greek words "philos," which means loving and "anthropos," which means humankind. Philanthropy is kindness and concern for others.

The past year has seen us all tested. As Damia Barr said: "We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm. Some of us are on super-yachts. Some have just the one oar." Whichever situation we find ourselves in, be it due to age, health, separation from family, homeschooling, working from home, or not working at all, we

have all endured in our own boats. What we have also done is given of ourselves. Whether the gift was time, money, skill, knowledge or a smile to another member of our community, we have all shown kindness.

As AWCH members, we have given to the FAWCO Target Project SAFE (Safe Alternatives for FGM Elimination), the tribal community in India (Nandanvan Trust), our bagel sale for our From The Heart Pillow Project, Hamburg Tafel, 5. Hamburger Frauenhaus, and Hanseatic Help. On behalf of the Philanthropy Collective, thank you. I look forward to doing more giving with the AWCH whether

it be the gift of time, funds, knowledge, or skills. We all benefit when we give. As the saying goes "to give is to receive," and what we receive is the joy of spreading kindness.

Any questions contact Christine R. philanthropy@awchamburg.org





Ericka with Jessye Norman at Spelman College, 1992

body, with a rising number of Hispanic, Asian, Native American, and white students enrolled. Many students choose HBCUs both for the education they can receive and for the fact that most of these schools are less expensive than predominantly white institutions. Ericka talked about some of the renowned graduates of HBCUs, such as politicians and activists like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Stacey Abrams, and Vice President Kamala Harris, as well as many well-known creative talents, such as Spike Lee, Toni Morrison, and Oprah Winfrey.

After the slide show, there was a long and very lively Q&A session. Initially moderated by Dr. Nikoo Paydar, an American art historian based in Heidelberg, Ericka ended up fielding most of the questions herself, with Nikoo eloquently weighing in about her experiences (as a Persian-American) in her former role as assistant curator for the art galleries at Fisk University, another HBCU. The talk was incredibly well-attended by more than 40 participants, ranging from AWCH members to a handful of Spelman alumnae, including both Ericka's Spelman sisters and her actual sister, Michelle, who is herself a graduate of the Spelman class of 1988.

These women were able to join the AWCH talk from the US, Europe, and Rwanda thanks to the event being virtual—a mini silver lining of pandemic online events! Ericka's knowledge of and enthusiasm for the opportunities provided by HBCUs made for an incredibly informative and



HBCU Spelman class of 1992 20th reunion in 2012



Screenshot of the event given by Ericka B.

interesting evening and an uplifting commemoration of Black History Month.

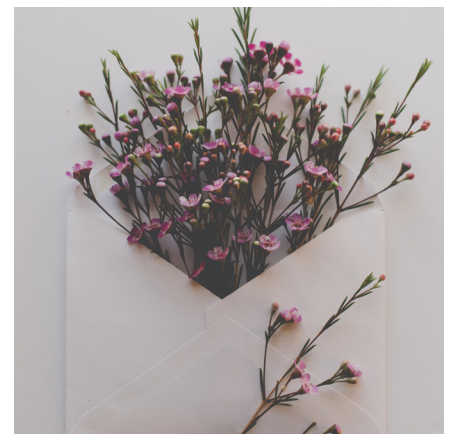
PEN PALS

BY CALLIE R.

During the pandemic, it has been increasingly hard to socialize and create friendships, which is why we would love to connect you or your young ones with someone else in the group. We encourage pen pals of all ages to sign up. This can be used as a way to practice English for non-native speakers, to meet a new friend in a safe way, or just to have a connection with someone

else during an isolating time. Send letters, paintings, stickers, and more!

If you are interested, please contact Callie R. at activities@awchamburg.org with your name and address, and she will connect you to someone else who is interested.



Member *in Business*

MORGAN R.



RESTAURANT | EVENTS | CATERING



1. What brought you to Hamburg originally?

My fiancé brought me to Hamburg. We met in San Diego on campus while he was studying abroad, and after a number of years of long distance, I moved to Hamburg.

2. Can you describe your current job/business? What is the main thing you'd like members to know about your role at Rudolph's?

Rudolph's is an eight-year-old family-

run restaurant in Hamburg's Hafencity. The main reason for our restaurant is to bring people with food allergies to the same table as everyone else. We confidently offer our entire menu in a gluten-free version and have developed vegan and lactose-free dishes as well (pizza included!).

3. Your job requires you to be fully engaged with both the public side of the business and with the business-management side. Do you prefer one over the other?

I definitely prefer the public side of the business. Ultimately, I am a people person. There is nothing that makes me happier than to see happy customers. Our guests can become very emotional when eating their first gluten-free pizza since being diagnosed with celiac disease, and I receive such joy at seeing the stress of eating in a restaurant fade away as they relax and enjoy their meal. Health is so important, and the food we eat is a big part of maintaining our health and happiness.

4. What piece of advice would you have for anyone starting or promoting their own business in Germany?

Ask questions. Find a mentor or mentors. Like with anything in life, do not think you can do it alone. The fact is, Germany is not the USA, and the cultural differences are larger than you think. It takes a lot of time to re-adjust your thoughts from a

US model to a German model, and the right people in your life can help speed things along and save you from some embarrassing mistakes. If in doubt, find someone to ask!

5. What would interest AWCH members most about Rudolph's?

The food is just delicious. Like my grandpa used to say, "It's just good food." On top of the allergy inclusive-



During truffle season, our truffles are hand-delivered from the hills of northern Italy. When they arrive, the entire kitchen smells of rich earth. One of the dishes we served last year was our Truffle Bruschetta, pictured above.

ness, our mission has always been to deliver the best in quality and freshness. Therefore, our lunch menu changes daily, and our dinner offerings monthly/seasonally. We can guarantee that you will never be bored, even if you come every day of the week.

Rudolph's
Poggenmühle 5
20457 Hamburg
rudolphs-hamburg.de
info@rudolphs-hamburg.de
040 1829 77 89



Rudolph's classic Tiramisu served with seasonal fresh fruit. Our recipe comes from a lovely old woman from a small town in the province of Pavia, Italy. When she makes it, you melt.

Member *Spotlight*

BIRGIT S.



Table Mountain (1087 m height) with typical "Table Cloth" cloud as seen from City Park Cape Town

Birgit was born in Königsberg/Eastern Prussia, now Kaliningrad/Russia. The last evacuation boat over the Baltic Sea brought her family to safety, where they found a home in Weimar, where she spent her childhood, and moved to Hamburg in the late 1950s.

She married at 21 and headed off on a five-month honeymoon trip down the east coast of Africa, after which they settled in Cape Town. She worked there for a German company as the director's secretary. Her two daughters were born in Cape Town and educated at the German School Cape Town.

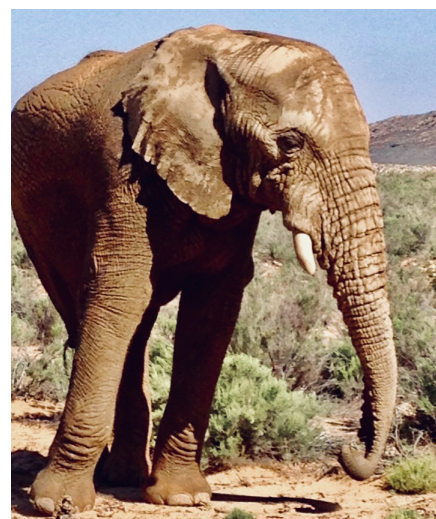
After her divorce, she opened a ceramics studio, participating in exhibitions and doing the layout for *The Cape Potter*.

Birgit returned to Hamburg after nearly 30 years, where she resumed her previous "office career" and retired at 65.

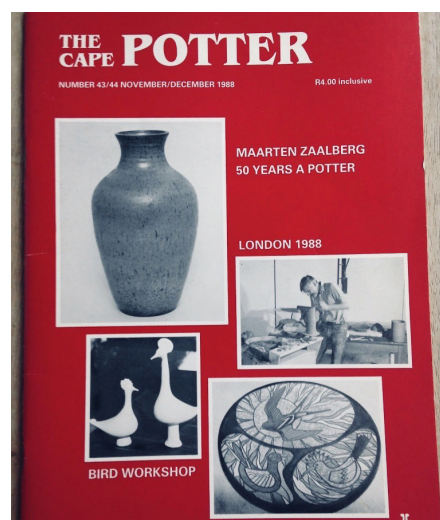
In 1994 she joined the AWCH on the basis of having been on trips to New York and Washington, DC.

She enjoys the Stitch 'n' Bitch Group and their various charity projects. Other activities have been the Film Club, doing the layout for *Currents*, Hamburger Helpers, the Book Club, the Art Club, and she has served on the board as activities chair.

Living in Uhlenhorst, she likes walks along the Alster and Hamburg's small cafés. Her hobbies include watching international films at Abaton, folk dancing, and qi gong.



Elephant seen at Aquila Game Reserve, Cape Province



One cover of *The Cape Potter* by Birgit S.



Cape baboons running free among visitors at Cape Point Nature Reserve (Cape of Good Hope)

OUR CLUB THROUGH

WE HAVE TEN MEMBERS WHO ARE CELEBRATE BEING IN THE AWCH FOR OVER 40 YEARS!

Holly T. has interviewed nine of these members as they look back on how our club has changed through the years. These members include Carol B., Becky T., Nancy B., Liz G.-R., Freda P., Nancy F., Allene P., Thelma F., and Heidi K.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN 2020 AND 2021!

AWCH salutes the following members who have had or are having membership anniversaries in 2020 and 2021. We would like to pay tribute here to member Liz Scharnberg, who died in December. Liz was a member of the club for 25 years. Please contact us if you knew Liz and would like to write a memorial.



Carol B. (third from left) at FAWCO Conference in Casablanca, 1993



Current members starred: Seated far left, Mary W., next to her Kirsten B. Standing behind them are Jenny M.,* then Coppelia B.-H.* and Nancy T.* Judy W., Susan S-W*, Becky T.* Standing on the far right is Vicki F. M. Seated in the middle is Susanne W., who led the workshop in 2000.



THE YEARS



Beck T. (L) and Mary W. (R) at Film Group, 2001

MEMBERS WHO CELEBRATED ANNIVERSARIES IN 2020:

40 years: Sara G. and Heidi K.

30 years: Ann G.

25 years: Regina D. and Catherine S.

20 years: Jenny M.

15 years: Cat C., Venita K., and Nina T.

10 years: Liz E., Jess M., and Stella K.



Becky T. (second from right) at AWC 25th anniversary, 1981

MEMBERS CELEBRATING CLUB ANNIVERSARIES IN 2021:

50 years: Nancy B. and Becky T.

35 years: Sandra S.

30 years: Pat F.

25 years: Emilia J.

10 years: Sylvia T.



Carol B. (L) and Marinell H. (R) at FAWCO 75th Anniversary, Berlin, 2006



Carol B. (L) at Orientation, 1988



Anne-Charlotte E. (L) and Nancy F. (R) at AWCH anniversary, 1981



Catherine S. (L) with Thelma F. (R), 2003



CAROL B.

Member since 1968

You have been in the AWCH longer than anyone else. When did you first come to Hamburg and what brought you here?

I had been an art major in college and wanted to travel but needed to support myself. So I got a job at the US State Department. I worked in Jeddah, Cairo, and Beirut before being posted to the consulate in Hamburg. I arrived in January 1966, when the Alster was frozen so solid that cars drove across it. I had never been this far north and was shocked by going to work and coming home in the dark. In those days, shop opening hours were very limited: you had a half-hour after work or a few hours on Saturday mornings to battle the crowds to get your groceries.

How did you find out about the AWCH and when did you join?

When I married a German in 1968, I had to give up my job, as required by the State Department. Men who married foreign nationals did not have to do this. I knew about AWCH through the consulate, and the first thing I did as a married and unemployed woman was to join. I also belong to the German-American Women's Club.

What has the club meant to you over the years?

When I joined, I became friends with other women who were expecting or had babies at the same time I did. I am still in touch with three of them. In 1970, my husband's work took us to Berlin. There was no American Women's Club there at the time. When we moved back to Hamburg in 1977, I immediately rejoined AWCH. I was well adjusted to life in Germany, but there's nothing like the relaxing camaraderie of Americans. I was so happy to be back around people who understood my jokes! I have been a member ever since, even though we lived in Cottbus for 10 years until my husband died in 2010. I returned to Hamburg and took over an apartment vacated by a former AWCH member. The club has been my safe island over the years.

How have you been involved in the club?

My first board position in 1977 was secretary. 1978-79 I was VP and then president in 1980. My favorite position was FAWCO rep. Back then, only about 20 clubs belonged to FAWCO. I was on the FAWCO board for four years. I edited and wrote much of *Bloom Where You Are Planted*, a booklet containing practical information and equivalent tables for expats that was first printed in 1984.

What advice would you give new members?

Make good friends in AWCH! They will last a lifetime.



Carol B. (C) at FAWCO Conference in Casablanca, 1993



Carol B. (L), Simin F. (C) and Marinell H. (R) April 26, 1994



From left to right: Carol B., Nancy F., Freda P., Nancy B., and Becky T., 1991

BECKY T.

Member since 1971

Why did you come to Hamburg originally?

I got a scholarship to spend a year abroad and was sent to Germany, to Göttingen, in 1961-62 without speaking a word of German. In orientation for that, in an intensive German course in Hamburg, I met my future husband. After teaching German in the US a couple of years, I returned to Hamburg for good in 1964 to be with him.

How did you find out about AWCH?

I was having an identity crisis trying to raise two children according to the expectations of my German friends and neighbors and my Chinese husband (he died eight years ago). I called the consulate hoping for the name of a psychologist, but they gave me a club contact, which saved me. Back then, there was only one lunch meeting a month at a restaurant, but it was enough to make me feel normal again.

Over the years, you have been so active with the club—which positions have you held?

President (1975), newsletter editor, vice-president, Activities chair, Membership chair, FAWCO president (1995-97), head of FAWCO Citizenship Committee, head of FAWCO Region 5 (Vienna and Germany) for four years.

NANCY B.

Member since 1971

When and how did you first come to Hamburg?

After completing college and pre-med requirements, I participated in an eight-week summer work program in Europe. I didn't speak a word of German but came to Germany with a sorority sister who did. We were assigned hotel housekeeping jobs in the North Sea island town of Wyk auf Föhr. We traveled by train from Paris to Hamburg, where a young German man helped us find a connection to the boat to Föhr. He ended up visiting us there every weekend. He was on the national hockey team and visited me back in the US in three months when there for a game. In 1964, we were married, and I came to Hamburg.

How did you find out about AWCH?

Actually, I called the consulate shortly after I arrived in 1964, but they only told me about the German-American Women's Club. We moved to Flottbek, and, in 1971, a neighbor there told me about



Becky T., American Day at the airport, ca. 1985

How have you benefited from the club?

It's been great working with smart people, which I think has made me smarter. I've also loved learning about Hamburg, Germany, and the world by going on wonderful tours, events, and trips organized by the club and flying around the world as far as to Beijing for FAWCO conferences.

Do you have a favorite memory or event?

I have so many—can't think of one event that was more special than others. I loved coordinating the Film Group for 25 years. During that time, we became so professional that now members are accredited as press to attend press showings and film festivals. At one point, we had 45 members writing reviews.

Your advice for new members?

Jump in and participate as much as you can. Interact with other members who are involved and then start offering ideas, time, and work yourself. Don't hesitate to make suggestions.

AWCH. I joined and was surprised to discover around 60 Americans living in Hamburg. They were very interesting, but most of them were here temporarily, with husbands working for big companies.

What has the club meant to you over the years?

When I moved to Germany, my pre-med credits were not recognized. I didn't want to go back to square one and so never continued my medical studies. Instead, I worked as an assistant in a doctor's office. Between raising two kids and work, I had little time to be actively involved with the club. My second, very happy marriage brought new obligations, again allowing little time for club activities. But I met lifelong friends through the club.

Has AWCH changed much over the years?

I am thrilled to see how it has developed. I wish I had had the resources the club offers now when I first moved here.

LIZ G.-R.

Member since 1973

How did you come to Hamburg?

My father was a colonel in the army and we moved often when I was growing up. I graduated from the Paris American High School. I guess it was natural that I got a job as a flight attendant for PanAm in 1965. I married the brother of a German roommate of mine in New York. His work took us to Munich, Wolfsburg, and finally Hamburg in 1972.

How did you find out about the club?

I actually first joined the German-American Women's Club shortly after I arrived. Through that, I met a few women who were also members of AWCH. We had just come from Wolfsburg, where there were no other Americans, and I was starved for American company.

Is there a club memory or event that stands out?

I remember a joint potluck Thanksgiving dinner with the German-American Women's Club on *Buß- und Betttag*, since that used to be a bank holiday. There was an interesting speaker and a raffle and my kids really had fun. Carol B. and Nancy F. organized the AWCH's part in that.

How have you been involved with the club?

Less than I would have liked. I got a part-time job as ground crew with Lufthansa in 1977 and was raising two daughters. I worked for Lufthansa for 20 years, during which time I divorced and remarried. When I retired from Lufthansa in 1997, my second husband and I

FREDA P.

Member since 1977

Why and when did you come to Germany and, specifically, to Hamburg originally?

I came to Hamburg while still in school in 1954 as an exchange student. It was a completely different world then. There was no EU. By coincidence, my husband's career brought me back to Hamburg, first from 1963 to 1965, and then again in 1977, after which we stayed here permanently and I joined AWCH.

You are not American. Why did you join AWCH?

No. I am British and German. My husband, who died in 2019, and I took on German citizenship in 2016 because of Brexit. After our first stint in Hamburg, we lived in Canada, and much of my husband's work was in Buffalo. So we had an affinity with North



From left to right: Nancy B., Carol B., Thelma F., Freda P., Liz G.-R., and Becky T., 2020

moved to the US. My daughters still lived in Hamburg, and we just returned to Hamburg in 2019 to be near them.

How did AWCH change while you were away?

The club has grown so much! Members are much more interested and involved in the community and Germany, and at the same time, more aware of what is happening in the US. I think the club represents the US in a much more positive way than back when I first joined. *Currents* is fabulous!

What does the club mean to you now?

It was so easy to take up again with Carol B. and Becky T. and other AWCH friends right where we had left off over 20 years ago! A transatlantic move and downsizing from a big house and garden (I'm a master gardener) to an apartment has not been easy, and I have been grateful for their support and company.

America. I like the way Americans get up and do things. AWCH is very open to new ideas and new people. I appreciate the range of members with different ages and backgrounds. I also belong to the Anglo-German International Women's Association e.V. (AGIWA).

How has the club changed over the years since you have been a member?

It has become far more professional over the years and become broader in scope. The newsletter has become a colored magazine.

Have you been active with the club?

I coordinated museum and artists' studio visits.

What has meant most to you about the club?

Friendship and support. I also loved the travel—the club used to regularly organize trips to other cities. The Opera Group, of which I was an original member, still does a trip abroad every year. I have the greatest admiration for the professionalism of Elizabeth R., who not only prepares us for the operas we see together with lively, well-researched presentations, but arranges lunches with the opera

NANCY F.

Member since 1977

When and how did you come to Hamburg?

I met and married a German doctor when I was working as a nurse in Boston. We moved to Hamburg in 1975 when our kids were 9 and 12.

How did you find out about AWCH?

I met a member in the checkout line at a supermarket.

What was AWCH like back then?

It was a lunch club where all members knew each other. We occasionally visited museums or another town together.

Do you have a favorite AWCH activity or event?

I especially enjoyed the Handarbeits Gruppe, now known as Stitch 'n' Bitch, because of the group's creativity, activity, and for the lifelong friends made there!

You were quite active in the club in the late 1970s and early '80s. Your friends remember you helping to organize the monthly program, hosting newcomer coffees, and putting together restaurant listings. You kept the board on track as parliamentarian one year and served as welcoming coordinator later. After that you were less active. Why?

There was a big turnover in AWCH back then—lots of members were here because of their husbands' temporary postings. Though I remained in the club, I also joined the German-American Women's Club, which had more permanent members. I preferred putting my energy into the philanthropic causes they supported—that was and still is their focus.

singers themselves. This is a wonderful way to experience what a musical country Germany is.

Any advice for new members?

Participate in as many activities as possible and extend your network within the club and your knowledge of Hamburg with the help of the club.



Nancy F. (L), Nancy B. (C) and Carol G. (R)

How has AWCH changed over the years?

I have great respect for what AWCH and FAWCO have become today. I like the focus on improving the lot of women and the emphasis on keeping ex-pats connected to the US as voting citizens. I like the current professionalism in the club, which began with the wonderful Film Group reviews and now has extended to lots of other areas in the club.

How have you benefitted from the club?

I will be eternally grateful for the AWCH/FAWCO scholarship, granted to my daughter in 1984 while she was attending Smith College!! She is now a professor of American History at the University of Minnesota.

You moved back to the US, where your kids live, last summer but renewed your AWCH membership in January. Why?

To stay connected to my friends and Hamburg, aided by the club's wonderful *Currents* and the newsletter, which I wouldn't want to miss.

Do you have advice for new members? Try out different groups and become involved if you can. But even if you can't, stay connected—the club is a terrific resource!

ALLENE P.

Member since 1977

How did you originally come to Hamburg?

I first came to Germany (by ship!) knowing no German as a high school exchange student in Celle. I had such a good time that I majored in German in college and returned for a year in Göttingen. After a one-year teaching certificate and master's program at Stanford in 1969-70, I brought a high school group over and ended up getting a job with the American Field Service (AFS) in Hamburg. I continued to work from home after marrying a German and quickly having two daughters.

How did you find out about AWCH?

I knew of AWCH through AFS but imagined it to be a kind of ghetto of old ladies who couldn't speak German with mink coats and diamonds who lunched together wearing gloves and hats. Then Becky T. stopped by the AFS office. She was lively and interesting and funny. I thought maybe I should give the club a try.

What was AWCH like back then?

It was indeed a lunch club, tough for mothers of small kids. Luckily, I met Thelma F., who lived out in my direction, and we started a playgroup. At that time, members found out about members living nearby through the newsletter. Becky lived fairly close by, too. I dropped my one-year-old off with her while I took birthing classes.

Did you have a favorite event?

I remember fun Valentine's Day and Halloween parties. These tended to be organized by Americans married to Americans.

THELMA F.

Member since 1978

How and when did you come to Hamburg?

Having had inspiring French teachers in high school, I trained as a bilingual secretary and worked for two years at the Belgian Consulate in New York. Then I went to college, majoring in French, and spent my last semester in Normandy. The Peace Corps sent me to the Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa as a... secretary. A German I had met in Normandy visited me. We were engaged, and I came to Germany 50 years ago this April of 1971. After stints in other cities, his work brought us to Hamburg in 1978. I've been divorced now for over 20 years, but Hamburg was a wonderful place to get stuck. I grew up near the Hudson River and love living between the Alster and the Elbe.



Allene P., ca. 1995-6

How else have you been involved in the club?

I moved away for 10 years, went through a divorce, remarried, and worked teaching English to adults at the Volkshochschule and at big Hamburg companies, which didn't leave much time for the club. From the later '90s until the internet caught on, I offered cancer support to members as a cancer survivor. My number was listed in *Currents* as a kind of hotline for many years.

How has the club changed over the years?

So many more members are working, and women do not only come to or stay in Hamburg as wives.

What has meant the most to you about the club?

I have been really happy for the connection to Americans with German or other non-American partners like Becky, Thelma, Carol B., and Tracy M.



Thelma F. (R) at WIR, Hamburg Internation Festival

How did you find out about AWCH?

By the time we arrived in Hamburg, I already had three of my four children. I was looking for a playgroup, and the consulate told me to contact the AWCH. The first club meeting I attended was at Carol B's house. Allene P. hosted the first meeting of a new AWCH playgroup. Allene and I still get together, and our daughters stay in touch.

How has the club changed over the years?

In the early days, activities were mainly luncheons and coffee mornings—everyone got dressed up. Most members lived in western Hamburg, where their children attended the International School (I lived in Halstenbek, and my children went to German schools). Today members are younger, more diverse, and live all over the city.

How have you been involved in the club?

In the 1990s, I traveled to many conferences. I was AWCH president

HEIDI K.

Member since 1981

You are German, born and schooled in Hamburg. How did you find out about AWCH and why did you join?

My husband worked for an American company. From 1965-68, he was in Japan as the company's first German representative there. We then spent two years in Sweden and were back in Japan again, in Nagasaki and Kobe, from 1972-77. Our younger son attended a Japanese-English kindergarten and later was a boarding student at the Canadian Academy. Back in Hamburg, my husband met Carol B. at the American Club, who invited me to come to an AWCH lunch. I was happy to find an English-speaking international community with experiences similar to my own and wanted to keep up my English.

What board and/or coordinator positions have you held?

In the 1990s, I revived and for many years organized our Out-To-Dinner Group for members living in the northeastern suburbs. Back then, most AWCH activities took place in the western suburbs, where a majority of our members lived near the International School. I also helped Beatrice Sch. with the layout of *Currents* and served on the board as treasurer. I was representative of the AWCH on the Hamburg Regional Women's Counsel (Landesfrauenrat), where I reorganized their library of resources on women's issues (Hamburger Bibliothek für Frauenfragen) and worked as a librarian for about six years.

1997-98 while Becky T. was president of FAWCO. At that time, I served on the FAWCO nominating committee and was the coordinator of club presidents.

What has meant the most to you about the club?

Networking, meeting people with different interests, and finding not just American friends but interesting women of varying nationalities.

Do you have favorite memories or events?

I loved one cooperative intercultural evening at Fabrik with international music, dancing, and food in which I (wo)manned the AWCH info stand next to a Palestinian women's organization. Also, at the consulate's request, Becky T. and I visited American prisoners for a time at Santa Fu, Hamburg's high-security prison. The annual Film Group Oscar parties at Nancy T.'s are always wonderful.



Heidi K., Becky T. and daughter Simone, Karen P., and others ca. 2000

How has the club changed over the years?

It's hard to say. I will be 90 this year and can only get around with a walker so it has been a while since I've participated in events.

Do you have a favorite memory or favorite event that stands out?

A FAWCO meeting in Berlin, but I also liked the biannual dinner dance we used to hold at the Atlantic Hotel, a cooperative event with the Anglo-German International Women's Association. And I enjoyed the bridge and book club get-togethers, which we took turns hosting in our own homes.

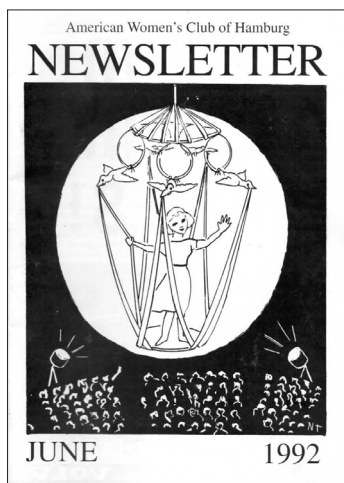
Any advice for new members?

Participate as often as possible and don't hesitate to start your own activity if it is not offered.

ANNA S.

I joined the *Currents* team in 2015 with Erica B.-S. and Laura O. At first, I was overwhelmed by the responsibility and the weight of all these years of *Currents* past and the *Currents* legends among us. But then I learned to value and be proud of the history I had managed to be a part of. Here is one of the stories.

How *Currents* became *Currents*



AWCH Newsletter cover from June 1992 designed by Nancy T.

The history of the American Women's Club of Hamburg starts in 1931. In 1939, shortly before the Second World War, the club was disbanded and resumed its activities in 1956 as the American Luncheon Club.

The first known newsletter, *The American Women's Luncheon Club Bulletin*, appeared on September 7, 1956. It was typed, mimeographed, and sent out to club members. The format changed over the years, and the number of pages was extended. In 1978, it gained headlines and the title *American Women's Club of Hamburg* and looked more like a magazine. 1992 brought a significant change: the layout was changed back from A5 to



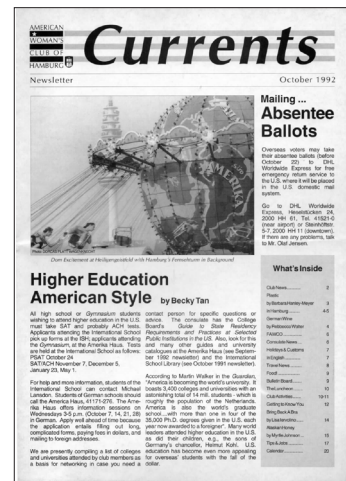
Anna S. (L) and Marinell H. (R). at a *Currents* party in 2015

the original A4, and the name *Currents* and a new logo created by Marinell H. appeared on the front page. To investigate the history, I turned to Becky T. and Marinell H., the witnesses and active participants of those events. According to Marinell H., new to the AWCH in 1992, the instigators of change were probably Becky T. (managing editor), Holly H. (art director), and President Roxayn B. The team was supported by Lisa I., a contributing editor and a "wordsmith extraordinaire," and Marinell H., responsible for marketing and design.

The team worked hard to maintain the continuity of the newsletter and its connection to Hamburg. "*Currents*," commented Becky, "seemed a logical title for a newsletter in a town on a river near a sea with currents of waves, and the word 'current' also infers that there is up-to-date news."

It was Lisa and Marinell who landed on the name. However, Marinell remembers that *Currents* was not the only option; another possibility was *Harbinger*, meaning "a forerunner of something, (and) a name evolving from the word harbor." Marinell invested her prior experience, time, and heart into re-designing the layout of *Currents*. Computers were not in every home; emails did not exist—the team communicated by fax or on the phone and would meet at somebody's house or at the Landesfrauenrat. Additionally, supporters, for example, the owner of a store that sold computers, would allow AWCH ladies to use the showroom after office hours.

The AWCH purchased their first club computer in 1998.



AWCH Newsletter from October 1992 designed by Marinell H.



Erica B. (L) and Cat C. (R). at a *Currents* party in 2015

JENNY M.

Twenty years a member! Joining our club was one of the best things I ever did. First, we found a home, and then it was time to settle into our new environment. What better way than to join the AWCH? In 2000, which is when we moved to Hamburg after 20 years in the US, I went to a luncheon held in a restaurant that required a ferry ride across the Elbe. There was a terrific view across the water to the Fischmarkt with the Michaelis in the background. Here I met Becky, who suggested I apply for a teaching post at the International School of Hamburg. Her suggestion led to a happy time as a teacher there which lasted until I left Germany last year.

Becky also told me about the Film Group, which I loved. As well as seeing movies for the small price of writing a critique afterward, I discovered that this group hosts an Oscar party (no watching the awards ceremony live beforehand because we play film bingo when we watch the recorded ceremony on Nancy T.'s television). We also have an annual brunch or afternoon tea where we get together to chat.

During school vacations, I had a busman's holiday and went to proofreading sessions for *Currents*. These meetings were usually held in the restaurant above Abaton Kino so that we could eat while we worked. These two groups were my staples, but I've enjoyed many other activities over the years. A very, very hot Fourth of July barbecue stands out because the day was as hot as Independence Day usually is in the States but also because we sweltered in a glass-top boat taking us back to Landungsbrücken when the celebrations were over.

Our club has changed over the years because our lives are different today. Many members have German husbands or partners, and Hamburg is a permanent home for them. In the past, women came for a year or two, usually on a work as-

signment or accompanying a spouse. These women needed an instant set of friends to help them settle here. Today, most of our members are working women with no time for leisurely lunches, and our club has adapted and offers more evening and weekend activities. The emphasis on raising money for worthy causes, however, has remained a constant.

Even though I'm no longer living in lovely St. Georg, I'm still a member of the club. New members, I say embrace and enjoy a little bit of "home" in Germany with the help of our club.



Nancy drew some of us for a Filmfest cover in 2006. We don't look a day older!!

TRACY M.

The From the Heart Pillow Project began in 2008 when an AWCH member was diagnosed with breast cancer and a heart pillow was made for her. Beth G. hosted the first pillow-making sessions, donating 25 pillows to the Brustkrebs-klinik in Lüneburg.

In 2012, I took on the organization with Susan S.-W. as the hospital liaison. Our first major donation of 102 pillows was in March 2013 to the Mammazentrum Hamburg am Krankenhaus Jerusalem in Eimsbüttel. Coco-Mat International, a bedding and mattress shop in Blankenese, offered their support by organizing a fundraiser to sew and donate one heart pillow for every Coco-Mat pillow bought.

In 2014, 47 AWCH-produced pillows were also donated to the Mammazentrum, but we were told that they had a group already sewing for them. In 2015, the Heart Pillow Project found Helios Mariahilf, a hospital south of the Elbe in Harburg. The unit leader, Heidi Schönheit, welcomed our first donation of 60 pillows with open arms.

Now known as the From the Heart Pillow Project (FtHPP), we meet as a group regularly in my home for "Open House Working Bees" where members are welcome to come and go as needed. There are usually 9-10 women cutting, sewing, ironing, and stuffing heart pillows. Jess M. joined as a support to the organization team. In 2018, Frau Schönheit asked us to add drainage bottle bags to our repertoire, to which we gladly agreed. To date, we have donated over 250 bottle bags and 550 heart pillows.



In 2020, member

Nina Thimm

entered the FtHPP in her company's volunteerism contest and, as a finalist, we were awarded a €1000 prize! We bought materials and sent our sewing machines for spa treatments.

Feedback from our members is meaningful. Shelly S. says, "Before working on the heart pillows, I did not have any sewing skills. I learned so much, but more importantly, it is so rewarding to help others who are suffering." WangDi S. adds, "The dedication and humor from AWCH members on the Heart Pillow Project are infectious. I enjoy their energy and camaraderie while working side by side with them. I will always remember when Tracy shared the email from one of the breast cancer patients in which she expressed her appreciation and gratitude for our work. The moment brings joy to me, knowing our contribution makes a difference to cancer patients. This reaffirms the value of the project and strengthens my commitment to it." We also hear feedback from patients: "I am absolutely delighted with your drainage bags and pillows. They are very, very pretty," and "The pillow was very cozy and nice and made me sleep better. The pocket for the bottle was also very helpful, and I used it regularly. Thanks for arranging this for ill women; this lets us feel recognized and important so that we recover soon." And this alone is why we do what we do.



SnB makes pompons for the Fun Run



SnB heart pillows for cancer patients

BIRGIT S.

I still remember my very first AWC meeting, a day in August of 1994, at the home of M.J. D. near the Alster. I was warmly greeted by a group of eight American women. The subject was designing the layout of *Currents*, for which I was immediately drawn in. At that time, it was still done in black and white, not like today's magazine in color and distributed via the internet. One other member I met on my first day and still remember clearly was Becky T. She was introduced to me as "our film guru." She was—and still is, after all these years—the backbone of the Film Club.

In the early days, most members were the spouses of American businessmen being sent to Germany by their companies, as was our host, M.J. When her husband was transferred to Australia, they had to leave us. I was lucky to visit them in Melbourne during my holiday trip. Our members quite often were professional women in their own right, but they usually had no work permit for Germany. You got to know the "ladies of leisure" at lunch meetings, sometimes coupled with charity raffles, and visits to art exhibitions or day excursions around Hamburg.

During a time when a considerable number of companies had to return back home, our membership changed. Young American women arrived, following the German boyfriends they had met in the USA. Soon they started families here. This increased the demand for Moms & Bumps and morning outings. But more working women also joined, and evening activities increased. Stitch 'n' Bitch has developed as an enthusiastic group combining fun and charity work.

The Film Club also became very popular. Applications to attend screenings at international film festivals earned some members status as film journalists. With their accreditation, they could attend the Berlinale, the Hamburg Filmfest, and far-away festivals in London, Cannes, and Tribeca. The written movie reviews are published in The Berlinale and Filmfest Hamburg special film issues, featuring also in-depth background information of the cinema scene.

Looking back over more than 25 years, the American Women's Club of Hamburg has offered me a wealth of different experiences and given me the opportunity to meet very smart and competent women who are always ready to help and lend support. I very much appreciate the warmth and friendship that has been offered over the years.



Beck T. and Birgit S., accredited journalists at Filmfest Hamburg

EMELIA J.

I am deeply moved to have been a member of the American Women's Club of Hamburg for 25 years. In view of my interest in American culture and its social graces, the AWCH was for me the most suitable club to join in Hamburg. Over the years, I attended many activities connected with American culture, children's events, ecology, art, humor, lunches and coffees, book clubs, seminars, open houses, celebrations, films, health programs, music, and other events. I have always been impressed by the professional organization of the club with its organized board, the great magazine *Currents*, and all the club activities and social events.

I joined the club in January 1996, after arriving from Maryland with my husband and our one-year-old child, Alexander. In the beginning, life in Germany was difficult because I did not speak German and did not know much about German culture. My husband was very busy with his work in research, and I had to adjust to this foreign country and northern climate with my baby. The AWCH became for me an important additional center point in my life in Hamburg. First, my baby boy and I joined one of the mom groups in the club, the eastside mom group. It was so helpful to talk to the other women who were experiencing the same problems of adjustment I was at this time. I will never forget all the helpful advice that I received during this difficult time in my life. Most importantly, the warm and emotional conversations and the wonderful way the American women have helped me and each other in the AWCH is just remarkable.

AWCH-appreciates-Emilia



As a logical consequence of this outstanding experience, I initiated and organized the Welcome Coffee in 1999 and held it in my home for five years to help newly arrived women adjust to Hamburg. Another project was organizing ecological activities for children. The best was an event with children and moms on how to plant and take care of flowers. Because I



Welcome Coffees at the AWCH from 1999-2004

am an artist myself, I also enjoyed being a member of the Art Group.

Dear new members, choose your events, keep adjusting to Germany, and always enjoy our club with love. Try to bring fun and always have fun. Keep on socializing and communicating with the other members and help develop our club as much as possible. It will be as good as you make it.

Thanks to Becky, Shelly, Karen, Laura, Terry, Kirstan, Tracy, Vicki, Nancy, Isabell, Frauke, Thelma, Mary, Ulrike, Sus, Diana, Regina, Susan, Lauren, Jenifer, Jennifer M. Brenda, Anna, Coppelia, Cat, Chris, Holly, Carol H., Carol S., Christine, Beatrice, Brigitte, Aranka, Sandra, Sherrye, Beth, Jess, Aida, Kate, Cornelia, Shaun, and others for the lovely time we've spent together during the last 25 years. The gratitude I feel for the many social events, personal conversations, and real friendships during all these years is overwhelming.

PAT F.

"According to our records, you joined AWCH 30 years ago! Congratulations! That is loyalty!" Fellow club member Holly contacted me recently to congratulate me on being a member for three decades. It seems like just yesterday that I joined (a refrain familiar to my generation).

I do remember when I decided to become a member of the club; I had a diffuse but lingering longing to connect more with my American roots. I realized I could only be an inactive member then, but still, I wanted to join. I was teaching full-time at the International School Hamburg, commuting every day, and raising a family. A few American mothers in the school community were in the club, but not many, as school activities took over their lives, as they did mine. In retrospect, it was the most loyal and the longest-serving substitute teacher at ISH who motivated me to join: Becky. It wasn't that she was on an evangelical crusade to recruit members; it was Becky's effervescent enthusiasm for the AWCH which inspired me.

I paid my yearly dues and received and read every issue of *Currents*, for which I wrote a very occasional article. I followed all the events; the articles and photographs left images in my mind so that, years later, when I finally met some of the members, they were like **celebrities** I had been following for years. So they did exist after all!

And it was the lure of joining the Film Group (thanks again to Becky). I knew even 30 years ago that upon retirement from teaching, I would be looking for a creative challenge. I retired from teaching 10 years ago and have been viewing and reviewing films and going to film festivals with a remarkable group of film lovers ever since. I just love it. Every year, I have attended the Filmfest Hamburg, for the past three years I have gone to the Berlinale, and, in 2012, I was an accredited journalist at Michael Moore's Traverse City Film Festival. Ever since then I have received almost monthly letters from Michael (I have no illusions; I am still on the mailing list seeking donations.) Thank you to the AWCH for making all of this possible.



Karen (L), Pat (C), Nancy (R) in front of Bogart and Bergman at the Filmfest Hamburg, 2014



Pat at the Berlinale, 2020



An optimistic Michael Moore with Susan Sarandon at the Traverse City Film Festival 2012

CAROL S.



Carol H. (L), Carol S. (C), and Ulrike H. (R) showing the certificate of award for the DG for the Kindergarten for Tribal Children in Rural India, 2019.

I joined AWCH, my first club with American women, almost 10 years ago when I moved to Hamburg from Frankfurt am Main, my home for four decades. All the diverse groups within AWCH offered a wealth of different activities and a means to meet many members while having fun. It didn't take me long to realize that becoming a member of AWCH was an excellent idea and that I had been missing a connection with like-minded women for many years. I learned the value of being a member of AWCH and our umbrella organization, FAWCO. To quote Hellen Keller, "Alone you can do so little, together you can do so much." I believe in the power of the collective to make a difference.

Events to promote cultural understanding, to inform of US issues, to raise awareness of the rights of women and girls, and to help people in need are an integral part of AWCH. In recent years, there has also been a focus on the awareness of global issues, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the changes I have seen in our club over the last 10 years is a strengthening of philanthropic activities and the rewards that come with it. Since 2017, our charity guidelines have encouraged the two-year support of one local nonprofit organization with fundraising and awareness-raising rather than to support many different organizations. This year, in addition to club fundraising, we successfully nominated the local charity Hanseatic Help for a US\$4,000 FAWCO Development Grant for "Empowering Refugee Women in Hamburg." Since 2017, we have revived our support of the Nandanvan Trust (Integrated Tribal and Watershed Development Programme) in Maharashtra, India, with fundraising and awareness-raising within

our club, and we have successfully nominated the trust for four FAWCO Development Grants in the category Environment, totaling almost US\$20,000. Our fundraising and awareness-raising for the FAWCO Target Project give members another opportunity to participate in a global philanthropic project together with all FAWCO overseas American women's clubs in order to have a greater impact. In addition, AWCH also proudly supports the From the Heart project, which donates heart pillows and drainage bags to breast cancer patients in Hamburg. For the last few Thanksgivings, AWCH members shared their good fortune and donated to the local food bank, Hamburger Tafel. AWCH does make a difference when its members come together.

AWCH has renewed relationships with organizations in our community in the last few years. We have collaborated with the Amerikanzentrum Hamburg e.V. and the US Consulate General to celebrate Women's History Month. Maintaining collaborations with other organizations whose members are ex-pats and with the greatest women's lobby in Hamburg, the Landesfrauenrat, helps keep our club strong.

AWCH has changed in the last 10 years, but it remains an open and welcoming club that creates a home away from home and brings women of all nationalities together. For the last 65 years, dedicated volunteers have devoted themselves to keeping AWCH the community where we want to be.

Presentation of check to Hamburger Tafel 2019



PALVASHA H.



Palvasha H. supporting SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

I joined AWCH in the summer of 2019 and found it to be just the kind of English-speaking club I had been looking for; indeed, as it turned out, I was just in time to get to know some of the great members and participate in a few of the wide range of activities on offer before the pandemic struck in early 2020.

In the period before physical events became impossible, I attended some meetings of the dedicated and very nice Book Club, my very first hosted by the gracious Carol H., who inspired me to join; I remember our totally engrossing discussion of *The Great Believers* at a subsequent meeting fondly. As a member of the Art Group, I greatly enjoyed the very original exhibition called *Liquidity* at the Frappant Art Gallery in Altona by the talented young New Zealand artist Monique Barnett in the summer of the same year. Being an ardent believer in gender equality, peace, and justice, I decided to become the AWCH “face” of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, (peace, justice, and strong institutions) in the summer of 2020. What

times those were, when one could still meet at a café, as I did back then to have a chat with Mary Frances about the SDGs! Since then, we have had interesting talks and a Zoom event introducing some great short films on various SDG themes.

Since the beginning of my relatively short but fulfilling membership I have contributed articles to four issues of *Currents*, of which I particularly enjoyed writing “Art in the Barracks” on *Liquidity* (*Currents*, Summer/Fall 2019) Living so far from Hamburg, I can’t always make it to all the events I’d like to attend, but the dedicated group activity organizers have been successfully arranging Zoom meetings for discussions, film viewings, etc., plus there are many local groups for those who live outside of or on the outskirts of Hamburg. New members are sure to find something of interest to do and engage in, to realize their own ideas in cooperation with club members, and, of course, to make new friends.



Monique's exhibition 2019, #1



Monique's exhibition 2019, #2

VENITA K.

My very first impression of the American Women’s Club of Hamburg, way before I became a member, was made at the Amerikahaus in the early ‘80s when I first came to Germany. I remember thinking that the majority of the club women were “older” corporate wives with big sprayed hairstyles who did luncheons and seemed to live in a bubble.

My career left me with little time to participate further. Fast-forward to years later when, after turning 50 and “missing the buzz,” I joined the club for a few events and was impressed by the wonderfully diverse and fun group of women with a highly motivated and creative AWCH board.

I treasure the shared identity of our expatriate experiences and have fond memories of past live events—whether curing our homesickness at a potluck Thanksgiving, laughing with Gayle Tufts during a gala, discussing world affairs or a book over a glass of wine, just walking or biking to a Harbor Explorers event, helping out a charity, or experiencing an awesome lightbulb moment during an AWCH workshop entitled “Me and My German Husband.”

Meanwhile, I may find myself living in a bubble due to our COVID-driven world...but there is always an inspiring AWCH Zoom event to log on to and enjoy the membership of—with a bit of lipstick and a very light spritz of hairspray, of course.

REGINA D.

The first AWCH event I attended was a luncheon at an Italian restaurant in Mittelweg in May or June 1995. AWCH member Barbara H.-M. had arranged for this luncheon, and Barbara and everyone else was so kind, cheerful, and welcoming that I joined the AWCH very shortly afterwards.

What positions have you held and which was your favorite?

- Compiled information on new members for the “Getting to Know You” section of *Currents* from 1996 to 2009.
- Compiled information on cultural events for the “In Hamburg” section of *Currents* from 1997 to 2009.
- Organized the AWCH one-day orientation seminar in September 1997.
- Landesfrauenrat representative.
- Served on the AWCH board as secretary from Spring 2003 to Spring 2005.
- Organized new member events from November 2005 to December 2014.
- Responsible for Hamburger Helpers group from October 2008 to December 2014.
- Since Autumn 2019, responsible for

German conversation group.

- My favorite position? I would not hesitate for a moment on this: organizing the new members’ events! I have enjoyed this so very much! I would like to point out that this would not have been possible without the friendly and reliable cooperation of Tracy M., Kate W., and Jess M.

How has the club changed over the years?

In the 1990s, there were more stay-at-home mothers (like me), and we took part in activities during the day, such as book groups, outings, and very nice luncheons. My personal impression is that there is much more political awareness in the AWCH nowadays, and the Environmentally Mindful Group is just one example. Our club is keeping up with the times, and I think this is very good and very important.

What are your favorite memories from your time with the club?

As I was asked to put this information together, I have looked through old issues of *Currents* and I must say: we all had such a lovely time. The meetings,



New Member Event 2010 Regina D. (L) and Kate W. (R)

the cooperation, the activities: it has been such a pleasure for so many years. I am very grateful for all of it, and I am sending my very best wishes to all the ladies I have “worked” with.

Any particular events that meant something to you?

There were so many wonderful events and activities. Just to name a few: the guided tour of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea; the Kaffeeklatsch afternoon at Cornelia’s lovely home in Rondeel; the AWCH 50th Anniversary Gala; the board meetings with Irmingard, Frauke, Tracy, Cornelia, and Jenny; the yearly Hamburger Helper meetings at my home; a trip to Lübeck organized by Tina; the NMEs I organized at Café Das Schokoladenmädchen, Skyline Bar 20up, Jenisch Haus, Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten, Witthüs, Bucerius Kunst Forum, Maritimes Museum Hamburg; and the exhibit “The Chanel Legend” at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe in 2014.

What advice do you have for new members?

When it is safe again: take part in as many AWCH activities as you can. A very good way to meet other members is to offer your help to the organizer of an activity. Go out and explore Hamburg. Try to learn a bit of German—come to a meeting of the German Conversation Group. (No meetings at present, unfortunately).



New Members' Event, Witthüs, March 2011



New Members' Event, Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten, September 2014
Susan S.-W., Jess M.



New Members' Event, Bobby Reich, September 2013 Cat C. (L), Frauke R.-H. (C), and Monika M. (R)

SANDRA S.

Soooo, how have the AWCH and *Currents* changed over the years? A lot, I'd say!

Initially, I came to Hamburg in the summer of 1979 "for a year" and joined the AWCH in 1985-86, when I was expecting my second child. At the time, the club was 90%+ made up of women whose husbands' international companies had sent them to Hamburg for 2-5 years. I think the number of members who were US citizens married to German nationals could be counted on one hand—Carol B., Becky T., Natalie W., Deborah O., and Thelma F. are names that come to mind.

There was a monthly luncheon at a nice restaurant, usually pretty centrally located and price-wise great for people on an expense account, but not necessarily for those with student loans to repay and/or living on a student teacher's salary of DM 900/month. Other than the luncheon, there weren't too many activities going on. There was a mother-and-child group that met one morning a month at different members' homes. There were Christmas parties and Easter egg hunts for the kids and a

Fourth of July celebration, sometimes at the US Consulate, sometimes other places.

Our monthly newsletter was an A4 publication, photocopied at a member's husband's office and sent by snail mail to the members. Activities had to be planned at least two months in advance in order to be included in the newsletter.

Getting *Hamburg in Your Pocket* written and published was an enormous task, and I still doff my hat to the marvelous women who managed to pull that and the numerous revisions off. At some point in time, some woman with a vision decided that the AWCH needed a real monthly magazine, and *Currents* was born. Two computer-savvy women traded off on doing the layout with a program purchased specifically for that purpose; one woman was executive editor the entire time (I believe it was Adele R.), and numerous women alternated as content editor for a particular month.

There were two proof-reading sessions, one in the morning for those who couldn't make it in the evening, and one

in the evening for those who couldn't make it in the morning. Becky T. was a regular at proofreading, arriving at the chosen restaurant armed with her bag full of dictionary, thesaurus, proofreading guidelines, and plenty of different-colored pens. Each article was proofread three times and initialed by the proofreaders.

By now, of course, *Currents* is issued quarterly, and the newsletter lands in our email inboxes like clockwork every other Sunday. Kudos to Karen O. for switching *Currents* to its online format, a herculean task in itself, and Jordan W. for revamping the newsletter into a format that my senior eyes find easy to read.

The AWCH membership has changed enormously in the past 30 years. Women who come to Hamburg as an "accompanying spouse" are rare. Most of us are here of our own accord, for our own jobs, or as part of an international couple. Some are here for a limited time and many are here "forever." We've come a long way!

THE CLUBS WITH

Mahjong

Mahjong originated during the Qing Dynasty and spread throughout the world in the early twentieth century. It evolved near Shanghai in the mid or late 1800s and quickly became popular in Beijing and among American expatriates. The game was brought over to the United States in the 1920s. The word mahjong literally means sparrows. A game of mahjong is played by four persons with 144 tiles that are drawn and discarded until one player scores a winning hand.

Luck is always a factor, but, to a large extent in mahjong, you create your own luck (or lack thereof) through the decisions you make during the game. Mahjong is a game of skill and luck where most of the skill is built around maximizing the chance that you can get lucky. My parents played mahjong as early as I can remember. They played the game at home or at restaurants with clients and friends before dinners and banquets. We as children were not allowed to watch nor learn, as it was considered gambling. I was taught to play mahjong in Germany about three years ago by Leonie H., who is German and a club member. I have been hooked ever since.

Leonie H. has been playing mahjong with her friends for over 30 years and is very skillful at it. She is our esteemed teacher.

The Mahjong Club of the AWCH started over a year ago with a

few members and their spouses. We rotate to play in members' houses with potluck dinners. The last time we played, we had two tables and eight players. New members are taught the game by watching other, more skillful, players.

We met and played about three times before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the members are looking forward to starting up again as soon as lockdown is cleared. The game is not difficult to learn, and we have so much fun at it. Of course, the potluck dinners create a jovial atmosphere, and the spouses and friends cheer us on.

We are always looking for newcomers, and we are eager to teach and learn from each other. New members are welcome any time at any game. For further questions, please contact Stella K.-R. at mahjong@awchamburg.org. We look forward to seeing everybody.

Stella K.



Film Lounge

Unfortunately for many of us cinema-goers, the film industry has suffered greatly due to this pandemic. Most press showings were either put on hold or went directly to Netflix or some other streaming channel. Nevertheless, instead of being discouraged, we made the decision to pour a glass of wine, grab a few snacks, and come together for a Zoom meet-up once a month. Usually, on the last Thursday of the month, we discuss a film with a specific topic, and everyone is welcome. We started with *The Life Ahead*, directed by Italian Edoardo Ponti and featuring Sophia Loren. It looks like Sophia Loren has had a chance to revitalize her acting career. This may be due to the fact that Edoardo Ponti is her son, or perhaps it's because she is a wonderful actress, even if she is over 80.

In February, we discussed the 1993 film *The Remains of the Day*, directed by James Ivory, where we took a closer look at how many members of the United Kingdom's nobility were Nazi sympathizers. James Stevens (Anthony Hopkins), the butler, approaches his work with dignity and loyalty but, in essence, loses the rest of his life by not fulfilling his desire to be loved. The discussion was lively and charged with different opinions, making the evening quite exciting.

On International Women's Day, we came together to discuss *On the Basis of Sex*; you can read more about that on page 14.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Shelly Schoeneshoefter

HIN OUR CLUB

Stitch 'n' Bitch

The AWCH had an evening “mixer” event probably something like 20 years ago, and I happened to end up chatting with former member Beth G., who happily told me about starting up Stitch ‘n’ Bitch. Beth had been a member of a similar group in Colorado before moving to Hamburg. As an avid knitter, that sounded like something right up my alley!

Armed with Beth’s address, I made sure my children were taken care of and my own school work was prepared and headed there one Tuesday evening shortly thereafter. Forewarned that the apartment was in a turn-of-the-century building with no elevator, I blithely started up the first flight of stairs and finally panted my way to the top floor. Beth, fortunately, had nibbles and beverages to revive us from the stairs. I have absolutely no recollection of who was there, but there must have been four or five of us.

Later, we met at Beth and Martin’s new-to-them ground-floor apartment, and we continued doing so every second Tuesday for several years. By then S’n’B had grown to probably a dozen or so members—and not just knitters. Crocheters, embroiderers, and sewers had also joined. To ease it up on mother-of-two Beth, someone suggested that we meet at different women’s homes on an alternating basis. The hostess would provide some nibbles and a beverage or two; each attendee would contribute a snack of some kind and/or additional beverages.

Around that time, Jess introduced a Craft Hope project, and we made quite a number of items for two or three different projects around the world. At some point in time, Tracy introduced the From the Heart Pillow Project and started sewing bees. Whatever pillows weren’t quite finished came to an S’n’B meeting and were finished before the evening was over.

Fast-forward to about three years ago, by which time S’n’B had become one of the largest “special interest groups” in the AWCH. Trying to squeeze 12-15

women and their projects around a table or into some member’s not-so-spacious apartment became a bit of a challenge, and we started gathering in a church meeting room. When we had to vacate due to extensive planned renovations, S’n’B moved to Shelly G’s atelier until COVID-19 made that unfeasible and we switched again, this time to Skype virtual meetups.

Meeting on Skype has enabled young moms to join in without having to find a babysitter, women not centrally located to participate without a long commute, immune-compromised women, and women with jobs to join in. However, we truly miss seeing others in person.

Amazing women have met up, beautiful friendships have developed, we’ve shared tips about our handicrafts, and even (attempted to) learn new ones. We’ve shared births and graduations, we’ve mourned painful losses together, fevered through election nights, welcomed new members, and bid farewell to others. By now our WhatsApp chat greets us on a regular basis with tidbits of info (vanilla extract, Reese’s, real brown sugar) and comments on everything under the sun.

S’n’B gets my vote as one of the best parts of the AWCH!

Sandra S.



Women's Circle

On March 20, the world celebrated the UN's International Day of Happiness, marked by the release of the annual World Happiness Report 2021. One of the essential sources was the Gallup World Poll surveys, and scores were based on individual assessments of a "good life" based on the following six factors: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity, and freedom from corruption. Interestingly, global life evalua-

tions have shown remarkable resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the rankings changed only slightly from earlier levels, although Germany has improved its position, moving from fifteenth place in 2017-2019 to seventh position.

Rankings of happiness (average life evaluations) based on the 2020 surveys compared to those in 2017-2019.

COUNTRY	RANKING 2020	RANKING 2017-2019
FINLAND	1	1
SWITZERLAND	4	3
GERMANY	7	15
NEW ZEALAND	9	8
AUSTRIA	10	9
AUSTRALIA	12	11
IRELAND	13	14
UNITED STATES	14	16
CANADA	15	10
UNITED KINGDOM	18	13

Helliwell, J. F., Layard, Sachs, J.D., De Neve, J.-E., Aknin, & Wang, S. (2021). World Happiness Report 2020. New York: Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

The Happiness Project

The idea of a Happiness Workshop came to mind last summer. Back then, three months into the pandemic, life seemed lighter, easier, and more optimistic. Recently, I decided to offer the opportunity to "March Into Happiness" to AWCH members. Twelve courageous women trying to find their unique HAPPINESS joined me for a three-week workshop. We explored how different people perceive happiness. We have learned that happiness may mean different things to different people.

Each of us, a unique individual with our own culture and history, has a unique understanding and sensitivity to information and sensations that may or may not make us happy. We found that happiness is grounded in experience, relationships, being together, acting together, having agency, having freedom, and being active. We also found that happiness is not about stability; it is a transient state. For some, it may be a goal, and for others, just one of the forms on the road called life. And it is all okay.

Anna S.

Happiness comes in many shapes and colors; sometimes it's the sunshine brightening our day, sometimes it's the simple act of breathing with our eyes closed and mind-wandering that makes us happy. I've learned that it's important to discover your own meaning of happiness and embrace your own journey towards it.

—Cicek G.

I feel happier after the course because of the ability to meet up with a group of people who I can relate to. The last months have been so isolating, and I feel lucky to have met some new people with whom I could share my feelings. Also, it means a lot to me that other people felt comfortable enough to share their feelings. I think these days it is the little things, which we probably took for granted before or didn't really realize the importance of, that can give us happiness (being involved in a new group of people, hearing a beautiful piece of music, sharing emotions, drawing, breathing).

—Alana L.

Happiness

- Having a good life
- Thinking "I am having a good life"
- Thinking "I am having a fulfilled life"
- Feeling good about own life

Lessons from Dr. Laurie Santos, Yale Course on the Science of Well-Being

If I only had
I would be so happy

What we think makes us happy

- Good Job
- Money
- Awesome stuff
- True Love
- Perfect Body
- Good grades

does not actually make us happy

Anna S. giving presentation on The Happiness Project over Zoom

Families and the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have an impact on mental health even when it is over. In addition to the threat of infection itself, there is the worry and fear for others, the stressful protective measures, and the increased burden of care for the young, old, and frail. Further factors that decrease our well-being are uncertainty, financial problems, frustration, boredom, and physical separation from close people.

Researchers in many countries have identified women and younger people to be especially subject to depression, anxiety, stress symptoms such as sleep disorders and intrusive thoughts, anticipatory worry, and grief. Women and girls are responsible for 75% of unpaid domestic work worldwide. In Western countries, the hypocrisy economy flourishes—on the one hand, women are empowered to work outside their homes; on the other hand, they are still obliged to second-shift commitments such as caring for children and older members of their families. Many women during COVID-19 are stuck between two worlds, unable to provide family care and still meet their job expectations.

Schools in most European countries did not adjust to homeschooling. Only in Sweden and Italy were comprehensive digital platforms available for teenagers prior to the pandemic. Homeschooling strain increased domestic conflict between parents and children;

parents with younger children suffered more than parents of older children. Compared to Sweden, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Italy, German children spent the least amount of time in teaching webinars and working in small peer groups, and they required more parental support in terms of time. At the same time, the pandemic underlined the importance of social connection for older generations. According to the World Happiness Report, respondents over 60 experienced more support during the pandemic from neighbors and via Zoom, resulting in fewer complaints about health and somewhat better well-being assessment than in previous years.

We need to take care of ourselves now. Being women, mothers, and caregivers makes us more reactive to stress. What can we do? Accept that we live in challenging times, give yourself a break, 1–3 minutes will do, spend more time outdoors, exercise, go for a walk, take care of your garden, play with children, share your love, and engage with friends and with our club. Research shows that taking care of children increases well-being, while being an educator decreases it. Please make a difference; give yourself a chance and time to be a mom. Remember that younger people are especially vulnerable now, too.

Anna S.

BOOK REVIEWS

from our Book Club

The Last September

By Elizabeth Bowen

ARTICLE BY ANNE-MARIE S.

For our February Book Club, we picked *The Last September* by Elizabeth Bowen to read. This book was promoted as one of the top 10 books by Irish authors and a fitting follow-up to the January selection, *Say Nothing*, on the IRA activities in Northern Ireland in the late 1900s. *The Last September* was written in 1929 and set during the Irish War of Independence in 1920—the conflict resulting in the IRA and the sectioning of Ireland.

The Last September takes you right into the life of young Anglo-Irish aristocrat Lois, who lives in the center of the conflict in Cork County. Her life is portrayed as being almost frivolous, living on a large estate and caught up in love affairs while a war is being waged on the periphery. The author describes the landscape beautifully and the characters' personalities vividly, making it easy to dive right into the scene. The entire story is centered around the estate, personifying the house itself.

Elizabeth Bowen assumes the readers know exactly what's going on and doesn't provide any explanation for the conversations on current events—leaving the readers (at least those of us in the

club!) rather confused for most of the book. Admittedly, we wouldn't have gained much insight on the war and the times without outside resources discussed during our Book Club meeting, helping us understand the premise of the book. I highly suggest this richly written drama, as long as you read some background first.

.....

Comments

Elizabeth Bowen leads us through the history of the English–Irish war. The main character of the story is the Danielstown Mansion. Around, inside, and outside the mansion is where some old friends try to live their lives while ignoring the reality of the war. They have tea parties, play tennis, hold dances, etc.

Lois, the niece of the owners of the mansion, tries to bring reality into the house, which finally happens, although not exactly by her hand.

Bowen's writing reminded me a little bit of Virginia Woolf's.

—Tanés H.



In striking juxtaposition to our first book, the action of Elizabeth Bowen's book seems to take place "off-stage." The burnings, shootings, and reprisals are far away—with a foreboding of things to come. I was often reminded of *Gone with the Wind*, in which a well-to-do family with a colonial past is unaware of the changes around them. It is the landscape, the elegant homes, and the tea parties that take center stage. An enjoyable contrast.

—Carol H.

Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland

By Patrick Radden Keefe

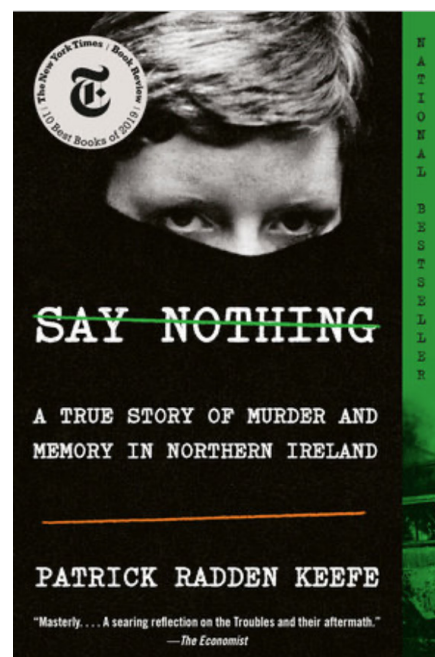
ARTICLE BY CAROL H.

At the age of 38, Jean McConville, a widowed mother of 10 children, was abducted from her small flat in a “dank and hulking” public housing complex in West Belfast in 1972. Jean’s children spent the next 30 years trying to find out what happened to her. Jean is one of the many “disappeared” of the Troubles, the 30-year nationalist period of conflict in Northern Ireland, in which the ultimate goal was to remove the British from the Irish island. Jean’s bones, which were found on a beach in 2003, were still clinging to the dress she wore during her abduction. Who was responsible for killing her? Was she a tout (informer) for the British army, an unforgivable crime in Irish eyes, and if so, why?

The story of Jean and her children is one of many about unforgettable characters that the author uses to illustrate the patriotism, conviction, violence, destruction, and heartbreaking futility that accompanied the Troubles. The war was fought primarily in the streets of West Belfast by the paramilitary Irish Republican Army (IRA), who often crippled their own efforts with their devastating shootings, bombings, and hunger strikes. The Good Friday Agreement in

1998 brought a fragile peace to Northern Ireland, but many IRA fighters felt they were betrayed by their own leaders, including Gerry Adams. With the conviction of “rifles for ballots,” Mr. Adams denied his central involvement in and backing of the IRA and turned to politics. Although an instrumental approach in obtaining peace in the area, the author leaves the question open as to if the tactics of Mr. Adams and other IRA leaders were justified and should not be left unquestioned.

For many of us, reading the book was an eye-opening clarification of the Irish conflict and shed new light on the significance of the Irish–English border during the Brexit discussion. Reading like a novel, it jumped from character to character as it slowly spanned the thirty years of conflict. But the book also prompted us to ask questions about the history of the English in Ireland, leading us to the next book in our short Irish series.



Comment

This is an excellent book of non-fiction narrative. It is an extremely well-researched account of the bitter conflict in Northern Ireland, told through the stories of one victim “disappeared” in 1972 and three perpetrators. The stories and facts are masterfully woven so that it reads like a crime novel but presents in-depth documentation of the Troubles and some of its leading figures up to recent years.

—Carol S.

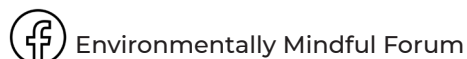
ENVIRONMENTALLY MINDFUL

OUR RECENT ACTIVISM

BY BEATRICE K.

Do you want to be a part of a global movement for climate justice? If so, join the Environmentally Mindful team! While meeting in-person is difficult now, our members are highly active on social media and consistently share resources on climate justice information and promote activities that we can all do individually to support our environment in efforts to combat climate change. Each month, our team promotes Müll Pickup, where we encourage members to walk around their neighborhoods and clean up a few pieces of trash and share their experiences on our Facebook forum. #It'sNotMyTrashButIt'sMyPlanet!

Earlier this year, we gave an online presentation of our goals for 2021, and the slides can be found on our Facebook page if you want to learn more about our team and monthly plans. For 2021, we are dedicating a special theme and goal for each month. Within each month, we promote a specific SDG and plan activities to keep our members involved. Are you up for the challenge?



EARTH DAY

RESTORE OUR EARTH

BY CHRISTINE R.

April 22 is Earth Day and has been for the past 51 years. This year will be marked by the US's return to a climate-positive policy. President Biden will host a global climate summit on Earth Day aimed at persuading countries to strengthen their greenhouse gas reduction pledges.

"This Earth Day, we have an important opportunity to challenge world leaders to see climate change for what it is—a pressing global security threat, one that threatens everyone and everything but particularly our most vulnerable people and places," said Kathleen Rogers, president of EARTHDAY.ORG.

Earth Day 2021 will again be a digital event, with workshops, panel discussions, and special performances focusing on Earth Day 2021's theme, Restore Our Earth. For more information about Earth Day 2021, please click [here](#).

Restore Our Earth encompasses goals and actions including reforestation, regenerative agriculture and sustainable food, plastic cleanups, climate literacy, and citizen science. From capturing carbon and supporting the health and resilience of communities to advocating for compulsory, assessed climate education, we have the ability to make lasting changes.

Restoration is imperative to fighting climate change and making the Earth a safer, healthier, and more equitable place to live. It's time to step up. It's time to make a change.



PODCAST RECOMMENDATION

BY SHANAN R.



Listen on Spotify today!

Podcast name: A Matter of Degrees

Language: English

Available: Apple, Spotify, and Google Podcasts

Catchphrase: Give up your climate guilt. Sharpen your curiosity.

Hosts: Dr. Leah Stokes and Dr. Katharine Wilkinson

Best listened to: When contemplating how individual behavior can have an impact on the climate crisis and what you/we can actually DO.

The nine episodes created so far of this podcast dive into a variety of climate topics (a little US-centered so far). The two hosts cover the topics in detail and bring in specialists to provide additional information when needed. I find the podcasts organized and easy to listen to, but, more importantly, I come away with a greater knowledge of climate change issues that are relevant NOW (such as carbon offsets, two degrees, and electric utilities). A quote directly from the podcast: "This show is for the climate-curious people who know climate change is a problem but are trying to figure out how to tackle it."

2021 Themes & Goals

January: Veganuary

Try to limit your diet to vegetarian, pescetarian, or vegan for 31 days!

February: Rising Gardens

Promote One Billion Rising and start planting your garden for spring!

March: Mother Earth Month

Digital global climate strikes, Earth Hour, and the introduction of our 5-Week Zero to Climate Hero Challenge, running until April 22.

April: Walk with Nature

Promote our Climate Hero Challenge and celebrate Earth Day.

May: Be with the Bees

Share resources and activities for Biodiversity Day and take part in our event Go Green When You Spring Clean!

June: Planting Trees

Become a tree ambassador and join our two-part docu-series to promote World Environment Day and World Oceans Day.

July: Plastic-Free July

Join our 31-day challenge to go plastic-free! Tips and tricks every week to help you and your family!

August: Animal Planet

Learn about how to protect wildlife and the importance of the animals to our natural world.

September: Cleanup Hamburg

Take part in World Cleanup Day in your Hamburg community and learn how you can produce zero emissions!

October: Hungry Harvest

Interested in low-waste cooking events and a zero-waste walking tour, join us in October!

November: Kids for Future

For World Children's Day, we will host a few events where kids can learn about the importance of being a climate hero!

December: Low-Waste Holidays

Let's celebrate the holiday season as eco-friendly as possible with some great tips and tricks for a low-waste holiday season!

Art in the City

by the Art Group

All Exhibitions Are Currently Closed

BY SHELLY SCHOENESHOEFER

Here we go again...The year 2021 is starting, and we can only hope that this year will be kinder to the cultural centers—such as theaters, museums, and cinemas—than last year was. Here is a shortlist of some of the museums that will be waiting for you to visit. Please don't forget the zoos—the animals would love to see you, too.

BUCERIUS KUNST FORUM

The exhibition *George Braque—Dance in Forms* will run until April 30, 2021. The second exhibition which was to open, *Samurai—Splendor of the Japanese Knights*, has been, unfortunately, canceled.

THE DEICHTORHALLEN

When the Deichtorhallen Hamburg reopens, you should be able to reserve a time slot at this website: [//www.deichtorhallen.de/en/besuch](http://www.deichtorhallen.de/en/besuch). When you arrive, you must show your tickets. This website can be used to book exhibitions at the Hall of Contemporary Art as well as the Falkenberg Collection. The House of Photography is closed for renovation.



WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

WHY SHOULD I HESITATE: PUTTING DRAWINGS TO WORK

until August 1, 2021

KATHARINA SIEVERDING

PHOTOGRAPHS, PROJECTIONS, INSTALLATIONS 2020-1966

until July 25, 2021

Katharina Sieverding: XI/78, SCHLACHTFELD DEUTSCHLAND, 1978
C-Print, Acryl, Stahlrahmen
300 x 375 cm
Copyright: © Katharina Sieverding, VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2021. Foto: © Klaus Mettig, VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2021

MUSEUM FÜR KUNST UND GEWERBE



Ausstellungsansicht 5, Selbstlernraum Schule der Folgenlosigkeit, Foto: Henning Rogge

SUSANNA KRIEMANN

RECONSIDERING PHOTOGRAPHY: UNDERBRUSH

until July 4, 2021

TIGERS, TAMPONS AND TOURISM

COLLECTIVE CURATING AT MK&G

until July 4, 2021

PETER GUSTAF DOREN

INTERIOR DESIGN IN HAMBURG CIRCA 1900

until May 30, 2021

LIFE ON PLANET ORSIMANIRANA

until July 25, 2021

SCHOOL OF NO CONSEQUENCES

EXERCISES FOR A NEW LIFE

until July 18, 2021

TOGETHER! THE NEW ARCHITECTURE OF SOCIETY

until April 5, 2021

THE KUNSTVEREIN

Upon re-opening, you will be able to book an appointment online at pretix.eu/kunstverein/carnivalesca/ or by phone at 040/322157. Guided tours, educational programs, and events continue to take place exclusively online.

Online program #DIALOGUES needs to be reserved at press@kunstveriens.de

CARNIVALESCA

until May 2, 2021

LEE KIT WITH BETTINA STEINBRÜGGE (LIVE)

3:00 pm on April 15, 2021

William Kentridge at the Deichtorhallen

BY HOLLY T.

Actually...I hesitated before deciding to write about *Why Should I Hesitate*, the largest-ever retrospective of the art of William Kentridge at the Deichtorhallen. I saw one of Kentridge's animated films in the 2002 exhibition in Kassel and was mesmerized by his revolving, mirrored table installation at the Kunsthalle in Bremen (also in this show). And yet, somehow, I imagined a text-heavy, literally black-and-white exhibition with all of Kentridge's work based on drawing. As a South African making art about colonialism and apartheid, I had assumed Kentridge was Black, and when I first looked into the current Hamburg exhibition, I was perplexed and disappointed to discover a white 65-year-old (always dressed in black pants and white shirt!) whose talks and interviews abound on the internet. Thank goodness Thelma F., Charis H., and Ulrike H. posted their excitement about the show in the AWCH Facebook Art Group.

Though always involving drawing, Kentridge's true artistic home is animation and theater. Drawn triptychs and prints in the show document an early predilection for working with multiple frames and multiple states of the same image. In 1975, while a student of politics and African studies and taking art classes in Johannesburg, Kentridge drew directly onto a roll of film to create his first one-minute silent film, *Discourse on a Chair*, shown at the beginning of the exhibition. During the following years, he studied pantomime and worked as an actor and set designer in theater and as an art director in television and film. In the late 1980s, he returned to animation. The animated works are all worth watching!

"Putting Drawings to Work," the subtitle of the exhibition, refers not only to their use in animation and other media but to their function in calling attention to social injustice. *More Sweetly Play the Dance* of 2017, a 40-meter-long panorama projection created in 2015, addresses the Ebola epidemic and refugee crisis. In it, drawn skeletons perform a dance macabre with real actors, dancers, and musicians as shadow figures parading jerkily past the viewer to brass-band music through a desolate drawn landscape. Like them, the hinged, paper silhouette figures on which Kentridge's "Porter" series of large tapestries are based, bear or drag heavy loads against backdrops of colonial maps of Europe. The porters here are the forgotten one million Africans who carried supplies and machine parts for European soldiers in the First World War, 300,000 of whom died. The tapestries, like Kentridge's large-scale, multi-panel woodcuts, were created by many hands—collaboration is paramount to this sociable and socially responsible artist.

The exhibition is pertinent to Hamburg, which long profited from colonial shipping and trading. *Why Should I Hesitate* is a quote from a porter about serving European colonial powers. Kentridge applies it to himself as a white African standing up for his Black compatriots. It is a question many of us can ask ourselves in view of past and present racial injustices in America.



William Kentridge: Porter Series: Norwége, Sueéde et Danemark, 2005, Tapestry, 274 x 203 cm
© William Kentridge

William Kentridge: *More Sweetly Play the Dance*, 2015
Installation at Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam, 2015
Photography: Studio Hans Wilschut
Courtesy William Kentridge Studio



KANZLERS KUNST (Chancellor's Art Collection)

Die Sammlung Helmut und Loki Schmidt

BY SHELLY SCHOENESHOEFER

One of the major restrictions of this continuous lockdown is the lack of cultural events at venues such as cinemas, theaters, and art museums. So, after months of this lockdown, we were finally allowed to go out and visit an art museum, which at the time meant calling or going online to reserve tickets (which were very limited), and then appearing at the correct time with an FFP2 mask and ticket in hand. Carol B. and I were so excited to be the last two people to see the collection of Helmut and Loki Schmidt at the Ernst Barlach House in Jenisch Park on March 14 before it was packed up. It is hard to believe that this exhibition was supposed to have opened at the beginning of last October and gone until the end of January. It basically was open for five weeks total. It's a shocking and unbelievable financial disaster, which will take these institutions years to recover from. Luckily, this museum is small and will quickly recover as long as it can stay open.



Photo by Shelly Schoeneschoefer of bust of Helmut Schmidt



Photo by Shelly Schoeneschoefer

Both Helmut and Loki Schmidt were born in Hamburg. They lived in a very modern house, which suited the neighborhood in Langenhorn. Helmut Schmidt was a member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and served as chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) from 1974 to 1982. He was well-known for his financial politics.

Both Carol and I were surprised at how few people were inside, but that meant we could relax and take our time to really look at the collection. I think this was the first time that I viewed artwork so connected to its position within a house. So much of the works' descriptions referred to a staircase that it made me think they must have had an enormous grand

staircase with huge wall space. I was surprised that, instead, their ordinary-sized staircase was a display point for such great masters as Edvard Munch, Marc Chagall, and Rolf Böhling. The Schmidts enjoyed the works of Pablo Picasso, Jean Cocteau, Francisco de Goya, and Salvador Dali as well. There were several women artists represented in the collection, such as Kathe Kollwitz, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Marianne Lüdicke, Marga Böhmer, Lilli Palmer, Maria Pirwitz, Olga Bontjes van Beek, Eva de Maiziere, and Gundrun Brüne-Heisig. I am also surprised that they never had any art stolen from their house, considering how much they owned.

The collection includes drawings, paintings, lithographs, sculptures, ceramics, and artifacts. Carol and I both noticed that many of the works were in muted grays, blacks, and earth tones. I expected colorful flowers since Loki was known for her flower gardens. I only noticed one painting with yellow flowers, but a ship motif was definitely prominently on display. Many of the works felt like they were from the region of Hamburg, but that was not the case, since many of the artists were from somewhere else. We also decided that, since Ernst Barlach would have been 150 years old this year, it was appropriate to have the chancellor's collection on display. Unfortunately, since we were the last to see this exhibition, you all will have to wait until they do it again somewhere else or buy the book, which displays all the works in their collection.

Photo by Shelly Schoeneschoefer of a photo of the staircase of the Schmidts' house.



De Chirico: Magical Reality at the Hamburger Kunsthalle

BY HOLLY T.

It's hard to believe this exhibition wasn't conceived in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Even its installation on isolated screen islands to facilitate social distancing accentuates the enigmatic mood of Giorgio de Chirico's paintings of deserted urban squares in which time seems to stand still. In fact, planning began three years ago. Though he lived to be 90, de Chirico's best-known works all date to a single, admittedly eventful, decade between 1909 and 1919 and are accordingly limited in number. The Kunsthalle convinced distant private lenders and eminent museums to send their works to Hamburg by drawing on its excellent collection of 19th-century European art to shed light, not only on de Chirico's earlier, formative years at the Munich Art Academy where he studied from 1906 to 1909, but also on his later classicist work.

The stars of the show remain de Chirico's remarkable "metaphysical" masterpieces of the second decade of the 20th century, their Mediterranean ochres, terracottas, and teals so welcome to eyes dulled by this persistently cold and gray Hamburg winter-spring. De Chirico's matte surfaces, influenced by early Renaissance Italian frescos, and his simplified classical architectural forms and sculptures distill the baked look of southern European piazzas. However, his world is no place to relax on a sunny holiday. Caged in by sharply receding arcades and brick walls blocking any view into the distance, the artist's empty squares are filled with long, dark, shadows, often of unseen figures or objects. Contradictions of perspective, scale, and time, and incongruous juxtapositions of objects abound. The menacing shadows and greenish skies give some of the pictures the unsettling "day for night" feel of film noir.

De Chirico, whose parents were Italian, grew up in Greece. Studying art in Munich, he admired the "modern" realistic treatment of the classical myths he'd grown up with by the late Romantic Swiss painter Arnold Böcklin, represented by several pictures in the exhibition, and the German symbolist printmaker Max Klinger. Several pieces from Klinger's creative and beautifully crafted etching series are exhibited in small side rooms. In the fantastic and disturbing moods of Klinger's prints, de Chirico recognized a state of "both dream and reality," the Wachtraum described by the philosopher Schopenhauer, in which the truth of existence is revealed. The truth de Chirico reveals has to do with a kind of déjà vu or eternal recurrence of things posited by another German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche. Stopped clocks, passing trains, faceless mannequins, empty frames, and pictures within pictures are among de Chirico's favorite props. Paintings have titles like *Seer*, *Clairvoyant*, and *Returnee or Reincarnate*.

After living in Paris from 1911-15, where contact with Picasso and other avant-garde artists informed his distortions of scale and perspective, de Chirico returned to Italy to serve in the war. He survived a bout of Spanish flu in the pandemic of 1918-19 that may have killed as many as 50 million worldwide, including his friend Guillaume Apollinaire, the poet who first described de Chirico's paintings as "metaphysical."



Shelly Schoeneshoefer stands next to *Der Prophet (Le Vaticinateur)*, 1914/15, Öl auf Leinwand, 89,6 x 70,1 cm

Holly T. joins Shelly S. as co-coordinator of the Art Group, taking over for Diana P.-S. who is AWCH vice president this year. Holly T. poses in front of *Der Lohn des Wahrsagers (La Récompense du dévin)*, 1913, Öl auf Leinwand, 135,6 x 180 cm



Beyond Hamburgers

SPRING VEGETABLE TOAST WITH GOAT CHEESE AND HERBS

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups asparagus, cut into 1" pieces	2 teaspoons chopped fresh chives
1 teaspoon olive oil	1 cup shelled peas
1 pinch salt	4 slices thick, rustic, fresh bread or sourdough bread
4 ounces goat cheese	4 medium radishes, sliced
4 tablespoons milk (or milk substitute)	Sea salt and black pepper
2 teaspoons chopped fresh dill	

PREP TIME: 10 minutes

COOK TIME: 10 minutes

SERVINGS: 4 toasts

PREPARED BY: Julia R.B.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 200° C. Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper (optional, but good for easy clean up).
2. Place the asparagus, olive oil, and 1 pinch of salt on the sheet pan and toss to coat with your hands (or tongs). Roast for 8 minutes or until the asparagus is just about cooked.
3. While the asparagus is cooking, make the goat cheese herb spread. Stir together the goat cheese and milk until it becomes easily spreadable. Stir in the dill and chives.
4. When the asparagus is just about cooked, remove the sheet pan from the oven and sprinkle the peas on evenly. Put back in the oven and roast for 2 minutes.
5. While the peas are roasting, toast the bread to your liking in a toaster, stovetop, or the oven.
6. To build your toasts, spread the goat cheese mixture evenly among the 4 slices of toast. Top with asparagus, peas, and sliced radishes. Sprinkle with sea salt and black pepper. Enjoy!

STORY BEHIND THE RECIPE:

It's asparagus season, and in my home, we savor this period. I was looking for easy lunch recipes to make for my husband and me while he was working from home. This was delicious paired with a leafy salad, and a hit for sure!

An interesting fact about the sustainability of asparagus: in terms of pesticide load, asparagus is listed as part of the Clean 15 on the Environmental Working Group's Shoppers' Guide to Pesticides in Produce, with no detectable pesticide residue on 90 percent of samples tested. In terms of water, asparagus doesn't like much, so it stands to reason that compared to a lot of other vegetables, its water footprint is pretty small. And unless it's grown in a hothouse or imported from another coast or hemisphere, its energy requirements would seem to be pretty small, too.

Recipe courtesy of the Rhubarbarians

HAMBURGER HACKS: DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF HAMBURG

Isemarkt

Longing for a grand outdoor market? The Isemarkt is one of the largest outdoor markets in all of Europe. Its fruitful and delicious smells run right through central Eppendorf. Find everything from local produce to hard-crafted cutting boards. Bring your reusable bags and face masks and enjoy a wonderful stroll through the wonders of the Isemarkt!

.....
Isestraße 69,
20149 Hamburg
Tue and Fri 8:30am-2:00pm
Prices: \$-\$\$\$

Werner Hellmund

A hidden gem, this unique basement shop is filled with Hellmund's own creations and those of his designer friends. Simple, timeless, and beautiful! Stunning, one-off pieces of clothing, housewares, scarves, handmade bags, with a few one-of-a-kind soft toys thrown into the mix. You won't find these pieces anywhere else.

.....
Bernstorffstraße 172,
22767 Hamburg
Tue-Fri: 1pm-7pm
Saturdays: 12pm-4pm
Prices: \$\$-\$\$\$

Where has the year gone? In March 2020, there were hopes that perhaps the pandemic situation would resolve itself soon enough. Yet here we are one year later, the cinemas are still closed, film productions are managing to continue with delays and halts due to infection rates, and film festivals around the globe are utilizing streaming technology while trying to continue when it is impossible to meet in-person. These industry struggles have certainly put a damper on our Film Group's usual activities this year, but we have still managed to attend press screenings, stream upcoming films, and attend film festivals.

In January, we released our *Currents Special Film Supplement 2020* with coverage for the Filmfest Hamburg and the BFI London Film Festival. Just this past month, two of our members also attended the online industry event of the Berlin International Film Festival and will be publishing their coverage in the near future. Also, our member Shelly Schoeneshoefer has started up the new Film Lounge monthly event, where AWC Hamburg members are invited to watch a film each month and then meet on Zoom to discuss. It has been a great success and a lovely way to bring the Film Group together virtually and also connect with the rest of the membership. Even in the most difficult of times, there are still ways to come together and connect over the medium of film, and I look forward to seeing how our group continues to grow and thrive into the future, with or without the pandemic wreaking havoc on normal operations.

Please note: the release dates listed in the following reviews in *Currents* reflect the current hopes of the film industry and are entirely dependent upon the ever-changing pandemic situation in Germany.

Film Reviews Spring 2021



Der Rausch © Weltkino

Another Round (*Der Rausch, Druk*) ****

Denmark 2020
Opening April 22, 2021

Directed by: Thomas Vinterberg
Writing Credits: Thomas Vinterberg, Tobias Lindholm
Principal Actors: Mads Mikkelsen, Thomas Bo Larsen, Lars Ranthe, Magnus Millang

The Danish Dream Team is back. This moving tragicomedy about a high-proof self-experiment reunites director **Thomas Vinterberg** (*The Celebration*, *The Hunt*) with high-profile actor **Mads Mikkelsen**, who manages to be convincing in everything from *Bond* and *Star Wars* blockbusters to quiet costume dramas. *Another Round* nearly premiered in Cannes before the festival was canceled due to COVID-19; instead, it went on to Toronto, London, and San Sebastián.

Winner of the 2020 European Film Prize, the film has been submitted by Denmark to be considered for an Academy Award. It features a superb ensemble cast.

Mikkelsen plays Martin, a high school history teacher who lacks fulfillment in his life. Though once a star teacher and passionate about his subject, in middle age he's fallen into a permanent funk. Martin often looks like he's ready to cry. He's the kind of guy who tells people things that they forget. His colorless personality barely makes an impression on the teenagers in his classroom, who run roughshod over him. To make matters worse, his marriage is crumbling: his long-suffering wife, Trine (**Maria Bonnevie**), is as bored with him as he is with himself.

Things start shaking up at a booze-soaked birthday dinner that Martin attends with his three closest male colleagues. Psychologist Nikolaj, the birthday boy, tells the guys about a Norwegian psychiatrist's theory that humans are born with too little alcohol in their blood. Latching on to this semi-scientific idea (and hoping to put some zip back into their humdrum lives), they propose to drink consistently throughout every day. They call this an experiment in main-

taining the “proper” blood-alcohol level of 0.05%. Boldly declaring that to dare nothing means to lose themselves, the men decide to go for it: they adopt Ernest Hemingway and Winston Churchill as their boozy yet highly effective role models.

Martin, who has reluctantly gone along with his buddies, becomes aware of a remarkable improvement in himself. The constant level of alcohol in his blood allows him to be more present; more musical; more open; more courageous. His wife and students are delighted with his renewed vigor: he incorporates funny stories about drunken world leaders into his lesson plans. Nikolaj documents the group’s alcohol self-administration in a psychological study: after all, they’re

academics. As the experiment moves from its initial test phase to phases two and three—individualized drinking, then drinking to the max—things predictably take a sober turn.

Nikolaj’s final observation notes that “due to unforeseeable negative social consequences, the experiment is coming to an end.” Despite—or perhaps because of—its unorthodox subject, the film manages to be both boisterous and sobering, a love poem to the world. Life is an endless cycle of beginnings and endings, it tells us. Time for another round. (Brenda Benthien)



Proxima © Koch Films

Proxima—Die Astronautin (Proxima) *1/2**
USA 2019
Opening April 29, 2021

Directed by: Alice Winocour
Writing credits: Alice Winocour, Jean-Stéphane Bron
Principal actors: Eva Green, Zélie Boulant, Matt Dillon, Aleksey Fateev, Sandra Hüller

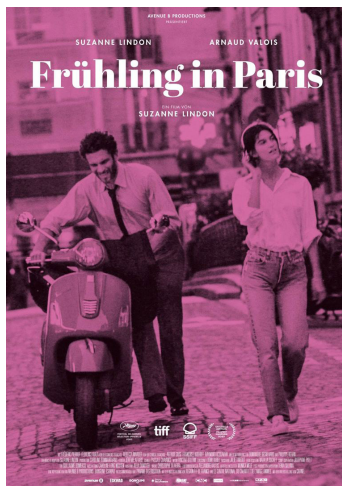
The time-eternal conflict in *Proxima—Die Astronautin’s* narrative (women entering a male-dominated profession) is particularly absorbing considering the behind-the-scenes drama and excitement as astronauts prepare for a space mission. Not only the stringent physical preparation and training but also the tricky emotional maneuvering as astronauts leave families, particularly children, and Mother Earth far behind. French director **Alice Winocour** and **Jean-Stéphane Bron’s** screenplay draws attention to the disparities when women compete.

Eva Green brilliantly portrays a woman caught in the middle: Sarah, training in Cologne, Germany, is chosen as a last-minute replacement for an imminent yearlong venture aboard the International Space Station. Sarah’s lifelong goal. A single mother, she and daughter Stella are close, albeit since her parent’s separation, the eight-year-old’s

clinginess has been disconcerting, suffocating. Outstanding is young **Zélie Boulant** as the petulant, lonely, yet basically loving child and **Lars Eidinger** as her father; Sarah’s mission forces them together. The European astronauts share camaraderie, whereas the sexist remarks and patronizing attitude of American Captain Matt Schannon, played by **Matt Dillon**, are annoying. **Aleksey Fateev’s** moderate attitude as cosmonaut Anton Ocheivsky balances Shannon’s machismo. During the grueling training, Sarah earns her coequals’ respect and understanding; they admire her honesty in expressing emotions, but male ego inhibits any reciprocation.

Production values are strong: **Ryuichi Sakamoto’s** music, **Julien Lacheray’s** editing, and **Georges Lechartois’** cinematography nimbly moves in/out of simulators, as well as amplifying star-bedecked skies. Production designer **Florian Sanson** and art director **Anja Fromm** add to the atmospheric impact. Equally impressive are scenes shot at the European Space Agency facilities, including the Baikonur Cosmodrome spaceport in southern Kazakhstan, leased to Russia.

The message is clear: when women compete, more is expected and bars are set higher, or insultingly lower. Females are expected to carry a heavier load while wading through levels of guilt. Unnecessary is the muddling section between Sarah and Stella near the end (re. the quarantine). Still, *Proxima’s* central focus, strong cast, and fascinating authenticity/locations more than compensate. Stay for the end credits, when numerous female astronauts with children are shown. 107 minutes (Marinell Haegelin)



Fruehling in Paris © MFA+

Frühling in Paris (Seize Printemps, Spring Blossom) ***

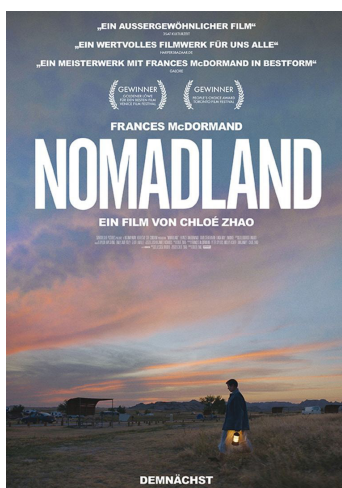
France 2020
Opening May 20, 2021

Directed by Suzanne Lindon
Writing credits: Suzanne Lindon
Principal actors: Suzanne Lindon, Arnaud Valois, Frédéric Pierrot, Florence Viala, Rebecca Marder

Sixteen-year-old Suzanne (**Suzanne Lindon**) lives with her parents and sister in Paris. She doesn't connect with her classmates. They are boring; their conversations in a favorite café are unappealing. Suzanne is "tired of everything." Her father is understanding. The text of a song which accompanies one scene tells it all: She is "hanging around the square, wearing an impudent white shirt, waiting for something to happen." Naturally, something "happens." In front of the theater on the way to school she meets Raphaël

(**Arnaud Valois**), a 35-year-old actor. They "connect" and spend time together, also sitting in a café, or standing on an empty stage in his theater. They seem to agree on everything in their rare conversations, in an otherwise rather silent movie. Is this a serious love affair? After all, she has exchanged the white shirt for a red sweater. Will she share her thoughts with her mother?

Seize Printemps, entitled *Spring Blossom* in English and *Frühling in Paris* in German, is a slow silent film, with many close-up scenes of actors staring into space. No one even talks on a mobile phone, which is unusual these days. This leaves the viewer wondering, What? Why? Huh? Although not a film for general entertainment, perhaps the viewer can identify with some of the situations. I recommend the film as an opportunity to experience Suzanne Lindon, the daughter of French actors Sandrine Kibertain and Vincent Lindon. At first glance, she does not come across as a film-star beauty, but still, she plays the leading role. Even more importantly, she wrote the script at age 15 and then directed the film at age 20. *Seize Printemps* premiered in over nine film festivals, including Cannes, Toronto, San Sebastian, and, of course, Hamburg. (Becky Tan)



Nomadland ©Searchlight Pictures

Nomadland****

USA 2020
Opening April 8, 2021

Directed by: Chloé Zhao
Writing credits: Chloé Zhao, Jessica Bruder
Principal actors: Frances McDormand, David Strathairn, Linda May

Fern (**Frances McDormand**) leaves her home for a life on the road after her town, Empire, a mining town near the Black Rock Desert, Nevada, is all but extinguished after the gypsum mine shuts down. With no reason to stay, even the zip code has been discontinued, Fern takes her most treasured possessions and memories, packs her van, and takes to the

highways and byways of the American West. New to the life of a nomad, Fern learns from old hands how to survive and thrive amid the vast landscapes and freedom of the open road. Finding a new purpose and sense of self, Fern soon realizes the most important elements of life are human connection and our memories, both new and those yet to come.

Frances McDormand delivers a stand-out mellow performance as Fern. Illustrating a very human existence, living on the road in her home—her van. Whether living a nomadic life on the road is an active choice or due to circumstance, it is thought-provoking. A key statement I took away, "I am not homeless but houseless." A home is what you make, not a house.

This is a rich tale of modern-day nomads. The stars of this film are mostly true nomads such as Linda May and Swankie. Many of the women and men we met in the film are out there, on the road, making their journey and experiencing life their way.

So far, *Nomadland* has been awarded Best Picture (Drama) and Best Director at the Golden Globes and has been nominated for six Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Actress, and two BAFTAs for Best Film and Best Actress.

If you want to learn more after you have watched the film, read the book *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder. To research and write the book, she drove 15,000 miles and spent months living in a camper van documenting American nomads,

focusing on people who gave up traditional housing and hit the road full time.

This is one of the best films of the year and deserves all the recognition it is garnering. (Christine Riney)



Ich bin dein Mensch © Christine Fenzl

Ich bin dein Mensch (I Am Your Man) ****

Germany 2021

Opening June 17, 2021

Directed by: Maria Schrader

Writing credits: Jan Schomburg, Maria Schrader, Emma Braslavsky

Principal actors: Maren Eggert, Dan Stevens, Sandra Hüller, Hans Löw, Wolfgang Hübisch

In return for funds for her research, Alma (**Maren Eggert**), a researcher at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, is coaxed into giving her professional opinion about a revolutionary new product, a robot boyfriend. She is tasked with living with this robot, named Tom (**Dan Stevens**), for three weeks, after which she must write an ethics review about her experience to help determine whether robots are fit for human use. Tom has been developed specifically to make her happy, but Alma is a reticent woman who has no wish for a non-human companion, particularly as she watches her ex with his new human girlfriend. *Ich bin dein Mensch* explores the theme of human loneliness, happiness, and just what requirements we have for companionship and a fulfilling life.

Alma is a curious character. She makes her opinion of her role in the experiment clear from the beginning; she is not impressed with this new technology and she does not particularly want Tom in her life. Tom is a blank slate, his algorithm making constant adjustments to make himself a perfect partner for Alma, something which makes her even

more suspicious. For what is a relationship if your partner is only there to serve your needs with no needs of their own? Interestingly, it is this very conflict which makes Tom develop even further, to the point where the difference between AI and organic life becomes difficult to differentiate. As Tom becomes more ideal, the temptation to accept him into her life becomes stronger. What is the point of struggling against happiness anyways, even if it is with a robot? Her father presents the other alternative, alone and confused and easily taken advantage of in his old age. With a robot, she would never have to worry about such problems, but the fundamental issue remains: is that happiness even real? Or is it merely an illusion?

Premiering at the 71st Berlin International Film Festival in the Competition section, Maren Eggert took home the Silver Bear for the Best Acting Performance. Dan Stevens is particularly impressive as Tom, effusing the character with an innocent charm. His fluency in German makes his performance doubly impressive. *Ich bin dein Mensch* is a clever and evocative romantic comedy with strong performances which you won't want to miss. (Rose Finlay)



CURRENTS MAGAZINE

© 2021 American Women’s Club of Hamburg e.V.
 Postfach 13 04 05, 20104 Hamburg
 Website: <http://www.awchamburg.org>

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

The AWCH is not responsible for inconveniences and/or expenses incurred due to misinformation in *Currents*.

All rights reserved.
 The articles contained herein are written by AWCH members about their individual experiences and opinions. Material printed in *Currents* does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the AWC Hamburg. The editors and the board reserve the right to edit and/or reject articles for publication that do not reflect the positive spirit and overall goals of our organization.

AWCH Board of Directors 2021

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| President | Carol H.
pres@awchamburg.org |
| Vice President | Diana S.
vpres@awchamburg.org |
| Treasurer | Susan B.
treasurer@awchamburg.org |
| Secretary | Sara N.
secretary@awchamburg.org |
| Membership | Hannah B.
membership@awchamburg.org |
| Communications | Jordan W.
communications@awchamburg.org |
| Activities Chair | Callie R.
activities@awchamburg.org |
| Events Chair | Morgan R. and Katharina K.
eventschair@awchamburg.org |
| FAWCO Rep | Bettina H.
fawcorep@awchamburg.org |