

# AWCH CURRENTS

**FEATURING  
THE COOKBOOK  
LET'S STAY IN**

**SPECIAL THEME  
OUR NEW  
WORLD**

**AND HOW WE ARE  
LIVING IN IT**

**THE AMERICAN WOMENS CLUB OF HAMBURG, e. V.**

April - June 2020 - Vol. 36, No. 11

[www.awchamburg.org](http://www.awchamburg.org)

# President's Message



Dearest Ladies of the AWCH,

How are you holding up these days? This year has been difficult and is the greatest challenge we have faced in generations. The losses we are facing and seeing others face are overwhelming, to say the least. At this point, we've had several weeks of staying at home, working,

and caring for others in our households. Many of us are separated from our loved ones, many of us are anxious over the uncertainty of the future, and many of us are missing the simple pleasures of meeting up with friends, taking a stroll, and just being outside. No matter how your life has changed, all of the new unknowns have been scary and exhausting. I am mentally weary in many ways, and I imagine you are, too.

Before I sat down to write this article, I was reading about yet another summer event that's being canceled, and as I looked outside my window, I noticed the beautiful new growth on the trees with the sun shining its magnificent brilliance all over the garden, and I had a realization that although many events throughout the world were being canceled, the HUMAN EXPERIENCE was not. Our ability to CONNECT has not been canceled, and we have been given an opportunity for a new beginning, a better chance to get up and do, a much-needed reset of mind, body, and soul.

The AWCH has done an outstanding job in keeping us connected by navigating these rough waters with grace,

courage, and creativity. The board meets virtually once a month, the AWCH newsletter is sent out every two weeks by Jordan W., and Jess M.'s Stitch 'n' Bitch group has been crafting virtually while Elizabeth R.'s Opera Club has been attending top-notch opera performances online. Shelly S.'s Art Group is creating art with their Art Challenge, Christine R.'s Environmentally Mindful Forum had a 30-Day Earth Challenge, the Hamburger Helper area coordinators have met via Zoom, and the Walking (apart-together) Groups in Altona and Blankenese have met up again. The AWCH cookbook team is excited about their upcoming cookbook, and Susan S.W. and Julia R.B. procured over 300 masks that were donated to the Frauenhaus. In the meantime, Tracy M. is busy coordinating the delivery of our delicious fundraising bagels; and in May, the From the Heart Working Bee donated 52 drainage bags to Helios Mariahilf Hospital.

On a personal note, I have never been busier, assisting my neighbors, taking online German lessons, filming a short film, reading plays, and learning how to digitize old VHS tapes. I even meditated with a Japanese Buddhist monk (in Japan!)— THAT was an experience.

In closing, hang in there, dear ladies. We've done all this together, and we know we will get through this because we have each other.

And, as always, if you have questions, concerns, or just need to talk, please email [info@awchamburg.org](mailto:info@awchamburg.org) and we will connect you to the right person. Stay healthy and safe!

*Sincerely Julia R.*

AWCH President

## Editorial

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced our club, cities, and countries to temporarily shut down, the *Currents* team has decided to focus our summer edition on the theme *Our New World and How We are Living in It*. Members discuss the changes and challenges they have faced while adapting to these new circumstances.

This edition highlights the many aspects of our new world and the changes we are facing. The new AWCH cookbook, *Let's Stay In*, encourages members to enjoy their time inside and all profits will benefit the 5. Hamburger Frauenhaus. You will also read updates about how our clubs have altered their

meeting styles and find out which events and businesses are reopening in your area.

In regards to the recent events concerning the death of George Floyd, we have dedicated the back cover in remembrance of him and the others who have been subjected to injustice and racism. Thank you to our members who stand up for this cause, and thank you to all of our contributors to this issue. Please enjoy the summer edition of *Currents: Our New World*, and stay safe.

*Regards*

*Beatrice K. and Mason Jane M.*

Co-Editors



5 AWCH COOKBOOK



14 SPECIAL THEME: OUR NEW WORLD



24 COVID-19 ART CHALLENGE

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## APR-JUN 2020

### AWCH NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 Statement From the Board
- 5 AWCH Cookbook
- 10 FAWCO & LFR

### OUR NEW WORLD

- 14 Chaos is a Ladder
- 15 Je Proteste!
- 16 Change in Plans
- 17 Close Relationships
- 18 Member Interviews
- 21 A Time Slice of April 29 & Corona Update

### THE CLUBS WITHIN OUR CLUB

- 22 Women's Circle
- 23 Stitch 'n' Bitch
- 24 Art Group
- 28 Opera Club & Hamburger Helpers
- 29 Our Walking Groups
- 30 Environmentally Mindful

### IN HAMBURG

- 32 Art in the City
- 36 Film Group
- 42 The English Theater
- 43 Crossword Puzzle



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#### Summer 2020

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# An Important STATEMENT From the Board

In light of the current situation and to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, all AWCH in-person events and activities are canceled until further notice. The board will continue to re-evaluate the situation based on the guidelines and recommendations set forth by the federal government of Germany, the city of Hamburg, and the Robert Koch Institute.

If you begin to experience symptoms of COVID-19, the most important thing is NOT to visit a doctor's office or emergency room, as you may infect other patients. Those with relevant symptoms can get advice by calling their doctor's office or emergency medical service at 116 117. In addition, a hotline has been set up for Hamburg, which can be reached at 040 428 284 000.

Getting through this pandemic requires us to engage in self-enforced quarantines which can be really hard for many people. This is why it is so important to know that you are not alone. It's good to reach out to others, particularly when it's most difficult to do so. We hope you will consider checking in with a few people every day, practicing meditation, getting out in the fresh air, and taking advantage of free online programming

This has been a crazy and unpredictable time for most of our club members. If you find yourself needing assistance at home, help understanding the situation, or you just want to talk to someone, please reach out to other AWCH members (e.g., by email or on our private Facebook group) or write to [info@awchamburg.org](mailto:info@awchamburg.org), and we will try to connect you to the right person. We're here for you!

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

##### **Robert Koch Institute:**

[https://www.rki.de/EN/Home/homepage\\_node.html](https://www.rki.de/EN/Home/homepage_node.html)

##### **City of Hamburg:**

<https://www.hamburg.de/coronavirus> (German)

<https://www.hamburg.de/allgemeinverfuegungen/13746114/general-decrees/> (English)



Introducing the new

# AWCH CHARITY COOKBOOK



## PREORDER TODAY!

Limited Numbers  
Available

## HOW TO ORDER:

Send your preorders in  
now by emailing  
[cookbook@awchamburg.org](mailto:cookbook@awchamburg.org)

Tell us your full name, email  
address, and your order: number  
of copies hardcover, digital, or a  
bundle.

We will respond with payment  
details.

## PRICES:

Digital: € 8.99  
Hardcover: € 25.00  
Bundle: € 30.00 (one hardcover  
and one digital)

The idea of a new AWCH cookbook came to light as measures of "social distancing" from our friends and family were implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19. *Let's Stay In* has been a wonderful virtual food experience! It gave our members a chance to reconnect with friends and family, ask for new and old recipes, test them, and share them. All recipes in this cookbook are from our members and friends of AWCH. All net proceeds from the sale will be donated to the 5th Hamburg Women's Shelter e.V. (5. Hamburger Frauenhaus e.V.). The funds will be used to improve the health and well-being of the women and children who have found refuge from domestic violence in the shelter.

# Featured recipes from Let's Stay In

## Spicy Healthy Vegetable Pâté

Gluten Free & Vegan



**PREP TIME**  
10 minutes



**SERVINGS**  
6-8 servings



**COOK TIME**  
20-30 minutes



**PREPARED BY**  
Brigitte B.-R.



### Ingredients:

- 1/4 green cabbage
- 1 zucchini
- 60 g any dark green leafy vegetables  
(or a mix of all)
- 1 avocado (optional)
- 1/2 onion
- 1 shallot or 2 spring onions
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 sprigs fresh parsley
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp curcuma powder
- Juice of one lemon or 1 tbsp of Stella's red  
cabbage and cucumber vinegar
- Salt and pepper (optional)

### Steps for Cooking:

1. Cut cabbage, zucchini, dark green leafy vegetables, onion, shallot, and spring onions into medium pieces.
2. Place 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a pan and add vegetables, 1 clove of garlic, parsley, and curcuma.
3. Cover and simmer over low-to-medium heat for approximately 1/2 hour, stirring occasionally.
4. Remove from pan and place all ingredients in a blender. Add one clove of garlic, lemon juice, and one tablespoon of olive oil. Blend until smooth.
5. Serve immediately in an attractive appetizer bowl or refrigerate in a glass jar for up to 7 days.

### Chef's notes:

As this is one of my favorite appetizers, you will always find it in my fridge, preserved in a glass jar. When I feel a little bit hungry because dinner is not yet ready, I just take a spoon or two of this tapenade and my taste buds sing!

Sometimes I have a glass of white wine with it and get dinner ready in a joyful mood! Don't tell anybody! Add an avocado and a pear to the mix and serve it on bananas and other fruits so it looks like sushi.

# Homemade Käsespätzle



**PREP TIME**  
5-10 minutes



**COOK TIME**  
15-20 minutes



**SERVINGS**  
4 servings



**PREPARED BY**  
Callie H.

## Ingredients:

- 225 g all-purpose flour, German type 550
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 120 ml cold water
- 2 onions, halved and sliced
- Pinch of salt
- A little butter and sugar to sauté the onions in and lots and lots of shredded gruyere, gouda, and any yummy cheeses you can find.

## Chef's notes:

I recommend eating this yummy dish with a salad with a balsamic vinegar dressing—super yummy! Friends of mine just top it with balsamic vinaigrette! Another variation is to reduce the water, add thawed frozen shredded spinach, and to go with gorgonzola! I learned how to make spätzle first when I was an au pair in Vorarlberg, Austria, on the Bodensee, but have perfected it through my time with my extended family in Bavaria! It's an easy and delicious dish to make when you are low on ingredients. Enjoy!

## Steps for Cooking:

1. Take a lot of salt (a big handful) and put it in a very large pot of water and bring it to a boil.
2. In a large mixing bowl, put in flour and make an indentation in the middle for the rest of the ingredients.
3. Add eggs, oil, and the pinch of salt, and then slowly mix in the cold water. It may be possible that not all of the water will be needed. Stir in until it is a very sticky, stretchy dough.
4. So ideally you would have a spätzle press (potato ricer) to push the dough through small holes, but since not everyone has this, another way is to use a cheese grater or colander and a spatula. Pick up about a large spoonful of sticky dough and scrape it through the holes into the boiling water. When the little squiggles float to the top (should only take a few minutes), then take a slotted spoon and scoop them out of the water into a baking form.
5. With each spoonful of spätzle, cover with grated cheese and repeat.
6. Lastly, caramelize some onions with butter and sugar to top the spätzle with.

New Feature: *Currents* will publish a different recipe from our members every issue!



# The stories behind some of our recipes



## *Chicken Fajita Pasta*

BY JULIA R.

The chicken fajita recipe I submitted is adapted from a favorite dish (Chicken Tequila Fettuccine) that my husband and I enjoy at California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) in the US. Although it's a franchise restaurant, they have quite a few dishes that are very good! Waitressing at CPK was my first job when I moved to Los Angeles in 1992 to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and pursue an acting career. I worked there for a couple of years to help pay off my college loan until I got my first performance gig working on a cruise ship in 1994.

This is my husband's favorite pasta dish and tastes out of this world! Fettuccini is my go-to pasta, but you can also use linguini, spaghetti, or fusilli to soak up all the wonderful sauce. Omit the chicken and add fresh mushrooms for a vegetarian dish and make it vegan by substituting the butter and stock. Pairs well with margaritas!

## *Osso Buco*

BY CHRISTINE R.

Meeting with friends when you are unable to meet. That was the starting point for this osso buco recipe. My friend and I decided to try a virtual dinner party that allowed us to prepare a meal, have drinks, a starter, and a main meal together but apart. In order to make it work, we needed something that we could prepare in advance so we could be in front of our virtual dinner guests as much as possible. Osso buco was the perfect solution. The prep is fast and was easy to do four hours before with my friend using

WhatsApp. While we enjoyed our pre-dinner Lillet Blanc cocktails and a caprese salad, the osso buco slow-cooked to perfection. By the time we had finished our dinner party, we had been speaking, eating, drinking, laughing until midnight! Would we do it again? Yes, as for many of us even during normal times, our friends and loved ones are far away. This is a great way of being connected over a meal when it isn't possible to meet in person—try it virtually.



# Mjeddrah

BY MARY FRANCES L.

Adapted from Frances Moore Lappé's *Diet for a Small Planet*. Legend has it this is the "mess of potage" that smelled so good, Esau gave his birthright away to his brother Jacob. At any rate, it is a great way to live off rice and beans and clean out the salad drawer in the fridge during isolation.



How I came to mjeddrah, or all roads lead to Rome: growing up, my father had business with Saudi Arabia and my mother loved international cooking, including Middle Eastern. *Small Planet* was the cookbook I took off her shelf to college (where I studied the economics of developing countries). Frances Moore Lappé was

a forerunner for the issues surrounding food security (SDG 2) in the 1970's. Later, I read in Jeff Smith's *The Frugal Gourmet Keeps the Feast* (cooking in biblical times) that, of course, even brown rice wasn't authentic. Barley and a grain more like emmer or spelt would have been regional. His recipe with those grains is out-of-this-world good, so if you have them, enjoy. The emmer needs an hour's head start before adding the lentils and barley for the last 45 minutes. Plus, it would require an extra trip to a health food store. As corona times call for stress-lowering simplicity, I give you the first mjeddrah recipe I read. I wish all our readers a good meal, with conversations that strengthen the family bonds.



Do these recipes sound good? Order *Let's Stay In* to find the recipes and more just like them!

# Lockdown Loaf

BY HILARY W.

You might wonder why anyone would bake their own bread in Germany, home of the greatest bakeries in the world. However, there is something very comforting about the smell and taste of fresh-baked bread in a quarantine!

This recipe will allow you to skip the lines at the bakeries and get around the fact that yeast is currently impossible to find. The beer and baking soda allow the bread to rise, without kneading or rising cycles, so the bread is incredibly fast and easy to make. It has a slightly moist and dense texture, however, which makes for great toast. This recipe was inspired by Chelsea Winters, a celebrity chef from New Zealand.





# FAWCO

Inspiring Women Worldwide

**BY CHRISTINE R.**

AWCH has already reached the Topaz Donor status, with donations from our last two AGM Silent Auctions totaling \$4,043. The full list of clubs and their contributions can be found on the FAWCO Foundation website Club Donor Wall.

The AWCH Philanthropic Collective is looking forward to working with you to raise more funds for this cause. Look for a movie night in autumn and, of course, for more fun auctions. There is more we can do for these girls and women over the next two years.

## FOUNDATION 2020 AWARDS

At the FAWCO Virtual Conference, the winners of the 2020 FAWCO Foundation Education Awards and Development Grants were announced.

Maybe it will be you next year? Find out more here: <https://www.fawcofoundation.org/programs/education-awards>

### Education Award

We are delighted to tell you that member Makia M. has been awarded a \$5,000 grant to become a certified Theraplay practitioner. Congratulations, Makia!



Maika M.

### Development Grant

The AWCH charity "Integrated Tribal Watershed Development Programme" has been awarded a Development Grant of \$5,000. The funds will support the planting of 1,500 cashew trees on 40 acres. The trees will provide a second cash crop for 40 households (235 persons), stopping devastating migration and ensuring the ecological sustainability of the watershed for future generations. Last year they were also awarded a Development Grant to build a kindergarten, which is now complete. Thank you Carol S., Carol H., and Brigitte B.R. for the time and expertise to submit this grant proposal.





## Many Hands Make Light Work

BY MARY FRANCES L.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are a way to measure what progress (development) we make worldwide toward improving people's lives between 2015–2030. Before cynically rolling your eyes, know that these 17 goals were set by diverse experts, not politicians, from all over the globe. The idea is to keep all the goals in mind when designing a program that focuses on one particular goal. For example, when improving women's incomes, the environmental aspects are also considered. And, when protecting an area environmentally, remembering how local women are going to need affordable fuel for cooking (preferably by talking to the women involved, of course).

Besides being cool, progressive, and idealistic, what has that got to do with AWCH? The fact is, we have always been, and will continue to be, active in promoting these goals, and you probably weren't even aware of it. In our very own AWCH, the Book Club selections, the Walking Groups getting women active, SnB's Heart Pillows and drainage bottle bags, the Alster Fun Run for the women's shelter, the presentations on mental health, the clothing and book swaps—these are some club activities that work right here for and with us in Hamburg. Betcha didn't know you were helping achieve the SDGs when you took part!

There are members who have individually taken part in an annual city

clean-up day, marched for Fridays for Future, and worked for cleaner energy and cleaner transportation. Some have encouraged women's participation in STEM careers, worked on legal issues for refugees, are passionately responsible consumers, and much more.

It's a good thing we in AWCH work well together, because that gives us more hands. Were you aware that through our membership in the Hamburg Women's Council (Landesfrauenrat), we have been part of workshops considering grassroots recommendations to the Hamburg Parliament to improve Hamburg's own measures? (Reducing inequalities in the availability of education and evaluating the gender effects of budgeting decisions were two topics.)

And a great big hand goes to FAWCO and all that our membership allows us to do. The teams on health, environment, education, and human

rights cover so much ground that none of the 17 SDGs are left untouched. Plus we have our Development Grants and Target Projects. The campaign against FGM is obviously about Goals Three and Five, but look again: it all starts with knowledge and enables more education, so Four is one of the alpha/omega goals. Just look at the other goals and you realize that they reduce social pressure, which helps open minds and hearts for creative solutions. The goals all need to be considered and work hand-in-hand to achieve, among other specifics, the eradication of FGM.

So watch on Facebook and Instagram every Tuesday, or read the posts in the AWCH newsletter. Watch for an event mid-September, when the SDGs turn five. See what changes and what stays the same. Become aware of the SDGs around you, wave and smile "hello," help the word grow and the work get accomplished.





**HOPE FOR  
GIRLS & WOMEN**  
Tanzania

FAWCO announced the new Target Project during their virtual conference in March. This is also the Target Project that AWCH voted for at the AGM in January. It is a cause that we can all get behind for the next two years, supporting the elimination of FGM for these girls and women in Tanzania.

*“ My dream is to save girls from being cut, and I will never stop until FGM is history in my community. ”*

-Rhobi Samwelly

**BY CHRISTINE R.**

FAWCO REPRESENTATIVES

**HOW OUR RAISED FUNDS WILL BE USED:**

- Safe haven for 500 at-risk girls coupled with family counseling services to ensure their safe return home, free from the threat of female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Healthcare and psychosocial counseling to 200 women and 300 girl survivors of FGM
- Community sensitization through outreach programs and the introduction of Alternative Rites of Passage as an alternative to FGM, with a potential reach of 25,000 individuals
- Income-generating opportunities for 50 women and 50 girls and access to the National Health Insurance Fund plan



**BUDGET:**

\$142,062.96: 95% of funds will go to programs and services, i.e., psychosocial support, training, community outreach and education, Alternative Rites of Passage celebrations, safe havens, and healthcare. 5% of funds will be used to monitor and evaluate programming throughout the two-year period.

**WHO IS HOPE FOR GIRLS & WOMEN?**

Hope for Girls & Women Tanzania (HGWT) is an organization that advocates for the end of FGM and other harmful practices affecting women and children in Tanzania including, but not limited to, intimate partner violence, child marriage, and other forms of violence. HGWT works to promote and protect the rights of girls and women by providing education to girls and the community at large, strengthening social cohesion, promoting positive social change, and increasing the

capacity of women and girls to live free of violence through increased access to protection facilities and skills development. HGWT's mission is to promote human dignity and respect for girls and women by:

- Campaigning for the elimination of FGM and other harmful practices that affect children and women in their community
- Promoting respect, human dignity, and the equality of all human beings
- Empowering communities to break the cycle of poverty and inequality
- Supporting survivors of gender-based violence

The history of HGWT is the history of its founder, Rhobi Samwelly. At age 11, Rhobi lost a close friend to FGM. When Rhobi's parents began to organize her cutting ceremony at age 13, she strongly resisted. She abandoned a plan to run away when she realized she had nowhere to go. With no



options, she underwent the ceremony, during which she lost so much blood that her mother thought she was dying. These memories inspired Rhobi's commitment to save other girls from a similar fate. Her passion propelled her to become an anti-FGM activist and to establish HGWT.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO LEARN MORE BY VISITING THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:**

- Join Hope for Girls and Women Tanzania on Facebook.
- See the video S.A.F.E (Safe Alternatives for FGM—Female Genital Mutilation - Elimination).



Congratulations and thank you all for your support!



## Equal Rights, No Flowers!

**BY JOANA M.-O'N. AND CAROL H.**  
LFR REPRESENTATIVES

The Landesfrauenrat (LFR, or Women's Council of Hamburg) has always worked to draw attention to persistent gender inequalities in Germany, and now they are pointing out how much more apparent these are during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the monthly LFR membership meetings came to a screeching halt in March, as have so many activities in our lives, LFR board members in particular have continued to beat the drum for gender equality by using social media and by strengthening their alliances with other Hamburg organizations.

In May, together with 18 other Hamburg-based associations and organizations, the LFR presented a catalogue of demands to Hamburg's governing coalition. The demands aim to ensure that the billions of euros in stimulus funds that the government has pledged to fight the corona crisis are distributed equitably. The funds should be used specifically for a gender-equitable social and ecological restructuring of society and the economy.

Of special concern is providing help for family caregivers. In a recent press release, the LFR pointed out that the primary burden of family caregiving continues to fall on women. The work performed is generally unpaid, often unrecognized, and receives little support. Studies such as those conducted by the Social Science Research Center in Berlin repeatedly confirm that women are more likely to sacrifice their work when trying

to balance family life and career, and they suffer as a result. Even before the pandemic crisis, the Hamburg equality monitor (Gleichstellungsmonitor <https://www.hamburg.de/gleichstellungsmonitor/>) showed that 29% more women in Hamburg are employed in part-time positions as compared to men. Now, after weeks of COVID-19 isolation juggling home everything (office, school, childcare, housework) in addition to all the other responsibilities of a mother or caregiver, the situation is becoming unbearable and unmanageable.

The LFR demands that childcare and family responsibilities become a political priority in our society. Parents and guardians must have a say in whether there is an "urgent need" for care of their children or other family members in times of crisis.

The LFR welcomes efforts at the national level to provide

**“What was already a problem before corona is even more so during corona and will remain so after corona.”**

- Cornelia Creischer, LFR chairwoman

financial compensation that will benefit mothers and other family caregivers. But this is not enough. The current crisis shows the extreme importance of establishing a permanent, diverse, and all-inclusive dialogue between the family caregivers and political decision-makers. It is imperative that all social classes, occupational levels, and city districts are included in the dialogue.

# Our New World AND HOW WE ARE LIVING IN IT

## CHAOS IS A LADDER

BY BEATRICE K.

**C**OVID-19 propelled our world into a hectic chaos while giving us all new vocabulary: self-isolation and social-distancing. Now, three months into the event, we may feel trapped, stressed, or even oddly calm at times.

Clearly, everything from fashion to politics to common mentalities, and even to social and work life, will be altered in some way or another. But beyond all that, what can we expect moving forward from this turning point in history?

“Chaos isn’t a pit. Chaos is a ladder.”

This quote is not from a famous philosopher, but instead from the HBO hit series *Game of Thrones*, and it offers an interesting lens through which to understand chaos.

The word “chaos” comes from the Greek *khaos*, meaning abyss or void that gapes wide open. The *Game of Thrones* character Littlefinger uses this quote to illuminate opportunities during turbulent times, that is, to climb a ladder while many others are stalled by events. And while tumult can be overwhelming, according to Littlefinger, “Only the ladder is real.”

Our times are uncertain. But every moment is a unique chance to see through chaos, climb the ladder, and strive to

achieve something which we never expected. Accept that life is uncertain instead of fighting it. We may not want to embrace change, but history tells us time and again that crises alter society. And those who adapt are those who thrive.

Every generation has its historical moments of great change. Consider the 1918 Spanish influenza, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, or even 9/11. The chaos of these eras devoured any previous sense of stability and touched every person’s life in some way. But events and eras eventually come to an end and new beginnings arise.

Discussions in Germany have already surfaced about how work will be performed post-pandemic, as well as the possibility of a “greener” recovery. For many businesses, religious organizations, and friend groups, social media has never been more vital.

It’s becoming apparent that the virus is slowing, and countries are reopening, and as new light shines, societies will change. It is up to us to decide what our new world will look like. Climb that ladder!



## JE PROTESTE!

BY PALVASHA H.

**H**ello from the hole into which I've fallen since you-know-what happened; stuck in the birdsong-permeated, graveyard-like stillness of the place where I (sadly) live, with no work-related chance of escape to the city in the foreseeable future, I'm trying, with mixed results, to keep it together.

What absolutely didn't help was my rash decision to get *Girl, Woman, Other* and actually attempt to read it. I've finally put it down, long before the end because, frankly, the thing's unreadable at the best of times. Hilary Mantel's *The Mirror and the Light*, eagerly awaited and pre-ordered, if shot through with a strange sense of foreboding on my part, finally arrived, only to disappoint initially: this great author of the first two wonderful novels in the Cromwell trilogy has inexplicably succumbed to the highly-overrated and by now overused literary device of an opening-scene death, in this case none other than a tedious description of Anne Boleyn's execution (surprise, surprise!). Persisting with gritted teeth for the next 20 pages, I had to put it down temporarily. I reserve my final judgement on it until I've figured out a way to deal with its (physical) weight while lying in bed, as I only enjoy reading novels before going to sleep.

One day, having crept out of Uetersen wearing a pesky mask to my favorite café in Hamburg, "as the hart panteth after

the water," so to speak, I ended up being the only customer on the premises: patrons were unwilling to give their contact details, required in case tracing became necessary. It had also stopped serving American cheesecake. At least I could see signs of life on the street while sipping my coffee and reading the newspaper, telling myself to count my blessings.

Eager in the beginning to participate in webinars organized by the Berlin foreign-policy think tank of which I'm a member and whose events I hardly ever get around to attending in person, I am now tiring of it as well, as indeed are many others who didn't spend their lives online before the virus struck. Just as I've had enough of the much-made-of ample opportunity for self-reflection, a process I didn't need a vacuum in my life to undertake.

When will anything remotely like civilized life be possible again, I wonder, as I sit penning this on a bench in the local park I've cycled to; at this stage I can't help but admire the brave Swedes, taking the bull by the horns and carrying on largely as usual. Who knows, they might well be over the worst as we sit cowering, dreading a second wave. Meanwhile, I finally got around to reading *The Catcher in the Rye*, and am enjoying it greatly. On that happy and irreverent note, *au revoir!*

# CHANGE IN PLANS

BY TRACY M.

*“I thought I’d spend this time reading books, working on puzzles, organizing photo albums, or larger craft projects, but no, I have been busy, both physically and mentally.”*

This is the playbook of my life since March 19:

- Drove to Amsterdam with Ally to pick up Becka, whose uni has postponed IRL courses. An 8+ hour day in the car.
- Worried about my mom in a senior living center. She’ll be 80 in June. I WhatsApp video with her every other day.
- Ally painted the basement floors and walls in the laundry room. I was her helper-in-chief.
- Sewed 60+ masks for a local medical facility. Also sewed enough for my family. Made a post on Facebook and was contacted by a former employer asking for 20 masks for his employees. Of course, I said yes!
- Learned how to make a pavlova. Thanks, Jess M.! Learned a dance and made a TikTok with my family.
- Watching too much CNN. What the US administration has been doing, or not, gives me nightmares. Wish Andrew Cuomo was our president. He seems to have a plan.
- Living room parquet flooring coming at the end of May. So: old wallpaper down and the new went up, ceiling and walls were painted/papered.
- Helios Mariahilf needs more drainage bottle bags. All the material is at my house and the Working Bee can’t meet, so Ally and I sewed and delivered 50 colorful bags.
- Planted flowers, raspberry bushes, and vegetables.
- Took Becka back to Amsterdam after Mother’s Day. Took time to smell the flowers.
- Frustrated about US administration’s response to COVID-19. I worry for my fellow citizens but am so thankful and grateful that I am living here in Germany.
- Removed the laminate floor and took it to the recycling center. On the way home, bought an upright freezer and a new vacuum—a Dyson! Yippee!!
- Parquet flooring installation begins on Friday, following a Father’s Day of moving the furniture to a pavilion in the garden. After that, it is furniture in, curtains up, and pictures on the wall.

My emotions have been all over the place these past two months. Excited to have Becka back home, glad to have some home renovations done, and happy to have celebrated Easter, my birthday, and Mother’s Day under a gorgeous Hamburg sky, but all the while a deep, sinister sense of doom has been building within me. I am so upset with the state of things in the US and feeling so helpless until November when hopefully things will change.

Tuesdays are our virtual Stitch ’n’ Bitch. I draw strength, stability, and joy from my friends in the group. I hope the relaxing can begin soon!





# CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

AN ONLINE SEMINAR  
BY ANNA S.



*Currents:* "What is different about leading your group in person versus online?"

*Anna:* "I've offered relationship workshops since 2016, and we discuss topics that are very close. When talking face-to-face, I monitor the group, mostly for non-verbal clues, to make sure not to hurt anyone. If needed, I can offer a glass of water or an exercise to allow a participant to restore balance. This is a challenge online. And I miss our hugs and photos afterwards."

## CREATING CONNECTIONS

In April 2020 I started a series of virtual workshops about relationships on Zoom. I am not tech-savvy, but I decided to give it a try. The first webinar took place on Thursday, April 9, and from my perspective was a disaster. Despite several successful advance trials, I could not share my presentation, as Zoom did not allow me to share my desktop. It took me time and sweat to fight through this misery while the participants used the time to chat about other projects. Thank you, ladies, for your patience. I was saved by Christine R., who at the end shared my presentation from her computer.

The second webinar on April 30 was a cozy meeting with five amazing participants who could see each other on the screen in gallery view. Seeing everyone on the screen was incredible,

because what we miss in isolation is not the thoughts or words of another person but seeing and hearing (and here I mean the tone of voice and the expression of the eyes) how this person is, in this very moment. We miss these encounters and mutual experiences. And I am grateful to have discovered Zoom.

We discussed close relationships and their uniqueness and touched upon how these relationships, when they really work, reduce fears, improve well-being, and buffer from stress and adversity. We also discussed how we grow out of our birth families and carry the rules on how to connect and how to trust. We were physically separated, but it felt very close, even intimate. Thank you, Emilia, Susan, Christine, and Holly for being so warm and supportive.

## Reviews of the Seminar

*Dear Anna, thank you very much for the seminar today. It is very useful to hear the latest science on relationships, stress, and other topics. Competent and well prepared, it was a pleasure to participate in and to listen to you and the other participants.*

From Emilia J.

*Having Anna walk us through the relationship topic helped bring to the surface something that had been causing me stress for a while. Anna's clear and simple approach helped me to open and tap my way through a long overdue conversation on a couple of tricky topics with my husband that left us both feeling better and closer. Thanks so much!*

From Holly T.

*Anna, I always appreciate your seminars; not just ideas or concepts but actual instructions...I found it very reassuring to know we can change patterns of learned behavior, and the first step, of course, is to have our eyes opened as to why we do what we do. Only then can we consciously make a change in our lives. I thank you once again for nudging me in the right direction.*

From Susan S.W.

# INTERVIEWING OUR AWCH MEMBERS

BY HOLLY T.

## FACING COVID

*with* Cosima S., psychologist

*Holly:* As a psychologist in a mental health facility, you are considered an essential worker and have continued to go to work during the corona crisis when many of us are socially distancing at home. How did work change for you during the corona crisis?

*Cosima:* Though I had to be present at work throughout the lockdown, and it was possible for patients to come in in person, video sessions were encouraged early on. Most patients chose the video sessions. For one thing, not being able to see facial expressions because of masks makes communication much more difficult.

*Holly:* The corona pandemic has brought scary news, worry about sick friends and relatives, job uncertainty, new challenges with homeschooling, and loneliness, among other things. How has this affected your patients?

*Cosima:* While many patients have experienced increased anxiety, patients who chronically feel they are doing too little or who put themselves under excess pressure have actually thrived under the lockdown. The restrictions enabled them to develop some helpful habits. In contrast, some anxiety disorders, for example obsessive-compulsive disorder involving compulsive cleanliness, have become more difficult to treat during the pandemic, as some of the associated behaviors suddenly were being adopted by the general public.

*Holly:* Were there drawbacks to video therapy?

*Cosima:* Some patients were inhibited by the prospect of spouses listening or being disturbed by children. Patients were welcome throughout to come into the office if this was the case. Also, technical difficulties were definitely a challenge.

- F**ocus on what is in your control
- A**cknowledge your thoughts & feelings
- C**ome back into your body
- E**ngage in what you are doing
- C**ommitted action
- O**pening up
- V**alues
- I**dentify resources
- D**isinfect and distance

*Holly:* Are there any advantages to therapy through video chat, and would you consider continuing to offer virtual therapy when things normalize?

*Cosima:* I think it will continue to be a good short-term solution when patients have contagious illnesses like colds or are traveling on business. For patients living abroad with language and cultural issues, remote therapy could be an option as well, but I definitely think physical visits, if possible, are preferable.

*Holly:* Do you have any simple advice for your fellow AWCH members when dealing with corona-induced anxiety?

*Cosima:* The acronym FACE COVID, that has been widely circulated, is very helpful. You can easily find it online through google.

# FIGHTING CORONA

*with* Dr. Sarah T.

*Sarah T. is a medical doctor whose responsibilities have changed recently. She sat down (remotely) with Holly T. to talk about it.*

*Sarah:* Since April 2020, I have been assisting my medical colleagues at the Hamburg Ministry of Public Health (Gesundheitsamt).

*Holly:* Could you tell us about your work during the pandemic?

*Sarah:* Yes, speaking solely for myself as a private person.

*Holly:* To what extent does your work now focus on COVID-19 cases?

*Sarah:* My job involves contacting people who have a positive pharyngeal scrape-method test for SARS-CoV-2, discussing their symptoms and medically important behavioral rules with them, asking who else might be affected in their household, letting them know what they might expect in the further course of the disease, and identifying potential contact persons.

*Holly:* Does the fact that this is a new disease make your job more difficult?

*Sarah:* Yes, definitely. Because there is still no detailed knowledge about, and relatively little experience with SARS-CoV-2 and the medical conditions it causes in different patient groups, assessing the overall situation is difficult. It is also more challenging to offer adequate consultation concerning the progression of the disease and long-term prospects (e.g., immunity).

*Holly:* How does the fact that COVID-19 cases can so quickly become life-threatening affect your work?

*Sarah:* Because I have no direct contact with patients, it only affects my work insofar as that I have to collect very detailed information with regard to possible complications in the progression of the disease. Also, high-risk patients need to be registered in a tracking program to receive calls on a regular

basis to monitor the status of the disease and indications for possible complications.

*Holly:* Have you been working longer hours than usual?

*Sarah:* At the beginning of the pandemic in Hamburg, when the number of cases was still quite high, I did work longer and also had work assignments on the weekends. In a pandemic, it is very important that time sequences are noted in order to record reliable case numbers (reported by the Robert Koch Institute on a daily basis) and also for informing patients who have tested positive as soon as possible to prevent further infection.

*Holly:* How have you and your family coped?

*Sarah:* The first couple of days were a little tough getting everybody equipped with the necessary hard-and-software and adapting to a whole new way of life and learning. A structured daily routine also helped us very much (breakfast together, online schooling, individual workout programs that each child created individually, lunch, afternoon school program, musical-instrument practice, free time, preparing the family evening meal together). For us as a family it was a very positive experience—it made us grow even more close, and the general feelings of solidarity with our fellow human beings had a positive impact on our behavior within the family.

*Holly:* Is your life beginning yet to normalize as COVID-19 infection rates slow?

*Sarah:* Our daily life is beginning to change—the kids are going to school 1–2 days per week and are also now meeting their friends to a very limited extent, thanks to the current regulations. But the virus is still here, and life is still very far from returning to normal.

# WORKING ONLINE

with Cat C., web technology consultant



*Many AWCH members know Cat C. as the friendly person who assists us with online application problems, logging into and navigating our website, and managing our member profiles. Did you know that she not only programmed the current AWCH website and is currently working with Jordan W. on designing a new one, but also programmed and manages the FAWCO, FAWCO Foundation, and other American Women's Clubs' websites around the world? She offers her services as a technology consultant to numerous other clients as well. Clearly, she has always been a very busy person, but I was curious to know if and how her life has changed during the corona crisis.*

*Holly:* I think of you very much as a kind of computer doctor. During these months of social distancing, computers and the internet have become more vitally important to all of us than ever before. I am imagining that demand for your generally sought-after services has spiked. Is that true? How has this affected your workload and the nature of your work?

*Cat:* Actually, the amount of work has remained the same, but the focus has changed somewhat. I have done less project consulting for larger companies, and many of the small-to-medium-sized businesses I work with regularly have scaled back during the crisis. While I am doing less user-to-user support for them, some have taken the opportunity to make improvements and have kept me busy with backend technical upgrading. Also, many more individuals

are launching blogs, setting up home offices, even starting new businesses or developing side businesses where they need a new website to develop a larger online marketing presence.

*Holly:* Unlike many of us, you are used to working from home. Has daily life changed at all for you in the last two months?

*Cat:* Because I have clients all over the world, I am used to Skyping. But where possible, I usually try to do at least one in-person consultation, and I miss those. The other big change for me is having my husband home all the time. Neither of us is particularly quiet, and we both spend a lot of time on conference calls. It has been an interesting challenge.

*Holly:* Many of us have been spending way more time on the screen for work, for socializing, and for entertainment. Do you have any tips for how we can manage screen time better?

*Cat:* I have always spent a huge amount of time in front of the screen, so I set time limits for myself. I try not to sit in front of the screen for longer than two hours without making a cup of tea or walking out on the balcony. I have a headset so that I can walk around during non-video conference calls. I also find it critical to set a boundary between work mode and home mode and to get out of the house now and then. I take clear breaks. For example, I go running at lunchtime. I also have rituals to prepare me to return to work time. After lunch I make a pot of tea, then sit down at the desk. And when I'm done with work, I'm done with work. I may spend more time on screen—I'm an online gamer—but I turn off my email and notifications on my phone. In the evenings I sing in two choirs and we go out with friends. This is what I miss the most now.





# A TIME SLICE OF APRIL 29

BY NATASHA C.

My freelance work had recently dried up, and the direction of our entire future loomed before us. I sat cross-legged on the living room floor, watching our sleeping baby and frantically mulling over future employment options as you clacked away at your paper in the other room.

Should I contact my old colleagues in the US? Transition to a new career? Give up and become a stay-at-home parent?

A dizzying cloud of options swirled around in my head, and the internet wasn't giving me any answers. Thirty

minutes into my fruitless deliberation, I had entered a sort of anxious flow-state which was interrupted by a cry. I had picked up the baby and was holding her tightly in my arms when you walked in.

"I got shortlisted for a position in Helsinki," you said. I sighed in relief and closed out about 25 tabs worth of random job searches. For the moment, I began to think about what this new future in Finland could be like.

Perhaps it won't pan out, but if not, we will make it work anyways. We always do.

# CORONA UPDATE

BY JENNY M.

My nephew got wind that Germany was about to close its borders, and I was convinced by my family that it was time to fly home. I packed a suitcase for a maximum stay of three weeks, which I thought would give the coronavirus time to play itself out.

Now I'm writing this in London, where the corona deaths are the highest in Europe. It's easy to cast blame, but the good will which is being displayed goes some way to lighten the gloom.

Have you heard of Captain Tom Moore (now Honorary Colonel Tom Moore)? Captain Tom decided to walk around his garden—with the aid of two walking sticks—100 times, hoping to raise 1,000 pounds for Britain's ailing National Health Service. His 100th birthday was a week or two away when he started his walk, but to date this wonderful old man has raised over 32 million pounds and captured the hearts of the nation.

The British government asked retired doctors and nurses to return as volunteers to hospitals, and they

returned in droves.

There has been a spontaneous movement throughout the country to help needy people. Strangers are shopping for frail people, and volunteers are donating to food banks. And restaurants, which are closed here, have asked their cooks to prepare meals with donated food for those in need. Homeless people are being offered temporary shelter in empty hotel rooms and apartments.

Strangers are helping strangers in this horrible time, and their kindness will still be needed when the world starts to recover.

And what am I doing during this lockdown? Apart from donating to local food banks, I am reading and knitting up a storm, and I look forward to the weekend "quarantini" over the fence with the next-door neighbors. I also look forward to seeing movies with the film group and proofreading for *Currents* again one day but especially to saying good riddance to corona.

# THE CLUBS WIT

## *Women's Circle*

Our Women's Circle has been quiet this spring, but we are looking forward to a special series over Zoom coming in the fall called Connecting to You, led by special guest life coach Meg Lyons.

Do you want to understand more about what makes you unique so that you can have more satisfaction and fulfillment in life? Would you like to get started on a project that would bring you happiness or success, but you struggle to know what that is or how to get started? Would you like to learn to support your sense of balance so that you have some "me time" and more fun in your life?

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

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

So whether you are working in a job you love (or a job you don't love that much and might like to change!), managing a home and juggling the relationships with your spouse/children/pets, or at a transition point and considering what your next chapter will hold, this workshop will help you to get clearer on what's important to you and how you can move toward making life even sweeter by connecting to you.

*By Christine R.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Values

September 14, 11:00-12:15

What are your guiding lights of life, the qualities that provide the most sense of clarity, energy, and trueness to your life?

#### Purpose

September 28, 11:00-12:15

What are the ways that you give to the world through who you are and what you do? How can you get started on an activity or project that you'd love to do?

#### Balance

October 12, 11:00-12:15

How do you strike a sense of balance through self-care, fun, and play?

Meg Lyons loves helping women to live with more clarity, purpose, and joy. After a 15-year career in financial services, she retrained as a coach with the Co-Active Training Institute and loves connecting women to themselves and each other in supportive learning environments, through both 1:1 coaching and group circles.



*Meg Lyons, an American-born, London-based Life Coach*

Sign up on the AWCH calendar for one, two, or all three. We look forward to seeing you on Connecting to You and learning together in an inspiring, warm, and connecting space! Any questions, please let me know: Christine at [fawcorep@awchamburg.org](mailto:fawcorep@awchamburg.org).

# HIN OUR CLUB

## *Stitch 'n' Bitch*

What a year we have had so far. One none of us could have ever predicted. I think most of us continue to run through a gamut of emotions on a daily basis as we hear news from near and abroad. So I am choosing to focus on the positives that have come out of this pandemic thus far, and our virtual Stitch 'n' Bitch meet-up is definitely one of my highlights every other week.

We have managed to successfully meet online, with technology cooperating, for the most part. It's certainly not the same as meeting in person, but seeing friendly faces and listening to those laughs goes a long way toward lifting all of our spirits. Being able to share our anguish and joy has been such an important part of supporting

each other during this quarantine, something I am truly grateful for.

Some members have taken up new crafts, while others have finally found time to continue that work-in-progress, with fantastic results! It's always such a thrill to show off a finished project to this group, where a real celebration is had by all.

Some new faces have joined us, which has been lovely, as well as some fur babies. We have been lucky enough to reconnect with some past members who have since moved away from Hamburg and have loved catching up on news from Karen O. in Texas, Sandra S. in Florida, Callie H. in Connecticut, Morgan P. in London, Jana F. in France, and Emma B. in

Berlin. What an international group we are.

Stitch 'n' Bitch will continue to meet via our SnB virtual meet-up link until we are able to safely meet in larger groups again. Any news or updates will be communicated via our mailing list, so if you would like to be included, please let me know: [snb@awchamburg.org](mailto:snb@awchamburg.org).

I hope you're all able to enjoy this time, to slow down, to find gratitude in all we have, and to continue to support each other. Please reach out if you'd ever like to join us—you're always welcome!

*By Jess M.*



A virtual Stitch 'n' Bitch update!



# Art Group

## COVID-19 ART CHALLENGE

Who likes being locked down for weeks? No one does, but what is a better way to reacquaint yourself with the objects in your house than to participate in the AWCH COVID-19 Art Challenge? We (Shelly S. and Jennifer L.) decided to have some fun and challenged AWCH members to recreate famous pieces of art while locked down. This request was based on a challenge in which museums asked people to recreate famous paintings with anything they could find at home. We did this in honor of a fun missed event for our art group, "Lange Nacht der Museen, Hamburg," cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions that have now been in effect since March. So here are the results:



René Magritte by Jennifer L.



Vincent Van Gogh by Elizabeth R.



Marc Chagall by Nina T.



Gerhard Richter by Ann G.



Jacques-Louis David by Adrian S.



Niki de Saint Phalle by Mary Francis L.





Artist unknown by Julia R.



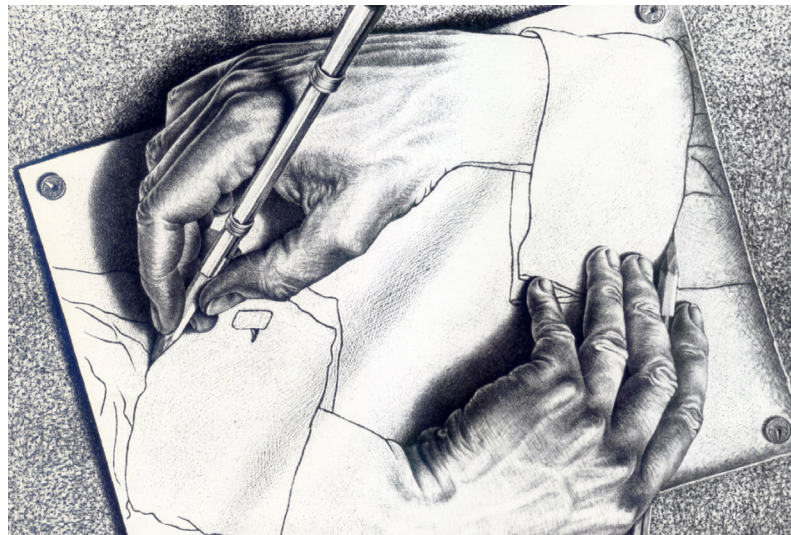
Jan van Eyck by Shelly S.



Edouard Manet by Diana S.



Photographer unknown by Thelma F.



Artist unknown by Rio O. (A friend of Jennifer L.'s daughter, Mira B.)



MC Escher by Ulrike H.



# Art Group

AWCH WOMEN ARTISTS PERSIST DESPITE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

BY SHELLY S.

## Nancy Tilitz

Nancy Tilitz Gallery at Dammtorbahnhof on Dag-Hammarskjöld-Platz has existed for years and has been a great stop-off point every Friday night to hear jazz music from various musicians. The lively art/jazz gallery has a wonderful atmosphere with Nancy's paintings covering the walls.

The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the gallery, which closed to the public on March 13. Did that stop Nancy from creating art and music? The answer is no! Since April 17, she has been working on drawings while the jazz band is live-streaming from her art/jazz gallery every Friday night. To watch these live-streaming concerts, check out these links: <http://nancys-galerie-jazz.com> and Jerry Tilitz's Facebook site. If you are interested, please contact Nancy T. to be put in the loop.

The band currently playing consists of Jerry Tilitz, Thomas Krakowczyk, and Axel Burkhardt. In the past, they had many visiting musicians, and they hope for better days in the future. This sudden stop has given Nancy time to process what has happened and how it has changed her life, but



she has come up with great ideas for using technology to overcome the problem.

Nancy has also organized a choir and has been using this time to practice the piano, search for new songs, and finish her drawings from the live-streaming music nights. I know that Nancy also does drawings in the courtrooms. I am curious if she has continued to do that since the photos of her work are no longer in the newspapers, and I miss them.



A concert at Nancy's before the pandemic. Benny solos.



April 17, 2020 Jerry and Thomas perform for a live-streaming event at Nancy's.



## Emilia Jücker

Longtime member Emilia Jücker decided to change professions about four years ago and become a professional painter. Emilia has painted since childhood. She graduated from a technological university with a degree in the organic synthesis of substances—paint, color, dye, pigment, and lacquer. She then went on to receive a PhD in ecology and has looked closely at the complex colors and shapes in natural systems which inspire her work today. She has joined the Rolf Schröder-Born group in Eppendorf as well as working as an independent artist. She has had several exhibitions and, unfortunately, two more were cancelled during this pandemic. This did not discourage her from working even harder on her paintings.

So it is not surprising that these past weeks turned out to be quite a productive period for Emilia. She has two projects that she has been working on. The first is Klangbilder/



Brahms Waltzes, Op. 39, acrylic and other materials

Music with Paintings, wherein she paints live music that she hears and then later uses those paintings to accompany the musician. Her current inspiration is the concert pianist Marina Sovova, who is a professor at the Alfred Schnittke Akademie International, a music academy in Hamburg. They had planned to have an exhibition/concert in April, which was cancelled. Emilia has continued to work on the nine paintings that she was going to exhibit during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Her second project is contemporary modern art and constellations done with emulsion and volcanic materials and color in harmony: it is when nature and ecology create a system so there are no brushstrokes in her work. Her work was to be exhibited at a contemporary gallery which is inside an amphitheater in ancient Serdica. Luckily she could cancel everything because otherwise it would have been very costly to ship the oversized canvases to Bulgaria. As soon as we have a chance to go outdoors, keep your eyes open for future exhibitions.



Rhapsody in Blue, acrylic and other materials, 8,80,x1.00m





# Opera Club

BY WANGDI S.

## *Schönheit*

How does the coronavirus affect your life? What do you miss the most during lockdown? These two questions are often asked in newspapers, on social media, and among people. Apparently a good majority of people rate social contact as one of the major missing ingredients in their restricted new daily norms. As soon as the most severe period of the COVID-19 outbreak passed, as much as 50% of the German population went out to visit friends, relatives, or colleagues. I am one of them. In the late afternoon of April 24, with mask and hand sanitizer in my pocket, I drove to Poppenbüttel to visit my friend Elizabeth.

Prior to my arrival, Elizabeth had set up two lounge chairs in white under the blooming apple tree, a white food cart draped with a flowing gauze table runner separating the two chairs. The sun hung just above the tall apple tree, spreading its radiance in columns through the young leaves, brightening up the yard and its surroundings. A German proverb says, "*Wer ohne Freund ist, lebt nur halb.*" After nearly a two-month lockdown from each other, the moment of reuniting with a good friend was a "Brindisi" (the drinking song from *La Traviata*) moment for me, a joyous revitalization as important as a sunray in life.



Sitting outside Elizabeth's house, where our Opera Club meetings were held regularly in the past, also made me itchy to see other members: Andrea and her naturally dramatic effect when reading librettos; the elegantly-dressed Anna with her thoughtful and analytical comments; Becky and her characteristic laughter; the scientific Carol with her systematic approach to opera presentations; our shy but observant South African lady, Charis; petite Freda with her allegro eloquence; the quiet but artistic Lisa with a whimsical touch; the lanky German Simone who refuses to believe in her excellent command of English; and...

As I now sit on the patio, looking out on my garden, it seems to me that our shared interest in opera is very much like a patch of ground where our appreciation of this particular art is being nurtured by the passionate, diligent, and beloved Elizabeth. Over time our understanding and enjoyment of opera is gradually growing, as are the germinating seeds of friendship while each of us still retains individual shapes, colors, and even smells. Like the flower bed on the green lawn, the Opera Club has become an indispensable, enlightened *Schönheit* for me. "*Die Menschen kann man entbehren, aber mancher braucht einen Freund.*"

# Hamburger Helpers

BY CHARIS H.

## *Embrace the Change*

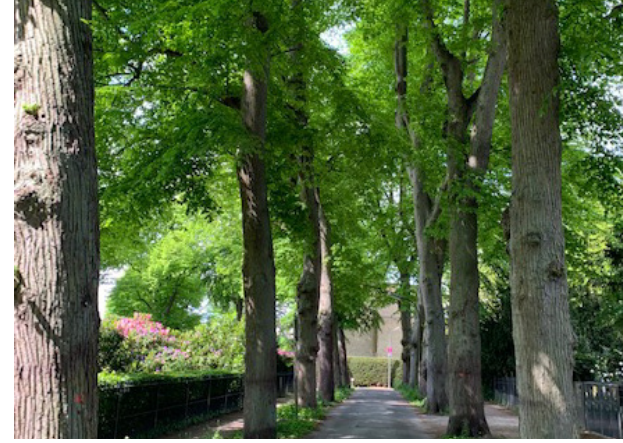
During these unprecedented times, COVID-19 is impacting all of us. I believe this crisis will change the way we live going forward. On a deeper level, I believe that the crisis is forcing us to recalibrate. One effect is a greater awareness of our families, loved ones, and the communities and society we are a part of. Social distancing is also forcing us to reconsider the value of our personal spaces and the way we interact with our

loved ones in the cocoons of our homes.

The first few weeks of isolation and social distancing were particularly challenging for me on a personal level. A new routine came in effect as the weeks went by, and we as a family have benefited greatly from all the precious time we have spent together.

Board games, 2K-piece puzzles, baking challenges,





mystery dinners, and fun activities occupied us during this time. Homeschooling, on the other hand, brought many challenges due to the lack of physical contact with classmates and teachers for both of our children.

As a Hamburger Helper, I have reached out to the members in my neighborhood by picking up the phone and by listening, firsthand, to their needs. This really made the difference, as physical contact was out of the question, and making a connection with a fellow friend brought a sense of humanity to both parties involved.

As a helpful tool, I have set up a chat group via WhatsApp for our Blankenese members. We kept in

touch for Mother's Day and by making announcements all the while, without flooding our chat inbox.

Our Blankenese Walking Group is to resume as soon as we are able to meet in larger groups. The Hirschpark will be waiting for us, as well as for our four-legged friends who enjoy frolicking through the woods.

Moving forward, I am ready to embrace the necessary changes, as hard as they may seem, and to re-imagine what our world and our homes will mean to us. We are part of a greater family—now is the time to stand together. From the Hamburger Helpers, stay safe and healthy.

# Our Walking Groups

BY CHARIS H.

## *Blankenese*

Lockdown and social distancing came with full force and came quickly. We were all bound to our homes and therefore had no choice but to try to make the best with what we have.

Some of us have been following YouTube channels for a rigorous workout routine such as Pilates or Yoga, and the possibilities have been endless. Our group has met in the past through summer, autumn, winter, and spring. It has been particularly hard not moving outdoors these past few months, although I have been exercising religiously, which has been my saving grace throughout lockdown.

When matters improve, we will commence our walking group through the Hirschpark on Tuesdays at 10:00. We meet at Witthus Restaurant and loop through the park. The Hirschpark will be waiting for us, as well as for our four-legged friends who enjoy frolicking in the park! Stay safe and stay healthy,

Photo by Julia R.





# ENVIRONMENTALLY MINDFUL

CHALLENGE: HOW DOES YOUR **GARDEN** GROW?

After much time indoors, it was great to see what you all were up to with your gardens! Thank you all for participating in the Environmentally Mindful Team's little competition and helping our world to grow!



**BEST IN SHOW**

Shelly S.



**BEST BORDER GARDEN**

Susan S. W.



**BEST BALCONY OASIS**

Jess M.



**BEST BACKYARD GARDEN**

Margaret S.

# A GREEN RECOVERY

BY BEATRICE K.

Canals are clear in Venice, and the sky is blue in Delhi. These are just two unintended benefits of the COVID-19 pandemic, and they offer benchmarks for our collective perception of climate change.

Then again, the term “climate change” is too clinical—and too weak—to use anymore, considering the severity of human impact across the globe. Another term gaining more traction comes from Timothy Morton, an ecologist and philosopher. He calls what’s happening the beginning of “mass extinction.” Human overuse is wrecking the earth’s atmosphere, its oceans, and, of course, the landscape.

Still, we see certain benefits from global-scale pullbacks during the coronavirus lockdowns. For example, a recent study claimed that air pollution caused 8.8 million premature deaths in 2015. However, just from a decrease in CO2 daily emissions in 2020, researchers believe that improved air quality due to industrial and transportation limits will help save lives.

During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early April, 2020, daily CO2 emissions dropped by 17% as compared to 2019. This figure brings back CO2 emissions to a level not seen since 2006. It also highlights how much additional CO2 has been entering the atmosphere just in the past 14 years.

The decrease in CO2 emissions was due to significant economic impacts on highly visible industries. Globally, much of the aviation industry has been grounded, while hundreds of millions of cars and trucks have been simply parked. Looking ahead, the concern is that both sources of CO2 will snap back quickly and send CO2 levels climbing.

At the same time, the world post-COVID will be quite different. People and governments will have to make dramatic adjustments to a new world. But this also presents immense opportunities to promote a green comeback.

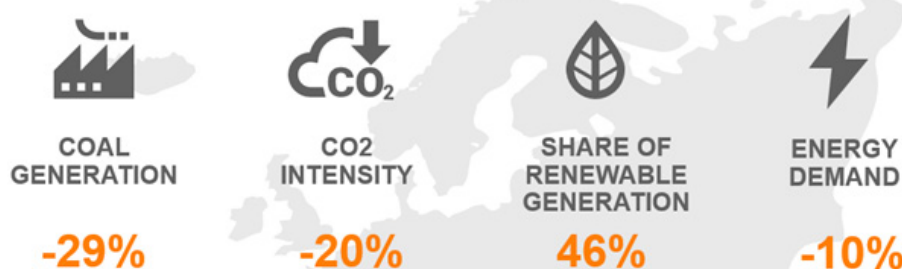
Many major global-scale companies are focusing on what are called

“net-zero” outcomes to expedite a green recovery and greener economy. Much of this has been in planning for several years, but the coronavirus pandemic has energized the transformation. Look for notable changes in carbon emissions in industries such as transportation, construction, agriculture, and energy.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has declared that Germany will initiate a “green recovery” and backs the European Commission for cutting greenhouse gas emissions 55% by 2030, which is an important step in the process. Recently, Chancellor Merkel and French President Macron announced a 500 billion euro initiative to serve as a “blueprint” to reaching climate carbon neutrality by 2050.

In many respects, the COVID-19 crisis represents the largest global challenge since the Second World War. And history reveals that many opportunities arise out of chaos and serve to propel societies into a new and better future.

## COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE EUROPEAN ELECTRICITY MARKET



Figures for the period 10 March to 10 April 2020 compared to 10 March to 10 April 2019. Source: Wärtsilä Energy Transition Lab



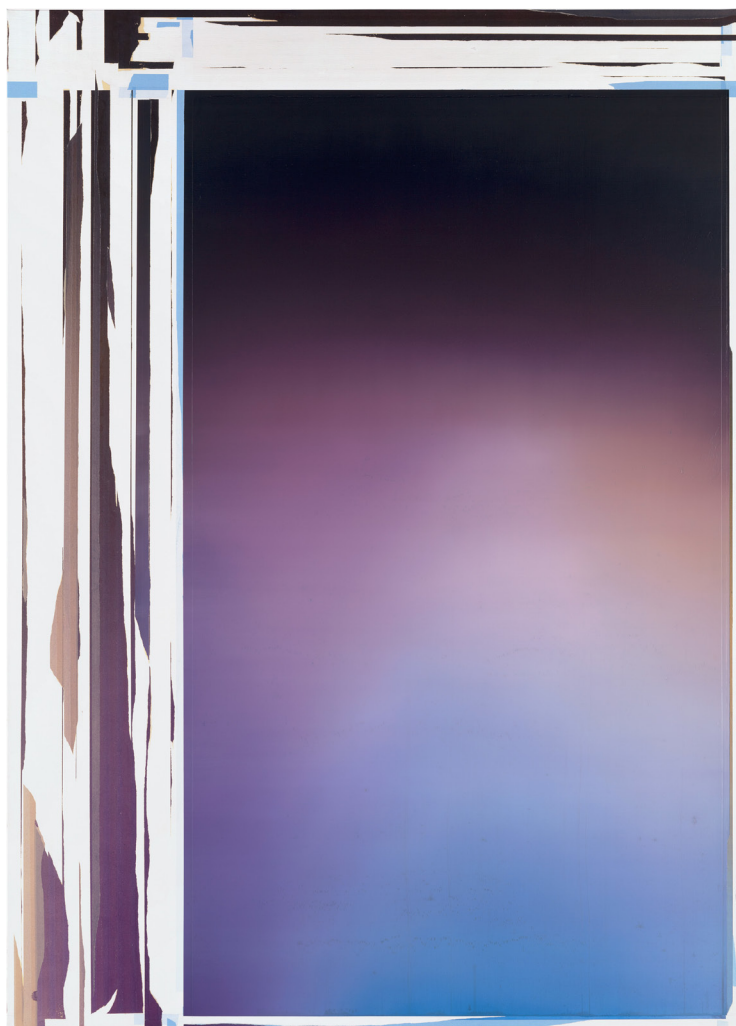
## Art Museums in Hamburg and Their Exhibitions

BY SHELLY S.

Art museums are open, but may keep different hours than normal. They will also only allow a certain number of guests in. You must wear a mask and keep 1.5-meter distance from other guests. Please check the museum to see if they have any other rules, such as signing up ahead of time.

Here are some of the exhibitions that are currently open. Some will end soon, so please check them out. Many of the reviews were in our last magazine. If you have any suggestions, please contact Shelly S. Thank you and have fun!

### DEICHTORHALLEN



#### **GUTE AUSSICHTEN 2019/2020 - JUNGE DEUTSCHE FOTOGRAFIE**

**(NEW GERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY)**

Until August 30, 2020

#### **JETZT! JUNGE MALEREI IN DEUTSCHLAND**

**(NOW! PAINTING IN GERMANY TODAY)**

Until August 9, 2020

#### **KERSTIN BRÄTSCH, KATI HECK, STEFANIE HEINZE, AND LAURA LINK: QUADRO**

Until August 9, 2020

#### **RECOMMENDED - OLYMPUS FELLOWSHIP**

Until August 30, 2020

Benedikt Leonhardt, Untitled (CCD-MR/VD-CYD-1), 2019. Oil, acrylic, vinyl paint, tape and und spackle on canvas, 240 x 172,5 cm. Courtesy of the artist. Foto: Humme Leipzig. Part of the exhibition, Now! Painting in Germany Today.

# HAMBURGER KUNSTHALLE



## TRAUERN: VON VERLUST UND VERÄNDERUNG (MOURNING: ON LOSS AND CHANGE)

Until August 2, 2020

## UNFINISHED STORIES: GESCHICHTEN AUS DER SAMMLUNG

Until August 29, 2021

Maria Lassnig (1919–2014). Balken im Auge / Trauernde Hände, 1964. Oil on canvas, 77 x 115 cm.  
© Maria Lassnig Foundation / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2019.  
Part of the exhibition, Trauern.

# BUCERIUS KUNST FORUM

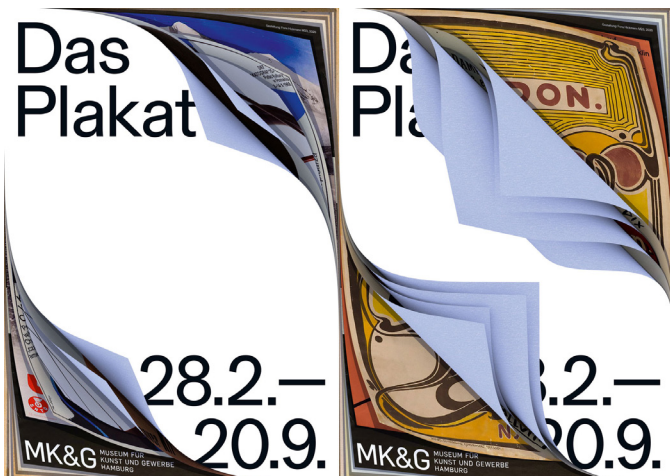


## DAVID HOCKNEY

Die Tate zu Gast (Works from the Tate Collection)  
Until September 13, 2020

David Hockney: Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy, 1970/71, Tate, © David Hockney, Photo: Tate

# MUSEUM FÜR KUNST UND GEWERBE



## DAS PLAKAT: 200 JAHRE KUNST UND GESCHICHTE

(THE POSTER: 200 YEARS OF ART AND  
HISTORY)

Until September 20, 2020



# JETZT! JUNGE MALEREI IN DEUTSCHLAND

## NOW! PAINTING IN GERMANY TODAY

Exhibit at Deichtorhallen  
Until August 9, 2020



Sebastian Gögel, Hyperchon, 2019. Oil on Canvas 200 x 150 cm . Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Andreas Wünschirs. Copyright: © Sebastian Gögel



BY DIANA S.

The current exhibition at the Deichtorhallen, *Jetzt! Junge Malerei in Deutschland (Now! Painting in Germany Today)*, has been extended to August 9. I was fortunate to see it on the opening night in mid-February and then again this past week. In those three months since first seeing *Jetzt!*, I'd often thought about this show, which struck me as surprising, given how scattered and unfocused my thinking in the last few months has been, and the fact that this survey of young painters is, on its face, nothing extraordinary. But there's something really satisfying about this exhibition. It's not flashy, but rather direct in how simply it

presents painting as a medium in and of itself, without any obvious (or preachy) curatorial positions or agendas.

*Jetzt!* was co-organized by a number of German museums, and the goal of the curatorial team was to present a snapshot of painting in Germany by young artists. The curators define young in this case as artists from 30-40, which means that this is the first generation of artists working in Germany post-reunification. While that may not sound so significant, it is, and the result is a fluidity to the presentation that feels outside history and not bogged

down by it. (Think of the best-known living German painters and they're predominantly male, predominantly occupied by—and defined by their position in—German history.) I don't mean that history is absent from this survey show, or that the painters selected to represent "young painters in Germany" are turning their backs on history, just that looking at the works feels refreshingly focused on the medium of painting itself. Which is the clear intention of the curatorial team: by confining themselves to artists who work in the traditional sense of painting on canvas in two dimensions, they've organized a show



Viola Bittl, *Untitled V*, 2017. Oil in canvas, 180 x 160 cm. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Joe Clark



Ina Gerken, *Untitled (After Laughter)*, 2019. Acrylic and Japanese paper on polyester canvas. 180 x 150 cm. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: A. R.

that feels very different from the countless biennial exhibitions of contemporary art that occur cyclically throughout the art world.

Yet this show feels international, both despite and because of the focus on painting in Germany. The 50-odd painters represented in the Deichtorhallen show come from all over Germany, many from the biggest cities with the richest historical traditions of art academies and painting programs, including our own Hamburg and the Hochschule für Bildende Künste (HfBK). But because Berlin has lured so many artists from all over the world in the last few decades, the exhibition contains work by artists originally from Iran, from the US, from Italy, who live and

work in Germany. I would argue that no other European city except London has built up such an international art scene as Berlin, and while that certainly isn't a major focus in the exhibition, it does mean that what's "happening" in painting in Germany is not limited to a purely national perspective.

Standout painters for me included Pius Fox, whose small paintings feature geometric shapes rendered in oil on glass or egg tempera (an ancient painting medium) on paper; Ina Gerken, represented by large-scale abstract paintings in acrylic with quasi-collaged elements of Japanese paper; Markus Saile, another small-format painter, who has four oil-on-wood works, each of which plays with

the idea of brushstrokes and paint; and Stefan Vogel, who has created large, grid-like works that push the boundaries of "painting" per se, with photographs and staples, threads and language, all included in the mix. But there are lots of other painters and works that drew me in, and each visitor will come away with her own "best of" list. If you go see *Jetzt!*—and you really should!—pick up the small pamphlet for a euro at the ticket counter that gives more information about each artist (only in German)—or go all in for the catalog (available in EN or DE) which is nicely done and one day might become a reference for what painting in Germany looked like.

## IN THE TIME OF CORONA

BY ROSE FINLAY

When I took over as the coordinator of the Film Group in February, I was confident that the work ahead of me would be challenging but achievable if I just followed the great example Becky Tan had set over her many years as the leader of our merry band of critics. She set the standard with her kindness and thorough work ethic, and I thought that it would be relatively simple to simply continue on her work. Little did I know that something truly unprecedented was on the horizon which would require me to take the group into new territory.

As you may or may not know, the main foundation of our group is attending weekly industry screenings of upcoming films for which we subsequently write reviews. However, since the middle of March, the film industry (like pretty much everything else) has ground to a halt with screenings cancelled, cinemas closed, and everyone watching and waiting to see what will happen next. What is the point of screening a film for critics if that film has no guaranteed release date? This certainly put a damper on the ability of our group to continue in any feasible way, but with every rainstorm there is a rainbow.

While the film industry may have been cut off at the knees with new productions halted and releases indefinitely delayed, there were also many new opportunities to experience the medium. Over the months, many film festivals have begun to offer digital content, many for free. Some have begun to offer accreditation to view their entire festival online.

Film archives and collectives offered free streaming opportunities, distributors began to release their new films for Video on Demand (VOD), and industry insiders have created new and interesting podcasts and live chats discussing the future of film. The pandemic is finally forcing the traditionally rather conservative film industry to begin to examine their practices and consider new models for the future, something which may lead to new innovations and opportunities that could benefit people across the globe. Imagine if you could attend the Sundance Film Festival (at least partly) from the comfort of your home. This may actually be in the cards in the future as festivals, distributors, and filmmakers begin to examine how to best bring their work out into the world in a safe, yet profitable, manner.

In our own little microcosm, the Film Group has also had to adapt. Despite the lack of screening opportunities for the club, I continued to send weekly emails sharing industry updates, free screening opportunities, and other interesting film-related information. As the weeks have progressed, more and more online industry screenings have become available to watch and review, particularly as the light at the end of the tunnel rapidly approaches for the reopening of cinemas.

Members have also shared ways to help local cinemas and have even developed their own fundraising initiatives to show our support in these difficult times. In this unprecedented time, I am proud to be coordinating such a wonderful group of women who are always there with some clever new idea to help out or an uplifting comment. We are all in this together, and while it may take some time for the film industry to find its new path forward, I am fully confident that the Film Group will be there to meet it with aplomb.



Jon Frickey, director

# IS THERE A JUROR IN THE HOUSE?

BY FAT FRICKEY

Is There a Juror in the House?

Actually, yes.

As of early April, my son Jon and his wife and four-year-old son have relocated to Stade from downtown Hamburg. The Kita had closed its doors and playgrounds had become off limits, so a house with a large garden equipped with a playhouse at the far end was an enticing alternative to city life. The playhouse had been constructed the previous summer by my remarkable daughter-in-law Judith, inspired a bit by Pippi's Villa Kunterbunt.

Jon had already accepted an invitation to become one of the five jurors to choose the winner of the Grand Prix of the Internationales Trickfilm-Festival Stuttgart (ITFS) and had been looking forward to going on his annual pilgrimage there. It is the largest animated film festival in Germany

and worldwide a leading festival for animation. It was scheduled to take place May 5-10. Then came the Stay-at-Home Epoch.

The organizers of the festival didn't let a mere pandemic stop them. Like other film festivals, it regrouped, then went online with the motto: "Stay Animated—Go Online with ITFS." The audience could still participate with both free and paid online access.

So in the middle of April, the five jurors (from five different European countries) were given links to view the approximately 40 films in the main competition. Jon disappeared into the study for what seemed like days, watching films and intermittently conferencing with the other jurors, compliments of Google Meet. Either the soundtrack of a film or the voice of a very serious critic was always faintly audible through the closed study door.

Finally Jon emerged, slightly disheveled, announcing there was a winner, a unanimous choice. We didn't ask him to reveal anything, but later learned that the 2020 Grand Prix was awarded to the Polish filmmaker Tomek Popakul for *Acid Rain*.

Now that the festival is over, things are back to normal (if we may call it that), and Jon can concentrate on his own animation projects. He had been a juror before for two other festivals, so I asked him how this compared to the others. He admitted that he and the other four jurors had an incredible amount of uninterrupted TIME to watch the films, analyze them, and discuss their merits before making a final decision. However, he confessed, he really missed the FUN of being there in Stuttgart.



# Film Fundraiser

BY SHELLY SCHOENESHOFER

## *Please help save Hamburg's independent Cinemas!*

Do you miss going to the cinema with family or friends? If so, please read on! Hamburg's small independent movie theaters need our help. Fifteen of them have organized an online fundraiser to ensure they can hang on financially until they're allowed to reopen their cinemas. This is no small feat, and their goal is to raise €400,000. Everything they raise will be divided equally between the participating cinemas, which include Abaton and Savoy, as well as many other excellent movie theaters.

We would like to have a group fundraiser on behalf of AWCH because of how valuable the cinemas are to the expat community here in Hamburg. As you know, the AWCH Film Group has been working hard on the next film magazine issue, The 2020 Berlinale Magazine, and it will be finished in the middle of June.

If you donate five euros or more to our fundraiser for independent Hamburg cinemas, you will get a copy of this

special magazine for free. If you are in Hamburg, the magazine can be personally delivered to you, and if you live outside of Hamburg it will be mailed. We can also send a PDF of the magazine for those of you who are happy to read it online! We just need to know by June 15th if you are interested so we can put your name on the list of donors. Please deposit any money you would like to donate into the AWCH account with a note that it is a donation for the cinema fundraiser. Information about the AWCH's bank account can be found on p. 43. Thank you for your contributions—and we hope you'll enjoy the Film Group's 2020 Berlinale Magazine!

Here is information about the fundraiser and the website where you can see the list of participating cinemas and read more about their funding goals: *Hamburger Programmkinos: The Show Must Go On!* [www.startnext.com/hamburgerkinos](http://www.startnext.com/hamburgerkinos)



### Buy Tickets

While the deadline to donate is June 15, theaters still need help beyond that. Visit the following websites to find out more information about purchasing vouchers or *Gutscheine* in advance!

## SAVOY

<https://savoy.premiumkino.de>

## ABATON

[www.abaton.de/index.htm?ppGutschein.shtml](http://www.abaton.de/index.htm?ppGutschein.shtml)

## KINO PASSAGE

[www.kinopassage.de/gutscheine/](http://www.kinopassage.de/gutscheine/)

### Contact

Shelly Schoeneshoefer  
[schoenshoe@aol.com](mailto:schoenshoe@aol.com)

# FAVORITE CINEMAS IN HAMBURG

BY SHELLY SCHOENESHOEFER

It is hard to imagine getting through the week without going once into a dark, comfortable room to watch a film. Of course, you could say that a computer or a television could easily take its place, but for me, it just isn't the same. For the moment, it looks like our next best possibility will be the Open-Air-Kino in Schanzenpark, which is supposed to open in July, and the planned Autokino in Billbrook, which reminds me of my childhood with the drive-in theaters. These types of theaters, dating back to the 1930s, are now the model that is rescuing the film industry during the pandemic crisis.

Here are a few of my favorite cinemas: Abaton Kino, located near Hamburg University, is the center for the Hamburg Film Festival. In the 1970s, Werner Grassmann and Windfried Fredder were the first to open a theater for "program cinema" in Germany, that is, a venue for independent film as an alternative to mainstream movies. Because of their efforts, we have the opportunity to watch unique films in the original languages.

Located on Steindamm, the Savoy Kino was the first Todd-AO cinema in Europe. Now some of you may ask, what is Todd-AO? It is a 70 mm film format that uses a special projector for greater clarity of perspective, color, and detail. The cinema struggled

"WE HAVE THE  
OPPORTUNITY  
TO WATCH  
UNIQUE films IN  
THE ORIGINAL  
LANGUAGE"

through the years until it was finally shut down. In 2013, Hans-Joachim Flebbe resurrected this beautiful cinema. It is where our AWCH club has its sponsored ladies' movie night outings.

Passage Kino is the oldest cinema in the city, opening in 1913 on Mönckebergstraße. It is in a lovely Art Déco style

and has popular films, private press screenings, and special showings of European-made films.

Metropolis Kino, located near the Staatsoper, opened in 1956 as a community program cinema belonging to the Verein Kinemathek Hamburg e.V. It offers silent films with music, the Fantasy Filmfest, and the Japan Filmfest, as well as many other specialized programs that are relevant to universities, museums, and other cultural institutions.

Here is a list of just a few more cinemas which might just be in your neighborhood. You should check them out as soon as they have the chance to reopen in order to support them. They are also currently selling tickets: Alabama Kino, Film Raum, Studio Kino, Magazin Kino, 3001 Kino, B-Movie, Schanzenkino 73, Studio 3001, Koralle Lichtspiel Haus, Xavoy Filmtheater GmbH, Holi Kino, Ziese Kino, and Lichtmess Kino.



© Wiki Commons

# A New Future for Drive-in Movie Theaters?

BY BECKY TAN

Cinemas closed in Germany the first part of March. Hamburg was no exception, and members of the Film Group no longer received invitations to film press showings in order to write reviews. Luckily, five members were able to attend the 70th annual Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, which ended on March 1, just before closures terminated all movie-going.

Now, going to the movies is taboo. Or as film critic Anthony Lane wrote in *The New Yorker Magazine*, “In the olden days, which, according to historians, ended a few months ago, people used to do the strangest things.” He refers to hugging, giving handshakes, “going out for a drink,” and even “making out.” He ends, “No activity from that far-off period, however, seems as inexplicable as this: humans went to the movies.”

Yes, we all went to the movies, which have been around since 1895. However, times of dire stress seem to open paths to new creativity, and movie makers have come up with something new: drive-in movies! You and a friend sit in isolation in your car and enjoy a film! What a great idea!

Naturally, there is a history of drive-in movies; supposedly, the first one opened in 1933 in New Jersey. The first German drive-in opened in 1960. In the last few years, Germany offered 10 to 18 drive-ins (depending on different sources). This has now jumped almost four-fold within weeks. Suddenly, there are 60-70

drive-ins throughout the country, according to different sources. They hold up to 500 cars and seem to be sold-out most of the time.

Hamburg’s drive-in history is rather slight by comparison, with only one which opened September 30, 1976, in Hamburg-Billbrook. It had 580 parking places (later reduced to 490). I was already living here at that time, but I never knew that Hamburg had a drive-in theater. It closed June 18, 2003, for environmental reasons.

**“...times of dire stress seem to open paths to new creativity and movie makers have come up with something new: drive-in movies!”**

In this stressful time, Hamburg is still lagging. Although there is one small drive-in for 30 cars on private property at Kreativquartier Oberhafen (Stockmeyerstrasse 43), it only opens about once a week, and is also always sold out. In summer, there are outdoor showings in front of the Rathaus and at the Altona Museum courtyard, but people are not sitting in cars.

Luckily, our professional film friends are eager to change this situation. Matthias Elwardt of Zeise Kino is working with the Bergmann Gruppe; Felix Grassmann of Abaton could work with Karsten Jahnke, who organizes concerts; Hans-Joachim Flebbe of Premium Entertainment (connected to eight cinemas in Hamburg) and Bernd Aufderheide, the head of the Hamburg trade fairs (Messehalle), could imagine a drive-in. Schanzenkino 73, at Sternschanze 1, has featured open-air cinema in the past, and Dirk Evers of the company Outdoor Cine plans an extension to involve cars. His portable plastic screen can be easily transported and blown up to the appropriate size. You feel you are watching a movie on a huge white plastic bag. These organizers visualize locations such as soccer, carnival, or racing fields, e.g., the HVV Stadium, Heiligengeistfeld, Horner Rennbahn, Bahrenfelder Trabrennbahn, or somewhere in the Hafencity. They could be venues for other events such as live concerts, church services, or even weddings.

In spite of having legally applied for building permits, all were rejected for various reasons by the Hamburg public authorities (Behörden). Now, according to the latest news, we might be sitting in the drive-in approximately the time this magazine comes out. Matthias Elwardt of Zeise and Thorsten Weis of the Bergmann Gruppe have received permission to set up two screens at Heiligengeistfeld and



open them to 500 cars, 200 in one and 300 in the other. They plan on four to eight showings a day. Tickets will be available at [www.zeise.de](http://www.zeise.de). The idea is to show for three months until the regular cinemas reopen and the nice summer weather has changed for the worse.

Regular indoor Hamburg cinemas are predicted to return to “normal” business on July 2, along with the opera and theaters. This will be under strict conditions: tickets to be sold online, viewers to sit separated by empty seats and rows, allowing only about a fourth of the normal attendance.

Drive-ins were always a part of my life when growing up. I still visualize myself in 1958, hugging and kissing my boyfriend in his car at the Silver Star Drive-in, right off Highway 63 near Kirksville, Missouri, USA, while pretending to watch *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, starring Elizabeth Taylor.



## Updates on the 64th BFI London Film Festival

OCTOBER 7 - 18, 2020

BY CHRISTINE RINEY

Is it or isn't it? Will it or won't it? Questions that we are currently asking ourselves daily. At the time of writing, the official line is that the London Film Festival will still take place but in a modified format. My official statement is yes, I will attend whatever that modified format looks like. As there has always been a large online streaming service for accredited attendees, I am hopeful that this will be the basic offer and give some amazing film screenings.

What we will see in October is

another matter. Again, as of today, they are still accepting submissions. The films on offer are entirely dependent on what changes and what initiatives the film industry as a whole can make between now and then.

The British Film Institute is fully supporting and encouraging the film industry and, as such, they will be part of We Are One: a Global Film Festival, that will be hosted by YouTube from May 29. This will be a 10-day digital program to help

raise funds for the World Health Organization (WHO)'s COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund. Film festivals from around the world are involved, including BFI London Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival, Jerusalem Film Festival, Mumbai Film Festival, Marrakech International Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, and Tribeca Film Festival.

I look forward to these 10 days and, as is now the norm, I shall wait and see what happens in October.

Crossword Puzzle Answers  
 Across: 1. Health; 3. Dation; 4. Film; 9. SilentAuction; 10. Tracy; 12. Kellinghusen; 13. Choir; 15. SAFE; 16. Catherine; 17. Thelma; 19. DESY; 24. Sustainable; 25. Zoom; 27. FAWCO; 28. TwoHundred; NewYork.  
 Down: 2. Hunger; 5. LaufGegenGewaIt; 6. Friendship; 7. Integrated; 8. Nineteenth; 11. Heart; 14. Holly; 16. Cookbook; 18. Susanne; 20. Hamburg; 21. Cashew; 22. Gender; 23. London; 26. LFR

# THE ENGLISH THEATER OF HAMBURG

## PLAN B: CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO 2020's HISTORIC CHALLENGES

BY MARINELL HAEGELIN

Plan A: a fairly large theater office with bookcases lining two walls, a couple of nicely spaced desks, and a small seating area in one corner. The English Theatre's co-founders, Robert Rumpf and Clifford Dean, are quietly working, each absorbed in the task at hand. The rest of the team is also hard at work.

Time: 19:40ish, Saturday evening, early March, 2020

The director for the coming play, Dean, wearily stretches while reading his notes regarding blocking the action. Having chosen the dramatic romantic comedy more than a year ago when planning the 2019-2020 season, he's fiddled with ideas about its execution since the rights were secured. Launching a new production is an obstacle course of challenges and myriad details that only intensify as the premiere date closes in. Yet once house lights dim and the magic begins, everyone's reminded why they love theater so much. Now that *Apologia* has successfully launched, its director, Paul Glaser, is working on music for the spring production, *Outside Mullingar*. Rumpf is creating its study material for students from schools in Hamburg and surrounding areas. The clock is ticking. Dean has finalized casting with Gordon Griffin, their London casting director these 40-plus years, and the actors arrive in a couple of weeks; notes have been sent to Mathias Wardeck for the Irish-influenced set he's designing,

and Patricia Royo has good ideas about costumes. Then the office doorbell rings, prompting them to close down—until tomorrow.

Plan B: reinventing the season with respect to the historic global COVID-19 pandemic; time: the present.

Challenging yes, daunting no, at least not for Clifford Dean and Robert Rumpf, who had already realized a next-to-impossible dream. In 1976, the two Americans founded a private professional English-language theater in Germany's second-largest city. The English Theatre of Hamburg opened its doors at its current venue in 1981 in the extensively-renovated rooms of the first floor of Hammonia Bad in Mundsburg, Hamburg.

Of course there weren't some 45 other theaters launching at the same time then. The general director (Robert Rumpf), artistic director (Clifford Dean), and managing director (Paul Glaser) promptly conferred, and Plan B was conceived.

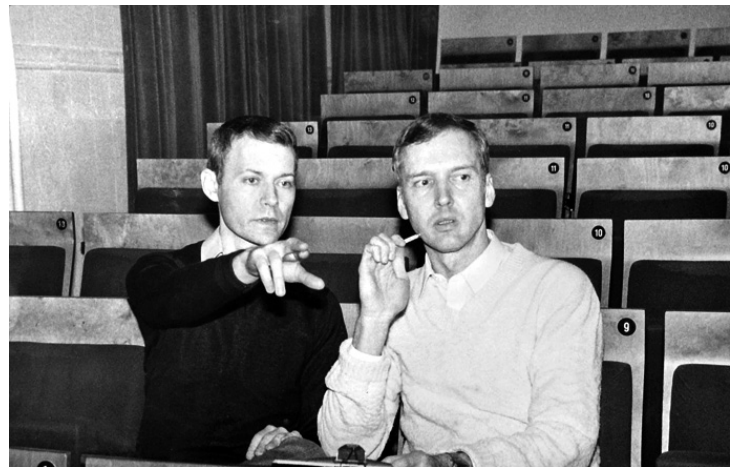
With the help of the regular subsidy that the theater receives from the Ministry of Culture, the theater will continue to exist for the foreseeable future. Landlords for the office and theater premises have also been helpful in that they are asking for half of the usual monthly rent, but this is a temporary

concession. The theater is still waiting to find out if additional help will come from the Hamburg Senate.

Streaming plays that have already been produced at the English Theatre of Hamburg has the potential to be of great help. Theater lovers all over the world (Peru, Australia, New Zealand, the US, etc.) have already streamed some of these shows, but the greater the number of people streaming, the more the theater will be financially helped.

Streaming a show costs only €3,99 (or people can buy the "support us" ticket for €9,99) and anyone can stream from anywhere in the world. Directions for streaming can be found on the theater's website: [www.englishtheatre.de](http://www.englishtheatre.de). Any questions concerning this service can be directed to [marketing@englishtheatre.de](mailto:marketing@englishtheatre.de)

With help from the powers that be in Germany, and with the help and understanding of individuals both nationally and internationally, it looks like the theater will have a future beyond this plague's momentous challenges for humanity. On that note of optimism and hopefulness, the directors and the theater's dedicated permanent staff are looking forward to season 2020-2021. That clock never stops ticking, you know, when you're in show business.



Clifford Dean (left) and Robert Rumpf in the English Theatre's new home, 1981 © ETH

# Crossword Puzzle

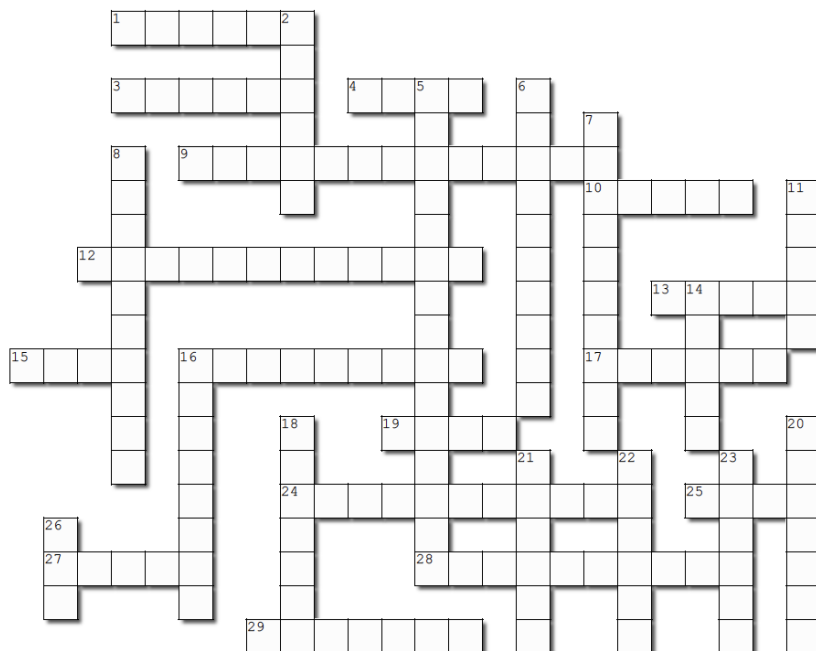
BY CAROL H.

## ACROSS

1. The overarching theme of FAWCO's new Target Project
3. First name of Hamburg's new US consul general
4. AWCH group established 25 years ago
9. Fundraiser at our annual general meeting
10. Our "Bagel Queen"
12. Eppendorf Park and U-Bahn station named after a Hamburg mayor
13. One of our new groups
15. Acronym of FAWCO's 2020 Health Target Project in Tanzania
16. Most common first name of our AWCH members (or derivative thereof)
17. AWCH president in 1997
19. German Electron Synchrotron research center and Thanksgiving venue
24. "S" in the UN's SD Goals
25. Video conference app

## DOWN

2. "Zero \_\_\_\_\_" is one of the UN's 17 SD Goals
5. Yearly 5K run that supports Hamburg's Autonomous Women's Shelters
6. Main reason why women join AWCH
7. "I" in ITWDP, the organization that AWCH has supported since 2011
8. US amendment passed 100 years ago ensuring women's suffrage (in letters)
11. \_\_\_\_\_ pillows: yearly sewing bee product of Stitch 'n' Bitch
14. First name of our membership chair
16. Let's Stay In



See p. 40 for answers

27. A global women's UN non-governmental organization to which AWCH belongs
28. AWCH has presently more than \_\_\_\_\_ members (in letters)
29. The US state that has the most AWCH voters

18. Second most common first name of our AWCH members (or derivative thereof)
20. \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Pocket; AWCH guidebook, now digital!
21. Trees that will be planted in Maharashtra, India, through FAWCO developmental grant
22. "\_\_\_\_\_ Equality" is the UN's SD Goal #5
23. Cancelled destination of the AWCH Opera Club
26. HH's largest lobbying group for gender equality

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## Blacked Out in Solidarity

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color."—Maya Angelou  
#blacklivesmatter