

AWCH CURRENTS

30 YEARS OF
CURRENTS

CELEBRATING
FAWCO TRIUMPHS

INTRODUCING
THROUGH THE LENS

FEATURING
SPRING ACTIVITIES

AWC choir restarts Aug. 4

THE AMERICAN WOMENS CLUB OF HAMBURG, e.V.

April-June 2022 Vol. 38, No. II
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Nancy Telford

Editorial



On a recent visit to the AWCH archives, we eagerly browsed through decades of newsletters and magazines. Many featured original artwork by club members, and we are grateful to Nancy Tilitz for creating an original piece for the cover of this issue!

(Photo by Stephanie M.A.)

Dear *Currents* readers,

We are both still relatively new to this magazine and this club, yet in this short time, the enormous role both have played in the lives of so many has become very apparent. Last year, we enjoyed a comprehensive look back with an issue dedicated to reliving the origins of the AWCH; this year, to celebrate 30 years since the club founded its own magazine, we do the same for *Currents*.

Of course, it really all began in 1956 as a mimeographed single sheet of paper snail-mailed out to club members. This “caterpillar” (to quote Kathy B.) of a newsletter became the butterfly that is *Currents* in 1992, with the addition of, among other things, its excellent name. The origin of this name was chronicled nicely by Anna S. in last year’s “Club Through the Years” issue, and it bears repeating here: “‘*Currents*,’ commented Becky T., ‘seemed the logical title for a newsletter in a town on a river near a sea with currents of waves, and the word current also infers that there is up-to-date news.’ It was Lisa I. and Marinell H. who landed on the name. How-

ever, Marinell remembers that *Currents* was not the only option: another possibility was *Harbinger*, meaning ‘a forerunner of something,’ (and) a name evolving from the word harbor.” (Anna S.)

Whatever the name (although *Currents* is a real winner!), this magazine has grown with the club. In the beginning, the single sheet of paper did little more than announce the next luncheon location. Now it chronicles our activities in too many areas to list here, as well as the philanthropic, environmental, and educational work that defines this club as much as the fun does.

But let’s be honest—this magazine is extraordinary even for its purpose. If Carol H. is to be believed (and why not?), our splashy, colorful, and fairly professional club magazine is the envy of FAWCO chapters worldwide!

So *Currents* is something special, as befits our special club. We hope you enjoy this issue. It’s been fun to put together.

All the best,

Mason Jane M. &
Stephanie M.A.

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Artist Statement

Cover artwork by Nancy Tilitz, 2022

Judges are important (recent US problems with the Supreme Court make this painfully clear) and must be courageous in their decisions, as all women must in their lives. This judge represents everyone, as does the masked woman in the foreground reminding us of what we are still experiencing. The judge respectfully stands to read her verdict, and the plexiglass Covid partitions become her "angel wings." I hope the viewer can gain strength looking at this drawing and hope it speaks to each personally.



6

FUN WITH FAWCO



16



THIS MEMORABLE MAGAZINE



28

PHOTO GROUP DEBUTS

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Layout & Design:
Behind the Scenes:

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Stephanie Matlock Allen & Julia Neumann
Carol Harbers & Rebecca Tan

April-June 2022



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President's Message

Dear AWCH members,

Aren't these long, sunny days magical? How quickly we forget the short, dark days of winter. This year, the magic seems even more intense as we quickly return to a "pre-pandemic" feeling of meeting up with friends and enjoying all the wonderful things that Hamburg has to offer.

Spring was kicked off with a BANG as 35 AWCH members met together at the Horizon Restaurant on May 14—surrounded by beautiful spring flowers. The festive mood was felt as soon as the first guest arrived and lasted all week, as we had the opportunity to bring a small bouquet home with us. We experienced many surprises as questions were popped during our "spring chicken" gift exchange. What a unique way to get to know some of our members better.

Another wonderful opportunity to meet up with our members was the New Members' Welcome Coffee hosted by our honorary president, Yumi Akins, at the residency of the US Consul General. In addition to board members, many of the women who lead the different groups in our club were able to join us and introduce the many activities that our club hosts. Extra special was the kind and sincere welcome and introduction by Yumi Akins, which instantly made us feel right at home. Thank you, Yumi!

Our newly launched Moms' Connections group also pulled many new members together at an Easter brunch in Duvenstedt. Great fun for the kids! Spring also saw many groups that had been semi-dormant over the COVID-19 pandemic get active again, including our Theater, Opera, German Practice Circle, Environmentally Mindful, and Harbor Explorers groups. Really a time of rebirth!



Six club members from Hamburg, including Cat C., Anna S., and Carol H., attended FAWCO's Interim Meeting in Luxembourg in May.

(Photo courtesy of Carol H.)

Finally, I cannot forget to mention the FAWCO Interim Meeting held in Luxembourg that six of our members attended in May. Please read the report of the meeting in this issue—lots to celebrate, including the awarding of an Educational Grant to our member Brooke Viertel and the awarding of Developmental Grants to BOTH of our nominations for projects supported by the Nandanvan Trust in India.

As the summer flowers slowly take over from the spring bouquets and the long days get warmer, I hope that you all find the time from your busy schedules to join in on some of our activities. It is like a breath of fresh air to share time with women with similar interests as we learn, enjoy, and support others—as well as each other.

Best wishes,
Carol H.

In Memorium

Allene Pistorius

Allene Pistorius grew up in California's San Francisco Bay area. She fell in love with Germany first as a high school exchange student, and then during her university year abroad living in Göttingen, Germany. Allene graduated with a double major in German and education.

She joined the AWCH in 1977 while living in Halstenbek with her first husband and their two daughters, Anne and Maria, born in 1976 and 1977, respectively. At that time, she led the AWCH children's play group. Allene participated in an eight-member panel discussion together with Dr. Brandt, the International School Hamburg principal, and Brigitte Schult, a Fulbright exchange teacher teaching English at Bondenwald Gymnasium, as well as five club members. The panel's topic was bilingualism, and the pros and cons of teaching one's children German as well as other languages.

The family moved away from Hamburg, and Allene eventually settled in Buchholz, approximately 25 kilometers southwest of Hamburg, and then rejoined the AWCH. She was a dedicated teacher and, since her children were then older, she returned to teaching private conversation classes and adult education, as well as business English courses for Hamburg companies. Allene was an inspiration to her students, not only as a teacher but in many cases as a friend as well. She exposed them to English-speaking cultures by taking them to the English Theatre of Hamburg, to Thanksgiving dinners at the Marriott hotel, and on annual trips to Ireland.

Allene loved literature and was a prolific reader. During the club's sixtieth anniversary celebrations in 2016, she spoke about the many friendships she'd found within the club. She was the AWCH Hamburger Helper for Buchholz. Besides the AWCH, Allene was also a member of HELTA and the Professional Women's Forum.



Allene's work as a liaison to club members diagnosed with cancer was her foremost contribution to AWCH. For many years, she was the Cancer Support Group's chairperson and gave a speech on being a breast cancer survivor in 2002. Allene recovered from her first bout of cancer years ago, but when the cancer returned, it was coupled with pneumonia; she passed on March 20, 2022, three days before her seventy-fourth birthday.

Allene was always competent, kind, and friendly. She is survived by Dr. Thomas Pistorius, whom she married in September 1989, and her two daughters. She was quite proud of Maria's artistic accomplishments, often having new things to report. She visited her family in the US as often as she could, especially her brother, as well as daughter Anne and family, and she loved being a grandmother. Allene will be greatly missed. Anyone wishing to express their condolences should contact Becky Tan, Rebecca.tan@t-online.de, for a link to Allene's family.

Fun & Learning in Luxembourg

Six AWCH Members Attended the Interim Meeting

By Carol Harbors
AWCH Board President



We met dozens of FAWCO members from around the world. This group went sightseeing together.

All photos courtesy of FAWCO

FAWCO holds a meeting (either a Biennial Conference or an Interim Meeting) every year in March in a different city from around the world. Needless to say, the Interim Meeting scheduled for March 2020 in Luxembourg didn't happen. Although the on-line platform proved quite successful for the virtual Biennial Conference in 2021 ... there was clearly something missing.

When Luxembourg was re-scheduled for the March 2022 Interim Meeting, things got shaky again. Solution? Split it into Part One and Part Two. As Jordan W., our FAWCO rep-

resentative, reported in the last *Currents* issue, Part One was a virtual meeting that highlighted the many achievements of FAWCO through its member clubs, kicked-off the introduction of the next Target Project, and had a special session to honor the 50 years of Education Awards and 25 years of Development Awards by the FAWCO Foundation.

Part Two was the real thing—and Luxembourg finally became a reality.

There is a lot going on at these meetings, which serve many purposes. First of all, it is an Annual General Meeting, and

the business meeting gives everyone a great overview of the FAWCO Council workings and updates on FAWCO's UN Advocacy, US Issues, and Global Team activities. There are also many innovative workshops, which are geared either toward club development (e.g., "Tech for your Club" by our Cat C. or "Running a Club") or more personal interests (e.g., "Stress Sense" by our Anna S., "Finding Mindfulness through Art," or "Fragrances for Challenging Times"). Informative "Face2Face" sessions also give participants a chance to talk to the people running the different teams.



The workshops and lunches proved to be the best platform for fulfilling another goal of the meeting: networking. Fantastic to be able to meet so many women with common interests and problems.

It would be impossible to review all the officer and team reports and workshops, but here are a few that merit highlighting:

The Refugee Network team held a conversational workshop entitled “Finding Home.” A theme to which many of us could relate—but the conversation between My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin) and Asma Darwish (AAWE Paris) had a twist: both were/are refugees. To read a summary of the workshop and view the video, go here: fawco.org/global-issues/human-rights/human-rights-articles/4760-the-conversation-finding-home.

The report by FAWCO UN Liaison Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna) reviewed the efforts of her team over the past eight years to increase FAWCO’s visibility and engagement before the UN, particularly in the areas of gender equality, human rights, climate change, and migration. She will be stepping down this year. At the end of her presentation, she proposed that a conference resolution be adopted in line with the



Ninety-six members attended the meeting, representing 25 clubs.

Gender Equality & Reproductive Rights Resolution

In the United States, women’s rights to equal access to health care is under threat to a greater extent than in the last 50 years. As delegates to the 2022 FAWCO Interim Meeting, we reiterate our support for UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls, calling for an end to all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and demanding that women and girls have full access to universal sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Resolved: We urge the US Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recognizing the fundamental rights of all women.

Resolved: We urge the US Congress to lift the time limit for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) so that all women’s rights, including reproductive rights, will be protected under the US Constitution.

recent resolution adopted by the US Women’s Caucus at the UN, of which FAWCO is a member. The resolution, as worded in the box above, was unanimously adopted by the meeting’s voting delegates.

Another highlight was a

special appearance from **Rhobi Samwelly, the founder of Hope for Girls and Women Tanzania**, the recipient of FAWCO’s Target 4 Project Health 2020-2022 initiative. FAWCO clubs raised a total of \$177,413,250 for the project.



AWCH members Tracy M. and Susan S.-W. enjoy meeting up with Angelika McLaren (left), the Region 5 coordinator from AWC Berlin.

Several workshops reviewed the necessary steps for nominating a project for Target 5 Project Education 2022-2024. If you are aware of an environmental project that would greatly benefit from the attention and money that a FAWCO Target Project can raise, visit the FAWCO website here: fawco.org/global-issues/target-program/environment-2022-2025 and contact Jordan (fawcorep@awchamburg.org) or myself (pres@awchamburg.org).

When one listens to the presentations and sees the impact FAWCO has made, one knows that there are some dedicated, hard-working, and amazing women (and men) making it all happen—and we are thus happy to see that these people are also acknowledged with awards. The Circle of Honor Award is the highest award bestowed by FAWCO and was given to FAWCO counselor Sallie Chaballier (AAWE Paris) and FAWCO counselor My-Linh Kunst (AWC Berlin) this year. For a video of these presentations, see here: youtube.com/watch?v=CmdhBppMFNQ and youtube.com/watch?v=vE9UJ_OH7eA.

On the last day of the meetings, The FAWCO Foundation, the philanthropic arm of FAWCO, announced the recipients of the 2022 FAWCO Foundation Education Awards and Development Grants. This was also a highlight of the meeting, as our member Brooke Viertel was given an Education Award for skills enhancement, and BOTH of our two nominations for Developmental Grants were awarded! The funded projects are sponsored by the Nandanvan Trust, which AWCH has



Melissa Mash of AW Surrey presents the Hope Through Education award to Carol H. for the Nandanvan Trust project “I Will Learn.” The application was written by AWCH members Carol S., Ulrike H., and Carol H.

supported since 2011, and aim to help tribal communities in Maharashtra, India.

Fortunately, the three-day meeting was not just business and workshops, but also the venue for the Foundation Night, “Celebrate FAWCO, Fun, and Friendships.” Starting with a mesmerizing performance from Wim Vanlessen, formerly a principal dancer with the Royal Vlaamse Ballet, FAWCO delegates and participants celebrated a joyous evening together. Cheerful conversation with the Asian-themed dinner, a spirited and successful live auction, and enthusiastic dancing—“a perfect release from a period of frustrating pandemic restrictions.” Over \$47,700 was raised towards The FAWCO Foundation’s Development Grants and Education Awards!

Twenty-five clubs were registered for the Interim Meeting, with 96 attendees—including six from AWC Hamburg. I was proud of how active our members are in the FAWCO network, serving on boards, supporting workshops, and just being helpful! Thank you Cat C., Tracy M., Christine R., Anna S., and Susan S.-W.!

AWCH 2022 FAWCO Grants and Award

Development Grants

Education: AW Surrey Hope Through Education: \$4,000

Recipient: **“I Will Learn!”—Keeping Tribal Children in School, three hamlets**

belonging to Hazarwadi, Sangamner Taluka, Ahemdnagar District, Maharashtra, India

By the age of 13, more than half of the tribal children in rural Maharashtra have dropped out of school. They thus lack the education needed to improve their own status and that of their communities—home to the poorest of the poor, the marginalized and deprived. With parents largely illiterate and placing no value on education, the children do not speak the official school language and have poor learning habits and no digital experience. The grant funds will finance teaching materials, digital equipment, and tutoring staff for supplementary classes for 60 tribal children (ages 7–15) for ten hours each week over one school year. Many classes will be held in a kindergarten building previously funded by a FAWCO Foundation DG. The children will learn the basic skills needed to keep them in school and continue their education, empowering them to break the poverty cycle and ensure socio-educational sustainability of their communities.

Environment: Trees Glorious Trees

Sponsored in part by AWC Amsterdam, AIWC Cologne, and Friends of the Environment

Recipient: **Regreening Degraded Land in Rural India,**

Khoch village in Mokhada Taluka, Palghar District, Maharashtra, India

Desertified land in rural areas of Maharashtra, India, is home to many tribes who are among the poorest people in the world. Forced to migrate seasonally for work, they are deprived of health-care, education, stability, and hope. Restoring life to their degraded land is the foundation needed to bring about change. The grant funds will finance 1,200 cashew trees for the Khoch tribal hamlet with 27 families (around 145 people) to plant on 110 acres under watershed development. The trees will prevent soil erosion and help “catch the rain” to regreen the land (SDG 15.3). The trees will also provide a harvest for income, which will stop migration and greatly improve the lives of the tribal families (SDG 3), whose women and men will participate equally in decision making, planning, and planting (SDG 5.5). The final reward will be long-lasting prosperity for the Khoch tribal people through ecologically and socio-economically sustainable changes.

Education Award

FAUSA Skills Enhancement Award \$4,000

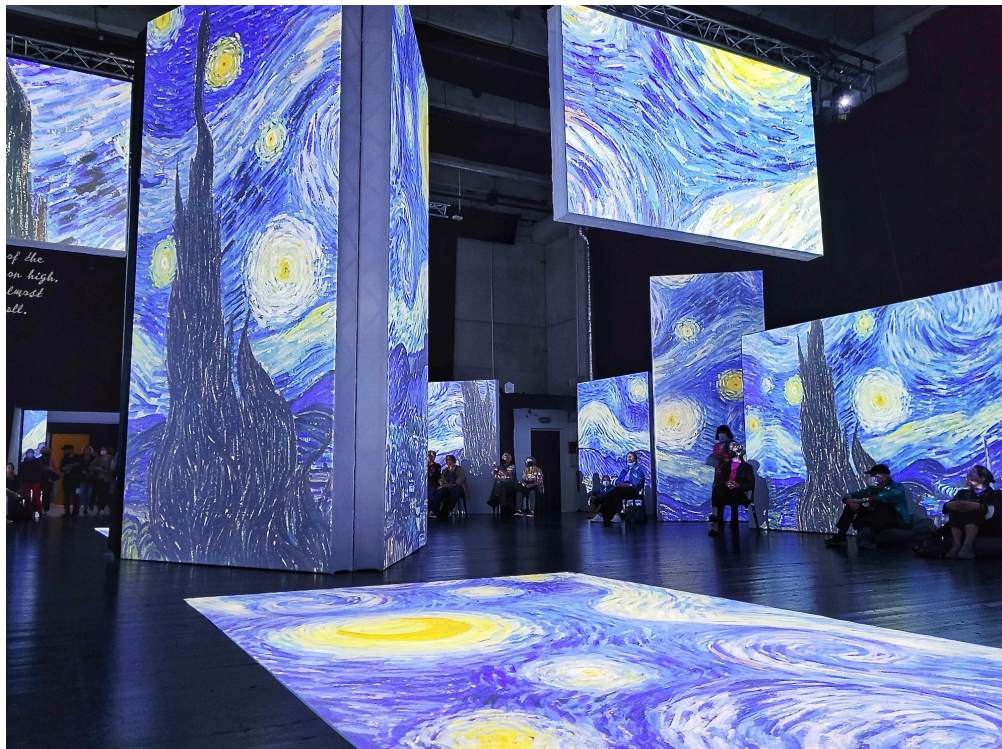
Recipient: **Brooke Viertel, AWCH**

As a licensed psychotherapist, she has both the ethical responsibility and the personal passion to continually expand and strengthen her clinical skills. She has found in the past years that many expat women have been challenged to find a qualified therapist offering treatment in English. She is planning to complete a certified training course in trauma therapy through the “Zentrum für Psychotraumatologie-Hamburg” and hopes to complete this comprehensive certification program which includes all aspects of clinical work with traumatized patients by October 2024. She is a member of AWC Hamburg.

Complete list of awardees:

fawcofoundation.org/programs/development-grants/2022-development-grant-recipients

Springtime Activities



Immersive Van Gogh

On May 12, we toured this unique multimedia art installation in Ottensen and went out to lunch afterwards.

Photos courtesy of Jess M. Sketch by Emilia R.

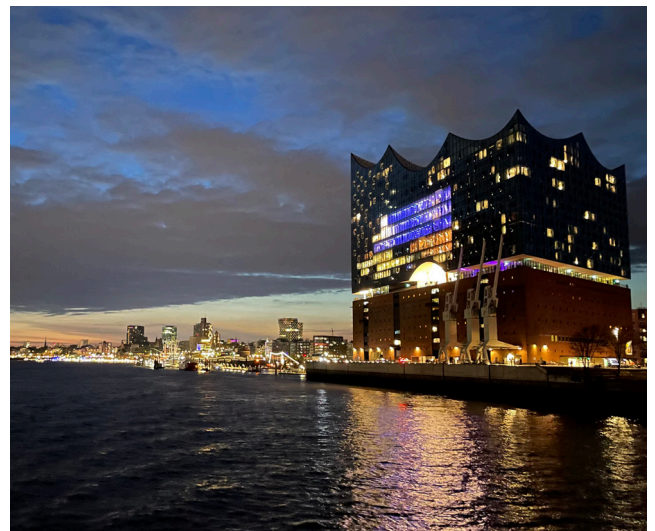




Night Light boat tour

On a clear night in April, a group of AWCH members and families gathered at Landungsbrücken at dusk. We boarded the *Louisiana Star* sternwheeler and enjoyed a sparkling nighttime tour of the city from the Elbe.

Photos by Chris L. and Stephanie M.A.



Wonton Making Workshop

Karen E.D., Gulin Z., and Vana V.I. learned how to make wontons at the home of Stella K.



Springtime Activities



Dressed

We were wowed by fashions of various eras, from Victorian gowns to punk rock leather, in this exhibit at the Museum für Kunst & Gewerbe in April.

Photos courtesy of Carol H.



Stitchers Gone Wild

Members of our craft group Stitch'n'Bitch enjoyed a fun weekend getaway to Goslar in April. This was the second time we held an out-of-town retreat.

Photo courtesy of Jess M.

And the Oscar goes to ...

A Film Group tradition has been re-stored! In March, Nancy Tiltz hosted her much-anticipated morning viewing party of the Academy Awards (taped from the previous night). Group members, including Becky T. (at left), competed in Oscar bingo for “gold” statuettes, indulged in the delicacies of a brunch potluck, and raised a few euros to cover operating costs in a silent auction of donated items. It’s always a good time.



Social Hour

Weekly social hours were a big hit this spring! Melissa A. (at left) hosted this gathering at TA Vegan House in May.

Photo courtesy of Melissa A.



Intro to Rowing

Adrienne B. organized a group lesson at her rowing club in Eppendorf. We had a wonderful evening on the water together!

Photo courtesy of Adrienne B.

Share your Photos

The AWCH board and *Currents* editors always love to see photos from club activities. Send your pictures to currents-exec@awchamburg.org. You can also share them in our private Facebook group.



AWCH Spring Brunch

Close to 40 members welcomed the season at our Spring Brunch on April 19. We enjoyed a lovely sparkling wine reception with a buffet followed by a wide selection of desserts at the Horizon Restaurant at the Courtyard by Marriot. Nanci S. and Diana S. moderated the debut of our “Spring Chicken,” a compensation for our annual Holiday Party gift exchange that fell victim to COVID-19. The small floral bouquets and potted plants brought by each member were exchanged in a fun Q&A session. An affirmative answer to one of the many questions gave a guest the opportunity to find their bouquet—or steal one from someone else. The biggest surprise? Not just one but at least ten members jumped up when asked who had ridden a camel. And, yes, at least one of our members has been in the Peace Corps. And at least two members attended school in more than five countries. Attendees donated a large amount of clothes and supplies for Hanseatic Help to assist Ukrainian refugees. The day was filled with lots of surprises, chatter, and good fun.

Photos by Carol H. and Carol S.







CELEBRATING CURRENTS

30
years

In 1992, AWCH members worked together to transform their beloved newsletter into a full-sized magazine with a new title, and *Currents* was born. To honor the milestone, we are looking back at the beginnings and hearing directly from some of the many talented women who have devoted themselves to publishing this magazine, in all its myriad forms.
Read on!

Timeline compiled by Becky T.

Photo at left by Emilia J.

Archival photos courtesy of Mason Jane M. & Carol H.

Way Back When

By Kathy Buster, newsletter editor 1978–1985

Thirty years of *Currents*! Amazing! And congratulations! But I'm going to take you back 44 years. Back to the years when the butterfly that *Currents* has become was still a busy caterpillar metamorphosing over the years.

In 1978, when I moved to Hamburg, Christine Bell was editor (researcher, writer, proofreader, copier, and probably mailer!) of the AWC newsletter. When I took on the job—a labor of love indeed—I had an old portable Remington typewriter and lots of Wite-Out!



1984 Hamburg

A small, wobbly card table set up in our bedroom was my desk, and it was surrounded by upside-down laundry baskets and packing boxes—one for each page of the newsletter. And I loved it! Over

the years, I graduated to a big secretary's desk (on which I'm typing this), with plenty of room to spread out. Then the AWC bought an electric typewriter. What a wonder! Before I handed the job on some eight years later, I'd even brought a primitive computer back to Hamburg with me from summer vacation.



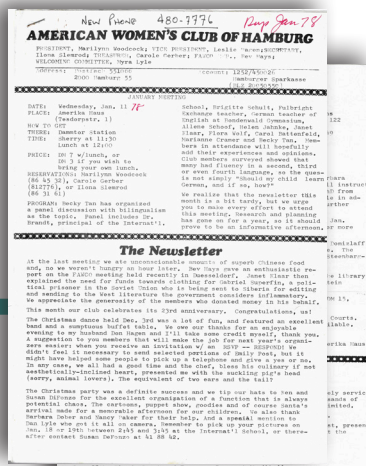
2022 Missouri

Currents Timeline

1979

1956

The first newsletters are a monthly one-page typed letter called the *American Women's Luncheon Club Bulletin*.



1970

In the '70s, the newsletter uses the title *American Women's Club of Hamburg* and contains two to four pages with club activities, a new-member list, and important community dates. It is typed, mimeographed, and mailed to almost 200 club members monthly, except for July and August.



In 1973, DM5 is instituted as a yearly fee to receive the monthly newsletter.

CELEBRATING CURRENTS

Of course the word processor program wasn't much more than a glorified typewriter, so I was still doing a lot of actual cutting and pasting (I have skills!). But that was just the behind-the-scenes nitty-gritty. What mattered more, of course, was the content. Besides news about upcoming AWCH luncheons, classes, groups, events, and tours, the main focus of the newsletter was providing how-to-live-in-Hamburg information for our English-speaking readers, never forgetting that they were trying to navigate life in a foreign city where they usually didn't know the language, let alone the customs. There were many such articles—from how to get a residency permit to using public transportation or getting your kids into school. The German vocabulary to use. How to grocery shop and translate recipes. The list was endless.

Over time, many of these "how-to" articles were collected, xeroxed, and put into notebooks to be used at our "Bloom Where You're Planted" orientations. That led to me then passing the newslet-

ter job to Kathy MacFarlane, and myself, Joanna Wright, and Christine Bell tackling the researching, writing, proofreading, editing, and publishing of the book *Hamburg in Your Pocket*, an English-language guide to living in Hamburg. Which, I am so pleased to know, is still being periodically updated and re-published.

And so the tradition continues with *Currents*. When I look at your list of staff, I am reminded that back in the caterpillar days, we also had an amazing group of women who helped research, write articles, proofread, and manage copying and distribution, one in particular being your present member and my dear old friend Carol Battenfeld.

She was always there to help, including saving me from language errors—like the time I almost published a recipe for "beef rolladen" instead of "beef rouladen!" And my nemeses, küssen and Kissen! But that's a story for another time...

Congratulations, again, on 30 years of *Currents*!!

"Our AWCH newsletter was the glue that kept us connected. Panic was our initial reaction to learning Kathy was returning to the US. You cannot imagine the hours of happy dedication she spent in those ancient days ... that typewriter was the most cantankerous item imaginable."

-Carol Battenfeld

1977-78: Christine Bell

1978-85: Kathy Buster

1985-87: Kathy McFarlane

1979: The club purchases an electric typewriter for the editor.

1987-88: Vera Alexander

1988-90: Beatrice Schelcher

1990-91: Constanze Joy, Becky Tan, & Holly Holst



1987

The newsletter is totally revamped In October 1987 with a smaller A5 format and is professionally printed and bound. The title is now *Newsletter*. The cover features photos and drawings, some by club artists. It is about 40 pages.

Starting in 1979, the newsletter adopts its new look with the Hamburg coat of arms from the sixteenth century. It contains information about the club, but also current events, where to see and do things around town, recipes, and "survival" information. Over the years, it expands from 12 to 32 pages.



1992

1991-93: Becky Tan

1993-95: Marion Kuchenbecker, Jill Fleming, M.J. Dobbins and others

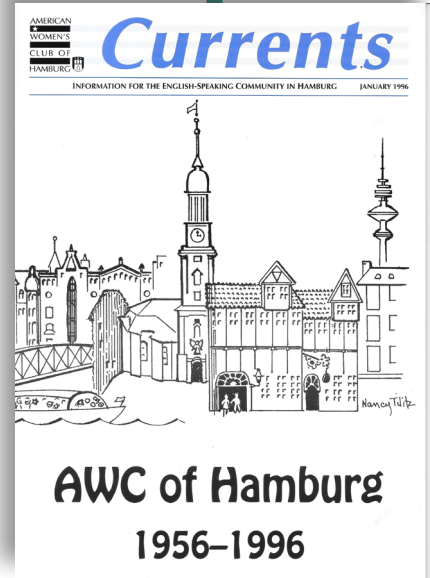
1996-97: Susan Irwin & guest editors

"Currents" debuts!

The September issue is the first one to use the magazine format, reverted to the original A4 size. It has a new name and the new club logo designed by Marinell Haegelin. The debut issue is edited by Becky Tan. Both women are still active club members and valued *Currents* contributors today.



1996



AWCH celebrates 40 years! Nancy Tiltz's contest-winning sketch is used for the cover.

A Topical Retrospective

By Marinell Haegelin, contributor since 1992

In 1992, corporations still shuffled key employees to global branches; numerous wives put children into international schools and careers on hold. Everything foreign was gobbled with gusto until the absence of English-speaking camaraderie propelled many "passing through" Hamburg to the American Women's Club.

As a new member, I met Lisa Iervolino and we discovered our backgrounds coincided in marketing and advertising, i.e., Lisa, wordsmith, and me, artist. She was contributing editor for the club's A5-sized newsletter that was printed monthly with editors Holly Holst and Becky Tan; during July/August, Becky sent out a two-page x-

roxed "summer newsletter." The treasure trove of information covered news relative to living in Germany/Hamburg, book reviews, photographs, an events calendar, recipes, consulate and FAWCO news, healthcare information, members' tips and letters to the editor, advertising, etc. Computer technology was in its infancy, so the newsletter was the equivalent, you could say, of last century's telegraph messages.

Lisa roped me into redesigning the AWCH newsletter and logo under the auspices of Holly, Becky, and then-president Roxayn Ball. Initially, Lisa and I simply changed its format from A5 to A4 and brainstormed the name *Currents*, with



Hamburg in Your Pocket staff Carol Battenfeld, Marinell Haegelin, and Andrea Geisler; June 1994 *Currents* cover photo.

CELEBRATING CURRENTS

1997–98: Larissa Wagner
1998: Nancy Tilitz



1999–2003:
Aida Thuresson



1998: The club buys a computer for the *Currents* staff.

2000

"In 1999, the club was in financial difficulties, and Currents' budget was cut down... I think February 1999 was the first time Currents was done using digital technology ... In order to keep the cost down, we reduced the number of issues to 10.

- Aida Thuresson

Currents acquires a new cover look with half-page color photos and drawings (by Aida Thuresson, Nancy Tilitz and others). Issues run from 20-28 pages. In 2001, covers have full-page colored pictures.

its double meaning alluding to Hamburg's riverside (Elbe) location. My practical knowledge and experience from working on the total redesign of a US metropolitan morning/evening newspaper proved helpful. From the front page banner, masthead, and table of contents, to column headings, page layouts, photographs, and drawings to call-outs in articles (e.g., "The Best Possible Situation is...to Have a German Lover") the magazine was a "work of love" by club members.

Fantastic teamwork, good ideas, and follow-through from a wide pool of backgrounds, skills, training, and wisdom empowered us to accumulate tons of information in record time.

Member-contributed front-page photos included professional photographers Dorcas Platt Wagenknecht and Andria von Lossberg-Seeland. New columns appeared, e.g., "Dining Detectives" (two members and spouses critiqued restaurants anonymously) and Neptune Ingwersen's "Flick Picks" reviewed films. Neptune passed her contacts to Penny Holmes, a journalist from England,

who handed them over to Becky before moving to Brazil. Beatrice Schelcher sold advertisements quarter-to-full page to the Hamburg Marriott Hotel, AT&T Deutschland GmbH, etc. Regina Daumann's monthly submissions about special events, lectures, theater/music, sports, exhibits, trade fairs, and more covered seven to eight half-page sidebars; Karen Pecota managed circulation. Holly, Nancy Tilitz, and Erin Speer contributed artwork; *Currents* commemorative issues included World War II D-day and the AWCH fortieth anniversary.

Werner Last let us use a computer, copier, and printer at New Systems in Eppendorf. Lisa kept squeezing to insert everything; often we worked until the wee hours, dropping the key into his mother's mailbox.

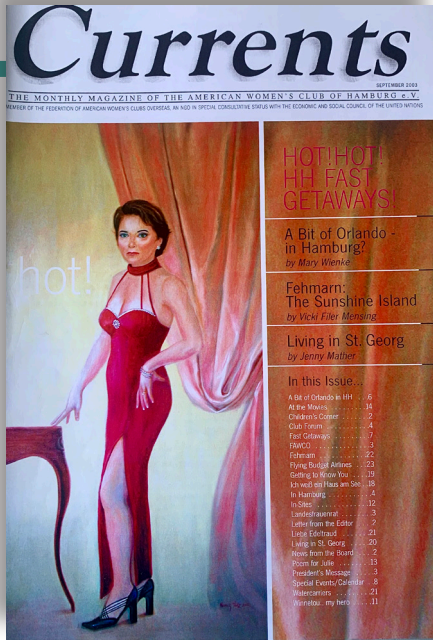
From Becky's "Editor's Corner" in April 1993: "Twenty-eight days and about 750 man-hours later, *Currents* arrives..." (from the printer Andrew McKerlie—terrific at finding typos). *Currents* premiered in September 1992, and by 1995 non-members could purchase subscriptions for DM 55.

2003–2004: Becky Tan, Karen Pecota, Jenn Meyer, Osanna Vaughn, Mary Weinke

2004–2008: Adele Riepe

2004

2006



Designing club news entails making our female authors look their very best on the printed page ... Today we are using highly professional computer programs for our layout design. However, even when you have these fancy programs, the art of making the printed material come alive to the reader still involves a special talent and hours of work.” -Karen Pecota

AWC
with

“Currents” has Always Been There

By Shelly Schoeneshoefer, contributor since 1997



Shelly in 1998 with baby Adrian, who is now 24 years old and the first male member of AWCH.

2022 is a very special year for me. I am celebrating 25 years of marriage, 25 years of living in Hamburg, 25 years of being an AWCH member, and 25 years of contributing to our beloved magazine, *Currents*.

Arriving in Hamburg pregnant after our honeymoon in Indonesia and not speaking a word of German, it was clear that I was going to need some help. So I immediately joined the club. My first contact was Becky Tan, who showed up with a yellow hand-knitted baby sweater and a list of films that I could go see. She reminded me that, after having a baby, it would be

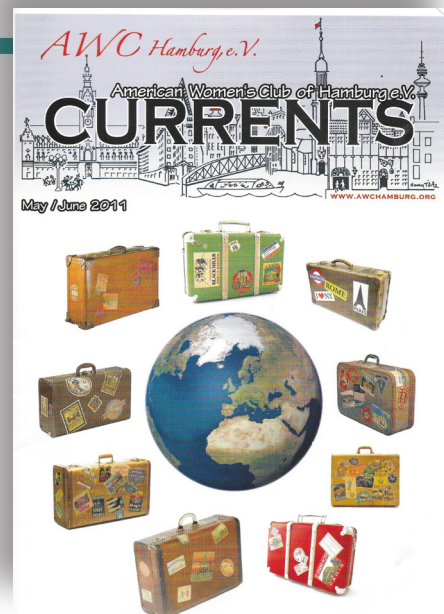
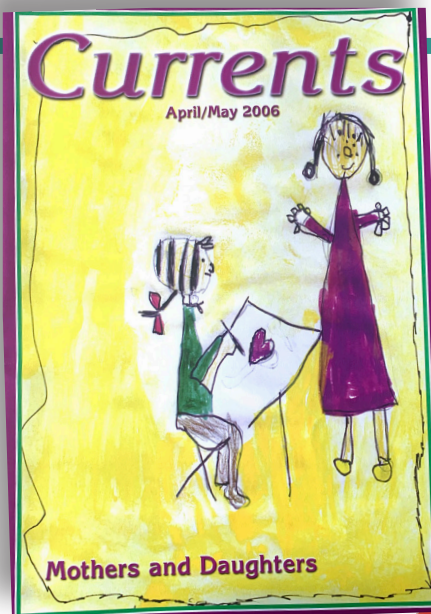
CELEBRATING CURRENTS

2009–2013: Sus Ewing Bölke

2011

2013: Allison Marseille

Adele R. begins the custom, which Sus E.B. continues, of working with a team of editors that rotates on acquiring copy, doing layout, and taking responsibility for a single issue.



From May 2011 through 2013, *Currents* uses a new nameplate with Nancy's design.

CH celebrates 50 years
in a commemorative edition!

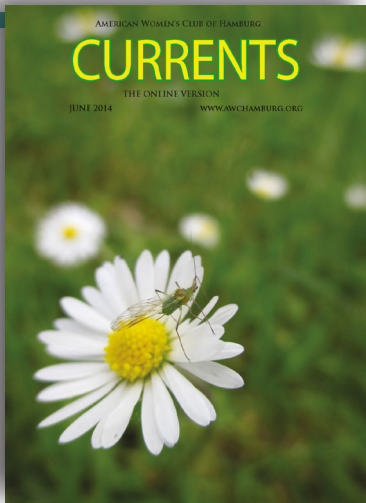
more difficult to go to the movies, and I should use my time wisely. I also learned that Neptune Ingwersen received invitations to film press showings and wrote reviews for *Currents* in a column called Flick Picks. So, following in her footsteps, I started to submit reviews to the magazine.

After my son Adrian was born, Becky Tan handed her *Currents* distribution job over to me, which wasn't difficult for me to do because I had a baby stroller and lived a block away from the post office. I would simultaneously enclose a magazine in a giant manila envelope while stamping our return address in the corner. I would put on the address stickers and then sort them by zip code for bulk mail regulations, pack them in a box, and off I would go. I remember arriving at the post office with dread each time. Back then, postal people were not the happy campers they are today. They would always find something I'd done wrong, like an extra scribble from my son on the back of an envelope.

Once, I didn't have enough money for the postage for the 200 magazines, and the postal person was huffing and puffing at me despite the fact that I had waited in a long line and they had, unbeknownst to me, increased the postage rates, but, out of nowhere, an American appeared and came to my rescue. She paid the difference and off we went. I had made a new friend, Ruth Hale. She was not in our club, she said, because she was unfortunately too busy doing musicals, including *Phantom of the Opera* and *Cats*. We are still friends today, and I am still involved with *Currents*.

A few years ago, as the club's vice-president, I had the opportunity to archive all the copies of *Currents* and *Film Magazine* that we have. I had to get rid of the copies that were in bad condition and contact older members to fill in the holes. So currently there are two copies of each, and if you sit down in a nice, comfortable place and have a read, you can see the history of our club come alive.

2014



Currents goes digital!
Complete issues are posted to the club website, which begins the policy of publishing first names only.

"The digitalization of Currents received various reactions from club members, many very positive, others just the opposite...When I took over, the magazine was in its peak transition time, moving from tradition to the twenty-first century."

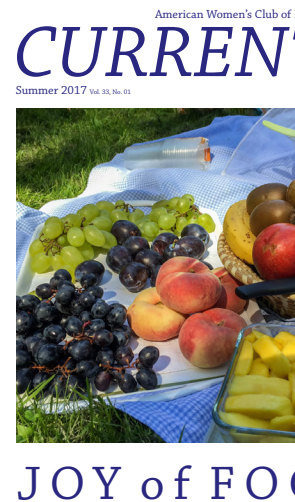
-Karen Malinowski

2016



AWCH celebrates 60 years!

Currents gets a new look, largely through the contributions of Laura O. The magazine is published quarterly.



JOY of FOOD

A Colorful Archive of our Club

By Carol Harbers, *Currents* editor 2017-2019

I have recently delved into the AWCH archives to discover the 40+ years of newsletters and *Currents* issues neatly tucked away in storage closets at DESY (hats off to Becky T., Shelly S., and Tracy M.). It has been a fun and enlightening exercise. I was familiar with the digital copies on our website, often referring to them when I fell into the editor's position in 2017 (with the wonderful support of Ulrike Henn), but I did not realize what a historical treasure these saved printed versions held.

What better way to archive the changes

but also continuity of the club and its members through the decades? Surprisingly, almost all in black and white—but so colorful in their content!

One club continuity documented in the back issues is our valuable involvement with FAWCO.



Every issue includes a proofreading party at Abaton. This group includes editor Mason Jane M. (second from right) and former *Currents* editors Beatrice K., Becky T., and Carol H.

How proud we are of our many members who have served and continue to serve on the board and various committees for this important voice for overseas American and women's rights.

The articles also demonstrate how the

2017–19: Carol Harbers

2020–21: Beatrice King
and Mason Jane Milam

2020

2022: Mason Jane Milam and
Stephanie Matlock Allen

Currents goes color on the inside pages! Color printing prices go down, making full-color printing more affordable. A new publisher offers environmentally friendly paper and



When the world shuts down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, *Currents* keeps publishing. The club also creates a cookbook, *Let's Stay In*.

2022

What comes next? Let's find out together!



“needs” of our members have changed through the years. How many still worry about where to get brown sugar and double-acting baking powder (or maybe more than I think?). Themes around schools were big 20 years ago, and now? The advances of the internet have certainly made it easier to establish a new life in Hamburg ... and, if not, we hope our Hamburg newcomers will take advantage of the digital *Hamburg in Your Pocket*, which was distilled from the many articles in our newsletters and *Currents* issues over the years.

Consistencies and transitions were also clearly evident in our reports of club activities and “Hamburg Happenings.” Yes, our email newsletter coupled with the website now replaces a prime function of the earlier newsletters ... but past and present *Currents* issues are a great way to see the smiling faces of our members at holiday events. My impression is that there are many more cultural activities offered in the club—and what better way to be informed of what is happening in Hamburg than to read excellent and

concise reviews of art exhibitions, theater plays, operas, and films? The film reviews were expanded to cover many film festivals—resulting in the publication of many special edition issues of *Currents*. Well done!

The AWCH newsletter became a magazine in 1992, not just with a new name but also the incorporation of themes with cleverly written stories and articles. One can pick up any of those back issues (and present day) with a cup a tea and admire the creativity, imagination, writing, and layout skills of so many of our members.

There is, of course, another important constant over the years that needs to be highlighted—the time and work involved in putting out each issue of *Currents*. I have seen it firsthand and will be always grateful for those submitting articles, helping with the layout and, last but not least, showing up at Abaton with red pens to correct and encourage.

To the colorful coverage and dedicated teams over the years: Thank you!

THE CLUBS WITHIN OUR CLUB

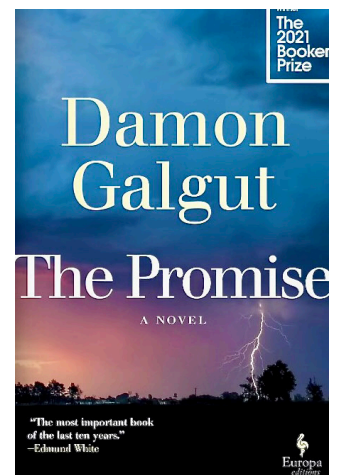
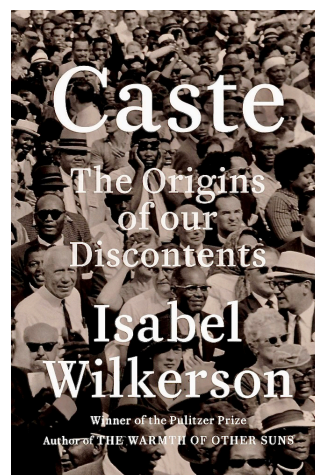
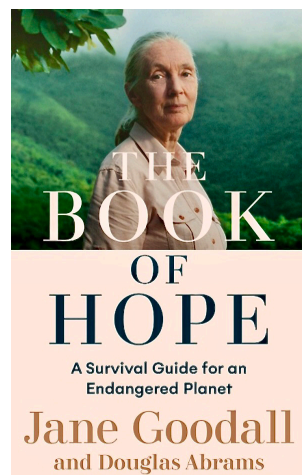
BOOK CLUB

Our Recent Discussions

The Book Club joined the FAWCO Environment Team in March for a virtual discussion of **The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for an Endangered Planet** by Jane Goodall, the world-renowned naturalist and conservationist, and co-author Douglas Abrams. The consensus was that it was a truly hopeful and inspiring book. In Zoom

breakout groups, the participants considered what mindful steps could be taken individually to protect the environment. There were many practical suggestions for reducing our individual carbon footprints. One suggestion was made for the upcoming FAWCO conference in Luxembourg—take the train rather than fly. In spite of the considerably longer time required, AWCH President Carol H. complied and traveled responsibly by train.

In April, we met virtually to discuss **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson. This work of narrative nonfiction

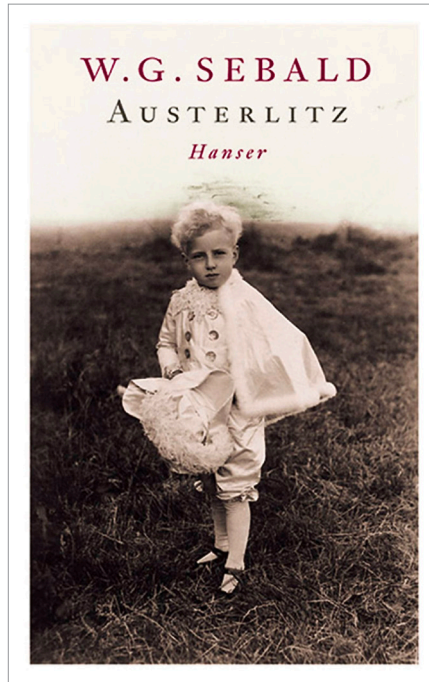


looks at the nature of inequality in the United States from 1619, when the first enslaved people arrived, up to the present day. Wilkerson believes the caste system, a hierarchy of social stratification dividing people into groups, is the basis of the inequality rather than racism, which she sees as just one manifestation of caste. She writes about the ancient caste system of India and the arbitrary caste system of Nazi Germany, which was modeled on the Jim Crow South. Our discussion group found that this well-researched work with its many real stories is an eye-opener and a captivating read.

In May, a group of 11 came together virtually to discuss the award-winning book **The Promise** by Damon Galgut. This novel tells the story of a family and South Africa under apartheid. The family and the nation are woven together through four funerals, each in a different decade with a different president and different national spirit. The story is brilliantly constructed and written as a norm-breaking, third-person narrative with a sense of black humor, ensuring that it is not a dull historical exercise but an excellent read. (Carol S.)

Discovering German Literature in Translation: *Austerlitz*

BY MICHAELA A.



This month, a single book from the Deutsche Welle list of “100 German Must-Reads”: *Austerlitz* by W.G. Sebald, on the list for the year 2001.

Sebald was born in Bavaria in 1944 but spent much of his life in England as a professor of European literature at the University of East Anglia. His other works include *Vertigo*, *The Emigrants* and *Rings of Saturn*. *Austerlitz* was published to much acclaim just weeks before his sudden death from a heart attack while driving at age 57.

Austerlitz is a moving and highly original book that can take some getting used to. It begins with the accidental meeting of a nameless narrator with a man named Jacques Austerlitz at the main train station in Antwerp, a meeting that introduces us to the structure of the entire novel: a man telling a story about Austerlitz telling his story across various meetings over 30 years. It feels breathless, as there are no chapter breaks or paragraphs, only diagrams or black and white photos scatter-

ed throughout, some of which have more connection to the text than others.

Austerlitz’s story soon becomes deeply engrossing as we learn of his attempts to understand his past, the unfolding of his repressed childhood memories, family, language, and home. He was just a five-year-old child when he was sent to England on the Kindertransport in 1939, and he lost all connection to his roots for the next 50 years. The unfolding of his story, told to us through this nameless narrator in dialogue with Austerlitz, weaves historical fact with a fictional story, the photos adding to the sense of blurred borders. The narrator, and therefore we, the readers, serve an important role in bearing witness to Austerlitz’s trauma, and it seems

to be the intention of Sebald to speak to wider themes of memory, reconciliation, and commemoration

In an excellent essay on the text, Erik Beyersdorf described *Austerlitz* as “a seminal example of literary commemoration, which aims to communicate sensitive war-time memories without trivializing victim suffering, or, in other words, without desanctifying the Holocaust.”

Austerlitz is a book to be read when you have plenty of time—I found it hard to dip in and out of and still follow the story and narration closely. It’s a great book to dive deep into on summer vacation perhaps—a long train ride would make the perfect setting. It’s a hauntingly beautiful and deeply thoughtful book.

PHOTO GROUP

June 8, 2022, saw the very first meeting of the new AWCH Through the Lens photography group. We were so lucky to have a beautiful day to walk around Ottensen, a neighborhood full of historic buildings and cobblestone streets. Our group of 11 ladies slowly meandered our way through these gorgeous streets, taking in all the little details along the way. With a focus on capturing things or moments we would normally pass by, this enthusiastic group managed to find a wonderful mix of color, perspective, texture, and context in this very busy pocket of Hamburg. We ended our tour with coffee and cake at one of Ottensen's amazing cafes and shared our photos and thoughts of the day. Thanks to all who came—you made it such a pleasure. Jordan and I can't wait for the next meet-up! (Jess M.)



Photo: Jess M.



Photo: Liz R.



Photo: Christine R.



Photo: Jess M.





Photo: Paola B.



Photo: Jess M.



Photo: Susan S-W.

Photo: Beatrice K.



Photo: Jess M.

FILM GROUP

Faithful AWCH Member Karen P. Revisits Hamburg

BY SHELLY SCHOENESHOEFER



When looking back at the membership archives, it's rare to find someone who has continued to be a member of our club after moving away. Karen is that woman! While living here, Karen was an active member who was the AWCH president in 1999 and 2000, as well as being involved with FAWCO. She is still a dedicated member of the film group, attending the Sundance and Tribeca Film Festivals and serving as one of the layout editors for our film magazine.

When Becky T. heard that Karen was coming to town, she lost no time in organizing a wonderful film luncheon at EAT restaurant in Gänsemarkt. It turned out to be the perfect location, since the entire upstairs was free for our group to meet. We were 14 ladies, and after having such a long pause due to COVID-19, we



could finally get together and talk about films. We discussed our coverage during the pandemic, rules around attending the press showings, our plans for a new website, upcoming festivals, the Oscar party at Nancy T.'s house, and what lies in the future for our group.

Our next meeting will coincide with Filmfest Hamburg, where

we hope to see Rose F., who also is no longer living in Hamburg but has been our guiding light through the pandemic. She not only runs the film group but has been responsible for many of the layouts of the film magazines for the last two years. I think I can speak for the entire group when I say that it was so lovely to see people face to face.

What Gardening, Sex, & Fans Have in Common

BY MARINELL HAEGELIN

Have I perhaps aroused your curiosity? The answer is simple and obvious for some club members, because its source has been in Hamburg since 1987. Once known by the hefty acronym BRIDFAS (British Decorative & Fine Arts Society), with over 410 societies worldwide, a few years ago the London-based society did a complete rebranding, updating to The Arts Society Hamburg. The multifariousness of its programs this year alone has provided continual and diverse enjoyment. Also, subsequent to COVID-19's exceptional restrictions, two in-person events took place: "The Age of Jazz" in April, and "The Gate of Heroes—on the China Trail" in June.

“It is the best possible sign of a color when nobody who sees it knows what to call it.”

—John Ruskin, 1859

Not a gardener, nevertheless when I read the lecture title "The Subtle Science and Exact Art of Color in English Garden Design—Why Gardening Can Rank as a Fine Art," I was curious. And then rewarded, as Timothy Walker regaled yet combined gardening choices with history, the arts, and sciences within an educative and inviting lecture. The lively presentation's composition of six components, from "Color Is Beguiling" to "Harmony & Contrast," encompassed visuals of southern Argentinian cave paintings (11,000-7,000 BCE) professional cyclists, 1956 haute couture, and Giotto's frescoes at Padua (1305). Pantone colors compared with fine artists' palettes, plus lots of images of diverse gardens rounded out the one-hour Zoom lecture.

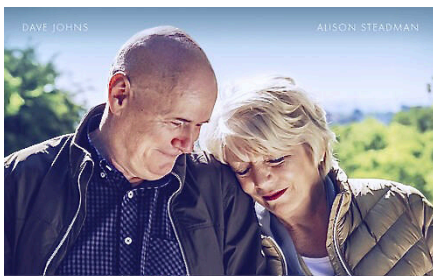
The tantalizing title "Sex and the City—Hogarth and Eighteenth Century London" was fulfilled by Julia Musgrave's lecture regarding the English painter and engraver William Hogarth (1697-1764). Her copious information on Hogarth's work as painter and printmaker flowed. As Musgrave attentively pointed out details rich with hidden meanings and clues, her engrossing explanations combined insight and dry wit, together with humorous references to customs of that period, adding to my enjoyment in listening and learning something new. Clearly "ladies of the night" have been around since Eve, but in the future, looking at artworks, I will not be clueless about those little "dots" on personages and those of less repute.

"Treasures of The Fan Museum," the UK's only museum dedicated to fans, was particularly fascinating since Jacob Moss was its curator for over a decade. Moss quite impressively used every minute to amusingly inform and educate his Zoom audience about the long (circa 1325 BCE, Egypt) and varied history of handheld fans down through the centuries. Nestled in historic Greenwich, its founder and director, Hélène Alexander MBE, avidly collected fans before opening the museum; HRH The Duchess of Cornwall is its patron. Moss's 2017 curated groundbreaking project "Street Fans" joined street art to fan-making and was tremendously successful for the museum. As well, afterward the Q&A provided more details and fun facts.

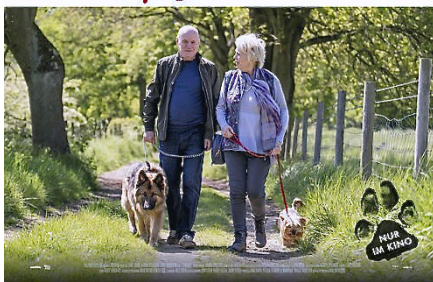
“The fan has a thousand admirable qualities, and may justly be entitled one of the noblest inventions of the human mind.”

—*The Grand Magazine*
London, November 1760

Film Reviews, Summer 2022



MIT *Herz* UND HUND



© Weltkino Filmverleih

23 Walks (Mit Herz und Hund)

***1/2

UK 2020

Opened June 9, 2022

Directed by: Paul Morrison

Writing credits: Paul Morrison

Principal actors: Dave Johns, Alison Steadman, Natalie Simpson, Liam Cointre, Aaliyah Youssef Thomas

Henry and Tilly introduce Dave (**Dave Johns**) and Fern (**Alison Steadman**), in a manner of speaking, although initially Fern's attitude has a bit of a bite. Gradually, they warm up to each other; on their ninth dog walk in the North London parks, when Fern says, "Just listen to the woods—can't get better than that," Dave listens. His wife is dead; Fern is a divorcée. He has a son living abroad and a daughter locally; her daughter's getting married abroad. He talks about his grandkids. They share and compare memories from their so-different pasts. Some time around their fourteenth walk, Dave takes her to meet Marcy (**Marsha Millar**); later, Donna (**Natalie Simpson**) bosses her complacent dad, and Tilly, feeling poorly, compounds his financial issues. Fern takes a timeout. With all their walking and talking, it seems both are guilty of holding back—their well-lived lives are infused with complexities and peculiarities.

Now each has to decide if she/he can forgive and be happy.

English writer-director **Paul Morrison**'s *23 Walks* prods at people's state of mind at that precise stage in life when, it seems, someone feels most vulnerable. The social topics presented and explored are, basically, universally shared, just as the protagonists' behaviors fit the characters' personalities, particularly the adult child "parenting" the parent. Steadman's powerhouse performance, buttressed by Johns' laidback portrayal is as commendable as the characters are likable, floundering in a long-forgotten art—courting. Nicely assembled: **David Katznelson** camera, **Bruce Green** editing, and **Gary Yershon** music, *23 Walks/Mit Herz und Hund* is a refreshingly candid, yet kind depiction of late-age romance that offers an entertaining stroll. 97 minutes (Marinell Haegelin)

Zum Tod meiner Mutter is a film that takes a look at the questions and attitudes of euthanasia. Juliane's mother (**Elsie de Brauw**) is 64 years old but has been severely sick for many years. She lives in a nursing home and has finally decided she doesn't want to live anymore. Juliane (**Birte Schnöink**) contemplates this plea for help and approaches a doctor who informs her that the only way someone can choose to die is to stop eating and drinking. In other countries, physicians can assist a patient's suicide, but not in Germany. As Juliane accompanies her mother through this process, she learns more about what her mother's friends and acquaintances think about this entire undertaking. It seems that only Juliane has em-

pathy after seeing her mother suffer for years, and she is open to her mother's choice even if it means death. Having recently experienced this myself, I found the dialogue a bit forced and expected that the daughter would find a deeper sense of the meaning of life. As she watched cartoons and ate chips, it seemed to me that Juliane was not really facing what was coming. 134 minutes. (Shelly Schoeneshoefer)

Zum Tod meiner Mutter
(The Death of My Mother)

**

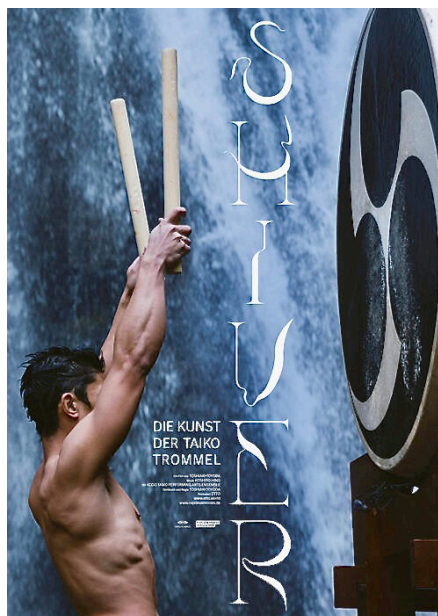
Germany 2022

Opened June 9, 2022

Directed by: Jessica Krummacher
Writing credits: Jessica Krummacher
Principal actors: Birte Schnöink, Elsie de Brauw, Susanne Bredehöft, Christian Löber, Hede Beck



© Grandfilm



© Rapid Eye Movies

On the Japanese island of Sado, the Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble Kodo, composer **Koshiro Hino**, and a film crew spend a month performing with various kinds of drums and other instruments while in sync with their natural surroundings. A variety of film and sound techniques are used to create a visual experience enhanced by the sounds of instruments and nature. This documentary opens with the sun breaking through clouds as the ocean waves crash on the shore to the rhythm of a large drum—in essence, a living painting. Small triangular wooden blocks are struck as if in musical meditation. Drumsticks on metal pots are played to sweeping views of an ancient wall mural. Drums are joined by the siren songs of two vocalists in mournful harmony.

The beauty of the island is explored through the sounds of the group leading up to a frenetic mix of dance, ocean, light, sculpture, and a crescendo of organ and drums pounding with the surf. There may be much symbolism here that was lost on me, but you can find a certain peace in the vibes of this holistic experience. 89 minutes. (Mary Wienke)

Shiver (Shiver—Die Kunst der Taiko Trommel, Senritsu seshimeyo)

Japan 2021

Opened June 23, 2022

Directed by: Toshiaki Toyoda
Documentary with Koshiro Hino, Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble Kodo, Kiyohiko Shibukawa, Kenta Nakagome, Yuta Sumiyoshi



© Wild Bunch

Some films' effortless, unembellished brilliance take your breath away, and this is one of them. Director **Sophie Hyde**'s carefully crafted subtle sensitivity, with its twist of orneriness, in tandem with **Katy Brand**'s clever, perspicuous, wry, and suggestive screenplay is wonderful. Stellar actors add a stroke of brilliance. *Meine Stunde mit Leo* promises laugh-out-loud fun, and its thought-provoking insight regarding gender expectations is empowering.

Two-time Oscar winner **Emma**

Thompson portrays Nancy Stokes, a recently widowed and retired teacher; her relationship with her two adult children is aloof at best. She simply wants to experience what she never has had, is nervous as a cat, and highly pent-up. "Not good at waiting for things to happen," she falteringly adds. Except that she is well-intentioned.

She is countervailed by **Daryl McCormack**'s character: Leo Grande likes his work, is wiser than his years, patient with a healthy sense of humor, profes-

Good Luck to You, Leo Grande (Meine Stunde mit Leo)

****1/2

UK 2022, opening July 14, 2022

Directed by: Sophie Hyde

Writing credits: Katy Brand

Principal actors: Emma Thompson, Daryl McCormack, Isabella Laughland

sionally candid, and kind. He is also a hunk and takes note of Nancy's expectations, if somewhat facetiously. During their transactions, their exchanges challenge each other's perceptions, confusions, stereotypes, disappointments, and regrets. The safety of anonymity, the need to speak openly regarding moral correctness, lends itself in the fullness of time to frank discussion.

The chemistry between Thompson and McCormack is delectable, divine, authentic, and a pleasure to watch. **Amy Hubbard**'s casting was inspired. **Bryan Mason**'s cinematography is amusingly observant, considering most of the film is spent in a hotel room. Amazingly, **Miren Marañón**'s intimate production design and **Fiona Albrow**'s set decoration have plenty of attention-worthy detailing; notice Thompson's hair/clothing changes during the film. Equally, Mason's editing is judicious and gently probing, and **Stephen Rennicks**' music tunefully and appealingly apropos.

By film's end, the surprisingly delightful and enlightening trysts spare neither sex. Good luck to you, Leo Grande, and to Brand and Hyde for this charmingly unique exposé about honesty, respect, and sex in its many manifestations. 97 minutes. (Marinell Haegelin)

What if you could come back from the future to fix something from the past in the present? Curious idea, eh? Director **Greg Björkman** and **James Bachelor**'s co-written harmonious yet compelling screenplay is premised on that precise concept. Laura (**Clara Rugaard**) and Harrison (**Lewis Pullman**) meet, thanks to his stepsister, Chloe (**Lyrice Okano**), Laura's best gal-pal. He loves to surf, she loves to paint, yet what they most have in common is music, so putting together a mixtape of songs with a special meaning for them is natural. As natural as hanging out with Chloe and Jason (**Kekoa Kekumano**), who they prefer to Brett (**Luke Lenza**).

Life is good until the accident; Laura deviates from what she cares about most, so it is a fluke that Cooper (**Danny Glover**) still has their mixtape.

The cast is engaging, with Rugaard and Pullman's charac-



© Splendid Film GmbH

ters likable, and their portrayals convincing as they slip between alternate timelines. Glover's character adds dimension to the storyline, particularly since he "gets it" from the get-go. *Press Play* is about expectations and control and how hard it is to let go of them," Björkman is quoted as saying in his director's statement. **Luca Del Puppo**'s cinematography, **Patrick J. Don Vito**'s

Press Play and Love Again (Press Play)

South Korea/USA 2022
Opened June 16, 2022

Directed by: Greg Björkman
Writing credits: James Bachelor, Greg Björkman
Principal actors: Clara Rugaard, Lewis Pullman, Danny Glover, Matt Walsh, Christina Chang

editing, and **Eldad Guetta**'s music are commendable. Being shot in Honolulu, Hawaii, guarantees some spectacular settings. In his musically based romantic directorial debut, Björkman probes into acceptance, grief, and choices. "It never seems you have enough time with the one you love." Even with this similarity, for everyone it is different. 85 minutes. (Marinell Haegelin)

France de Meurs (**Léa Seydoux**) faces a major upset in her life when she accidentally drives into a young deliveryman; trying to correct the mistake unravels her own life at the seams. At first glimpse, we see a glamorous young woman taking on the most difficult subject matter and conquering it all. France as a talk show host/journalist is willing to take measured risks that later reveal the fraudulent choices she has made for her desire to be in the spotlight. The more we see her, the less we like her, and the more absurd the film becomes.

Director **Bruno Dumont** clearly wants to critique the French mass media by focusing on this

France **1/2

France/Germany/Italy/Belgium 2021
Opened June 9, 2022

Directed by: Bruno Dumont
Writing credits: Bruno Dumont
Principal actors: Léa Seydoux, Blanche Gardin, Benjamin Biolay, Emanuele Arioli, Juliane Köhler

character. But somehow he seems to focus on the aesthetics and the cinematography too much, so the film gives us a feeling of swimming in pea soup. This drama/black comedy had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival and was among the films picked for Filmfest Hamburg in 2021. 134 minutes. (Shelly Schoeneshoefer)



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NEW MEMBERS

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Madaline Eelet
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From the
archives
1978

Club Activities

OPERA WORKSHOP. The first workshop takes place on Jan. 15th at Barbara Dumont's house (Walderseestr. 33, HH 52) at 7:30 pm. Dr. Oliver will instruct. He has worked at Princeton Univ., Temple Univ., and obtained his PhD from the Univ. of Freiburg. Workshop fee is DM 30 for 6 sessions, payable in advance or at the first meeting. Call Barbara Dumont (880 3393) for further information.

BRIDGE GROUP. The group will meet at Sheila Rhode's house on Wed., Jan. 18th. Remember to bring your own lunch. Call Sheila (880 3393) for more information.

QUILTING. There will be two groups meeting: in Othmarschen at Pam Domizlaff's Elbchaussee 207a starting Jan. 19th. Call Pam at 880 3397 for time. The second group meets in Willingsbüttel, at Joetta Moltmann's house (Steenbarg-Koppel 87, HH 65). Contact Joetta at 07 03 06.

EXERCISE GROUP. Meets on Monday mornings in the room adjacent to the library at the Internat'l School from 9:30 to 10:35. Call Regina Finkenstein (84 23) for information.

GERMAN COOKING CLASS. This will begin in early Feb and will cost DM 15, to be paid in advance. Details at January meeting.

SQUASH. An informal group plays Tuesdays at 9:30 am, Altona Squash Courts. Players range in ability from beginners up, and babysitting is available. Call Myra Lyle at 86 36 01.

MIXED DOUBLES. Meeting has been changed to Thurs., Jan. 26th at Amerika Haus.

In January

- Jan. 2d: The 300th anniversary of the Hamburg Opera.
- Jan. 7th: Festival of Lights will be held at Michaelskirche. A lovely service to celebrate the arrival of the Three Wise Men to Bethlehem. Thousands of candles. Service begins at 6:00 but get there early as space is limited.
- Jan. 12th: International Club meets at Internat'l School, 10:00 am.
- Jan. 19th: Avril Sheridan Watts, contralto and Roger Calder, pianist, present selections of songs by European composers covering 3 centuries. At the International School, 8:00 pm.
- Jan. 23rd: Euria Heep appears at the Musikhalle.
- Jan. 23rd: Ike and Tina Turner in concert at CCH.
- Jan. 28th: Blood, Sweat and Tears performs at Musikhalle. (Tickets for above 3 performances obtainable at Hamburg Tips, Gerhart-Hauptmann-Platz. Also, you can call them for times at 32 54 12)
- Jan. 24, 25th: Polio vaccination given at your local posts from 2:00 to 7:00 pm or at same time at Impfanstatt, Hinrichsenstr. 1, HH 26.
- Jan. 29th: Indoor Fleamarket at Messehallen. Call 229 7473 for times.

CURRENTS MAGAZINE

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