



AWCCS Newsletter

American Women's Club of Central Scotland



Hi!

Welcome to our electronic newsletter. **You will receive it through your email as a pdf file you may wish to save it and the calendar on your desktop to view each month.** *There are now some live links to information, other websites, and to club forms and payments.* If you would like to submit an article or info for our newsletter, please send it to newsletter@awccs.org by the 20th of the preceding month.

Thank you! - Susannah Stout, Newsletter Editor

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Submissions are welcome and should be sent to newsletter@awccs.org by the 20th of April. Please accompany submissions with images if you have any! Contact the Editor by phone or email for details. Late submissions may not be included. Although material may be edited for clarity or space, contributions should be submitted ready for print. The next 3 month summer issue will be published in June 2016. AWCCS reserves the right to refuse any ad and cannot be held responsible for loss or damages incurred as a result of transactions stemming from any advert.

Newsletter Editor Susannah Stout

AWCCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-

Honary President	Suzi Wilson	Principal Officer US Consulate General Edinburgh
President	Nancy Lynner	president@awccs.org
Vice President	Open	vicepres@awccs.org rsvp@awccs.org
Secretary	Kathy McGlew	secretary@awccs.org
Treasurer	Amanda Kirkpatrick	treasurer2015@awccs.org
Prospective Membership	Ann Bartlett Stewart	getinfo@awccs.org
Current Membership	Tess McNatt	membership@awccs.org
Advertising/PR	open	advertising@awccs.org
Newsletter Editor	Susannah Stout	newsletter@awccs.org
Website Manager	Joyce Halsan	websitemanager@awccs.org
FAWCO Representative	Amanda Drollinger	fawcorep@awccs.org
Glasgow Rep	Susan St.Denis	glasrep@awccs.org
Social Chair	Open	social@awccs.org
Charity Chairperson		charity2015@awccs.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Edinburgh

Morning Book Group	Dale Finlayson	ebookam@awccs.org
Coffee Plus Edinburgh	Dale Finlayson	ebookam@awccs.org
Voting Coordinator	Dale Finlayson	vote@awccs.org

Glasgow

Books Beverages and Banter	Susan St.Denis	gbook@awccs.org
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Fife

Fife Dinner Club	Pat Peters	fifedinner@awccs.org
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*Remember to check the website for the latest updates: www.awccs.org
You will need to register in order to log in to the Members Only Section.*

*If you've got a favourite activity and would like others to join, please let
Nancy Lynner know at president@awccs.org and we will start
a Special Interest Group for you.*

President's Letter May 2016

Dear Members,

Our April meeting in Glasgow at the Kelvingrove Museum was delightful! It was great for those of us from Edinburgh to meet up with the Glasgow contingent, including Katharyn Cross and Sue Stout.

Here are some events to note:

- Birthday Bash is Thursday May 12th at Pizza Express. This restaurant on George IV Bridge has good customer service, which we always appreciate. Check the article and Rsvp!
- The US Tax seminar is Thursday May 26th at Mother's Gin Bar. Annie Stewart is gathering any and all questions you have for the experts. You can reach her at getinfo@awccs.org. SPACE is LIMITED, so RSVP today!
- For the May Coffee Plus, check news article for details.
- The AWCCS AGM is on Monday night 13th June—Rsvp to me at president@awccs.org
 - YOU are needed on the board.
 - Think big and join the board.

- The club July 4th event will be a bring-your-own-everything picnic, again at Portobello Beach, and the tentative date is Saturday July 2nd. The Board has not confirmed it yet.

The April Birthday Bash at Amaronne was loads of fun—and we had our first child attend—Aidan Yates came along with his mom, Tina. None of us was celebrating our birthday, but that didn't stop us from toasting those not present who were.

See you all at the next event! If you'd like to plan an event, just let one of the board members know.

Nancy Lynner, AWCCS President



Dale, Nancy, and Fiona

IMPORTANT U.S. TAX



SEMINAR
6:30 pm

Thurs May 26,

As a US citizen, you are required to file taxes annually no matter what country you live in outside the USA. Are you current with all the new requirements?

The tax seminar , complements of ClearTaxation of Edinburgh, will be held at Mother's Gin and Draft Bar at 24 Howe Street, Edinburgh. Drinks, nibbles or meals can be purchased while we listen to their informative talk.

Space limited. Room accommodates 20 individuals. Members and spouses welcome.

Please RSVP to Annie Stewart by May 20:

getinfo@awccs.org.



**U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh Principal Officer Susan Wilson
and**

The American Women's Club of Central Scotland

**cordially invite you to attend the
AWCCS Annual General Meeting**

Monday, June 13, 2016

6:30-8:00 p.m.

U.S. Consulate General, 3 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5BW

***Greet old friends, make new ones, vote for officers,
and learn about all the exciting club activities for the rest of 2016!***

Remarks by Susan Wilson

RSVP to president@awccs.org

American Women's Club of Central Scotland 2016-2017 Elections

Read the list and duties of the officers of the AWCCS-- you may run for any of the first 9 offices. ***At the AGM on June 13th we will vote for officers for the next year.***

A. Board of Directors

1. President
2. Vice -President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Social Chairperson
6. Charity Chairperson
7. Membership Chairperson
8. Newsletter Editor
9. Public Relations Chairperson
10. FAWCO Representative

B. Appointed Positions: The president shall nominate appointees and the elected officers shall approve the following positions;

1. Honorary President: Offered to the American Consul General, if female, or the wife of the American Consul General if in residence.
2. Glasgow Representative: Helps to organise activities in Glasgow and brings any issues from that area to the board.
3. Web site Manager: Responsible for maintaining the club's web site.
4. Such other positions, as the Board of Directors may deem necessary.

ARTICLE V - Duties of officers

Section 1. The President

The President shall preside at all the meetings of the club using ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED and be an ex- officio member of all committees. The President shall be the primary representative of the club to the community. The President shall

ensure that an annual budget is drawn up by the Board early in its term and presented to Club members in the November newsletter.

Section 2. Vice-President

The Vice President shall assist the President and preside in the President's absence. The Vice President shall have charge of programming and selection of venue for the monthly meetings.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep minutes of Board meetings and general Club meetings ensuring that all voting is in accordance with ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be custodian of all Club funds including receipt and expenditure of such funds. All bills shall be sent to the Treasurer, documented by invoice. The Treasurer shall give the Board a monthly report of all receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer shall prepare a preliminary statement of income and expenditure for the year, to be published in the June newsletter. A final statement shall be prepared subsequently for the Board and published in (in) the October newsletter. The Treasurer shall keep a Petty Cash account of not more than £20 for incidental Club expenses and reimbursements. The Treasurer will work with the President and the Board to develop the yearly budget.

Section 5. Membership Committee Chairperson

The Membership Chairperson shall be responsible for compiling and keeping a correct list of members, for collecting the membership fees, for regularly updating a membership directory and for maintaining a Resource Book, which is available on the web site. The Membership renewal fees shall be collected from all members once a year starting from October. The Membership shall present a "AWCCS Club membership status" report to the Board at the February meeting. Membership is responsible for being the first contact with prospective members.

Section 6. Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter Editor is responsible for producing and disbursing at least nine newsletters annually to all Club members, sponsors, and appropriate FAWCO officers.

Section 7. Advertising and Publicity Chairperson

The A/P Chairperson is responsible for securing advertisements for the Club newsletter and seeking continued support from advertisers. The A/P Chairperson will maintain accurate billing and collections from all advertisers. When appropriate the AP Chairperson will promote the Club and its activities in the community and may seek sponsorship for club events and publication.

Section 8. Social Chairperson

The Social Chairperson shall coordinate the Thanksgiving and 4th of July events for the Club.

Section 9. Charity Chairperson

The Charity Chairperson shall coordinate charity fund raising by the club to raise funds for our designated charity and help to identify the latter every two years.

Section 10. FAWCO Representative

The FAWCO (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas) Representative serves as a liaison between FAWCO and the AWCCS, shall communicate as necessary with FAWCO organisations, and shall ensure that annual dues and, when appropriate, donations are paid to FAWCO.

Candidates running for office so far:

Please feel free to put your name forward as well for any of these positions:

President- Nancy Lynner

Vice President - vacant

Secretary - Kathy McGlew

Treasurer - vacant

Newsletter - Sue Stout

Membership – Annie Stewart

FAWCO - Amanda Drollinger

Prospective Membership - vacant

Charity - vacant

Social - vacant

Advertising – vacant

Appointed positions:

Honorary President- Susan A. Wilson, Principal Officer U S Consulate Edinburgh

Website Manager - Joyce Halsan / Social Media – Jana Doughty

Glasgow Rep appointment -

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News from FAWCO

US Liaison Bulletin

April News and Reminders...



FAWCO

Inspiring Women Worldwide

We have a “Woman on a Twenty”!!

On April 20, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew announced that Harriet Tubman, African-American abolitionist and Union spy during the Civil War, will be honored on the new US \$20 bill, replacing President Andrew Jackson. Tubman was born a slave on an unrecorded date and died on March 10, 1913. She will be the first black American on a US Treasury bill, and the first woman in over a century.

The back of the new \$10 bill will feature 5 women’s suffrage leaders: Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul and Susan B. Anthony, while added to the current image of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the new \$5 bill will be Marion Anderson, who sang there in 1939 after being barred from nearby Constitution Hall; Eleanor Roosevelt, largely responsible for that performance; and Dr. Martin Luther King.

At last!!

It was Tubman who said, “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

And while we’re talking about the Treasury Department...Remember June 30!!

That’s the day your Foreign Bank Account Report (FBAR), now called FinCEN Form 114, is due.

Remember also that you must file your FBAR if the aggregate amount in all of your financial accounts outside the United States exceeds \$10,000 on any one day in the year. It must be received by June 30, regardless of the date it is mailed.

As almost the entire world now knows, the penalties for non-filing are daunting and simply not worth it. Do not think because you are a dual citizen, your bank does not know you are American and will not comply with its own reporting obligations. Do not think that the ceiling applies to any one account: think “aggregate”. Do not think that because you owe no taxes, you don’t have to file an FBAR. (Form 114 is a “reporting”

document and has nothing to do with taxes!)

While gathering the information and filling in the form may be a pain, it's a necessary one and the fillable PDF form available online is much easier than in the past, so the advice from FAWCO continues to be: grit your teeth and bear it (and don't be late)!

Download the online filing form at: <http://bsaefiling.fincen.treas.gov/NoRegFBARFiler.html>

The National Taxpayer Advocate turns to overseas citizens

Nina E. Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate, has written to FAWCO, AARO and ACA to ask that we participate in a panel on the "Future State Vision" for the IRS. We were asked for one panelist for a forum that will take place in Washington on May 17. Because she is already in Washington, Marylouise Serrato, Executive Director of ACA, will represent us on the panel, presenting our concerns about the people hardest hit by the unintended consequences of FATCA and FBAR reporting, the loss of valuable IRS services abroad and the absence of Taxpayer Advocate offices outside the US, the deadlines and requirements often hard to respect for overseas taxpayers, and more. FAWCO and AARO also plan to send written comments in support of her testimony.

We will update you on this forum at the end of May.

Register to Vote!!

If you have been putting off registering to vote/requesting your ballot (and let primary season go by!), now is the time to do something about it!

Don't let yourself wake up in the fall and find it's too late... request your ballot now (for every election in the year). It's too easy to miss out on thanks to the dedicated FAWCO-OVF website, accessible from the FAWCO home page.

When you use "our" site, we collect valuable statistics we can take to Washington about the percentage of voters from X and Y state, and the percentage who live in A, B, or C country (no personal information is kept, only statistics like this), so why not ask others around you to use it as well!

You can also register at the US government site: www.fvap.gov. Both sites offer valuable information on voting deadlines, election officials, etc.

Remember that the law now says you must request your ballot every year (and that there can be elections even in "off-years" due to death or resignation)...



Human Trafficking Symposium Update

At the IM in Frankfurt, FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation presented details on the first-ever, jointly sponsored Symposium dedicated to the sustainable rescue of victims of human trafficking, October 7-9, 2016 at the International Press Club of The Hague. The event includes an exclusive “FAWCO Only Experience” Thursday afternoon through Friday evening (limited to 50 participants) with the Symposium taking place Saturday and Sunday. The Dutch National Rapporteur, Corrine Dettmeijer Vermeulen, has confirmed as the keynote speaker on Saturday. Watch for registration information in the coming months. The HRTF bulletins for the months leading up to the event will include articles on this important topic.

Economic desperation often leads women to make decisions that lead to lives of enslavement. Women who are frantic to provide for their families are susceptible to being forced or tricked into taking a job that may appear to be a great opportunity but leads them into slavery. James Politi, the son of Jane McCall Politi, AWA Rome member and member of the NGO Committee on Migration, has written a fascinating account of the dramatic increase in the trafficking of marginalized Nigerian women to Italy, along with some of their personal stories. James points out that the Nigerian women fleeing to Italy are not refugees escaping conflict or repressive regimes. Rather, they are leaving their homes due to a lack of hope for any kind of viable future in Nigeria. These “economic refugees” may be particularly vulnerable to trafficking because they are “rendered invisible” in the current refugee crisis. Given the bleak economic situation for the majority of young women and the limited education of many, it is easy to see how they can be fooled into pursuing a “job” that sounds promising but ends up being no more than enslavement.

Thanks to AWC Dublin member, Eileen Doyle, for her report that Ireland has passed the Sexual Criminalization Act of 2015 which makes the buying of sex and sex trafficking punishable by law and provides more stringent punishment for purchasers of sex. Among those credited with this change is Sarah Benson of Ruhama, the only safe haven in Ireland for sex-trafficked victims, a recipient of a 2012 FAWCO Development Grant and one of AWC Dublin’s ongoing charities.



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www.MbeEdinburgh.com

VOTING – Advice from American Citizens Abroad

Have you registered to vote?

If not, do it now, before you forget. To register and request a ballot for the November election, go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program website, www.fvap.gov, which has an excellent FAQ section:

<https://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag/appendix/faq>.

Alternatively, go to www.overseasvotefoundation.org to request an absentee ballot and at the same time create a persistent personal profile that will facilitate voting in future years.

If your state voting laws require proof of citizenship or photo ID, a copy of the passport placed in the mailing envelope (but separate from the security envelope containing your ballot) is the most commonly adopted solution for overseas voters. Overseas voters who vote by absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) are exempt from ALL voter ID requirements, save the passport copy.

Have you had problems opening or maintaining a bank account in the United States?

American Citizens Abroad (ACA) has partnered with the State Department Federal Credit Union (SDFCU) to extend banking services to potentially thousands of Americans living overseas who currently are unable to or face difficulties opening US bank accounts. The ACA/SDFCU Account, developed by ACA in cooperation with the SDFCU, provides the same type of account used by many Americans working at US embassies to other Americans living anywhere in the world, without needing to have a US address or being affiliated with a government agency.

Americans overseas may sign up for ACA membership through the ACA website: <https://www.americansabroad.org/> and from there individuals can link directly to the SDFCU's account opening page. More information about the SDFCU may be found at: <https://www.sdfcu.org/>.



Californian Chef Patron & AWCCS Member,
Annette Sprague, invites you to come in out of the
gray for a wee bit of California sunshine at Redwood
Bistro, a family friendly restaurant in Corstorphine.

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For more details visit:

www.redwoodbistro.com / info@redwoodbistro.com

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Let's Get Social!

Did you know we're on **Facebook**? Yes, we're that savvy!

You can **like our Facebook page**: *American Women's Club of Central Scotland (AWCCS)* to get event notifications and reminders, local festival links, secret recipes we're willing to share, and other fun tips and trivia about the goings on in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Central Scotland! You don't want to miss all the mischief we get up to - if you like us, you'll definitely like our Facebook page!



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Unit F10/F11 The Mayford Centre Woking
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Birthday Bash

MAY 2016

Come for a drink and more - it doesn't have to be your birthday to join the club for a toast!!

Thursday May 12th --we meet at the most popular PIZZA EXPRESS—the one on George IV Bridge at the intersection with Victoria Terrace.

You must RSVP, as the yummy and reasonable menu at Pizza Express means that the place gets busy.

ADDRESS: Pizza Express

59-63 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1RN

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

RSVP by Tuesday 10th May to Nancy at president@awccs.org

May Birthdays:

Eve Perelman	May 5
Karen MacCormick	May 12
Amanda Drollinger	May 17
Mary Heckert	May 24



Have fantastic Birthday, gals!

*Is your birthday in April? Help us keep the birthday list up to date and send it to me:
Sue at newsletter@awccs.org*

Edinburgh Morning Book Group

Friday, 20 May, 10:15am

Home of Dale Finlayson

0131-667-9369

dale.finlayson@which.net



Mao's Last Dancer, by Li Cunxin

Li Cunxin was a peasant boy living in a poor village in northeast China when he was randomly chosen to study ballet at the Beijing Dance Academy. Despite loneliness and hatred of the strict regime of his training, he was determined to succeed and became a world famous ballet star during the time of the Cultural Revolution. His career eventually took him to America, and there life for him changed dramatically. A vivid depiction of life and the arts in China at a significant time in history, as seen through the experience of a talented youth who rose through and then struggled against the system.

Coffee Plus Edinburgh

There will be no meeting in May – but be sure to mark your diaries for visit to Holyrood on Saturday, 18 June, to view the Queen's wardrobe. See the separate announcement in the newsletter.

Upcoming Events

AWCCS June Coffee Plus moves to a SATURDAY for the Queen

Coffee Plusers – **mark your diaries now for our June visit**, which will be on **Saturday, 18 June**, when we will visit Holyrood Palace to view their exhibition of the Queen's dresses. Details will be in a later Newsletter. Families and friends are welcome to join us.

Vermeer, Lady at the Virginals with a Gentleman
<https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection/405346/lady-at-the-virginals-with-a-gentleman>



Upcoming event - Mark your calendar!

AWCCS Enjoys American Artists in Scotland

Join the club to see the
Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre at the Festival Theatre



DATE	Tuesday 18th October, 2016
TIME	7:30 Curtain
WHERE	Festival Theatre
PRICE	£30.50 each
RSVP:	by July 30 2016 to Nancy Lynner email: president@awccs.org

JOIN FAUSA

Are you returning to the US any time soon?

Whether you are being dragged back kicking and screaming or if you can hardly wait to return home, you will probably find that as a "repat" you and your family members are different sorts of Americans from those who stayed behind. This can be a jolt, but there is help out there for you.

Membership in the FAWCO Alumnae, USA, better known as FAUSA keeps you in touch with others who understand the life changing experience of living in other cultures. Besides the pure psychological support of being a part of this network, there are other benefits, too. The Quarterly magazine carries articles of interest to "repats," and you may apply for the FAUSA Education Award for yourself or a child. In addition, FAUSA members may attend the FAWCO conferences overseas and the FAUSA Annual Meeting, which is in a different part of the US every fall.

Learn all about FAUSA, contact someone in your region, and download an application at www.fausa.org. We would love to hear from you.



www.FAUSA.org

Are you returning to the USA soon? Maintain your international connections with other "repats" by joining FAUSA.

For information, speak to your FAWCO Rep or visit www.FAUSA.org