



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 January. 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 issue will be published in March 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
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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 for February 2016

Dear Members,

We had a fabulous turnout at Christine MacLachlan's Mad Hatter's Tea Party mid-January.

· We all wore unusual hats, but no one's hat was more unusual than Tina Yates, who wore a Turkey (made of cloth) on her head. **Life is better when you're laughing with friends.**

· John Hinton, the founder of our local charity, **MOVE ON**, spoke eloquently about the service-users of the charity and how the organisation, sometimes working closely with other charities, helps support these 16-24 year olds who are, or have been, homeless.

· They are also branching out with new programmes regarding older service-users with dementia. The people they help are all within impoverished circumstances, and their geographic area includes Glasgow and Edinburgh.

· That day we collected £121.00 from those of us who attended, and we gave that directly to the founder. At the end of our fiscal year, our treasurer will send Move On a check for all we've raised except this amount from today.

· I am especially grateful to Christine for creating this club event, as we do not have someone designated to create and manage our events.

In March, on Sunday 6th, our Treasurer, Amanda Kirkpatrick, has created the Handbag Exchange event, and this one will be loads of fun, too. Who doesn't love handbags? Who

wouldn't like to donate a previously-loved handbag...and purchase another one at the event? I have several I will be donating on the day. The donations for this event go toward the FAWCO charity. Thank you, Amanda, for creating this event. See the article about this event within the newsletter. (No charge, but we each bring a bottle of bubbly to share.)

If you're looking for a live broadcast of the SUPERBOWL, check out Hard Rock Café on George Street, Edinburgh—they've given us an ad for this February issue to share their news.

I have booked some tickets with the Festival Theatre group sales office so that we can attend **Alvin Ailey Dance theatre on Tuesday 18th October**, in the evening. There is an article about this within the newsletter—be the first to sign up—I only ordered 8 tickets, and they are in the Dress Circle, which means we'll have an excellent view of the patterns the dancers make on the stage.

We have on-going monthly Birthday Bashes and Coffee Plus mornings, —and if an idea for an event comes to your mind, give one of the board members a call and we'll help you make it happen.

See you at the next event—The February Board meeting is Saturday 6th February at the Starbucks in Princes Street Mall, near Waverley train station steps, and you're always welcome to join in.

Nancy Lynner, AWCCS President



**SPECIAL MENU
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THE BIG GAME

SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2016

Join us for The Big Game Live on Sunday 7th February at Hard Rock Cafe Edinburgh
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#TheBigGame @hardrockedin



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**Excerpts from the *U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh*
*E-newsletter January 2016***

(More info/links from the Consulate on the AWCCS website)

"Dear Friends,

Our E-newsletter aims to keep you up to date with any news and events which may affect Americans. Feel free to forward this e-mail to friends or co-workers. Please follow us on Twitter @USAinScotland to learn more about our work here.

Global Entry – Going between the UK and U.S. just got easier!

We are delighted to announce that the U.S. Global Entry (Frequent Traveler) Program is now open to UK citizens. This allows for streamlined clearance of pre-approved, trusted travelers, which means less queueing (despite how much Brits love to do so) and enhanced security.

To register for Global Entry, UK citizens apply through the UK Home Office website and pay a £42 processing fee. If the applicant passes the UK vetting, they will receive a 'UK Access Code,' which will be entered when applying for Global Entry through the Global Online Enrollment System (GOES). The non-refundable application fee for a five-year Global Entry membership is \$100 and applications must be made online. Once the application is approved, the applicant will schedule an interview with a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer to determine the applicant's eligibility.

We also hope to be in touch soon with details of a Global Entry Roadshow event in Scotland this year!

The program further builds the strong bond between the U.S. and the UK and should make for lots of happy Brits who are regular visitors to the U.S. However did you know a similar program exists for regular U.S. visitors to the UK...?

...Registered Traveller allows regular travelers from the U.S. faster entry into the UK. For an annual fee of £70, applicants undergo security checks in advance of travel meaning that, on arrival to the UK, they are able to use the EEA queues and e-Passport Gates upon their arrival, bypassing the lengthier queues for non-EEA passengers. There are now over 30,000 approved Registered Traveller members, 60 per cent of whom are from the U.S. Further information on Registered Traveller is available at : <https://www.gov.uk/registered-traveller>

Extra Passport Pages come to an End

As of January 1, 2016, Visa Page Inserts (VPI) are no longer available for U.S. passports. This is in order to strengthen the security of a passport and the issuance process. To mitigate the impact of this change, the Department of State began issuing 52-page passport books in October 2014, which means more pages in every passport!

If you have a valid 28-page standard passport, it is valid until it expires, and is

good for travel until all the pages are full. If all the pages are full before your passport expires, you will have to renew it.

When you renew your full-validity passport, you will automatically be issued with a 52-page passport, which means when completing the passport application forms DS-11, DS-82 or DS-5504, you should tick the box for a 52-page book.

Frequent Traveler and Getting a Foreign Visa put in your Passport? You might want to contact us first!

For many of our American citizens there comes a time when, in order to get a foreign visa put in their passport, they must send their passport away to the applicable authority; such as UK immigration. We strongly encourage those of you who find yourself in this situation and who travel frequently for business, to contact us by email at Edinburgh-info@state.gov before sending your passport away! This allows us to advise on the best solution for an interim or second passport and simplifies the application process for such a passport, which ensures that you can continue traveling as and when required while your full-validity passport is away getting its new visa added.

U.S. Presidential Elections – Registering and requesting your ballots!

The U.S. presidential elections 2016, due to take place on 8 November, will soon be upon us. Make sure you're ready to place your vote by finding all the information you need on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website: <https://www.fvap.gov/>

Follow a few simple steps and be a #ProudOverseasVoter ensuring your vote counts!

1. Request Your Ballot: Complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). You must complete a new FPCA after January 1, 2016 to ensure you receive your ballot for the 2016 elections. The completion of the FPCA allows you to request absentee ballots for all elections for federal offices (President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives) including primaries and special elections during the calendar year in which it is submitted. The FPCA is accepted by all local election officials in all U.S. states and territories.

You can complete the FPCA online at FVAP.gov. The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. We encourage you to ask your local election officials to deliver your blank ballots to you electronically (by email, internet download, or fax, depending on your state). Include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. Return the FPCA per the instructions on the website. FVAP.gov will tell you if your state allows the FPCA to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature. If you must return a paper version, please see below for mailing options.

2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot: States are required to send out ballots

45 days before a regular election for federal office and states generally send out

ballots at least 30 days before primary elections. For most states, you can confirm your registration and ballot delivery online.

3. **Return Your Completed Ballot:** Some states allow you to return your completed ballot electronically and others do not. If your state requires you to return paper voting forms or ballots to local election officials, you can do so free of charge at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Place your ballots in postage paid return envelopes or in envelopes bearing sufficient domestic U.S. postage, and address them to the relevant local election officials.

Please ensure your ballot reaches us at the Consulate General (see address below) at least 3 weeks before Election Day.

If it's more convenient for you, you can also return your FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.

Researching the Candidates and Issues: Online Resources. Check out the FVAP links page for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues are widely available and easy to obtain on-line. You can also read national and hometown newspapers on-line, or search the internet to locate articles and information. For information about election dates and deadlines, subscribe to FVAP's Voting Alerts (vote@fvap.gov). FVAP also shares Voting Alerts via Facebook and Twitter.

Learn more at the Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP) website, FVAP.gov. If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh's Voting Assistance Officer at 0131 556 8315, or at Edinburgh-info@state.gov

Public Holidays

The Consulate will be closed for public holidays on the following days over the coming months:

Monday, February 15th 2016 – Presidents' Day

Friday, March 25th 2016 – Good Friday (UK Holiday)

Monday, March 28th 2016 – Easter Monday (UK Holiday)

Monday, April 18th 2016 – Spring Public Holiday (Local Holiday)

General Inquiries

If you have any inquiries regarding information in our newsletter, or any other issues we may be able to address, please contact us via our information email address: Edinburgh-info@state.gov. It is monitored regularly, and we strive to respond to all requests promptly. The consulate continues to accept routine applications for American Citizen Services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays - these are by appointment only, please follow the instructions online to book."

Birthday Bash February 2016

Date: Thursday February 11th
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Whigham's Wine Cellars
13 Hope Street, Edinburgh EH2 4EL
0131 225 8674

Partners and Spouses welcome!

Rsvp to Nancy Lynner: president@awccs.org
- Nancy Lynner



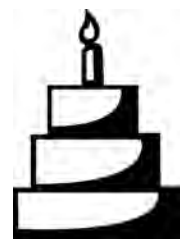
Welcome to our new members!

Jana Livermore from Houston, TX,
Patricia Ramaer from Vancouver, B.C. , living in Newport on Tay near Dundee

We look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events!

February Birthdays:

Heather Anderson	10
Tess McNatt	28



Have fantastic Birthday, gals!

Edinburgh Morning Book Group

Friday, 19 February, 10:15am

Home of Nancy Lynner

0131-662-4149

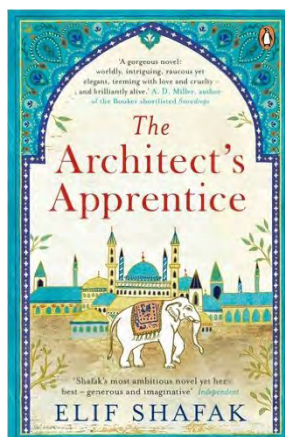
nlynnner@gmail.com



***The Architect's Apprentice*, by Elif Shafak**

Jahan, the narrator of this novel, is an Indian boy who arrives at the court of Suleiman I, in mid-16th century Istanbul, pretending to have been sent as the mahout of Chotan, a white elephant who is a gift from the ruler of India. There, in addition to his duties to Chotan, he becomes apprenticed to Sinan, Istanbul's greatest architect and creator of hundreds of buildings that still stand in the city today. A vivid picture of a thriving city and its Ottoman rulers over decades in the 16th and 17th centuries.

For 17 March we will read Anne Tyler, ***A Spool of Blue Thread***.



Coffee Plus Edinburgh

*Dean Gallery (**Modern Two**, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art)*

Wednesday, 24 February, 10:30am

We're allowing a bit longer to reach our destination this month, as it's away from the center of town. Meet in the café just opposite the entrance.

There is ample parking at the Gallery (£1 charge/free for Gallery Friends). If you prefer the bus, LRT 41 stops in front of Daniel Stewart's school, just before the Queensferry Road/Belford Road roundabout; from there it's an easy walk south on Belford Road to the Dean Gallery on your left. Or if it's a nice day and you'd like a longer walk, take any bus to Haymarket and get off just before Palmerston Place, then walk north on Palmerston Place/Douglas Gardens/Belford Road to the Gallery on your right.

After our usual coffee and chat, we'll go upstairs to their current exhibition (see below), which has been well reviewed. Note that there is a charge for this exhibit of £9/£7 concessions – unless you are a Friend of the Galleries (a good thing to be!), in which case you get in free. I can take another person in on my ticket – first non-Friend to contact me gets in free! You can book your ticket in advance online.

The exhibition: **Modern Scottish Women | Painters and Sculptors 1885-1965**

This revelatory exhibition of work by Scottish women artists concentrates on painters and sculptors. It covers the period from 1885, when Fra Newbery became Director of Glasgow School of Art, until 1965, the year of Anne Redpath's death. The 80 years that lay between these events saw an unprecedented number of Scottish women train and practice as artists.

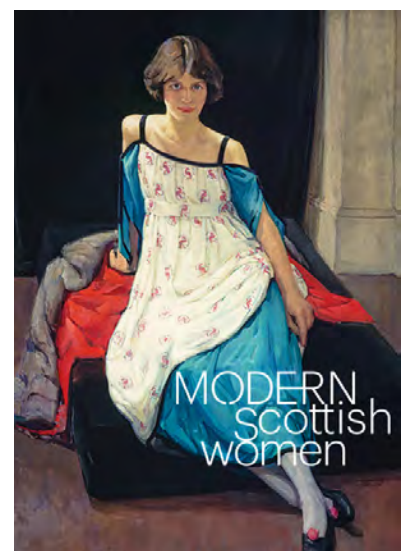
More than 90 works are on show, drawn from the National Galleries of Scotland's holdings and other public collections from throughout the UK, as well as from private collections. The exhibition includes familiar masterpieces alongside important, rarely seen works by significant artists who are not widely known. The conditions that the artists negotiated as students and practitioners due to their gender are explored, shedding new light on this vital chapter of Scottish modern art history, whilst uncovering and celebrating women's contribution to it.

It would be helpful to know if you plan to join us – but if you decide at the last minute, just come along.

Contact: Dale Finlayson

dale.finlayson@which.net

0131-667-9369 mobile: 07962-010-944





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196 Rose Street, West End, EH2 4AD
tel: 0131 220 1999 info@mbeEdinburghWestEnd.co.uk



www.MbeEdinburgh.com

AWCCS March Event
Handbag Exchange
Sunday 13 March, 2:00pm



Please plan to join us in March 2016 for a fun event to raise money for the FAWCO Target Charity (which is currently Free the Girls but a new charity will be voted on at the March 2016 meeting).

We will get together at **2:00pm on Sunday 13 March** at **Amanda Kirkpatrick's house** (address in the directory). Everyone should plan to bring a gently used bag (handbag, backpack, manbag) to donate to the event. Everyone will have a chance to browse the bags and then we will sit down for a bit of an auction in the hopes that we will all be able to buy our favourite bag. All money raised will go to the FAWCO Charity.

There will be no charge for this event at the door but please bring a bottle of your favourite bubbly (can be wine or anything else you like). We can enjoy the day chatting, tasting the lovely drinks and nibbling on some snacks.

Please RSVP to Amanda K at treasurer2015@awccs.org no later than 1 March.

Hope to see you there!

Amanda Kirkpatrick. AWCCS Treasurer

International Women's Day, Tuesday 8 March 2016

Celebrate and Experience -- **International Women's Day**

To mark International Women's Day 2016, Cerin Richardson, Head of Creativity and Diversity, at the Festival Theatre (13/29 Nicolson Street EH8 9FT) is organizing a series of events through the afternoon.

Taking place in the Empire Room, there will be talks by well- known women in the arts, literature and theatre and refreshments (for which a donation is requested).

There will be three sessions: 12 noon – 1:30pm; 2:30 – 4:00 pm; 5:00 – 6:30pm.

If you would like to attend any or all of these sessions, contact **Dale Finlayson**,
Rsvp to ebookam@awccs.org


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For more details visit:

www.redwoodbistro.com / info@redwoodbistro.com

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American Citizens Abroad

- Dale Finlayson

VOTING

As I'm sure you've noticed, 2016 is a Presidential Election Year. We may not be living in the U.S. but if our voices are to be heard in Washington, it is vital that we vote. Washington passes laws that affect us (e.g. FATCA and FBAR) but don't consult us. It is estimated that there are between 4.5 million and 6.8 American citizens living overseas, which puts the Expat population somewhere between Kentucky (4.4 million, number 26) and Washington (7 million, number 13). But unless we vote, we have no influence.

Since 1970 U.S. citizens living overseas have had the right to vote in all U.S. federal elections – for President, Vice President, and members of the Senate and Congress. You should register and vote from your last address in the U.S., however long ago you may have lived there. Voting from a state address will not involve you in having to pay state taxes, so long as you only vote for federal offices, though you will still be required to file a federal tax return every year, unless your income is below a given level.

You must re-register for every election, after 1 January in an election year. Don't assume that, because you registered for the last election, you will remain registered for this one. Some, but not all, Voting Registration Officers will contact you if you were registered for the last election – but don't count on it.

The easiest way to register and request your absentee ballot is through the **Overseas Vote Foundation's** online voter registration tool that allows you to complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) in just 10 minutes. You can type directly on the FPCA and then print the completed form, sign and mail it to the County Clerk. This tool is non-partisan and your data will not be saved. As you fill it in, make sure you look at the overseas voting rules for your state, which are available on the site. This voter registration tool is available at: <http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/>

Do it now and make sure you're registered to vote!

Questions? Contact me.

Dale Finlayson
dale.finlayson@which.net
0131-667-9369

American Citizens Abroad

Democrats Abroad UK

Democrats Abroad is recognized as a “state” Party by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and is represented on the DNC by eight voting members, as well as at the quadrennial Democratic National Convention. Unlike its Republican counterpart, Democrats Abroad sends delegates to the Party’s National Convention, which this year will be held in Philadelphia. A Global Primary will take place over the week of 1-8 March, in which members of Democrats Abroad will determine their preference for one of the Democratic Presidential candidates. There will be an opportunity to vote in Edinburgh. Ballots may also be cast remotely, by mail, fax or email, but must be done before 8 March. Any candidate getting 15% or more of the vote will get at least one delegate to the Convention.

To cast a ballot in the Global Presidential Primary, you must:

- be a citizen of the U.S.
- reside permanently or temporarily outside the states and territories of the U.S.
- be a member of Democrats Abroad – you can join (it’s free!) at <http://www.DemocratsAbroad.org/join>
- have not voted (nor will vote) in any other 2016 presidential primary or caucus (you may vote in your home state’s primaries for candidates for the Senate and the House of Representatives).

For more information, go to www.democratsabroad.org.

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

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Black Medicine Book Group

AWCCS Special Interest Groups are easy to start, and easy to stop.

The AWCCS Evening Book Group which was started 5 years ago is now cancelled. If you are interested in starting a new book group, either morning or evening, you can make this happen easily. Let a board member know that you'd like to start this, or any, special interest group. Throughout the years, the club has had a variety of special interest groups; two of these have been a film group and an art-lovers group. These interest groups seem to have a cycle which can last several years, and then due to folks moving, or having schedule changes, or life changes, their desire to participate wanes.

Amanda Drollinger started the evening book group to answer a need—the morning book group was full, and many readers wanted to meet in the evenings. She found a cozy coffee shop, Black Medicine Coffee Shop in Bruntsfield, and the owner agreed to let the group meet there after his closing hours.

Thanks, Amanda, for the five years of managing the AWCCS Evening Book Club.

Nancy Lynner

Glasgow Books and Banter

No events planned in February, however, watch for emails should someone have a suggestions for a spur of the moment activity!

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.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GupJKnBwnr0&feature=youtu.be>

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