



AWCCS Newsletter

American Women's Club of Central Scotland



Hi!

Welcome to our bi monthly 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.** *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 15th of the preceding month..

Thank you! - Susannah Stout, Newsletter Editor

Table of Contents

Board Officers and Special Interest Group Coordinators	2
Letter from the President	3
April Spring Tea Event	5
May Club Event - Visit to attractions in Glasgow	6
News From American Citizens Abroad	7-8
National Library of Scotland - Henrietta Liston on-line resource	9
AGM in June	11
Join the Board!	12
Glasgow Books, Beverages and Banter News, Coffee Plus	14
Birthday Bash Events and Birthdays	15
Edinburgh Book Group	16
Film Outing to see <i>Embrace</i>	17
FAWCO News: Special Report by AWCCS member Tara Scott for Conference in Bonn March 2017: Global Festival of Ideas For Sustainable Development	18-22
New Calendar List of Upcoming Events within the Newsletter, last page	23
Advertisements (throughout publication)	

Submissions are welcome and should be sent to sus.stout@yahoo.co.uk by the 15th of the month. 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. Our 3 month summer issue shall be published for June, July, August 2017.

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 2016-17

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Vice President	Open	
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Social Chair:	Donna Nodson Jana Livermore	donna.nodson@gmail.com jdlivermore9717@comcast.net

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Edinburgh

Morning Book Group	Dale Finlayson	dale.finlayson@which.net
Coffee Plus Edinburgh	Dale Finlayson	dale.finlayson@which.net
Voting Coordinator	Dale Finlayson	dale.finlayson@which.net

Glasgow

Books Beverages and Banter	Susan St.Denis	msusan448@aol.com
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Fife

Fife Dinner Club	Pat Peters	pat.peters39@yahoo.co.uk
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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 nlynner@gmail.com and we will start
a Special Interest Group for you.*

AWCCS April-May Newsletter

President's Message

Dear Members,

There are lots of events between now and the AGM which is **Monday 12th of June**. Check out the dates, times, and locations for what's on. (Take a look at the May meeting in Glasgow!!) Are you coming to the **Spring Tea**? The deadline is 7th April, but the tea itself is **Saturday 22nd April**.

At the AGM, we need to address the raising of dues. Some members want to raise the dues from 30.00 to 40.00, and the Student and Senior dues from 24.00 to 30.00. This would be in line with the other clubs in the UK—none have dues lower than 40.00. Some are quite higher, some clubs actually have their own premises, some have monthly morning meetings Sept- May at a hotel. Our demographic includes too many members with a variety of schedules, which means we need some meetings during the day, and some during evening and / or weekend times.

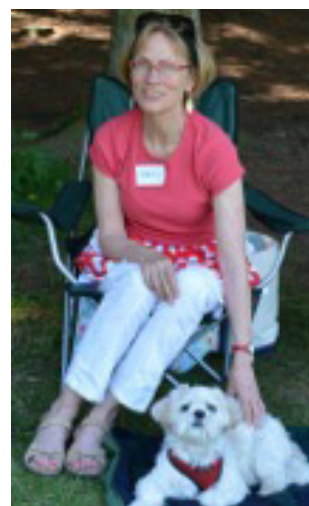
Feel free to email me, or other board members about this. Most of all, come to our AGM! Your attendance is free, and this is only open to club members. (Let us show our US Consulate that we care about their hard work.)

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find the list of officers of the club, and you are welcome to run for office. You can decide to run anytime between now, and even at the AGM.

I have decided to run for president for one more year, and I welcome you to run for any of the offices.

Enjoy the Spring—I hope to see you at a Club function soon.

Nancy Lynner
President AWCCS



A wee reminder to visit our advertiser, MailBoxes Etc, which gives our club a free mailbox for over 13 years. Tell the staff you're from the American Women's Club and use them as a supplier.



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April AWCCS Event

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB of CENTRAL SCOTLAND ANNOUNCES

Members' Spring Tea 2017

DATE: Saturday 22nd April

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 PM

WHERE: Mimi's Bakehouse
63 The Shore, Leith
Edinburgh EH6 6RA

Menu: Mimi's Classic Afternoon Tea

Including: Simply Sublime Scones

Scrumptious Sandwiches

Cakes and Traybakes

Titillatingly Tremendous Teas

Cost: 20.00 per adult
10.00 per child ages 5-12



Afternoon Tea

OUR NUMBER IS LIMITED TO 20 People so reply early!

This event will involve the chance to donate to our FAWCO Education Target charity, details to follow.

RSVP with payment in full by Friday 7th April to Nancy Lynner nlynner@gmail.com

PAYPAL button available on www.awccs.org members only page

A visit to Glasgow Attractions:

Tour of the Glasgow Cathedral at 11 a.m., St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and the Provand 's Lordship House

Date: Saturday May 13th, meeting at 10:45am

Glasgow members are delighted to invite all AWCCS members to join us in for a day out visiting cultural attractions within the city centre in the area of the Cathedral.

"St Mungo Museum and Provand's Lordship are part of the Cathedral Precinct, at the heart of medieval Glasgow.

Whilst you are here, why not visit the other places that are close by. The Cathedral of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow, originates from the 13th century and is the finest surviving Gothic building in Scotland. It is also the only major cathedral on the Scottish mainland to survive the Reformation. "

Find out more at www.glasgowcathedral.org.uk

Itinerary:

Meet up in front of the Glasgow Cathedral at 10:45 a.m. for **11 a.m. tour** (directions below)

Visit the **Glasgow Cathedral**

Have lunch together at the **Cathedral House Hotel**

Visit **St Mungo Museum of Religious Life**

and **the Provand Lordship's House**

RSVP to Mary Jo Castelton, maryjo.bonecaselton@btinternet.com

or Sue Stout, sus.stout@yahoo.co.uk, asap to let us know how many we shall reserve for lunch

The Cathedral is situated just off Castle Street, Glasgow – which is at the Eastern end of Cathedral Street. G4 0QZ.

To reach us: By Foot: From George Square near QUEEN STREET STATION go North along the side of Queen Street Station on North Hanover Street. At the traffic lights, turn right and travel East along Cathedral Street to the end. Cross the road at the junction with Castle Street. The Cathedral Precinct is on your right.

By Bus: There are a number of buses, which leave from the city centre that pass near to the Cathedral. They are numbers 11, 12, 36, 36A, 38, 38A, 42, 42A, 51, 56, 56A and 213.

Alternatively, It is also a quite short taxi ride from Queen Street Station.

News from American Citizens Abroad

- submitted by Dale Finlayson

Don't forget your US tax return!

The United States taxes "US persons" outside the US (citizens, green card holders) on the basis of citizenship, NOT residence, unlike almost every other country in the world. Tax returns are normally to be filed by 15 April every year, but since the 15th falls on a Saturday in 2017, and since Monday 17th is the Emancipation Day holiday, 2017 returns are due by Tuesday 18th. Non-resident US persons have an automatic extension until 15 June – but any tax that is due must be paid by 18 April or penalties will be incurred. A further extension to 15 October can be applied for.

The following are the income thresholds for tax filing in 2017:

Single, under 65 – \$10,350

Single, 65 or older – \$11,900

Married, filing jointly, both spouses under 65 \$20,700

Married, filing jointly, one spouse 65 or over – \$21,950

Married, filing jointly, both spouses 65 or over – \$23,200

Married, filing separately, any age – \$4,050

There are additional categories for Head of Household and Widower(s).

See <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kellyphillipserb/2017/01/23/do-you-need-to-file-a-tax-return-in-2017/#1b0862137893>

A "US person" is also required to file an FBAR (Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts - FinCEN Form 114) form electronically by 18 April if 1) s/he had a financial interest in or signature authority over one or more financial accounts located outside the United States; and 2) the aggregate value of all foreign financial accounts exceeded \$10,000 at any time during 2016. However, if you fail to file by the due date, FinCEN grants an automatic extension to 15 October; specific requests for an extension are not required.

All amounts on your tax return must be expressed in US dollars. The usual conversion rate is the Treasury's Financial Management Service rate for the last day of the calendar year, which in 2016 was \$1 = £0.8120.

News from American Citizens Abroad

Greenback expat tax survey – Greenback would like your Feedback!

In less than 5 minutes, you can help protect the interests of Americans living abroad and be entered to win a \$1,000 Hotels.com gift card!

Share your thoughts on expat taxes, the new US presidential administration, and more.

<https://greenback.getfeedback.com/us-expat-opinion-survey3e07ba24-3b24-4e17-928a-b983d557c262>

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National Library of Scotland Henrietta Liston on-line resource

Last year AWCCS members were invited by Dora Petherbridge, the NLS curator for US and Commonwealth Collections, to view some of the library's holdings of early American manuscripts, among them the journals of Henrietta Liston. In 1796 the newly wed Henrietta arrived in Philadelphia with her husband, Robert, who had just been appointed British Minister to the United States.



By the end of their posting, the Listons had won the trust and admiration of leading figures in the new government, including the president, George Washington. Her journals describe important events and personalities of those early years of the Republic – and helped forge the first “special relationship” between Britain and the US. On International Women’s Day, 8 March 2017, Dora announced that Henrietta’s diaries are now available on-line and accessible via the internet (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hw_Qn-vel1Dc).

To view the journals:

<http://digital.nls.uk/travels-of-henrietta-liston/>

A video showing Dora Petherbridge exploring the online resource can be viewed at:

[https://www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryOfScotland/videos/10158403824085381,](https://www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryOfScotland/videos/10158403824085381)

Henrietta’s journals are also featured in the Spring issue of the NLS magazine, Discover, which can be picked up free at the NLS on George IV Bridge.



 **Olivia McLaren, Ltd.**
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We are an award-winning U.S. law practice providing strategic immigration law advice and support for businesses wishing to establish or strengthen a U.S. presence and individuals interested in visiting, working in or immigrating to the United States of America.

About Olivia McLaren: A U.S. qualified attorney admitted to the bar of the State of New York, who worked in U.S. immigration and nationality law in New York City for a decade before opening Olivia McLaren, Ltd. in Edinburgh in 2014. Listed in *Who's Who in Corporate Immigration* (2015-2016). Co-columnist for the *New York Law Journal* bimonthly immigration law column between 2012 and 2014. Also selected as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers in NY Metro in 2013 and 2014, as published in *NY Times Magazine*. Graduated with a J.D. and LL.M. in International & Comparative Law from Duke University in 2004.

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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 12, 2017

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 2017!***

Remarks by Susan Wilson

RSVP to nlynner@gmail.com

You too, could be an AWCCS Board Member! Would you like to run for one of these offices?

Here is the List of AWCCS Officers, from our By-Laws at <http://www.awccs.org/index.php/member-s-home-page>. Or go to our website www.awccs.org and go to the Members Page. The By-Laws are there.

ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors

Section 1. Officers

The Board of Directors shall be made up of ten elected and those appointed officers as listed below. The Board shall be active members. The office of president shall be exclusive to United States citizens. The officers shall be installed at the Annual General Meeting and shall serve for one fiscal year. The honorary president, or any other Board appointee or members in good standing may attend meetings of the Board of Directors in a non-voting capacity. All of the Board positions, with the exception of the President, may be shared. If two people share the duties of one office, there will still remain only one vote for that position.

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. Advertising and Publicity 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 Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh, if female, or the wife of the Principal Officer 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.

the NOMADS tent  *a warehouse of tribal art*

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AWCCS Glasgow Books, Banter and Beverages (BBB)

April

Wednesday 19 April at 6:00

Monica and I have chosen the Greek restaurant **The Elia** in George Square as our next dining pleasure! Hopefully this suits everyones taste.

**The Elia
24 George Square
Glasgow
G2 1EG**

<http://eliagreekrestaurant.com/>

Hope to see you there!

Katharyn Cross and Monica Huckins

No BBB event planned as yet for May, but do join us for our all club visit to the Cathedral and the Museum and the Provand's Lordship House.

May

No BBB event planned as yet for May, but do join us for our all club visit to the Cathedral and the Museum and the Provand's Lordship House.

June

Shannon Lei is looking into tickets to the ballet for us.

Coffee Plus

Five of us (plus Chris MacLachlan's daughter and wee Gabriel) met at the Portrait Gallery in March for some very enjoyable chat and delicious coffee. I also recommend their croissants – lovely and flakey and buttery. We will not be meeting in May and June, but hopefully we will get together again in July and I hope more of you will join us then. Watch this space!

Dale Finlayson
dale.finlayson@which.net

Birthday Bash April 2017

Date: Thursday 20th April, 2017
Time: 6:00 – 8:00
Location: PEACOCK LOUNGE, Waldorf Astoria Caledonian Hotel

Spouses & Partners welcome!

Rsvp to Nancy: nlynner@gmail.com

Birthday Bash May 2017

Date: Thursday 25th May, 2017

Report of the FAWCO conference in Mumbai by Amanda Drollinger at an Indian Restaurant. Details to follow in mid month email event reminder

Birthdays:

April

Patricia Ramael	2 April
Barbara Moffo	6 April
Suzanne Green	19 April
Amanda Kirkpatrick	13 April
Susannah Stout	28 April
Lise Tole	29 April

May

Kristina Royer	7 May
Karen McCormick	12 May
Amanda Drollinger	17 May



Have a fantastic Birthday, gals!

Edinburgh Morning Book Group

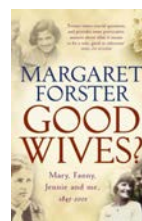


The morning book group meets monthly, in members' homes, always on a Friday, usually (but not always) the third one in the month. Our meetings start at 10:15 and finish around noon. At the moment we are not accepting new members as some of our homes will not accommodate more, but the books we have chosen are listed for recommendation to other readers. If you would like to be on the waiting list to join, contact Dale Finlayson (email below).

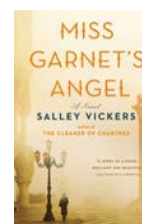
Friday, 21 April
Home of Nancy Lynner
nlynner@gmail.com
The Rosie Project, by Graeme Simsion



Friday, 9 May
Home of Jenny Gibb
jenny@jgibb.plus.com
Good Wives, by Margaret Forster



Friday, 16 June
Home of Pamela Blackley
blackleyhel@aol.com
Miss Garnet's Angel, by Salley Vickers



Friday, 21 July
Home of Dale Finlayson
dale.finlayson@which.net
Chernobyl Prayer: A Chronicle of the Future
by Svetlana Alexievich & Anna Gunin



May Film Outing:
Embrace



Date: Wed, May 3, 2017 6:30 PM
Where: Odeon Edinburgh Lothian Road
118 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh EH3 8BQ

A number of our AWCCS members have already booked tickets to go to see this film about body image. Why not book a ticket to join them!

Genre: Documentary - Health & Wellbeing
Classification: 12A infrequent strong language, nudity, brief surgical detail
Producer: Anna Vincent, Taryn Brumfitt
Director: Taryn Brumfitt

When body image activist Taryn Brumfitt posted an unconventional before-and-after photograph in 2013, it was seen by more than 100 million worldwide and sparked an international media frenzy. In her forceful debut, Brumfitt continues her crusade exploring the global issue of body loathing. She travels the world to interview an impressive range of women about their attitudes to their bodies, including: Mia Freedman, the youngest ever editor of the Australian edition of Cosmopolitan; Adelaide researcher Professor Marika Tiggemann; UK talk show host/photographer Amanda de Cadenet; body image blogger Jess Baker (a.k.a. The Militant Baker); and motivational speaker Turia Pitt.

PROMOTED BY JANE GILCHRIST

Tickets: purchased to be online through **Demand Film**
<https://tickets.demand.film/event/1628/purchase>

- Adult: £9.75
- Additional booking fee of £0.80 per ticket.

Global Festival of Ideas For Sustainable Development



Bonn Conference

March 2017

Tara Scott

American Women's Club of Central Scotland

We are bombarded with all sorts of stimulus in our everyday lives that consume our thoughts and cause us stress. Sometimes the volley of everything the media throws at us can cause us to feel a bit helpless in remedying the dire circumstances we see on our screens taking place around the world. But, we do have power to make changes, and we cannot let ourselves to feel hopeless.

Inspired is how I felt after the Festival of Ideas on Sustainable Development Goals in Bonn. There were powerful speakers and attendees from all over the world. Hearing their perspectives was of great value to me as it gave me a small window into their lives. For Sustainable Development Goals to truly reach fruition we must hear the voices of those who are often voiceless and invisible.

Keynote Address on Advocating SDGs

Dr. Alaa Murabit, the first speaker, really sets the bar when it comes to taking action to bring about positive changes in our world. Dr. Murabit was raised in Canada, attained her Medical Degree in Libya at the age of 24, and is now a UN High-Level Commissioner on Health Employment and Economic Growth at the age of 28. She is a member of boards such as International Alert and Keeping Children Safe. She has earned numerous well deserved plaudits as a result of all of her hard work.

Dr. Murabit stated that attaining equal rights for women is what gets her out of bed each morning. She explained how educating women and girls is the single greatest economic stimulus. Another step, she mentioned, which must be taken is engaging with local government and businesses. It is important to get them onboard to facilitate the changes which must be made to improve opportunities for women and girls.

Being persistent and focused is key to achieving the UN's SDGs, Dr. Murabit said. There will be obstacles in the path taken for the manifestation of SDGs, but we need to adapt to these changes such as the changes within governments. SDGs can take root when there is a grassroots implementation. Establish support for them at the community level.

Dr. Murabit words of advice to her audience at the end of her speech could solve so many issues if abided

by everyone. She said, "Force yourself to look at things from different perspectives. Cultivate common ground."

Launch of UN SDG Action Campaign

Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, the CEO of Plan International and former UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director for Management at the United Nations Population Fund, also sees educating and preparing girls to become tomorrow's leaders as an important component in resolving many issues. She said that the budget at Plan International is dedicated towards the education of girls.

She illustrated, through a Princeton University study, why girls are in need of great support. The study found the five-year-old girls are more confident than when they are six years old. Many girls by the time they reach six years of age feel like second class citizens. They need help in becoming confident in themselves, so they can envision themselves as leaders. Ms. Albrechtsen said that currently only five percent of mayors around the world are women. Imagine all of the ideas for improving the lives of people around the world which have not been heard, because women do not yet hold an equal number seats of leadership.

Ms. Albrechtsen writes articles for the Plan International website which stresses the importance of educating girls to be leaders. In her article, 'Why Girls Must Have the Opportunity to Lead' she states, "Girls and women must have opportunities to lead countries, cities and businesses if we are to meet development targets".

Two of Ms. Albrechtsen's recent articles advocating girls becoming leaders can be found through the web links below:

<https://plan-international.org/blog/2017/03/be-bold-change-let-girls-lead>

<https://plan-international.org/blog/2017/01/why-girls-must-have-opportunity-lead>

Tackling Inequalities: Lining Up the Politics with Policies

Decreasing poverty and inequality was at the forefront at the next round of discussions. Starting these discussions was Jose Cuesta, Chief of Social and Economic Policy at the UNICEF Office of Research, affiliated professor at Georgetown University, who formerly worked for the Inter-American Development Bank. He enlightened the audience with the disparity of wealth throughout the world. He said that eight men own more of the world's wealth than the bottom 50% of the world's population. Mr. Cuesta also stated that inequality was rising in developing nations over the past thirty years.

Mr. Cuesta spoke of when Chile returned to democracy in 1991, emphasis was placed upon equity through redistribution of wealth. The government decided to maximize revenue collection through increases in VAT, so it could increase its social spending.

Globalisation: Ensuring No One is Left Behind in an Era of Disillusionment

Namhla Mniki-Mangalaliso, Director of the Africa Monitor, pointed out that resources need to be made available so people can be capable of generating a livelihood. Ms. Mniki-Mangalaliso told us how her 19 year old son needed to drop out of university for two months, because it was so expensive. She said they were able to handle this bump in the road, because they are middle class and have resources. She was able to find another strong university that was more affordable for her son to attend. However, for her son's friend it was a different story. Her son's friend has many academic achievements, but his mother died from HIV. He has no resources to help support him through university. Currently, his future looks bleak. There needs to be more of a support system for those who are facing such challenges.

Ms. Mniki-Mangalaliso reminded the audience of some facts to keep in mind, especially when it comes

to decision making for developing nations. She said, "The aggregate of voices is from those who do have some privilege. We are not really hearing the voices of those left behind." We are not receiving the perspectives from the underserved populations. She explained how only 1 in 10 girls in Sierra Leone will complete school. There are barriers to girls completing school such as poverty and the expectation to help at home. These impoverished girls will grow up to be the main providers for the next generation. It is therefore of extreme importance for education to be stressed as an essential step to get out of poverty, so they can help themselves to escape poverty and place an emphasis on education with their own children.

Ms. Mniki-Mangalaliso reminded us how data served to us from the media is not always accurate. She was speaking in regards to child labor and stated how the media will represent a country as no longer having child labor, but in reality 14% could be child labor.

Promoting Economic Growth with Sustainability

Kumi Naidoo was another impressive speaker who has truly dedicated his talent to helping the world's neediest and finding ways to combating climate change. He was born in Durban, South Africa and experienced first-hand apartheid. As a youth he organized protests against apartheid which led him to being expelled from school and arrested on different occasions. He moved to England and while residing there he earned a doctorate from Cambridge University. He has been the International Executive Director of Green Peace. Currently, he is the Launch Director of Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity.

Africa Rising is about organizing civic leaders throughout the African continent to listen to people of all backgrounds throughout their nations to know what is important to the African people and take steps to meet the needs of the continent. Currently, the priorities Africa Rising is focusing upon is:

- Exposing corruption and opposing impunity
- Fighting for full gender equality
- Defending and deepening democratic space generally and civic space specifically
- Working for poverty eradication
- Opposing inequality
- Assertively addressing climate change

(Naidoo, Kumi "Eco Watch for the Love of the Earth", 12/07/2016)

Africa Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity finds that it needs to deal not only with local governments not acting upon the best interests of its people, but also corruption on a global platform which has led to our precarious environmental status. Mr. Naidoo stated that ninety-three cents out of every dollar goes to the top 1% of the world's wealthiest individuals. The wealth which Africa has in natural resources greatly benefits companies outside of Africa. One member of Africa Rising said, "Africa is rich below ground but poor above it." As a continent working together, African nations would have more strength when it came to making trade negotiations and working on resolving climate issues.

While, Mr. Naidoo does see NGOs as having good intentions; he feels that they are not as effective as they could be. He said, he sees NGOs as frequently not seeking out the voices of the poorest and most marginalized of our global society.

In reference to Global warming he said that there has been an absence of adult leadership and young people will pay for it. Even though poor people are the ones who contribute to Global Warming the least they are the ones who feel the effects of it the most. He summed up his feelings by saying, "Think globally, act globally".

Communicating the SDGs: A Universal Agenda

Cristina Gallach, the UN's Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, stressed how the SDGs should be communicated with others. Ms. Gallach emphasized that just giving information is not communication. She said, "To communicate, you have to connect. To connect you have to understand. If you do not understand you will not care. If you don't care, you won't act. All action is emotional." My interpretation of this is that we need to get to know the people we seek to help, so we can understand what is important to them, because the viewpoint of the people in need must be incorporated into the solutions. Through getting to know people who are marginalized, we can connect to them and be more focused and determined to see the SDGs achieved.

Resource Efficiency: How to Feed an Increasing World Population with Less Resources in Time of Climate Change

Arif Husain, Chief Economist of the World Food Program, explained how if we changed our habits we could potentially feed everyone on earth. However, there are currently 8,000,000 people who do not have food security. They need to constantly be worried about where the next meal will come from. One third of the world's food is wasted. The food is wasted in developed nations and in developing nations. The difference is in developed nations consumers waste large amounts of food they have purchased and stores throw out food past its sell by date, whereas developing nations waste food through how it is sold to other nations and its land management.

Marta Benavides, Board Member of the Earth Rights Institute, said in his home country of El Salvador trees are being chopped down to grow sugar crops; the sugar is then sent to outside countries. So ecosystems are being destroyed to sell a product which is of no benefit to the people who are food insecure within that nation.

Rose Bell, Director of the Kusamala Institute of Agriculture and Ecology (NGO) of Malawi, spoke of the innovative method Kusamala has for providing food to a large number of households. Kusamala encourages agroecology systems such as permaculture as a solution to helping to feed the nation of Malawi which has 17.1 million people. Permaculture is based upon the principle of using farming techniques which are not detrimental to nature. Kusamala teaches sustainable farming techniques to communities of farmers. Currently, its methodology is being implemented by 20,000 households. These techniques have resulted in sustainable food production, crops becoming more resilient to extreme weather, and crop diversity.

Catherine Geslain-Laneelle, Director General of Economic and Environmental Performance, Ministry of France, also spoke of agroecology. She stated that the objective of it was the reorientation of agricultural production with a view to threefold economic, environmental and social performance. This method of farming greatly reduces the negative impact farming can have on the environment. This method of farming would be based upon emphasis on protein crops, no usage of antibiotics, and implementation of agroforestry. The objective is to have the majority of French farmers abiding by these principles by 2025. Funds have been allocated to further research and the development of innovative sustainable farming methods. Governments need to create laws to support these initiatives.

Daniel Vennard, Director of Better Buying Lab of the World Resources Institute, basically said that a lot of good can be derived simply by people changing their diet so it is more vegetarian. He said if we could put all of the world's cattle in their own country, that country would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gasses after the United States and China. Raising cattle means that there is less land to grow crops. The world's consumption of beef is so great that 30% of the world's land is set aside for grazing.

Sabine Werth, Founder of Berliner Tafel, works hard to reduce food waste. Berliner Tafel goes to 600 places

a week to collect food that would have otherwise been thrown out because of best buy dates. This food is used to feed 125,000 people a month. She spoke of how people need to think about how they buy food and consume it to help prevent waste.

Unlocking Green Opportunities: Innovations and Policy Shifts Being Adopted by Leading Countries

“Investing in fossil fuel is an investment in the planet’s death.” Kumi Naidoo

Mr. Naidoo would like to see economic incentives in place for those who invest in solar panels. The energy which is not used, would go into the grid, and the person whose house generated the energy would be paid for it.

Annika Lindblom, Secretary-General for the National Commission on Sustainable Development in Finland, shared Finland’s goal to be carbon neutral by 2045. Finland’s government now has policies in place to ban coal usage by 2030. Also by 2030, it is aiming to increase its usage of renewable energy by 50%.

*Norway is a true leader when it comes to using renewable energy. Norway uses 100% renewable power extracted from geothermal and hydro sources.

Ayman Cherkaoui, Minister of the Environment in Morocco, made it clear that Morocco is adapting more sustainable policies. Morocco plans on having 40% of its energy from renewable resources by 2020. More funding is going into sustainable transport such as trams. Recycling will be increased by 20% by 2020. Now, 97% of its residents have drinkable water, but before 1995 only 20% of its residents had it. It is working towards enhancing its GDP by 8% each year, and it is looking for ways to create greener jobs.

Components of the Festival

The Global Festival of Ideas for Sustainable Development was well organized.

- The sessions had panels of speakers who were experts in their fields.
- There was a Live Stage during lunch break where you could go to listen to a ten-minute interview.
- There were NGO exhibits in the reception hall.

Plan International

Scriptoria

Climate Planet

Volunteer Vision

4 Per 1000

Global Horticulture Initiative

United Nations System Staff College

Overseas Development Institute

- Interactive game tables were in the reception hall for those playing the Hive game. The objective was to bring a made up country out of poverty using sustainable and affordable resources. We had to buy policies off of each other in order to make advancements within our country.

Words of wisdom by the former UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, “Let us all work together to help all human beings achieve dignity and equality; to build a greener planet; and to make sure no one is left behind.”

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April Events

Saturday, 8 April 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Board meeting at Starbucks, Waverly Steps.

Wednesday, 19 April, 6:00 p.m.

AWCCS Glasgow Books, Banter and Beverages (BBB) will go to the Greek restaurant 'The Elia' in George Square, Glasgow

Thursday, 20 April, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Birthday Bash will be at the PEACOCK LOUNGE,
Waldorf Astoria Caledonian Hotel

Friday, 21 April, 10:15 a.m.

Edinburgh Morning Book Group, Home of Nancy Lynner

Saturday, 22 April, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Members' Spring Tea 2017, Mimi's Bakehouse, 63 The Shore, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6RA

May Events

Tuesday, 3 May, 6:30 p.m.

Film Outing: EMBRACE. Odeon Edinburgh, Lothian Road, 118 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh EH3 8BQ

Friday, 9 May, 10:15 a.m.

Edinburgh Morning Book Group, Home of Jenny Gibb

Saturday, 13 May, 10:45 a.m. for 11 a.m. tour

AWCCS May Event: A visit to Glasgow attractions and lunch: The Cathedral, St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and the Provand's Lordship House

Thursday 25th May .

May Birthday Bash. Amanda Drollinger will share her experience of the 2017 FAWCO Conference in Mumbai. To be at an Indian Restaurant in Edinburgh. More details later in the AWCCS Mid Month email reminder .

June Events

Monday, 12 June, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

AGM, U.S. Consulate General, Edinburgh

Friday, 16th June, 10:15 a.m.

Edinburgh Morning Book Group, Home of Pamela Blackley

July Events

Friday, 21 June, 10:15 a.m.

Edinburgh Morning Book Group, Home of Dale Finlayson