



AWCCS Newsletter

American Women's Club of Central Scotland

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2020 AWCCS September/October Newsletter



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AWCCS Newsletter

American Women's Club of Central Scotland

Letter from the Board

Dear Fellow AWCCS Members,

Board Meeting Notes:

Treasurer Report:

- Our Treasurer has submitted the final accounting for the 2019-20 budget year which is outlined in a separate section below. We have £4,745 as a balance in our account after taking necessary reserves in consideration.
- See Final budget here: [AWCCS 2019-2020 End of Year Inc Exp Final for newsletter.pdf](#)

Membership Dues Postponed another six months

- In our September Board (zoom) meeting 2020, we voted to extend the renewal of membership dues for another six months because of the hardship of the pandemic and that we haven't had any in-person social events for a few months, and we may not be able to for a while longer. This means now that you will not receive a message to renew during the next six months (September through February). Everyone's renewal dates over the coming days will be extended another six months, and you may receive some auto-generated messages to that effect.
- Be in touch via getinfo@awccs.org if you have any questions.

Social Events:

- *You will be receiving emails of all of the Events that the club will hold.*
- The Club has decided to **cancel the Thanksgiving Dinner** this year due to the Covid19 Pandemic. There will be an Online Auction to be held at Thanksgiving.

More information will be oncoming.

- Nancy reported she hosted online; 3 Birthday Bash Events, a Black Life Matters discussion, and a Show and Tell Event. Dale arranged online a Tim Hargreaves talk 'Circumcision in Art'.
- There is a BLM event planned discussing Michelle Obama's book '*Becoming*' on 24 September on Zoom and a further Zoom event discussing a Spike Lee film in October
- Halloween. *Caroline and Nancy* will present a Zoom event for children, 1 hour, Saturday morning, 31 October 10:30. Children who attend will be sent/given a goody bag. Expect to see this Event in your email soon.

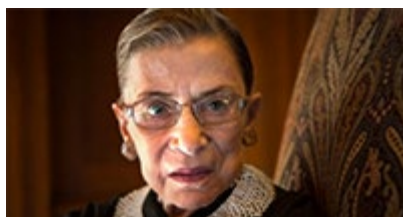
Charity News:

- The three Pub Quiz events hosted and devised by Alanna raised £265 for our Charity.
- *Alanna* agreed to set up an online silent auction for Thanksgiving.
- *Alanna* will arrange a Thanksgiving Pub Quiz in November and an Election Pub Quiz in October.
- All of these events will be sent to your email and listed in our website.

We look forward to seeing you all in person as soon as possible!

Stay well,

AWCCS Board



We wish to acknowledge the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on 19 September, 2020. She was an amazing woman, loved her work and had a super sense of humor. She will be very sadly missed. She deserves to rest now. Thank you for your service.



NEWS FOR VOTING FROM ABROAD

DID YOU GET YOUR OVERSEAS BALLOT TODAY? SOME STATES WILL SEND THEM OUT 19 SEPTEMBER 2020.

Helpful Information from FAWCO:

The US 2020 Election is the most important in a generation - US President, 35 Senate seats (including special elections) and all 435 House of Representative seats are all up for grabs. Overseas Americans have both the duty to take part and an opportunity to make their voices heard more clearly than ever before – this in turn makes US lawmakers more likely to listen to our concerns. FAWCO members, FAWCO clubs and FAWCO itself can do much towards achieving this goal, and thus help to shape the future of the US for years to come. Mary Stewart Burgher's US Voting section of the FAWCO website has a wealth of information and frequently asked questions regarding the upcoming election and voting from abroad.

In all of the election excitement, don't forget about your 2019 US Income Tax, FBAR or passport renewals. Details are in the relevant sections below.

US ELECTION 2020

It is down to the wire for the 2020 Election. What do you do?

Step 1: **Register to Vote and Request Ballot by Mail.**

How can you be sure you are registered to vote? Check your voter registration status through usa.gov.

Step 2: **Vote immediately.**

States are required by law to send out ballots no later than 45 days prior to the election - September 19, 2020 for the upcoming election. Follow all instructions you receive with your ballot. If it asks for a signature on the envelope, try to use the same signature used on your Ballot by Mail request. If you have not received your ballot by October 1, you may vote using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

Step 3: **Return your ballot immediately.**

Everyone has heard the hysteria over mail-in ballot delays so don't risk your ballot not being counted. If your state requires you to return a paper ballot by mail, you have several options:

- Option 1: Check to see if your local US Embassy or Consulate has a ballot drop box. Give adequate time as this will be bulk transported to the US and then dropped into the US Postal system.
- Option 2: Send your ballot to your US election office through the local mail system. Standard international postage rates apply.
- Option 3: Use an express delivery service, such as UPS, DHL, or FedEx to send your ballot to the United States. Commercial rates apply.

****If you choose Option 2 or 3, check the delivery schedules to ensure your ballot is received in time.**

Step 4: **Track your ballot to ensure it has been received.**

The election is not over until all votes have been counted and the election results are

certified.

Many more resources and frequently asked questions are available on the US Voting page of the [FAWCO website](#).

Helpful Information from Democrats Abroad:

The day you've been waiting for arrives September 19. By then, your ballot should have arrived by email, and you will be able to vote!

- Check your inbox for your blank ballot. (Remember, you may have to check spam or other folders.)
- Fill out your ballot.
- Return it by the fastest way that your state allows.

Not sure how to return your ballot in your state? (Email? Fax? Mail?)

- <https://www.votefromabroad.org/states/>

Not sure about other voter issues? (Snags? Complications? The unexpected?)

- https://www.democratsabroad.org/2020_ballot_faq?utm_campaign=uk20ballotday&utm_medium=email&utm_source=democratsabroadLook

Don't have your ballot? Don't panic.

- [Contact us](#)

AND, INTRODUCING: Voter Assistance Drop-in Sundays LIVE ON ZOOM for the next six Sundays. From now until November, knowledgeable volunteers will answer all voting questions. You will be paired 1 on 1 with a volunteer in a private breakout room to ensure your privacy.

[Find out more](#)

Sundays no good? How about Monday? We're holding a special Ballot Marathon on Monday, September 21, too, from 1 to 9 p.m. UK time. Monday out? We're [holding some sessions](#) on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, too.

If you've already received your ballot, congratulations! And if you've already returned it, congratulations again!

Remind your American friends and family that voting from abroad can't wait until the first Tuesday in November. **The time to vote is now.**

Taxes and Voting

Democrats Abroad UK Tax Lunch Power Hours - September

Learn more about taxes and voting – you definitely should vote in this year's US election! – and receiving your CARES Act payment. If you have any questions about voting, this is a good forum to attend.

[Click here to attend Wednesday, September 30th, 1-2pm](#)

And while you're at it, let your candidates know the issues most important to you, whether it's Residence-based taxation, the ERA, health, social security and Medicare, the Post Office – or other issues important to you.

<https://americansabroad.salsalabs.org/voiceworthy2020>

DAUK Tax Committee Book Club Meeting

On Sunday, 27 September, 3-5pm, the DAUK Tax Committee will host its first Book Club meeting to read *U.S. Taxes for Worldly Americans* by Olivier Wagner. The book is aimed at people who want to learn how to file their taxes themselves without hiring an accountant to do it for them. The aim is to discuss what is helpful from the book and to deepen understanding of the tax code for U.S. citizens living outside the country so that they can better educate themselves about the problems in an effort to aid DA's tax advocacy efforts. Worth joining, even if you haven't read the book!

[Click here to RSVP for the Book Club meeting on September 27th](#)

Helpful Information from the Republicans

Do you want to vote in American elections? As an overseas American citizen, you have the right to vote in federal elections.

Please note that you should register to vote after January 1 of the year in which you plan to vote. Federal law requires states to erase overseas voters from their registers. Not all states comply, but to be sure that you receive your ballot, register after January 1 of the year in which the elections will take place.

How to vote?

1. You will need the address for your last place of residence in the US. Not sure which address to use? [Please click here](#) for advice from FVAP.
2. Go to the non-partisan website www.fvap.gov run by the US government for military and overseas citizen voters.
3. Choose your state and follow the instructions.

4. If you are unsure whether or not you are eligible to vote at a particular address, you can always contact the county election official for your former address. Names and contact details for [election officials](#) are given in www.fvap.gov on a state by state basis.
5. Are you an American citizen who is eligible to vote but who has never lived in the US? [Click here](#) for information related to your situation.
6. Please click here for a [FAQ on overseas voting](#) from FVAP.

We need your vote! Help the Republican Party retain the Presidency and the Senate and take back the House.

Please note that overseas Americans must register to vote each and every year. Although some states do not follow the federal law and do not erase their overseas voter lists, don't take the risk: register to vote now.

[CLICK HERE FIND YOUR LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VOTERS](#)

MEMBER NEWS

AWCCS Upcoming events

The American Women's Club of Central Scotland will be sending emails to all of our members outlining the upcoming events, here is a list of a brief update to put on your calendar. Please respond to the event email as it comes to you.

October Show and Tell

DATE: Tuesday 6th October

TIME: 6:00 PM- 7:00 PM

WHERE: Your home zoom room

TOPICS: Pick one to share with the group:

- What is one of your hidden talents?
- Where did you grow up?
- What is your favorite color and why?
- What was/is your best/ or your worst job?
- What about Scotland is curious to you, or upon arrival, confused you about the culture?

RSVP by Sunday October 4th

Open Book Discussion Group Black Lives Matter

When: 24 Sep 2020 18:00, UTC+01:00 Where: Your own zoom room

EVENT DETAILS:

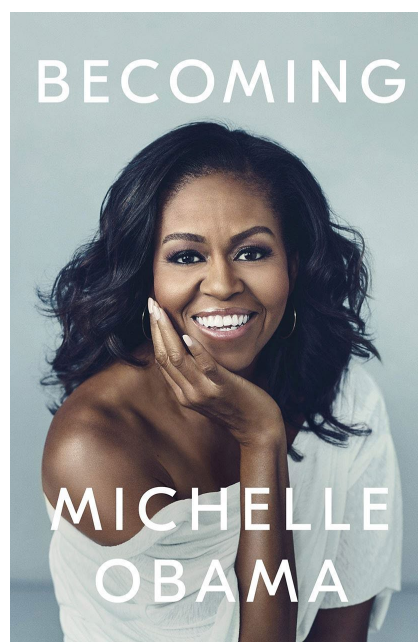
American Women's Club of Central Scotland

Book Discussion of Michelle Obama's "Becoming"

This memoir is the inspiring story of a woman's rise to the heights of US society through hard work and a supportive family. It's a love story within a political context. And vice versa. Important current figures appear, as do people you've never heard of. Read the book and join our discussion on:

DATE: Thursday September 24th, 2020
TIME: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

RSVP through this website to receive the ZOOM LINK a few days prior to Sept 24th



An October FILM CHAT is being planned.

The Director Spike Lee's film "BlackKkklansman" is available via Netflix. We are planning a mid-or-late October evening film chat, date/time to be determined.

AWCCS Halloween Zoom October 31st

for children ages 18 months -7 years

Date: Saturday Oct 31st, 2020

Start time: 10:30 AM- 11:15 AM

Where: Your own home zoom room

Storytelling, Jokes, Magic, puppetry.

Join in the Costume Parade!

RSVP through this club website no later than October 24th deadline to receive participation materials. Materials will be mailed to the address listed with club data base.

A good article for reviewing and making facemarks from Which.co.uk on site <https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/face-masks/article/face-masks-where-to-buy-them-and-how-to-make-your-own>

We plan to have some **Zoom get togethers**, so we can communicate with our friends online. We will send out the information as they are planned. Hopefully you will join us.

We are still having the **Birthday Bash once a month**, using zoom. You will receive an email announcing it, hope to see you there.

Pub Quiz Fundraising night soon to be announced via email Event notice.

Stay in touch, and let us know if you need help working with your computer to set up zoom.

Caroline Graves and Joyce Halsan

Outside Events and Links of Interest



Cockburn conversations opening the doors to hidden historians:

[A message about upcoming Doors Open Days events from our Chairperson, Prof Cliff Hague](#)

* * * * *

And from Bristol Old Vic, courtesy of the Lyceum Theatre ...

Romantics Anonymous

Streaming the digital premiere of Wise Children's smash-hit musical!

Tuesday, 22 September, 7 for 7:30pm

Tickets: £16

To book:

https://wisechildren.ticketco.events/uk/en/e/romantics_anonymous__show_1/lyceum

You may not be able to visit the Lyceum at the moment, but they're bringing some world class theatre to you with a musical love story from Emma Rice and her celebrated company Wise Children.

Romantics Anonymous last played to packed houses at the Bristol Old Vic in January this year. It was due to tour the world, but the pandemic struck, so instead, for one week only, it will be performed LIVE ON STAGE and streamed directly to your home. Each night will be a truly one-off, live experience, and the Lyceum will stream the premiere online performance on 22 September.

Just like theatre used to be, the production will take place live, from the Bristol Old Vic Stage, and you can watch it as it happens on your TV, phone, laptop, desktop, or iPad in glorious (HD) technicolour.

While it can't be the same as visiting the Lyceum, this will still be a glorious night out. Get dressed up, dim the lights, enjoy the blissfully short queue for the loos, and join them for this delicious love story about breaking the mould and finding the courage to be happy.

* * * * *

Raphael commemorations –

2020 marks the 500th anniversary of Raphael's death in 1520, and many museums and galleries have organised exhibitions to commemorate the event, with online tours and videos for art lovers who are unable to visit the exhibitions in person.

The Scuderie del Quirinale in Rome has organised a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of more than 200 works (120 by Raphael), "Raffaello 1520-1483" - moving back in time from 1520 to the artist's mature career in Rome, early formation in Florence, and, finally, birth in Urbino in 1483. For those unable to attend in person, the Scuderie has released an English-language version of its excellent video, recapping the highlights of the exhibition, room by room. Pause in Room 2 to admire two masterpieces on loan from the Louvre: a self-portrait with a friend and the portrait of Baldassare Castiglione, one of the glories of Renaissance portraiture. The close-ups of his paintings of women in Room 6 testify to the artist's passionate appreciation of feminine beauty. Other Scuderie videos (in Italian) delve into particular aspects of his genius — for instance, the jewelry worn by his female subjects, or the literary world he moved in.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s58gYvvNrKQ>

* * * * *

At the Villa Farnesina you can see a free two-minute video about Raphael's frescoes.

At the Vatican, beautifully produced videos and virtual tours are now available on the Vatican's website where the Stanze di Raffaello (which Raphael and his workshop frescoed between 1508 and 1520) can be viewed. Use your mouse to hop back and forth between the virtual Sistine Chapel ceiling and the Raphael Stanze and decide for yourself which is the greater masterpiece.

Urbino's Palazzo Ducale, the magnificent Renaissance palace constructed in the late 15th century by the humanist and warlord Federico da Montefeltro, now houses the Galleria Nazionale delle Marche. You can click through Google Images' impressive photo archive and, with another click, come face-to-face with the museum's sole work by Raphael: the haunting portrait known as "La Muta" ("The Mute Woman").

Raphael's birthplace, the Casa Natale di Raffaello has been preserved as a museum, and you can get a feel for its interior and exterior spaces in this YouTube video.

Not to do with Raphael, but do have a look at this wonderful video of the Pantheon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaY8zqYfQI0>

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Other exhibitions

"El Greco: Ambition and Defiance" at the Art Institute of Chicago – a newly reopened retrospective that unites more than 57 works to chart the artist's entrepreneurial career, from his early paintings of religious icons to later portraits and private commissions. The show, which debuted in March but temporarily shuttered due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will welcome visitors through October 19. Those unable to visit the museum in person can explore the show's online resources, including a virtual tour led by curators.

Boston's Museum of Fine Arts is celebrating its 150th anniversary online with an exhibition "Monet and Boston: Lasting Impression." NPR's Susan Stamberg took a virtual peak at the museum's 35 Monets – one of the largest collections outside France – and has a review. You can see some of them for yourself here.

* * * * *

Equal Rights amendment – On 24 August, Democrats Abroad UK organised a webinar on the ERA, “The Last Three States and now the Court”, which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/HbV417DjrD8>

FAWCO NEWS AND HELP



US TAX AND BANKING

2019 Individual Income Tax

If you filed for a two-month extension to your 2019 US Income Tax filing, your return is due by October 15, 2020. If you still need additional time to file your return, an additional two-month extension to file 2019 taxes by December 15, 2020 is possible. You will need to complete 2019 Form 4868 to receive this extension.

Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR)

Whether you live in within the borders of the US or abroad, every US person (citizen, green card holder or resident alien) is required to file FINCEN Form 114 (commonly referred to as FBAR) if the combined balance in all of your foreign accounts is more than US\$10,000 at any point during the calendar year. This includes accounts you own, have financial interest in or have signatory authority without financial interest. Whether the account produced taxable income has no effect on whether the account is a foreign financial account for FBAR purposes. Foreign financial accounts include bank accounts, securities accounts, and certain foreign retirement arrangements. Accounts located outside of the 50 states, DC, the US possessions, and tribal territory are considered "foreign" accounts.

You must file the FBAR electronically through the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's BSA E-Filing System. You don't file the FBAR with your federal tax return. For assistance in completing the online form, there are line by line instructions available in Attachment C, beginning on page 86. If you are unable to file your FBAR electronically, you must call FinCEN's Regulatory Helpline to request an exemption from e-filing at 800-949-2732; if calling from outside the United States contact +1-703-905-3975.

The deadline for filing the 2019 FBAR is October 15, 2020.

US CITIZENSHIP

Passport Applications

As US Embassies and Consulates abroad phase in reopening due to the COVID-19 pandemic, passport applications are now being processed on a first in/first out basis. This process has been greatly slowed due to the sensitive nature of the information provided and therefore must be processed at a secure US facility, which have been working with skeleton staffing since mid-March.

Check with your local US Embassy or Consulate for their specific direction for passport applications, but be prepared for a long wait. Emergency passports are still being issued, normally within 72 hours, but typically only have a one year validity.

Have questions regarding US Citizenship? Contact Judy Furukawa.

FAWCO Health Team – |Long Before You Need It!” – Thursday, 17 September, 3:30-5pm CET/2:30-4:00pm BST

No one is prepared for an unexpected illness or death of a spouse or loved one. They are caught off guard and often thrown in the deep end trying to manage their world at a time of crisis. By providing the “Checklist to Complete Long Before You Need It,” women are empowered with a thought-out plan and the vital information needed during a health care emergency. Come and join professional organizer Robynne Pendariès, AAWE Paris, for a Checklist work session, and organize your life on paper. Give a gift that makes the unexpected planned for – whether for you, your spouse. or your aging parents.

Notes from the Website

By **Joyce Halsan.**

We encourage you to check out our website for some general links to information on COVID-19. If you have a link you would like to add, please send it along to me and I will add it to the list.

Member Birthdays

September

- 1- Jessica Goeller
- 12- Renee Grieve
- 15- Tracey Rosenberg & Aly Stewart
- 25- Olivia McLaren

October

- 20- Katharyn Cross
- 24- Morgan Currie
- 27- Tahitia McCabe
- 29- Caroline Graves & Melissa Kaplan
- 30- Alanna Brady



New Members Welcome



Welcome new members!

- Gayatri Malik
 - Ruby Raheem
 - Sallie Redman
-

Our New Charity for 2020-2022



If you have any questions about the charity, please contact Alanna Brady, Charity Chair



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Website Manager

Joyce Halsan

FAWCO Representative

Caroline Graves

Glasgow Representative

Susan St. Denis

Special Interest Group Coordinators


Edinburgh: Dale Finlayson, Parliamentarian and for Morning Book Group, Coffee Plus Edinburgh and Voting Coordinator

Glasgow: Books Beverages and Banter hosted by various individuals.


Fife: Pat Peters for Fife Dinner Club

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Keep Up to Date on the Virus

- **Centers for Disease Control USA**: Department of Health and Human Services, USA
- **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control** An agency of the European

Union

- [BBC News](#)
 - A good online tracker for the Coronavirus, [Johns Hopkins](#) is excellent .
 - For more links, please see the website home page: www.awccs.org
-

Going Home Soon?

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.

Jane Indreland President, FAUSA

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**

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