

# 2021 Newsletter for April and May



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## Dates to remember:

- 13 April 2021: Event "*The Three Librarians*" (see Events below to join)
- 18 April 2021: Watch for your club email with the **Proposed Changes to the Bylaws** and the **Call for Board Position Nominations**
- 18 May 2021: **AGM-On Line** (see Events below to join)
- 4 July 2021: **July 4th possible on Portobello Beach**. Watch for email confirmation.

## Letters from the Board

Dear Members,

### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our AGM will be held on 18 May 2021 Virtually on Zoom. This year we invite you to "zoom in" to our AGM to catch up with friends and hold our annual business meeting. We have many revisions in our Bylaws in order to fit in with what the club is actually doing and taking into consideration the recent altered life-style. These changes involve adding the virtual element to our meetings and events. It also takes into consideration the Board positions and we will recommend some changes to position titles and duties.

- **Guest Speaker:** U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh Principal Officer Ellen Wong
- **Revised Bylaws** will be emailed to you to review before voting on the changes at AGM.
- **Board Nominations and Elections** will be held virtually during the meeting.

The **proposed changes to the Bylaws** and **Call for Nominations** will be sent to you one month before the meeting on **18 April 2021**. Please read these changes thoroughly. They will be discussed and voted on at the AGM. If they are approved, we wish to begin using the new titles and job descriptions outlined in the Bylaws for our board positions in the election process.

If you see any opportunities for you to join our board in any of the duties, or work with a board member in their duties, please let our **Parliamentarian** know by email before the meeting with your interest in position, and/or your interest in participating in any subcommittees that will come out of the changes.

We are excited to see you all attend our Zoom meeting. Sorry about no lunch, we can do that virtually too...

## Our Charities

As our Annual General Meeting draws near (May 18) we are writing on behalf of the AWCCS charities. In 2020 the AWCCS Board voted to give everyone a break-- we did not collect dues for the year. We decided to create virtual meetings in hopes that these would keep us connected, keep us thinking about society and the world's challenges, and to keep us hopeful for the future. We had a terrific Charity Chairperson in Alanna Brady, who created brilliant virtual quizzes and ran a virtual auction last November. She and her spouse returned to Virginia in December for new job hunting. They hope to return to Scotland! We wish them well.

For those of you who are new to AWCCS charities, our tradition has been to annually distribute our funds. For the present two years we send our donations to:

- two (2019-2021) local Scottish Multiple Sclerosis charities which we select from member suggestions, and
- the FAWCO charity ((2019-2022) Target Project about eliminating female genital mutilation. (These change every 3 years.)

To continue with our club's charity endeavors let us consider what type of donation we each can make. Would you consider donating something extra this spring?

### *How to Donate:*

- Using PayPal, please go here: <https://awccs.wildapricot.org/Donate> You will be able to indicate the amount you wish to Donate and also comment on where you wish your donation to go.
- For cheque or bank transfer options, please contact our [Treasurer](#) and she will give you the bank details or instructions on where to send your cheque.
- Because of our current Covid-19 rules, we will not be able to accept cash at this time.

If you wish to donate solely to the target project, FAWCO has a link set up:

<https://www.fawcofoundation.org/ways-of-giving/how-to-donate>

During this time when fundraising events are constrained, if you find yourself able to make a personal contribution, terrific.

Perhaps you have an idea for a fundraising project you'd like to implement. Excellent! Let us know.

Regardless, we look forward to seeing you in the next zoom event.

Contact Susanne Hathon: [Treasurer](#)

FAWCO Contact, Caroline Graves: [AWCCS FACOW Rep](#)

Kind Regards,  
American Women's Club of Central Scotland Board

*Hope you are all staying safe and well on your way to Vaccination.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

No upcoming events

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Report on the FAWCO Conference March 2021

- I'm VERY excited that **Lyndsay Nygren** received an education grant!! I was sad that our health initiative, the butterfly breather for MS Therapy Centre Lothian did not get awarded support, we were told it was a close vote.
- And in **other big news, \$30,000 was raised between the silent and live auctions**, donations, and charm sales during the Foundation Night event. The book I bought for £6 sold for \$55!!!

The **2021 FAWCO Biannual conference** was held over the weekend of March 18th-21st via hopin, a web based platform similar to Zoom, but with the ability to run different meeting and presentation areas. The big headline, in my eyes anyway, was that Lindsay Nygren, an AWCCS member based in Glasgow, was awarded the Shirley Kearney AWC Basel University Study Degree Award. This is a grant to use towards an undergraduate or graduate level University degree program. Lindsay came to AWCCS from a sister club, the American Club of Lyon, and so there are two clubs celebrating her success at the moment. Another big headline was the progress made towards the Target Project goal for Hope for Girls and Women in Tanzania. FAWCO as a whole, has raised over \$90,000 for Hope for Girls and Women, with just about \$50,000 left to raise to hit our goal, half way through the term of support. This is wonderful news, as the plan is to continue fundraising for the project even past our goal. The clubs have surpassed FAWCO's hopes in a really tough year for fundraising, and in a year when Hope for Girls and Women's need was greater than usual. The pandemic and the school closures that come with it put more girls in danger of FGM over the past year. The Foundation Night fundraising event brought in over \$30,000 from donations, auction proceeds, and the sales of the annual FAWCO conference charms.

There were 2 wonderful speakers who spoke with us about [FGM](#) and about [Racism and COVID-19](#). You can find links to the talks and their presentation materials as well as the Diversity and Inclusion Committee's presentation materials, D&I Toolkit and Action Checklist on the [FAWCO website](#). There was also an update on the concurrently running UN Commission on the Status of Women. Nancy and Kathy hosted another fun family show and share with Kathy demonstrating her technique for decorating egg shells, and some great ideas for egg projects for kids (soaking an egg in vinegar to let Maisie have a play with a shell-less egg is high on my list!), and Nancy had a great video on how to make chocolate covered matzo. It was fun to show the other clubs how we've celebrated a few holidays with the clubs' younger members. Amanda also announced that in April there will be a 4-day online FAWCO Environment Festival. Keep an eye on your AWCCS calendar, but also register for the [FAWCO website](#) and watch their events calendar. As a member of AWCCS, you're a member of FAWCO and I encourage you to register both with the FAWCO website and join the private Facebook group.

**Carolyn Graves, FAWCO Rep**

*Thanks so much for all our contributors to the Newsletter: Sue Stout, Nancy Lynner, Dale Finlayson, Amanda Drollinger, Kristina Royer and Joyce Halsan. If you wish to contribute to our next Newsletter, please send your article to Joyce Halsan.*

## National Day of Reflection

The 12,000 plants were gifted to fill the 20m bed on The Mound as part of the National Day of Reflection.

Gardeners from Edinburgh City Council brought the idea to life, helped by volunteers from nurseries and on behalf of the Scottish Horticultural Industry.

Stan Green, Director of Growforth, a plant wholesaler in Dunfermline, Fife, and Andrew Scott, Director of Reynard Nursery in Carluke, South Lanarkshire, coordinated the project.



## US Consulate General, Edinburgh

### Newsletter - March 2021

Dear Friends,

Our eNewsletter aims to keep you up-to-date with any news and events that may affect Americans. Please feel free to forward this email to family, friends or co-workers, and follow us on Twitter @USAinScotland to learn more about our work at the Consulate.



### COVID-19 Update

We hope you are keeping safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help do our part to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we are only offering emergency consular

services for Americans at this time – issuing passports for citizens with imminent confirmed travel or repatriation loans. Please email us at [Edinburgh-Info@state.gov](mailto:Edinburgh-Info@state.gov) for emergency assistance.

For U.S. citizens in Scotland please adhere to the following guidance:

- Register via STEP to receive timely health and security updates
- Continue to check our website for updates
- Follow NHS Scotland healthcare instructions for overseas visitors
- Decide to shelter in place for an indefinite period of time or fly home to the U.S. NOW. Commercial flight options are still available from Heathrow and there are still some commercial flight options from airports in Scotland to Heathrow and some European destinations for connecting flights to the U.S.
- This is what the U.S. Department of State can and can't do in a crisis
- Extend your UK visa if you are currently unable to return home due to COVID-19 and must remain in the U.K.

For UK citizens considering visiting the U.S. please adhere to the following guidance:

- Continue to check our website for updates
- Continue to check the Foreign & Commonwealth Office USA travel advice website

### **COVID-19 Scams**

Scammers aren't taking a COVID-19 break. Be on the lookout for emails, text messages, telephone calls, websites and social media phishing attempts that request money or personal information. Please visit the following websites for further information and advice:

- [Internet Scams and How to Avoid Them](#)
- [United States Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\) and the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre \(NCSC\) Alert](#)
- [IRS Alert](#)
- [Take Five - To Stop Fraud](#)

### **Scottish Parliament Election 2021 – Welcome to Your Vote**

U.S. citizens can now register to vote in the upcoming Scottish Parliament election.

Due to recent changes in the law in Scotland, anyone aged 16 or over who is resident in Scotland now has the right to vote in Scottish Parliament and council elections, regardless of where they were born.

On 6 May 2021 there will be a Scottish Parliament election and you must be registered to vote by midnight on 19 April 2021 if you want to vote in the election. You can register now at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote) - it only takes five minutes.

There are a number of ways to have your say in the election in May - you can vote in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote.

Polling places will be safe, with a number of hygiene measures in place. If you want to vote by post, you need to ensure you post your application form to your local Electoral Registration Officer before the deadline of 5pm on 6 April 2021 to make sure it arrives in time. Applications for proxy votes must be posted in time to arrive by 5pm on 27 April 2021.

For more information about voting in elections in Scotland, or to download a postal or proxy vote application form, go to the Electoral Commission website: [electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter).

Voting in Local elections here in Scotland will not affect your US citizenship if you do not intend to give up your US citizenship by voting in Scotland.

### **Book Club**

Join our Across the Pond Book Club, featuring a different book by an American author around a monthly

theme. March is Women's History Month and we're highlighting C Pam Zhang's smash debut, *How Much of These Hills is Gold*, which was longlisted for the Booker Prize last year. Sign up to be part of the discussion and look out for other recommendations and engagement on social media throughout the month!

- Book Club | U.S. Embassy & Consulates in the United Kingdom

## Public Holidays 2021

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

April 2021

- Good Friday – Friday, April 2
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 5

May 2021

- Early May Bank Holiday – Monday, May 3
- Victoria Day – Monday, May 24
- Memorial Day/Spring Bank Holiday – Monday, May 31

July 2021

- Independence Day – Monday, July 5

## Contact Details

Email [Edinburgh-Info@state.gov](mailto:Edinburgh-Info@state.gov)

Website <https://uk.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/edinburgh/>

Twitter [@USAinScotland](https://twitter.com/USAinScotland)

After Hours Contact

- From the UK - 020 7499 9000 (Embassy switchboard)
- From the U.S. - 011 44 20 7499 9000
- International dialing code +44 20 7499 9000

## General Inquiries

If you have any inquiries regarding information in our eNewsletter, or any other issues we may be able to address, please contact us via email at: [Edinburgh-Info@state.gov](mailto:Edinburgh-Info@state.gov). This inbox is monitored regularly, and we strive to respond to all queries promptly.



**AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD**  
EDUCATE, ADVOCATE AND INFORM

The **Senate Finance Committee** held a hearing on Thursday, March 25th on the subject of US international tax policy, "How US International Tax Policy Impacts American Workers, Jobs and Investment." ACA submitted testimony for this hearing highlighting the need for the tax-writing committees to be educated on how tax policy affects international taxpayers – Americans living and working overseas.

ACA believes that tax legislation will be taken up in the 117th Congress and the Senate Finance Committee hearing is a clear indication of this and a signal that more hearings on domestic and international taxation will be held. ACA's recent meetings with Congressional and Administrative offices, tax writing committees, and

the US Treasury Department indicate that there is interest in addressing the problems of international taxpayers.

Congressional and Administrative offices are well aware of the problems overseas taxpayers have reported – banking lockout, excessive cost of compliance, double taxation – thanks to ACA’s advocacy work and the work of other organizations and individuals who are raising the alarm.



## News from The Lyceum Theatre

It has been a year since the Lyceum shut its doors, though it has held online comedy nights, Christmas shows, online youth theatre, and over-60s zoom sessions to bring the experience of theatre into your home. Its latest innovation – Sound Stage – is a new audio-digital platform offering audiences the chance to have an “at home theatre experience” designed by theatre makers and leading audio digital technologists. In a new partnership with Pitlochry Festival Theatre and acclaimed radio drama producers and technologists, Naked Productions, there will be a full season of new plays as well as post-show discussions

To see the full season of plays, dates and ticket prices, go to:  
<https://lyceum.org.uk/whats-on/production/sound-stage>

## USA ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Have you received your \$1400 stimulus check?

If it has not arrived or been deposited in your US bank account, you can check your eligibility and the date the check was or will be issued at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>.

### Tax Returns in USA not due until 17 May

#### Tax Day for Individuals Extended to May 17: Treasury, IRS Extend Filing and Payment Deadline

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an [automatic 2-month extension](#) to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. If you qualify for this 2-month extension, penalties for paying any tax late are assessed from the 2-month extended due date of the payment (June 15 for calendar year taxpayers). However, even if you are



allowed an extension, you will have to pay interest on any tax not paid by the regular due date of your return (April 15 for calendar year taxpayers). *For further information see:*

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/us-citizens-and-resident-aliens-abroad>

## MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Welcome New Members:

**Jane Miller & Lena Russel**



### Happy Birthday



#### April 2021

- 7 - Kristina Royer
- 9 - Jana Livermore
- 13 - Amanda Kirkpatrick
- 28 - Susannah Stout
- 29 - Hannah Brace-Thompson & Lisa Tole

#### May 2021

- 6 - Kate Pearson
- 10 - Pam Judson
- 12 - Karen MacCormick
- 17 - Amanda Drollinger
- 26 - Allison Murray

### Edinburgh Book Group – future books

During the Pandemic we are meeting on Zoom, from 10am, on our usual third Friday of the month.

- 16 April – The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman
- 21 May – The Storied Life of AJ Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin



## Skyco Online

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### AWCCS Board Officers

#### President

Open

#### Honorary President

U.S. Consul General,

Ellen Wong

#### Secretary

Kathy McGlew

#### Treasurer

Susanne Hathon

#### Membership

Kristina B. Royer

#### Advertising/PR

Open

### Special Interest Group Coordinators

*Although we will not be meeting in person, some of these groups may be meeting online. [Contact us](#) if you would like to participate.*

**Edinburgh:** Dale Finlayson 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

**Join us as a Board Member**

**Newsletter Editor**

Susannah Stout,

**Charity Chair**

Open

**Social Chair**

Nancy Lynner

**Website Manager**

Joyce Halsan

**FAWCO Representative**

Caroline Graves

**Glasgow Representative**

Susan St. Denis

Interested in joining us as a board member? We would love to hear from you. We are meeting online at the present, but still very active in the club. We have the following openings: President, Advertising/PR and Charity Chair.



## Our Advertiser Nomads Tent

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## Notes from the Website

Please Log in to [awccs.org](http://awccs.org)

Your AWCCS Newsletter has been sent to you in an eMail blast with links directing you to our Member's Only site. You will have to have logged in to read the details. Let me know if you are having trouble logging in. You can also use your Facebook and Google login to sign in. [websitemanager@awccs.org](mailto:websitemanager@awccs.org)

### Email going to Spam?

If your communication from us is going to your Spam folder, all you need do is to place our email (the 'reply to' on the email you receive from us) into your Contacts and it will recognize us as a "friend."

### Please Update your Profile

Did we miss announcing your birthday in our Newsletter? We want to make sure to include you in our good wishes, but sometimes we just don't have the information we need.

If there is anything in the directory you don't want to be included, you can just go into your profile and remove permission.

### To edit your profile

- sign in with your login name and password
- Go to your Profile page by clicking on your name on the top right corner
- To change anything on your Profile, click on "Edit Profile"
- Be sure to save when you have edited it.

## Our Advertiser Olivia McLaren, Ltd.




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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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