



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 10th of the preceding month.

Thank you! Susannah Stout, Newsletter Editor

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Submissions are welcome and should be sent to sus.stout@yahoo.co.uk by the 10th 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 next 2month issue shall be published for April 2019. Please submit info early, thank you!

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 2018-19

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Social Co-Chairs:	Open	

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Edinburgh

Morning Book Group	Dale Finlayson	dka.finlayson@gmail.com
Coffee Plus Edinburgh	Dale Finlayson	dka.finlayson@gmail.com
Voting Coordinator	Dale Finlayson	dka.finlayson@gmail.com

Glasgow

Books Beverages and Banter

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.*

2019 February and March AWCCS President's Letter

Dear Members,

Come to the February 9th Charm Making event at Susanne Hathon's home—there is an article within the newsletter. RSVP to me!

Amanda Drollinger, Tara Scott, Joyce Halsan and I have sent out lots of information both in person at Club events and also via club emails, sharing the details of the **FAWCO Biennial Conference**. I understand if you still wonder all about Fawco—it is a philanthropic and social group which has myriad activities, projects, and endeavors, and it takes some time to gain appreciation of the scope of this amazing group of women. You belong!

Come for a day, enjoy the talks, and if you wish to volunteer, do speak to Amanda a s a p.

In the mid January email I mentioned details about our speakers that we've lined up from Scotland. You'll have to make choices because there are always at least two talks happening simultaneously. Here they are again:

- **Thursday 21st March**

- We are waiting to hear if First Minister of Scotland can welcome our members Thursday Morning;
- Ellen Wong, Principal Office of the US Consulate General Edinburgh welcomes all;
- Alice Thompson, Co-founder of Social Bite, the charity, speaks about the work they do with the homeless;
- From Nat'l Trust Scotland, a curator and conservator speak about their work with the Film and TV (Outlander) crews who pay to use NTS properties;
- Shona McCarthy, Director of Edinburgh Fringe speaks about the world's largest arts and performing festival;

- **Friday 22nd March**

- Your DNA...who are those ancestors? Our own member, Tahitia McCabe, speaks on genealogy, searching, and discovery in her talk entitled: Hot dogs, apple pie, and vital records: An introduction for Americans to Genealogy.
- Harsha Batasuramanian speaks on audio description for blind audiences in Scottish Theatres;

- Our own Tracey Rosenberg, a poet and novelist and Katie Graham, a romance novelist, are discussing writing, creativity, being expats, and getting published;
- We'll hear from two recent immigrants – Roza Salih, one of founders of the Glasgow Girls movement in Drumchapel, and artist and entrepreneur Samira Kitman – about their experiences coming to Britain and finding their way; they will speak again on Saturday;
- Morgan Currie, a newly arrived PhD from California who teaches at U of Edinburgh in Sociology speaks on Data and Society—the power of recordkeeping to give voice to marginalized communities;

- **Saturday 23rd March**

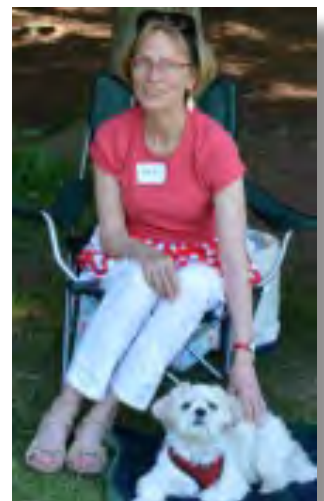
- Have you thought of trekking in Antarctica? Listen to Laura MacNeil's talk, and you'll learn all about it without freezing! She's been there.
- A new Buzz word phrase is the Circular Economy-- Lynn Wilson's talk covers design, and how shopping habits connect to the environment, and what exactly is the life cycle of our clothing;
- Our own member, Melissa Kaplan, MS, RD is a dietician and nutritionist who has been helping folks make better food choices for optimum health for 20 years. Health is FAWCO's target area for the 2019-2021 period, so get jumpstarted on Health.

- **Sunday 24th March**

- Our member, Pam Judson, speaks on the topic of fundraising—she's been doing this for years and has many examples, stories, and suggestions.
- Are stem cells the key to new cures? The conference medical panel, put together by renowned neurologist, Dr Marieke Hoeve, will discuss stem cells and related topics that connect this volatile subject. Dr Hoeve has enlisted the support of three other medical speakers and this will be an unmissable panel discussion.

Let's Keep in Touch! See you at our FAWCO Conference at the Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club!

Nancy Lynner,
AWCCS President





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196 Rose Street, West End, EH2 4AD
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www.MbeEdinburgh.com

AWCCS February Event

SILVER CHARM MAKING EVENT



WHAT: Come learn the fun & easy
SILVER CLAY PROCESS of Jewelry Making

WHEN: Saturday 9th February 2019

WHERE: Susanne Hathon's home - 3 Eton Terrace EH4 1QE

TIME: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

RSVP: Nancy Lynner nlynner@gmail.com by Wednesday 6th February
As the host city for the upcoming FAWCO conference, we will be making 40 charms to be sold as souvenirs at the 'Edinburgh 2019' conference. Come and learn the Silver Clay Process & help us make these beautiful & unique charms. You'll be amazed at how easy it is and may just want to take up a new hobby!

LUNCH & SNACKS will be provided by the AWCCS Board

The 2019 FAWCO Biennial Conference Edinburgh

The AWCCS is hosting the 2019 FAWCO International Conference in Edinburgh, on **Thursday March 21st through Sunday March 24th** at the beautiful **Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club**. As a member of AWCCS, you are automatically a member of FAWCO (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas) and are invited to attend this conference. Many of you are not familiar with the **FAWCO** organisation so we hope you will take this opportunity to attend the conference and learn more about **FAWCO** and also become active in the organisation.



The conference registration will close on February 22nd. You can either attend the entire conference or on a daily basis.

Registration for the Conference:

AWCCS Has a Special Process for Registration - please contact *Joyce Halsan, Registrar*, for details on how to register as an AWCCS member.
registrar2019@fawco.org

Registration for the Conference Tours can be found here:

<https://fawco.highlandexplorertours.com/>

AWCCS April Event : Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 20th 2019

11am-2 pm

Easter egg hunt at the home of AWCCS member Oksana Olkhovyk



We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting Annual Easter Egg hunt at the backyard of our house at **19 Kirkhill Gardens, Edinburgh EH15 5DF.**

We invite all kids and adults who are kids in their heart to join us.

We will try to do some traditional Easter egg painting at the greenhouse and look for chocolate treats around the garden.

After the event we can organize a walk to <https://www.preston-field.com/> grounds so that kids can enjoy chasing peacocks and admiring Scottish highland cattle munching on grass at the premises.

Please RSVP to Oksana at 07786792816 or oolkhovy@kent.edu if you would like to come (name and number of adults/kids) .

Please bring chocolate Easter eggs and a drink or brunch item you like for yourself or your kids.

We will provide mimosas for adults and juice and light refreshments for kids.

Oksana Olkhovyk

AWCCS AGM

SAVE THE DATE

We look forward to seeing all AWCCS members at the **Annual General Meeting** which will be on

DATE Tuesday 14th May, 2019

TIME 6:00 – 8:30 PM

WHERE US Consulate General Edinburgh

New board members for next year are welcome!



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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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In March 2019, AWCCS is hosting the International FAWCO Conference in Edinburgh. As all AWCCS members are also members of FAWCO, we realise that many newer members may wish to know more about FAWCO stands for and how FAWCO members strive to make a difference for women in the world.

FAWCO

Who We Are

Since 1931, FAWCO has brought together inspiring women working towards common goals of peace, multicultural understanding, and international goodwill; supporting women and girls; and the defending the rights of Americans living overseas. With the dedication of the following volunteers from FAWCO Member Clubs, FAWCO will continue to make strides and achieve the goals set forth through its Mission Statement and in the spirit of founder Caroline Curtis Brown.

FAWCO Board of Directors

The Board of Directors oversees and drives the vision of FAWCO, manages regular operations, and works with all of the volunteers that make up FAWCO.

Get to know our current Board 2017 - 2019.

Volunteers

With over 50 volunteers in established positions, FAWCO functions thanks to their experience and skills. Volunteers make up various committees including the Communications Team, the Web Team and other Administrative Committees, as well as committees and teams that work on FAWCO's four key Global Issues, US Issues, and on UN Issues.

Learn more about FAWCO volunteers.

Member Clubs

As a federation, FAWCO exists because of its Member Clubs: American and international voluntary women's organizations, clubs and groups established outside of the United States. Currently, 65 clubs in 34 countries constitute the FAWCO membership.

Mission Statement

FAWCO is an international federation of independent organizations whose mission is

- to build strong support networks for its American and international membership;
- to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide;
- to advocate for the rights of U.S. citizens overseas; and
- to mobilize the skills of its membership in support of global initiatives for education, the environment, health and human rights.

Education

The Education Team will inform FAWCO members about recent developments in the global effort to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all (UN Sustainable Development Goal #4), especially related to issues in education for girls.

Health

The Health Team seeks to increase awareness of global women's health issues such as non communicable diseases, maternal health, mental health and aging. In 2014, the Health Team launched Clubs in Motion, a FAWCO-wide challenge to our walking and running groups, to circle the globe.

Human Rights

The Human Rights Team advocates to ensure human rights for all women, to engage members in awareness and action campaigns and to leverage the strength of FAWCO's collective voice to end violence and discrimination against women and girls.

Environment

The Environment Team encourages environmental stewardship and promotes awareness of climate change and its impact on peace in global society.

March 2016 (from FAWCO)

Changes to US tax legislation

AWCCS members may be interested in the following article, published in a recent American Hour online newsletter.

Standard Deductions Vs Itemised Deductions Under New US Tax Law and Its Impact on Expats by Aparna Deodhar, EA – H&R Block Expat Tax Services

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) has brought about several changes. One of the more impactful effects of the law is the doubling of the standard deduction. The TCJA has increased the standard deduction for single filers from \$6,350 in 2017 to \$12,000 in 2018 and for joint filers from \$12,700 in 2017 to \$24,000 in 2018. Along with this, it has also restricted or eliminated a lot of itemised deductions. The changes in itemised deductions more likely to affect US expats include:

- Deduction for state and local taxes cannot exceed \$10,000. This includes state and local income taxes, sales tax, real estate taxes and personal property taxes. Many expats will not be filing state returns, so the benefit from withheld state and local taxes will simply not be there. In addition, for those expats who have been itemising homeowner benefits in the past, the most important change under the new law is that foreign property taxes, such as council taxes, can no longer be deducted. This can leave a significant gap for those who claimed this benefit in the past.
- For mortgages taken out after December 15, 2017, only the interest on the first \$750,000 of mortgage debt will be allowed as a deduction. Interest on home equity loans except on loans used specifically to improve current homes, will no longer be deductible.
- Charitable contributions can be claimed up to 60% of the AGI [adjusted gross income] as against 50% in prior years. However, only contributions to US charities are allowable.
- Unreimbursed employee business expenses, tax preparation fees,

and other miscellaneous deductions subject to the 2% AGI limitation will no longer be allowed, other than business meals.

The substantial increase in the standard deduction coupled with the restrictions on itemised deductions is expected to make the standard deduction more attractive, especially for expats. As a result, fewer taxpayers are likely to itemise. A single filer having itemised deductions between \$6,350 and \$12,000 will now find it beneficial to claim the standard deduction in 2018.

Itemisation generally requires additional record-keeping and results in higher costs for tax preparation, so taxpayers who now benefit from claiming the standard deduction instead of itemising are likely to save both time and money.

A Request from Democrats Abroad International

DA International has launched its 2019 Non-Resident Taxation Research Project and would like you to share your experience of your U.S. tax obligation while living abroad. The information collected in the survey will be shared with Congress to enable them to better understand the experience of Americans living abroad. All the survey questions are optional, but the more information you share, the better DA will be able to use the results to help make Residency Based Taxation a reality.

The survey will take 10-15 minutes of your time and can be found at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeg4aBfzeGW-AGw-yJRNbtUtejFkT_bOF7fNr6dgAINUeLfw/viewform.

Please feel free to forward this email to other Americans and ask them to participate in the survey.

If you have any questions about the survey, please email 2019ExpatriationTaxResearch@gmail.com.

Edinburgh Morning Book Group

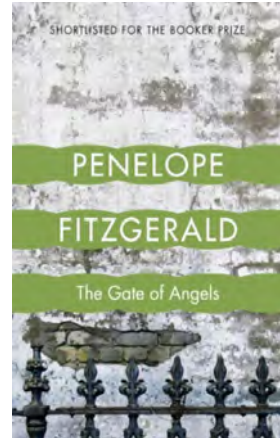


Friday, 15 February

10:15 a.m.

Home of Dale Finlayson
dka.finlayson@gmail.com

The Gate of Angels
by Penelope Fitzgerald

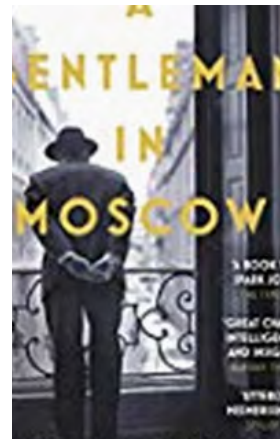


Friday, 15 March

10:15 a.m.

Home of Christine MacLachlan
c.maclachlan@blueyonder.co.uk

A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles



Friday, 12 April

10:15 a.m.

Home of Nancy Lynner
nlynnner@gmail.com

Things Fall Apart
by Chinua Achebe



AWCCS Glasgow Books, Banter and Beverages (BBB)

Join us for brunch in mid February at a new opened American Restaurant in the Braehead area of Glasgow:

Venue: **Denny's**: 5 Braille Crescent Renfrew, Glasgow PA4 0DJ

Date: Sunday , 17 February 2019

Time: 10:30am

RSVP: Maryjo.bonecaselton@btinternet.com by Friday, 15 February, please.

Thanks, Mary Jo Bone Caselton



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info@nomadstent.co.uk mon- sat 10-5 sun 12-4

BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthday to the following members for February and March:

February:

Heather Anderson 10th

March:

Tara Scott 10th

Melissa Wegenka 15th

Roseline Marshall 16th

Diedra Turner 19th

Melanie Fortin 24th

Elizabeth Moore 28th

Susanne Hathon 24th

Kathy McCarthy 30th

Michele Wirt 30th



Have a fantastic Birthday, gals!

American Women's Club of Central Scotland Birthday Bash

Join us for a drink, even if it's not your birthday month.

February Birthday Bash

COME party at this new destination-

WHEN: Thursday 21st FEBRUARY 2019

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

WHERE: **BAOBAB EATERY & BAR**

www.baobabedinburgh.com

13A Melville Place, Edinburgh, EH3 7PR
(This place used to be called 52 Canoes,
and old timers will recall several events
there.) Tel: 0131 225 4570



RSVP- Nancy Lynner nlynnner@gmail.com

March Birthday Bash

MARCH 2019 We will not have any AWCCS events because we are hosting the FAWCO Biennial Conference March 21-24, 2019

April Birthday Bash

SAVE THIS DATE! COME PARTY AT ANOTHER NEW LOCATION

WHEN: Thursday 18th APRIL

TIME 6:00 – 8:00 PM

WHERE: **TIGERLILY** www.tigerlily.co.uk

125b George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JN

Tel: 0131 225 5005

RSVP – Nancy Lynner nlynnner@gmail.com



Remember to Rsvp so Nancy can book the right size table

Coffee Plus (Edinburgh)

Wednesday, 27 February, from 10am
Venue: Holyrood Palace & Queen's Gallery



Meet for coffee and chat at the Palace café after which we will go to the Queen's Gallery to see the current exhibition:

Charles II: Art and Power

The restoration of the monarchy in 1660, after more than a decade of strict Republican rule, led to a resurgence of the arts in Britain. The court of Charles II became the centre for the patronage of leading artists and the collecting of great works of art, which served not only as decoration for the royal apartments but also as a means of glorifying the restored monarchy and reinforcing the position of Charles II as the rightful king.

Old master paintings and spectacular silver-gilt furniture show the rich material world of Charles II's court and the role of the arts in the re-establishment of the Stuart monarchy.

There is a charge for the Queen's Gallery, but if you have a ticket dated & stamped after 27 February 2018, you can get in for free. If you have to buy a ticket, get it stamped and it will be good for a year.

Contact: Dale Finlayson – dka.finlayson@gmail.com
0131 667 9369 / 07962 010 944 (mobile)

No Coffee Plus in March, but mark your diaries for Wednesday, 24th April.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February

Saturday 9th February, 10:30 a.m., Board Meeting at at the home of Susanne Hathon

Saturday 9th February, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., AWCCS Charm Design activity at the home of Susanne Hathon, 3 Eton Terrace Edinburgh EH4 1QE

Friday, 15th February, 10:15 a.m., Edinburgh Morning Book Group, Home of Dale Finlayson

Sunday 17th February, 10:30 a.m., Glasgow BBB - brunch at Denny's in Renfrew

Thursday 21st February, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Birthday Bash, Baobab Eatery and Bar,
www.baobabedinburgh.com Hotel, Edinburgh

Wednesday, 27th February, from 10am, Coffee Plus (Edinburgh), Holyrood Palace & Queen's Gallery
Meet for coffee and chat at the Palace café

March

Friday, 15th March, 10:15 a.m., Edinburgh Morning Book Group, Home of Christine MacLachlan

Thursday March 21st through Sunday March 24th., FAWCO Conference at the Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, Edinburgh

April

Friday, 12th April, 10:15 a.m., Edinburgh Morning Book Group, Home of Nancy Lynner

Thursday, 18th April, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Birthday Bash, Tiger Lily, 125b George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JN

Saturday, 20th April, 11am-2 pm

Easter egg hunt at the home of AWCCS member Oksana Olkhovyk

Wednesday, 24th April, Coffee Plus (Edinburgh), to be announced

May

Tuesday 14th May, 6:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., AWCCS Annual General Meeting US Consulate General
Edinburgh