



The Forum

Newsletter of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas Inc.

Summer 2006

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president@fawco.org

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FAWCO Surpasses its Goal in Fighting Malaria Over \$97,000 Raised for NetWorks and Malaria Prevention

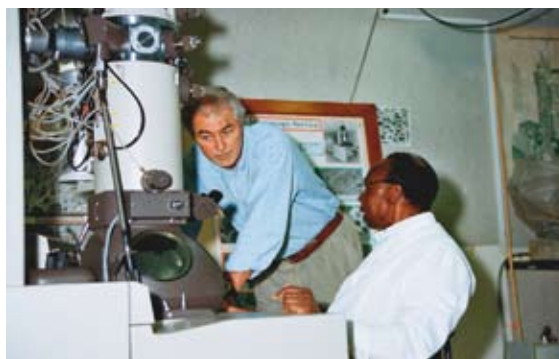
Paula Daeppen
networks@fawco.org

Thanks to the outstanding support of our FAWCO members, the FAWCO Foundation, FAUSA, individuals, and friends, we are pleased to announce that we have surpassed the mandate to raise \$75,000 in FAWCO's 75th anniversary year. We did the swim, the auctions, the bake sales, teas, certificate sales, raffles, poetry readings, sent post cards, and every imaginable fundraiser to support NetWorks. Congratulations to FAWCO and to everyone who supported us in the battle against malaria – a preventable and treatable disease that nonetheless takes the lives of nearly three million people each year, mostly children. With an emphasis on the purchase of ITNs (insecticide treated mosquito bed nets), our goal was to supply at least one net for every member of FAWCO. In fact, our success will allow us to purchase approximately 52,000 ITNs, or nearly three nets per FAWCO member. And the battle continues. On the recommendation of the FAWCO Global Committee Chairs and in support of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a proposal was adopted at the FAWCO Conference in Berlin to establish a Global Concerns Fund that will continue to address malaria prevention in the coming year.

The delegates to the conference were inspired by the keynote address of the president of BioVision, Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren,

an internationally acclaimed scientist and humanitarian who cares deeply about the well-being of people in developing nations. It is BioVision's common sense, low tech, environmentally friendly approach to malaria prevention based on self-help and education that is so appealing. These ideas compliment FAWCO's Global Committees' ongoing efforts in the areas of health, environment, and peace through knowledge. FAWCO is pleased to be partnering with BioVision in support of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically to reduce malaria incidence and

(Continued on p. 4.)



Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren, left, President of BioVision and the Millennium Institute, pictured here with a colleague at the Nairobi Icipe laboratories studying malaria vectors.

FAWCO Named Dundreggan Wild Forest Champion

Valerie Garforth
environment@fawco.org

Delegates to the 2006 FAWCO conference in March contributed to a major forest conservation effort in Scotland through the sale of "tree ribbons," thus enabling FAWCO to be named "Champion of the Dundreggan Wild Forest." The £500 raised in Berlin represents one hectare of the 4,000 hectare Dundreggan Estate, most of which has now been acquired by Trees For Life, an award-winning charity working since 1989 to restore the ancient Caledonian Forest to a large contiguous area of the Scottish Highlands. The purchase of the Dundreggan Estate constitutes a major breakthrough in the restoration of the Caledonian forest on a significant scale. Trees For Life works closely with the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) which is also committed to expanding native woodlands across the country and will be working closely with the FCS in Glen Affric, just north of Loch Ness where the Dundreggan Estate lies, to connect forest areas with corridors, gradually remove non native species of trees, and allow natural forest regeneration where possible. Trees For Life has the option to purchase the remainder of the Dundreggan Estate in January 2007 and fundraising continues to this end. In addition to supporting Trees For Life, FAWCO Berlin delegates also raised funds for a tree planting project sponsored by AWC Amsterdam near Schiphol Airport, the Netherlands, and for the FAWCO Millennium Forest project, sponsored by the AIWC Casablanca in Morocco, thus helping to make the FAWCO Berlin conference to be carbon neutral.

FAWCO is the largest international network of independent associations representing private American citizens overseas. Founded in 1931, FAWCO is a non-partisan, not-for-profit U.S. corporation that has 78 member clubs representing more than 15,000 members in 38 countries worldwide. A recognized Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) since 1995, FAWCO was granted special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 1997.

Editor: Paulette Berman Fagen (editor@fawco.org)

✦ Distribution: Celeste Brown (vp-communications@fawco.org)

✦ Advertising: Nancy Koster-Tschirhart (advertising@fawco.org)

75th Anniversary Conference Highlights

Mary Brunowsky, pr@fawco.org

It was a superbly invaluable experience and exceptionally entertaining five days with other dynamic women, experiencing and spreading FAWCO Fever. The theme of the conference was "Tearing Down Walls, Through Education, Tolerance, and Understanding." The power, intensity, and strength of the women and men present threatened to rattle the walls of the Hilton Hotel.

FAWCO held its first conference 75 years ago in Berlin and once again the German capital laid out the red carpet for all of the conference attendees, family, and friends. As the conference began, singer Erica Fox Zabusky (FAUSA Treasurer) entertained and we saw a fabulous film on the history of Berlin. In addition to the grand Reichstag and Berlin City tours, we were treated to a buffet reception at the home of the US Ambassador.

Two hundred strong, we learned from the Personality Profile session and our own Jung Typology Tests that the majority of the group likes action and control, are talkative, sensible, energetic, sociable, innovative, task oriented, curious, logical, purposeful, and inspirational. What a powerful group! So powerful in fact, that the combined session of FAWCO Reps and Presidents responded with long lists of why they are proud to be part of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas. The main reason was overwhelmingly that FAWCO gives us a creative forum to give to our communities and to help better the world, while getting to know other women living abroad.

The business sessions of the conference kept the group cheering. It was announced that our 75th anniversary pledge of \$75,000 toward the UN Millennium Development goal to reduce the incidence of Malaria was not only reached by FAWCO clubs and individuals, but as of the conference was \$94,000 (now \$97,000.) Paula Daepfen, who led the mandate, introduced the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren, President of BioVision, who highlighted projects in Kenya and Ethiopia, demonstrating low-tech and environmentally friendly methods to eliminate breeding sites of the deadly mosquitos, as well as tsetse flies. More cheering for the Emergency Relief Fund, which included donations by member clubs of \$48,000 to build housing in Sri Lanka for tsunami survivors, and more than \$17,000 for the rebuilding of Dillard University Campus in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

The FAWCO Foundation Dinner "Diamonds in the Rough" was a huge success, raising over \$18,000 through the Quilt Raffle and the Silent and Live Auctions. The JFK High School Jazz Combo jazzed up the evening. We elected new FAWCO Foundation Board members, who will follow in the footsteps of the terrific outgoing team who announced the 2006 winners of the FAWCO Foundation Development Grants totaling \$24,000 and the FAWCO Foundation Awards totaling \$26,000.

Workshops (small group learning opportunities) were offered on a

variety of interesting subjects. Col. (ret) Robin Greenham of the British Army spoke as a witness to the fall of Berlin as well as its recovery. A workshop on Domestic Violence brought this hidden subject to our attention, and the discussion of International Education and Mobile Families is a current topic of concern. Social Security and the IRS workshops were well attended, as they are near and dear to our pocketbooks. New Urbanism presenter and environmental engineer Peter Garforth discussed urban sprawl, and energy strategies for buildings and homes to reduce our dependence on oil. Breaking Down Barriers was an inspirational sharing from writer Carlana Stone, author of the autobiography, "Never Give In, Never Give Up." Voter Assistance Training was offered, as well as opportunities for member clubs to hook into and utilize all the knowledge and information from the FAWCO website by incorporating the new tools of the Content Management System (CMS).

Every conference attendee was presented with a lovely red, white, and blue 75th anniversary FAWCO scarf, designed by FAWCO 3rd V.P. Sunny Eades and covered with the names of all member clubs. "Let's Celebrate," the theme of the festive closing dinner, was held at Berlin's beautifully renovated Kaisersaal, with entertainment by AWC Düsseldorf member, Paulette Berman Fagen, with Timothy Richards, tenor, and Gary Gromis on piano. The entertainment and dinner met our highest expectations.

Special thanks to Angelika McLarren and her team, who put the Berlin conference together. Kudos, also, to Nancy Thornley and Georgia Regnault, for the inspiration and creation of the 75th FAWCO Anniversary History Book, which made its debut at the conference. It is a real treasure. We are looking forward to getting another dose of *FAWCO Fever* at next year's FAWCO Conference in Lyon, France, from March 7 - 11, 2007 entitled "Lighting the Way."



Newly elected FAWCO Foundation Board 2006 - 2008, all sporting their 75th anniversary scarves, front, Arline Coward, President; row two, I to r, Sylvia Cox Behrman, Annual Giving Committee Chair; Cynthia Niggli, Secretary; row three, Judith Treanor, Vice President; Georgia Regnault, Treasurer; Dolores Cuellar, Awards Chair; back, Elsie Bose, Development Grants Chair.

38th FAWCO Biennial Conference in Lyon, France March 7 - 11, 2007

Come catch *la Fièvre de FAWCO* in Lyon! Experience the sights, sounds, and flavors of France's gastronomic capital and second largest city. This 38th Biennial Conference will be "Lighting the Way" in a town renowned for its spectacular *Festival of Lights* and breathtaking monuments which softly glow in the dim of night.

The American Club of Lyon and supporting French clubs will illuminate the path for an unforgettable FAWCO Conference. The FAWCO Foundation will be painting the town *rouge* as we celebrate its 40th Ruby Anniversary. In the heart of the *Beaujolais* and *Côtes du Rhône* wine regions, with the majestic snow-capped Alps only two hours away, Lyon's ancient hidden passageways called *traboules* connect medieval streets in surprising ways. Be ready to discover this UNESCO World Heritage city, founded over 2000 years ago.

Registration materials will be posted on the FAWCO website, www.fawco.org, by the end of the summer.

U.S. Liaison Report

Washington Levies Tax Increase on Overseas Americans

Lucy Stensland Laederich, USLiaison@fawco.org

Eric Way, USTax@fawco.org

On May 17, President Bush signed into law a bill called the "Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act." Unfortunately, "Increase Prevention" does not extend to over four million "unofficial American ambassadors" living overseas. The \$200 million per year tax hike contained in this law is the largest to hit overseas Americans in three decades. Americans working abroad will be exempted from paying U.S. taxes on the first \$82,400 of their foreign earned income in 2006, up from the present Section 911 "exclusion" of \$80,000, but the tax exemption on foreign housing expenses will be significantly reduced, and non-excluded income will be taxed at a higher rate due to a so-called "stacking rule." This affects any salary above \$82,400 (individual) and could affect the tax rate on investment income as well.

Those who live in countries with low or no income tax, or people with investments in legitimate foreign tax shelters, will see the largest increase. These individuals would have little or no foreign tax credit to offset the increased U.S. tax liability. Note that as an expatriate, you cannot open a U.S. retirement tax-shelter account (IRA) unless you have taxable U.S. earned income. Even so, most U.S. banks will now refuse to open an account unless you have a U.S. address. This leaves Americans abroad even more exposed to taxation on their long-term savings.

Many overseas Americans, including many FAWCO members, have reacted vehemently against this legislation, which further increases the tax burden on overseas Americans to offset tax cuts at home, ignoring the importance of the overseas population to the American economy as a whole.

FAWCO has joined other organizations in Washington for our annual "Overseas Americans Week" in mid-June and this tax increase was one of the main issues brought before our legislators.

Overseas Vote Foundation and FAWCO Establish Alliance Partnership

Lucy Stensland Laederich, USLiaison@fawco.org

FAWCO and Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF) sealed an official Alliance between their two organizations in May of this year. The Alliance aims to further advance the success of their respective efforts in the area of non-partisan overseas voter registration.

FAWCO has been committed to voting rights since its inception in 1931: its members have worked with partner organizations in the 1970s to obtain the right to vote for Americans residing abroad; regular voter registration training sessions within FAWCO are organized by the Federal Voting Assistance Program in federal election years; and FAWCO has been committed since 2001 to full implementation and funding of the Help America Vote Act. Pooling energies with OVF was a logical extension of this ongoing commitment.

The Overseas Vote Foundation was founded in 2005 to assist uniformed and overseas American citizens in registering to vote in federal elections, starting in 2006 with the state primaries and the November 7 General Election. OVF is the first and only nonprofit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) public charity organization dedicated solely to serving the voter registration needs of all military and overseas citizen (UOCAVA) absentee voters.

It has provided a great service by automating overseas voter registration procedures and providing secure, non-partisan, Internet-based voter services to Americans around the world. OVF's user-friendly "RAVA" voter registration wizard revolutionizes overseas voter registration.

"FAWCO has a well-earned reputation as an outstanding worldwide overseas organization which not only declares, but acts on the rights of American citizens to vote from overseas – one amongst many admirable and urgent causes that FAWCO addresses. The FAWCO-OVF Alliance comes at an ideal time for OVF as we reach out to voters during this important mid-term election year," said Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, Executive Director, OVF. As a new Alliance partner, FAWCO joins the National Association of Secretaries of State, the National Campus Voter Registration Project and the National Defense Committee. FAWCO will also be represented on the OVF Advisory Committee.

Further Information:

OVF: www.overseasvotefoundation.org

Direct Links to OVF Nonpartisan Voter Services:

- ❖ RAVA Voter Registration: www.ovf-rava.org – online, secure, non-partisan,
- ❖ Voter Help Desk: www.ovf-vhd.org – fast, friendly answers to voter questions,
- ❖ Election Official Directory: www.ovf-eod.org –online lookup service.



Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, Executive Director, Overseas Vote Foundation, announcing the new RAVA on-line voter registration service at the National Press Club in February 2006.

U.S. Citizens Concerns

U.S. ELECTRONIC PASSPORT

Dorothy S., citizenship@fawco.org

The U.S. will introduce the new electronic or e-passport to all U.S. citizens applying for new U.S. passports at the end of 2006. The U.S. is reciprocally complying with legislation passed by Congress stating that all countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) with the U.S. must issue biometric, or e-passports, by October 26, 2006 for 90 day visa free travel to the U.S. Many of these countries are already issuing passports meeting biometric requirements. U.S. and foreign passports from VWP countries issued before the above stated respective dates still remain valid.

The reason for the new U.S. e-passport is automated identity verification, faster immigration inspections, and greater border protection and security. Biometric data is stored in a small integrated circuit or chip embedded in the back cover of the passport. A symbol on the front cover indicates that the passport is electronic. The chip contains the same information that is visually displayed on the bio-data page. This biometric identifier in the form of a digital image of the passport photograph facilitates the use of face recognition technology at ports-of-entry into the U.S., thus verifying the identity of the passport bearer. A chip identification number and a digital signature protect the stored data from alteration. The chip can be read only at close proximity by special chip readers at international borders protecting the stored data on the chip from "skimming." Further anti-skimming measures will be taken. (*Please visit* http://travel.state.gov/passport/eppt/eppt_2788.html#.)

Updated security features and a new design will be incorporated into the new U.S. e-passport. The design reflects the varied landscapes of the U.S. (*Please visit* http://travel.state.gov/passport/eppt/eppt_2501.html#.)

It will not be possible to amend the new electronic passports for name changes, corrections or extensions of time. You will need to apply for a new passport. No additional payment of the passport fee will be assessed if you apply within the first year after passport issuance. After one year, fees will be assessed for the new passport.

Web News

ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Alice Grevet, webmanager@fawco.org

Due to a recent software upgrade, FAWCO members have the capability to manage their own user profiles online and subscribe to the following mailings:

- ❖ The FAWCO President's monthly "Connections" newsletter,
- ❖ The FAWCO VP for Reps monthly newsletter to reps, "News in Brief,"
- ❖ The semi-annual *FAWCO Forum* news letter.

To create your profile, please go to <http://www.fawco.org/cms>. You will need the universal FAWCO member username/password to access that page. Contact your FAWCO Rep for this information.

You can initiate your profile by clicking on "Register." Please read all instructions carefully. Once you've received your confirmation e-mail, you can login to the subscription page with the username and password you created for yourself. Please fill in the user fields, including your club position and contact information, and subscribe to the publications you wish to receive. *For questions, please contact the webmanager, webmanager@fawco.org.*

NetWorks (Continued)

(Continued from p. 1) child mortality in two new pilot projects in Nyabondo and Malindi, Kenya. With much enthusiasm and on the recommendation of the FAWCO Global Committee Chairs, a proposal was adopted to continue the partnership with BioVision to support their integrated approach to malaria prevention.

Education, local empowerment, and the use of environmentally-friendly pest control methods are major pillars in BioVision's programs. BioVision attacks malaria where it begins, at *Anopheles* mosquito breeding sites. In Nyabondo, a community in western Kenya near Lake Victoria, the heavy clay soil is ideal for brick production and provides a living for many of the 35,000 inhabitants. Brick making is an important source of income, but it leaves behind thousands of small pools of water that form breeding sites for the larval stages of the *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Each year the local mission hospital and the three dispensaries treat 7,000 to 8,000 cases of malaria with pregnant women and children under five years at the most risk.

Adopting an integrated approach, BioVision's team educates the population of Nyabondo on the dangers of stagnant pools and on how to solve the problem. The pools of water are drained off by building networks of trenches. Where drainage is not possible, the water is treated with the environmentally friendly insecticide Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), a natural pesticide which kills **only** mosquito larvae in their breeding habitats. Another effective method is to apply shavings of the neem tree. The villagers also receive insecticide treated bed nets to protect them from infectious bites. The integrated approach is quickly showing success. After only one year, the number of mosquitoes has been reduced by ninety percent and malaria cases have been cut in half.

BioVision's second and newest malaria project is in Malindi, Kenya, a town on the coast of the Indian Ocean about 100 km north of Mombasa. Many of the nearly 85,000 inhabitants benefit from the

attractive location, earning their living from tourism. The many swimming pools which are unused during the low season collect rainwater, offering ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes. During the rainy season, puddles form within the densely populated town, creating further breeding sites for the malaria transmitting mosquitoes.

Malaria is a huge problem in Malindi, which threatens not only the health of the local population, but also the social and economic development of the area. BioVision believes that knowledge, local education, empowerment, and the availability and use of natural pesticides can significantly reduce the *Anopheles* and the number of malaria cases. Their goal is a ninety percent reduction of mosquitoes as BioVision's staff members teach the locals how to identify mosquito breeding grounds and eliminate larvae. The project in Malindi has just started bed net distribution using FAWCO's NetWorks contribution to fund net procurement.

In reaching our NetWorks fundraising goal this past year, FAWCO is able to supply ITNs for both the Malindi and the Nyabondo projects. Since it is impossible to completely eliminate the mosquitoes, the distribution and the proper use of ITNs among the population in the endemic areas are vital. With BioVision, FAWCO is able to help supply nets as well as ensure their proper use and maintenance.

Finally, FAWCO is honored to announce that our efforts in malaria prevention have been noted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in their new publication, "From Vision to Action: NGOs Promoting Health in a Globalized World." This publication is in support of the *Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion in a Globalized World* and features the best practices of 27 selected NGOs. Second on its list is FAWCO and in addition to information on our organization, the booklet mentions our NetWorks initiative and our continued commitment to malaria prevention with specific mention of our partnership with BioVision in support of an integrated approach to malaria prevention.

SOCCKER and TRAFFICKING – The World Cup Scandal

Pam Perraud, ngo@fawco.org

Sports, booze, and sex. They usually go together, but this year's World Cup Soccer championship in Germany set off a firestorm of controversy. Why? Because prostitution is legal in Germany and the well-organized Germans have gone to extraordinary lengths to anticipate and make sure that visitors to the World Cup would have all they would need during their stay in Germany — plenty of food, liquor, and of course, sex. FAWCO has joined many other groups in protesting these measures.

It has been estimated that some 40,000 women, many under-age, will have been illegally trafficked into Germany for the World Cup games. Germany, like most countries, has had a problem of illegal trafficking for some time, but what is unusual here is the scale of the trafficking and the fact that Germany is making so many plans to encourage prostitution.

In Berlin, close to the Olympic stadium, a new mega-brothel has just opened. Covering some 400 square meters, it houses a health club, restaurants, and some 70 rooms where up to 600 clients a day may be serviced. Similar brothels in Cologne and Dortmund will have opened before the beginning of the games. Other cities have set up drive-thru centers, nicknamed “*Verrichtungsboxen*” roughly translated as “transaction boxes,” where sex will be performed in small cubicles to ensure the anonymity of the clients.

One outspoken critic, Kate Quinn, the Executive Director of Prostitute Awareness and Action Foundation (PAAFE) of Edmonton, Canada put it this way, “These soccer action shacks are the ultimate in sexual consumerism.

We are saying to our 18-year-old sons that it is okay to buy women. That's what it means to be a man in a consumer society.”

As early as January of 2006, the European Union warned Germany about the increased risks of trafficking during the games. Many women's groups both inside and outside Germany have been speaking out and organizing petitions to protest these actions and have called upon the German government to take strong measures to prevent trafficking.

In Germany, Ulrike Helwerth, head of the non-governmental German Women's Council, which represents over 50 organizations, including not only women's groups but also trade unions and political parties, has been lobbying the government as well as the German and world football leagues. The organization wants the government and the football leagues to condemn the human trafficking process and to take stern measures to combat it during the games. The German and international football leagues (FIFA) have maintained that trafficking is not in their domain and that it is the work of governments to regulate. Sweden's opportunity ombudsman, Claes Burgstrom, called upon the Swedish team to withdraw in order to protest the German position. In the end, that did not happen, although some individual football players from the Swedish team did speak out about the issue.

At the annual FAWCO conference in Berlin, FAWCO's UN Director, Pam Perraud, and Rebecca Fry, President of the American Women's Club of Amsterdam, urged FAWCO delegates to sign a petition that was sent to German Chancellor Angela Merkel asking her to step up law enforcement of human traffick-

ing, particularly during the World Cup. The petition was also sent to the president of FIFA Germany condemning the mixture of sports and trafficking. Over 120 FAWCO members signed the petition and many others joined in signing the online petition organized by the Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

Two days after the conclusion of FAWCO's Berlin conference, on the occasion of International Women's Day, German Chancellor Angela Merkel publicly lauded the efforts of the campaigns against human trafficking and expressed the German government's intention to protect the victims of forced prostitution as well as intensifying laws to hinder the practice (see www.bundesregierung.de).

In an effort to keep the issue ever-present during the World Cup, the American Women's Club of Düsseldorf posted a petition on its website inviting its sister clubs in Germany, family, and friends to join in the campaign against human trafficking during and after the Tournament, collecting over 90 signatures. In a letter to the Chancellor, the AWCD asked Mrs. Merkel to keep this issue on her agenda and follow through with her promise, asking, “If not now, when? If not by you, Germany's first female head of state, then by whom?”

If you would like to learn more about this topic, check out the Coalition Against Trafficking's website at www.catwinternational.org and the US State Department's own website devoted to information about human trafficking, which includes fact sheets on trafficking. http://l.usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html

The FAWCO Foundation

FAWCO Foundation Announces New Development Grant

Elsie Bose, grants@fawcofoundation.org

A new Development Grant (DG) has been created for projects that address the critical problems of violence, food and shelter, healthcare, education, or cultural understanding in a FAWCO Member Club's host country.

The “**Around the Corner, A World Away**” DG will be added to the list of grants available for 2007. A study of the FAWCO member club profiles submitted for the 2005 Birmingham conference revealed that of the 358 charities supported by FAWCO member clubs, 212 were local; that is, in the clubs' host cities or countries.

While clubs can submit host country projects for a DG in *any* category, the Foundation wanted to recognize the importance of the hands-on participation by clubs in their local areas.

In an effort to encourage more FAWCO member clubs to submit

grant proposals, the 2007 DG grant categories descriptions have been broadened. This will make it easier for more projects to be eligible for grants.

By broadening the grant descriptions and revising the categories, all of the 2007 Development Grants have been increased to \$3500.

The Foundation has changed the deadline date for DG applications from November to January. This will allow clubs ample time to work with their committees to prepare their DG applications.

Announcements of the final list of Development Grants as well as DG applications will be available in September on the Foundation website. (www.fawcofoundation.org.)

The Foundation believes that these changes to the DG program will encourage more clubs to take advantage of the opportunity to help projects that are important to them and have an immediate impact on their work.

For more FAWCO Foundation news, please see p. 8.

Committee Reports

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

When "Home" Hurts

Jann Mitchell
substanceabuse@fawco.org

Life seemed good when Paula Lucas married her exotic Palestinian husband. But when they moved to his Middle East home, her life was suddenly changed by domestic violence. Repeatedly, Paula sought help for herself and her three sons from the American Embassy and various domestic violence agencies back in the U.S., but the terror and abuse continued.

Desperate and afraid for her life, Paula finally found the place her husband had hidden their passports and fled home to the U.S. with her boys and one suitcase, while he was away on business.

Aware that she wasn't the only American abroad who faced domestic violence far from home, Paula founded the American Domestic Crisis Line, an international, toll-free, domestic crisis line. Since 1999, the non-profit organization (with Yoko Ono donating the first \$25,000) has helped hundreds of women world-wide get counseling, return to the U.S., obtain safe transitional housing, and secure

legal counseling with initial fees paid.

The "lifeline of hope" hotline is based in Portland, Oregon. You can contact them by dialing 866USWOMEN, emailing help@866-uswomen.org, or accessing the website at www.866uswomen.org. All information and correspondence is confidential. The website gives the AT&T access numbers for individual countries, so that the number can be accessed toll-free from abroad.

Half of their clients are Americans living in Europe, according to staff members Whitney Zeigler and Hannah Bohart, who presented a workshop at the March 2006 FAWCO conference in Berlin. Some eighteen percent live in Asia or North or South America, and fourteen percent live in the Middle East. Most are married to foreign nationals, and the majority leave seven or eight times until they escape the violence for good.

While domestic abuse is frightening anywhere, women living abroad often don't speak the language, lack nearby emotional support, and have no money of their own. Abuse can be physical (hitting and threatening with weapons); emotional (insulting, yelling, blaming); and social (putting the woman down, demanding all of one's attention, isolating a woman from friends or activities). There's also sexual abuse (jealousy, forcing sex); economic (forbidding the children passports so that it would be impossible to move away with them, keeping a woman from obtaining a work permit or learning the language); and spiritual (ridiculing one's beliefs, denying a woman her value as a person).

If you know of someone who is being abused, the women advise: "Listen to your friend, be supportive. Believe her. Reinforce that she IS a good person, and can get help."

SENIOR CITIZEN ISSUES

World Elder Abuse

Norma Fischer-James
womenandaging@fawco.org

The First Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was held on June 15, 2006, around the world. Communities and municipalities made proclamations and held events to raise awareness of elder abuse. The day supports the UN International Plan of Action which recognizes elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.

Governments, NGOs, educational institutions, religious groups, professionals and older persons themselves are promoting activities to raise awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. Neglect and abuse are largely under-recognized or treated as unspoken problems.

The International Network for the Prevention for Elder Abuse (INPEA) acknowledges the diversity of culture of the world population and aims to recognize and respond to mistreatment of older people. *For information please see www.inpea.net.*



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Spotlight on our Clubs

Roberta Enschedé "Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau"

Georgia Regnault, AWC of The Hague

During the annual awarding of the Queen's Day Royal Decorations in the Netherlands, one of the honorary members of the American Women's Club of The Hague, Roberta Enschedé, was decorated with a *lintje*. This is a tremendous honor for any Dutch person and even greater for someone not born in the Netherlands.

In his speech at the Town Hall of Wassenaar, the mayor spoke of Roberta's dedication during the more than thirty years that she has lived in the Netherlands, for not only her constant endeavors in promoting Dutch-American relations, but also her initiative in starting a Yad Vashem commemoration each year. He went to say, "not only does Mrs. Enschedé have empathy for what others struggle with, but most of all, she understands quickly and is always ready to give a helping hand."

Mention was made of her initiative in 1984 to begin a breakfast program, "Who's the President," at the Kurhaus Hotel in Scheveningen, an event which is now broadcasted on Dutch television, and the proclamation she created and presented to the U.S. Congress in 1982, during the Bicentennial of Dutch-American diplomatic relations, to declare April 19 as Dutch-American Friendship Day.

Not only has Roberta been extremely active in the AWC of The Hague and in turn, the American community in the Netherlands, but also within FAWCO. During the 1970's, she was the driving force within our community for not just "getting out the vote," but for "getting OUR vote". She crusaded for various citizenship rights for children born overseas, wrote the script for the 1990s FAWCO video, and most recently, wrote, directed, and performed in the FAWCO Gala evening show at the Hague Conference in 2004. She has been involved in innumerable activities and has shown her incredibly varied abilities and talents. In others words.....an extraordinary woman. We congratulate you, Roberta!



AWC of The Hague's Roberta Enschedé, recently honored by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands

AWA of Dubai

Cynthia Zimmerman, FAWCO Rep

Our latest big project was our Senior Scholarship Awards Event. Thirteen very bright and enthusiastic students from three different American schools in the area competed in a tough merit based scholarship program. After enduring grueling interviews and a very difficult essay, four lucky seniors were chosen to receive portions of a \$25,500 total award. We are very proud of our 13 participants and all of our expat students as a whole. They are a very special group of kids.

AWC Cologne

Michelle Miller, FAWCO Rep

The American Women's Club of Cologne voted at its Annual General Meeting on May 18, 2006 to become a registered association under German law. The AWCC, which celebrates its 45th anniversary this year, is currently the only AWC in Germany not listed as a registered association. The members are enthusiastic about the fact that persons and organizations donating money to the Club for charitable purposes will now be able to deduct such donations from their taxes. Additionally, registered associations are in a position to provide liability insurance for those members serving on the Executive Board. The AWCC was formed in 1961. Past presidents, Honorary and Lifetime members, as well as former members were invited to join the current members for the 45th anniversary luncheon at Limone Restaurant on June 8, 2006 in Cologne. The AWCC has been a proud member of FAWCO since 1970.

AWA Rome

Lesley Whiting, FAWCO Rep

In May, the AWA Rome held their annual charity event, an art exhibition and cocktail soirée entitled "Through the Eyes of Women II," at the Villa Aurelia. It was an evening overlooking the beautiful city of Rome with over twenty AWAR artists on exhibition, a rare opportunity to view Bulgari's own private collection of precious jewels, with proceeds benefitting AWAR's charities and a particular project at a local Alzheimer's Association. The event itself attracted many Italians as well as our Club members and the U.S. Ambassador. We also enjoyed rave reviews in the local newspapers.....a huge success!

Banaue Charity Project

Mery Montgomery

AWC of the Philippines, FAWCO Rep



The AWC of the Philippines recently sponsored a four day tour to Banaue so that our members and guests could enjoy the scenic beauty of the area and visit the world renowned rice terraces. During the tour, we were also able to deliver over 400 pairs of athletic shoes and 150+ children's books to an elementary school and high school located in the small village of Gohang. This area was chosen to be the recipient of the donation as it is one of the poorest local villages without many resources.

In visiting Banaue, one is struck by the total lack of commercialism – no JolliBee, Starbucks or ShoeMart. Instead, there are small shops selling mostly souvenirs. During our visit to drop off the shoes and books, we were told that the nearest National Book Store is 6 hours away in Baguio! Most families cannot afford to make the trip, let alone purchase books for their children.

The children's books that we collected were also a big help to the community and greatly appreciated. As soon as the boxes were opened, we were surrounded by curious young children, eager to take a peek at what we had brought. One of our members, Lyn Sturdevant, sat down and read a book aloud with 20 enthusiastic children listening carefully. Interestingly, English is widely spoken by the Ifagao people.

Another enjoyable aspect of this tour/project was to watch the obvious community pride that is present in Banaue. Everyone in the barangay works together. The saying of "It takes a village" could not be more true in this part of the country. Yes, there are many, many children (the average family has 6), but you do not see hungry, unhappy, or unkempt children wandering around. There is no begging or accosting the tourist. The children are taught to respect visitors. The children are polite and very happy to accept any school supply or small token that you might bring to them. For more information on our charity work, please see www.awcphilippines.org.

FAWCO Foundation Announces the Recipients of the 2006 Development Grants

At the FAWCO Conference in March, the FAWCO Foundation was pleased to present the 2006 Development Grants to eight worthy projects. Each grant, worth \$3,000 will make an immediate impact on the people and communities who are served by these programs.

Healthy Living Development Grant
sponsored in part by *American Women's Club Stockholm: Ol Malo Charitable Trust, Kenya*, proposed by *AWC Kenya*

Trachoma is an infectious disease of the eyes, spread by flies that can be treated with antibiotics. Untreated, it leads to scarring on the eye surface, turned-in eyelashes, and eventually blindness. The Ol Malo Eye Project plans to build a well to provide clean water, teach the importance of hygiene and face-washing, and provide antibiotics and eyelid surgery to relieve existing infections. The project serves an area where 82.5% of all adults over 30 are either blind or in danger of becoming blind.

The Effects of Violence Development Grant
Sponsored in part by *AWC of The Hague: SOMA Home for Girls, India*, proposed by *AWG Languedoc-Roussillon*



Adolescent girls in the Kalighat quarter of Calcutta virtually inevitably end up being recruited into their mothers' profession as prostitutes on reaching puberty and consequently are destined to the same fate of a powerless life of exploitation. SOMA Memorial Home, for girls at risk, aims to provide a safe shelter for adolescent girls in order to protect them from entering the sex trade under duress.

A Place to Learn Development Grant:
Fundación Amigos de Jesus y Maria, Bogotá, proposed by *AWC Bogota*

The Foundation, which is composed of retired employees of the *Banco de la Republica*, the Colombian Central Bank, operates a preschool for children in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Bogotá, Colombia. Currently housed in four rundown rental properties, the school provides a safe place for 108 children (ages one to five) to receive a basic education, recreation, and nutritious meals, literacy classes for older children, and education for the entire family in hygiene, respect for others, living together harmoniously, and rejecting the violence which often surrounds their lives. With the help of a local architect who donated the building plans, the Friends of Jesus and Maria Foundation is constructing a four story building on donated land. The FAWCO Foundation Development Grant will

cover the costs of building materials to complete the school's second floor.

The AW Berkshire & Surrey Peace through Understanding Development Grant: *Radio Studio 88 Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina*, proposed by *AWC Luxembourg*

In ethnically-divided Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is vital that citizens be able to receive unbiased news reporting. Radio Studio 88 was founded by a young Moslem woman to promote ethnic diversity among its journalists, with the express purpose of bridging differences. With elections coming in 2006, it is vital that they upgrade their equipment in order to assure rapid on-the-spot coverage.

The AW of Surrey Feed the World Development Grant: *Commune de Lubumbashi Orphanage, Republic of Congo*, proposed by *AWC Bern*

Four Congolese nuns, displaced by war themselves, care for 16 children (aged 2 to 22) orphaned by AIDS or by the war, in a small house with a leaky roof. They can usually afford only one meal per day. Nevertheless, the children all go to school - including three to the university -- and they have been given a sense of belonging to a new family. The grant will be used for roof repair and for food.

The Care in Crisis Development Grant: *Hope's Promise Orphan Ministries, Namibia*, proposed by *AWC Luxembourg*

Hope's Promise Orphan Ministries focuses on the placement of AIDS affected and infected orphaned children with qualified, trained foster or adoptive families in Namibia, Africa. The grant will be used for the ministries' Crisis Pregnancy Center and its supportive services.

The AWC Brussels Skills for Life Development Grant: *Los Cimientos Alliance Women's Project, Guatemala*, proposed by *AILO Florence*

The community of Los Cimientos was displaced from their land after large scale massacres during the Guatemalan civil war in the 1980s, becoming one group among many of Guatemala's internally displaced peoples. The alliance provides individual health support; women's reproductive health forums; instruction in artisan's crafts; and provides materials for marketable artisan products.

The AAW Aberdeen Hope through Education Development Grant:
Monimala, India, proposed by *AWG Languedoc-Roussillon*

A center for education and child care for underprivileged slum children in the outskirts of Calcutta, Monimala offers safety off the streets to pre-school children all day, and to school-age children in the afternoon, giving them extra tutoring so they can keep up with their grade levels. The grant will help pay teachers' and assistants' salaries.



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AWC Madrid & BWN Barcelona
president@fawcofoundation.org

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vicepresident@fawcofoundation.org

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treasurer@fawcofoundation.org

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annualgiving@fawcofoundation.org

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specialprojects@fawcofoundation.org

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www.fawcofoundation.org

The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It was created in 1967 as a not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Missouri to administer all awards and grants on behalf of FAWCO. For more information, please contact info@fawcofoundation.org

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