

American Women's Clubs News

THE NORTHWOOD AREA WOMEN'S CLUB (NAWC)

The Northwood Area Women's Club (NAWC) has grown this past year to 70 members, continuing to be a multinational, informal and social club for women living in the outer London area. Members actively participate in multiple interest groups such as Bunco, Book Clubs, Rambling, Knitting, Walkers/Ramblers, Ladies Who Lunch and International Cooking for Couples and find that the size of the club makes it ideal for meeting and knowing most members well.

At our June meeting, members enjoyed a Social luncheon and Book Fair with fond farewells to several members leaving to return home or to other assignments. May was our annual General Business Meeting and the presentation of a cheque for £1500 to our chosen charity, the Peace Hospice. Gill Crowson, Community Fundraising Manager from The Peace Hospice, attended in order to accept the cheque and to share some touching memories of people who have benefited from this charity. Fundraising occurs throughout the year from multiple endeavors of raffle prizes, Bunco parties, morning coffees, and other fun activities such as this year's Accessories Benefiting Charity sale and Pampered Chef demonstration. The group is extremely excited to

be able to present this notable amount to The Peace Hospice for 2008-2009. Members also enjoyed a visit and tour to Big Ben in May.

The NAWC meets the first Thursday of each month (excluding July and August) from 9:30 until noon at St. John's Church Hall in Northwood. The next meeting will be September 10, new members are welcome. In October, our speaker will be Maria Drifill with "Chats With the Queen." For more information about the NAWC see their website at www.northwoodareawomensclub.co.uk



NAWC Board members with Gill Crowson from our charity, The Peace Hospice.

HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE AMERICAN WOMEN OF SURREY

The American Women of Surrey (AWS) have donated their time and energy to the Ashford and St. Peter's Hospital Breast Cancer Unit through their contribution of 125 heart-shaped pillows to bring comfort to breast cancer patients.

The Heart Pillow project was recently launched by AWS with the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) and the American Women's Club of London. The pillow is designed and shaped to fit perfectly supporting the armpit, to ease the pain and increase the comfort for the patient after



AWS group members beavering away at one of their 'Sew, stuff and package' days

surgery as it is not unusual to experience tension where there is swelling of the lymph nodes underneath the arm. AWS held "sew, stuff and package days" over two days in one of the members house to produce the pillows. The pillows were funded by selling specially designed heart cards and donations from Mail Boxes, Etc, Weybridge; Fabric Warehouse, Weybridge and John Lewis of Kingston.

The pillows were originally discovered in the United States at the Erlanger Breast Resource Center and were brought to Denmark by Nancy Ruth Friis-Jensen. In 2006, she inaugurated the project at The American Women's Club in Denmark, FAWCO, and Pink Tribute, Danish a fundraising group for breast cancer projects. In 2009, numerous FAWCO clubs around the world are involved in the project.

Said Regina Santos, Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals Lead Breast Care Nurse: "We're happy that the American Women of Surrey have chosen our hospital for this donation. It will bring cheer and comfort to our patients, after having has a breast cancer operation. The heart shape of the pillow shows the love and kindness AWS members have and both our



AWS group members beavering away at one of their 'Sew, stuff and package' days. Group photograph of the American Women of Surrey and the Breast Care Unit team. (First left) Peggy Strode, (second from left) Consultant Surgeon Mr Tayo Johnson; (centre front) Lead Breast Care Nurse, Regina Santos.



St Peter's Hospital, American Women of Surrey and the Breast Care Unit team. (Second from left) President Peggy Strode; (back of group) Consultant surgeon Mr Tayo Johnson, (second from right at front) Lead Breast Care Nurse, Regina Santos.

patients and staff at the Breast Care Unit are grateful for this gift.”

Said Peggy Strode, AWS President: “We are delighted to be involved with the Breast Care Unit at Ashford and St Peter’s Hospital. Directly or indirectly, we have all been touched by breast cancer. We are thankful to the hospital for giving us the opportunity to make a difference to women in our new home country.”

People who want to know more about the heart pillows or would like to make one themselves, can visit www.heartpillow.dk for more information and a pattern for the pillows.

THE AMERICAN WOMEN’S CLUB OF LONDON

In 1898, twenty-five American women met for tea to discuss their interest in joining together for the purpose of establishing friendships and working to better their community. A year later, in 1899 the American Women’s Club (AWC) was officially formed and in 2009, our 110th Anniversary, the friendships, activities and community spirit continue to flourish. Of the thirty activities run by the club, there is even a group that meets monthly to sample the delights of High Tea!

We welcome all US citizens as well as women with close contacts to the United States and look forward to welcoming you as a New Member, and helping you settle in to your new home city. London is full of wonderful opportunities, sights to see and places to explore with new friends that you will meet through the club. In addition to the many daytime activities, AWC offers a Business Women’s Group and a new activity, the Long Term London Ladies, has been initiated for members who have been here a few years, or plan to make London a more permanent home.

Our website, www.awclondon.org will give you more information about the club and

its activities or you can telephone our office, 020 7589-8292 and speak to someone Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-1pm, or leave a message on our machine which will be answered promptly. We invite you to attend a New Member coffee morning, held on the second Tuesday of the month; do check with the office for more information!

The American Women’s Club is also the founding member of FAWCO, a global network of 75 American Women’s and American/International Clubs in 37 countries, from Paris to Perth and Seoul to Switzerland, with a combined membership of more than 15,000. FAWCO serves as a support network for members living abroad and is particularly active in concerns and issues of importance to overseas Americans such as voting, citizenship, education, etc. Through FAWCO we participate as a Non-Governmental Agency (NGO) to the United Nations with special consultative status. For more about FAWCO visit the website www.fawco.org.

And when it comes time for you to return to the US we can even help you ease your transition and give you a warm ‘Welcome Home’ through FAUSA, a vibrant and growing association of women who share a common experience of having lived abroad, www.fausa.org.

THE KENSINGTON CHELSEA WOMEN’S CLUB CELEBRATE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

The Kensington Chelsea Women’s Club (KCWC) is now the largest international women’s club in London with over 1230 members of 46 nationalities. Founded in 1983 by a dozen women in a café in Chelsea, only a



KCWC Board Member Sarah Petrilla in the hat she designed which won the Hat Competition

small majority of its members live in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, while others live all over Greater London and its surrounding counties.

The KCWC meet every month usually on the first or second Thursday morning. About 200 members convene at historical venues to hear a guest speaker on a topical subject or newly published book. Recently, they had a World Bank Economist Kate Kuper explain the Global Financial Crisis; The Food Doctor Ian Marber explained scientifically “Why Diets Don’t Work”; BBC World Affairs Editor John Simpson mused about his world and his latest adventure in the Arctic with Sir



Santa Montefiore autographs copies of her books



The Countess of Balfour, Cindy Maceda and the Baroness von Alvensleben

Ranulph Fiennes; international hostage negotiator Richard Mullender answered questions about "How One Can Survive a Terrorist Attack"; and, most recently, best-selling Novelist Santa Montefiore fascinated the members with her life story and how she comes up with the quirky characters in her novels (eleven to date with the recent publication of "The Italian Matchmaker". Santa spoke to the KCWC at the prestigious Royal Automobile Club at St. James's during an Ascot-themed annual members' Summer Luncheon to raise funds

for KCWC's charities. Giving out prizes for the Best Hat and Best Ensemble were the Countess of Balfour, UK director of Carlyle Fashion; outgoing KCWC president Sandra Johnson; hat enthusiast Genevieve Gougat de Landres, who flew in from Morocco just for the occasion; KCWC board member Mary Cryan who organised the wonderful raffle and silent auction prizes; and glamorous Santa Montefiore. Sarah Petrilla won the Best Hat Competition and Suzanne Councilill received the nod for her fabulous cream ensemble.

Incoming president Connie Sangster-Baas of the Netherlands thanked Sandra for her two years of generous and untiring service. The KCWC is run by approximately 80 volunteers who organise Art History, Antiques, Travel, five Language and two Book Groups, sports and parenting activities. The club will have a summer break in the monthly coffee meetings in July and August, but some of the 30 activity groups will continue to meet.

Membership for the next 2009-2010 Activity Year are currently being accepted. The year kicks off in September with the first general membership meeting to be held at the Royal Geographical Society across from Kensington Gardens on 17 September from 9:30 to 12:00 noon. Slated for the Fall-Winter season are talks by Ecologist Zac Goldsmith and Lady Antonia Fraser-Pinter, the doyenne of historical biographies, who will speak on Mary Queen of Scots on the 40th anniversary of its first printing. A Halloween Party, always a big



Incoming President Connie Sangster thanks outgoing president Sandra Johnson



Connie Sangster-Baas was elected president of KCWC



Suzanne Councilill won the Best Ensemble competition

hit, will be held in October.

For more information on the club, visit: www.kcwc.org.uk or e-mail: info@kcwc.org.uk and request an info-packet which will be posted free of charge. ■



KCWC's Russian members