

newsletter

April
2018



Letter from the President

On March 23 -25, 2018, I had the opportunity to attend the FAWCO interim meeting held in The Hague along with other members representing 38 clubs worldwide. It was such an awesome experience learning more about FAWCO, meeting other members and presidents from other clubs and just sharing ideas and best practices for our organizations.

Our presence at the meeting also created quite a buzz among the attendees giving us superstar status, as we have not had a representative since 2009 at these yearly meetings and everyone was intrigued and excited to have us once again in attendance. There was even talk and comments about having a future FAWCO conference or regional meeting in Moscow as everyone was so curious about our city. Speaking of regions, yup! We actually belong to one, Region 2 to be exact along with Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Who knew FAWCO was such an interesting organization with so many layers: serving as a resource and a voice for its members; improving the lives of women and girls worldwide, especially in the areas of human rights, health, education and the environment; advocating for the rights of U.S. citizens overseas; contributing to the global community through its teams and The FAWCO Foundation, which provides development grants and education awards.

Stay tuned for more details in our upcoming meetings, newsletters and Facebook. Also a huge thank you to Danielle Kuznetsov who has accepted the position of being our new FAWCO representative.

Michele

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Take your inner bunnies out for a walk...

Finally, April is here. It is hard to believe that we've already passed three months of the year! It is hard to believe that we're now 'officially' in spring, as the parks are still covered thick in snow. However, as we see the sun shining over the cold Moscow streets, I cannot stop the hopping of my inner bunny!

So regardless of the minus degrees and the stubborn snow piles, I won't fight with my inner bunny and will take it out for a walk to enjoy the unique warmth of Moscow spring. I have a few ideas on where to take my inner bunny, wanna join me?

Not surprisingly, The Moscow Municipality is organising a full-fledged festival to celebrate the Easter Holiday, between April 7th - 15th this year. The festival will be organised in 38 different locations and 5% of the income will be donated to different charities this year. Check out the first link

I've provided on the "Events of the Month" page to see the event locations and the second link to see where the donations will go.

I'm delighted to tell you that we have two new Interest Groups: Movie Buffs and Golf! Thanks to the wonderful women taking the initiative to organise the IGs, we can enjoy different activities with fellow members. Please see the "List of Interest Groups" page for sign-up information.

Before you take out your inner bunnies for a walk on the sunny days to come, enjoy Dawn's article about her visit to Lake Baikal, along with her photos of nature's amazing ice sculptures. If you still haven't gone yet, do not forget to visit one of our member's exhibition at the NB Gallery before April 8th!

Irem



Events of the month



Easter Gift Festival - April 7 -15, 2018 // Various Locations

The annual spring festival, Easter Gift, will be held in Moscow from 7 to 15 April. Charity and entertainment events are planned through the Easter week at 38 venues in various parts of the city. Check out the Municipality's website to learn more about the locations: <https://www.mos.ru/en/news/item/37920073/> and <https://www.mos.ru/city/festivals/seasons/pashalnyy-dar-2018>

The Ming Dynasty Exhibit - April 17-July 25, 2018 // Museum of the Moscow Kremlin

For the first time, the Museum of the Moscow Kremlin will host an exquisite exhibition from the collection of the Shanghai Museum, dedicated to the art of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) - a period that is among the brightest pages in China's richest heritage. For more information, visit: <https://mingdynasty.kreml.ru/>

Golf Club Workshops - April 7-15, 2018 // Manezhnaya Square and Revolyutsii Square

If you are interested in joining our new IG, the Golf, you might enjoy the open air Golf Workshops that will take place during the Easter Festival of the city. The only requirement will be for participants to make a donation via SMS. A total of five people will be able to play on the field simultaneously. Professional coaches will instruct newcomers on the rules, while a rental station nearby will offer all things necessary for the game. For more information, visit: <https://www.mos.ru/en/calendar/event/44264088/>

30th Antique Market "Blosznika - Flea Market" - April 14-15, 2018 // The Dom

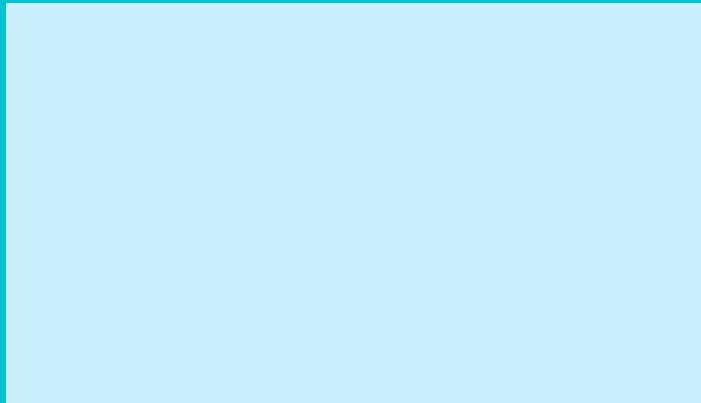
The 30th Anniversary Antique Market "Flea Market" will open its doors for connoisseurs of antiques and antiquities and vintage collectors on April 14-15, 2018 in the very center of Moscow in the "DOM" business center. For more information, visit: <https://themoscowtimes.com/events/181>

"On the Edge of Color" Exhibition - until April 22nd, 2018 // Institute of Russian Realist Art

If you are a fan of realist art and haven't yet exhausted your interest with a visit to the Tretyakov Gallery, then you might be interested to see Russia's single largest private collection of realist art. Located in a former cotton print factory, the massive collection spreads over four floors. For more information visit: <http://www.rusrealart.ru/en>

Paintings of Russian History - until July 24th, 2018 // Tretyakov Gallery

The Tretyakov Gallery opens a new exhibition this month dedicated to the works of Russian history painter Vasily Surikov, as well as pieces by his contemporaries. The exposition is complemented by sculptures by M. Antokolsky, M. Mikeshin and S. Tselinsky. The themes explored in these works are mainly taken from the times of Rus' of the 16th-18th centuries. For more information, visit: <http://www.tretyakovgallery.ru/en/>



Thanks to our Sponsors!



Review: AWO Annual General Meeting

by Irem Sunar

On March 28, 2018, I attended my first Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the AWO. Honestly, I was expecting a dull gathering where we had to listen to some executive reports and fulfil our duties as AWO members. But I couldn't be more wrong! The event was as lively and enjoyable as the wonderful women who organised it.

After allowing members to mingle while enjoying the complimentary prosecco served at the meeting was called to order by Michele Kuhlen. Michele first talked about appointing the new AWO Board, then she shared some information regarding AWO activities for the upcoming year. Next, the minutes of the previous AGM were approved. Then our new treasurer Michelle Rowe reported on the financial activities of the AWO, covering the current fiscal year. Following the Treasurer's Report, Rebecca Zenkevich as Vice-President thanked all the Executive Board and Board members of 2017-2018. She acknowledged previous Board members' services and introduced the new 2018-2019 Board members. Her presentation was then followed by Eugenie Tsesarenko who gave a compelling recap of the AWO activities carried out throughout the 2017-2018 year.

Dawn Biyashev announced the results of the 2018-2019 Executive Board election. The members of the Executive Board and Board were approved as follows:

2018-2019 Executive Board:

President - Wendy Soucy (past), **Michele Kuhlen** (present)

Vice President - **Rebecca Zenkevich**

Treasurer - Ellen Hughes (past), **Michelle Rowe** (present)

Secretary - Shannon Shryock (past), **Nori Minnis** (present)

Honorary Board Member - **Eugenie Tsesarenko**

2018-2019 Board:

Monday Updates - **Eugenie Tsesarenko** and **Susan Partridge**

Newsletter - Michelle Saquet (past) and **Irem Sunar** (present)

Interest Groups - **Dawn Biyashev**

Membership - Brit Holin (past), **Rini Judy** (present), **Eugenie Tsesarenko** (present)

Vendors - Galina Krysova (past)

Charity Liaison - Nori Minnis (past)

Special Events and Fundraising - Galina Krysova (past), Helen Nehring (past), **Kelley Jackson** (present)

Spread Sunshine - Tammy McClure (past), Michele Kuhlen (past), **Danielle Kuznetsov** (present)

Ex-Officio - Judy Peacock (past), **Wendy Soucy** (present)

Members were thanked for their attendance once again and the meeting was adjourned for the complimentary plated lunch.





There and Back Again: Lake Baikal

by Dawn Biyashev

Visiting Lake Baikal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is an adventure in both summer or winter. Located in southern Siberia, Baikal is the largest, cleanest, oldest and deepest freshwater lake in the world, containing over 20% of the world's fresh water. It is created by a geological rift and continually grows deeper and larger. It has a unique ecosystem, with many endemic plants and animals. The nerpa seals are extremely cute with very fat bodies and stubby heads, like oval balls, propelled by two fin "feet".



The Irkutsk region bordering the west coast of Lake Baikal is an interesting mix of Orthodox Russian villages and indigenous Tungus/Buryat people of Siberia and their Shaman holy places. The Buryats are related to native North Americans.

I visited Baikal this past summer with my husband and son following a Gobi desert tour in Southern Mongolia. We came by the Trans Siberian train from Ulaan Baatar to Irkutsk.

The trip was amazing, so I planned another one with the AWO photography club and some friends to explore Baikal's unique winter side.

We eleven adventurous ladies had a truly amazing time

exploring the intricate and unique ice caves and incredible blue ice. We flew overnight Sunday, arriving early morning to Irkutsk. No time for jet lag from the five-hour time difference! After a quick check in at our hotel in Irkutsk, we drove to Lisvanka to see a historic Russian village, Japanese cemetery, fish market, and the Baikal Museum. We also had our first view of snow-covered Lake Baikal.

The next day, we packed into a van to make the five-hour journey to Olkhon Island. We made a stop at a Buyrat ethno park and enjoyed throat singing and ate a delicious lunch. Continuing on, we arrived and hiked to the Shaman Rock to stretch our legs and view the sunset just before dinner.



On Wednesday we drove onto the ice for our first view of the intricate ice formations in a "new" UAZ 452 "Bukhanka" van. Manufactured as the same model since 1965, the van itself was part of the experience! We were awed at the first site of ice caves and dramatic formations. At each subsequent stop we were equally impressed. A few of us even ice-skated. It was surreal to stand on the perfectly glasslike lake surface. The north tip of the island was incredible with huge blue ice chunks or "hummocks". They are a natural wonder of clear ice from Baikal's pristine waters, combined with temperature, sun and wind.



On Thursday, we again took a van tour of the south side of the Lake Baikal and the island, then made the journey back to Irkutsk. Overall we stayed warm using hand/foot warmers and the coldest we saw was -16C.

There are many tours to Lake Baikal but you can easily book everything yourself. I highly recommend this destination to everyone. While there is time, go see the ice yourself!



This authentic and courageous group of ladies found many funny and interesting discussion topics. A few examples: "Budgy smuggler", "Shaggin Wagon", "3-day rule", "Rasputin", "Checking the tire", "Zena warrior Babushka", No pork=sausage soup!



Quick Notes for planning your trip:

Here is our itinerary to give you some ideas for your future visits:

Hotels: Kupechesky Dvor, Irkutsk; Mini Hotel Shamanka, Khuzhir, Olkhon Island.

Transfers Irkutsk to/from Khuzhir and Ice tours we organized through Mini Hotel Shamanka.

Baikal is accessible by 5-hour flight Moscow to Irkutsk. Then 45 minutes drive to Lisvanka. However the real magic of Baikal is near Olkhon Island, a 5-hour car journey away. For spectacular ice, the Lake "road" is open February 15 until April 1. The winds can be strong and cutting in February, dying back by March. The most beautiful ice we saw was at the north tip of Olkhon Island.

Interest Group in Spotlight:

by Irem Sunar

This month we've talked to Anna Veselovanna about the Russian Textile Doll Making IG. Russian textile doll making is a very fun and interesting way to get a rich insight into Russian history and culture. Wouldn't you wish for learning Russian language in the same way? Maybe someday we'll get an IG that teaches us fluent Russian language skills, who knows?!

Before we start talking about the interest group, can you tell us a little bit about yourself? What made Russian textile doll making so interesting for you?

I spent most of my life in Copenhagen. But I always remembered my Russian grandmother who had a few textile dolls in her collection. When I was a little girl, she used to show them to me on cold winter days and shared some made-up stories about the dolls.

At some point in life my mother and I decided to research the topic, and we set out from Moscow to find some doll makers who are still able to pass on the



knowledge they have. We have been making dolls and teaching for over five years now.

Why is textile doll making so important in Russian culture? Can you give us some insight about the background of Russian doll making?

Textile doll making is experiencing a revival in present-day Russia. It was quite forgotten in the second half of the 20th century, whereas before each family had their own handmade dolls for kids to play with, and for adults to give away as presents.



The roots of textile dolls go back hundreds of years, stemming from stone and wooden figurines and statues. In each class I speak a bit about the history behind the doll, and we learn some traditional techniques of making it.

How long have you been organizing Russian Textile Dolls IG for AWO?

It is almost 2 years now! I teach the participants some traditional techniques to create their own dolls in each class. At the same time, they learn about the earliest doll making techniques and live Russia's history through fun with fabric.

When do you meet with the group?

We meet any day of the week that is convenient for all of us at a central location and each class lasts around 2,5- 3 hours.

What are the requirements to participate in this IG? Do we need to have sewing skills? Do we need to bring the textiles ourselves?

These classes are suitable for beginners in textiles, and sewing is limited to a couple of stitches every now and then. The cost is 2000 Rubles per lesson, including all the materials.



Thank you Anna for answering our questions and for leading the Russian Textile Doll Making IG. Please contact Anna at

_____ to join an existing class, or arrange a new one.



2018 Interest Groups

We have revised the list of our Interest Groups for the new season. While some of the IGs are no longer active, we are delighted to announce that we have two new IGs! If you want to sign up to Movie Buffs and/or the Golf IG, please send an email to: info@awo.org

If you haven't signed up for any IGs yet and want to be more active while enjoying the spring weather, please use this link to sign up: <https://goo.gl/forms/OIEaAoJONLBi1O5r2>



AWO Interest Groups (Members Only)

CLUB	DESCRIPTION	WHEN	COST	LOCATION(S)	LEADER
Neighborhood Walks	Explore Moscow's favorite neighborhoods				
Photography	Learn, inspire, create photography together				
Spread Sunshine	Help with activities for Nastenka children's hospital				
Wine Lovers	Wine tasting and fun with other couples				
Lunch Bunch	Visit new restaurants with AWO members				
Book Club	Read books and share with friends				
Cooking Club	Share cooking and recipes and enjoy lunch together				
NEW: Movie Buffs	Watch movies in English, then enjoy lunch afterward				
Preschool Playdate group	Enjoy a coffee with friends while children play in a kid friendly venue				



Friends of AWO (Open to AWO and nonmembers)

NEW: Golf	Play golf at City Golf, lessons available				
Kurry Korner	Learn Indian cooking with lunch				
History-Art-Design	See the best Moscow sights in the context of Russian history (Excursions, lectures and workshops)				
Russian Textile doll making	Learn to make traditional Russian dolls, no sewing				
International Women's Bible Study	Join women to study the Bible, book of Acts				

Spread Sunshine

by Danielle Kuznetsov

Happy Spring!

A BIG thank you to all the generous women who came armed with aluminum foil to the Coffee Meeting on the 14th of March. Jamila came to visit and as I was busy introducing her to the ladies, I didn't get a picture of the foil stockpile brought in. **A total of 42 rolls of foil were donated. Ladies, that is four months of foil need met by you. Thank you!**

It was a slow month for AWO at Nastenka. With the flu going around and the Nastenka staff down sick also, there were no visits. I am meeting with Jamila on April 5th to discuss some new ideas on our involvement and explore how AWO can continue the great support we have been giving all these years. Please stay tuned for your chance to participate.

Finally, anyone who may be moving and have items to donate, please keep Nastenka in mind. They are in need of a refrigerator, washing machine, and a clothes dryer.



Thank you so much for your continued support.

Danielle



Please join us at the Orthodox Easter Brunch on April 8th at the The Ritz-Carlton Hotel. between 07:00 - 15:00.

Price: 2 850 rubles per adult, including Balaklava Rose.

Kids before 6 yo free of charge

Kids from 7 yo to 12yo- 950 rubles.

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www.usdentalcare.com



Located in Patriashiy Ponds, Expat Salon offers 10% off services to all AWO members, including nails and hair using Wella, Paul Mitchell and OPI. There's also a 20% discount at your first visit.

www.en.expatsalon.ru



LEARN MORE ABOUT FAWCO:

Founded in 1931, FAWCO is a global women's NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), an international network of independent volunteer clubs and associations comprising 64 member clubs in 34 countries worldwide, with a total membership of around 12,000. FAWCO serves as a resource and a voice for its members; seeks to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide, especially in the areas of human rights, health, education and the environment; advocates for the rights of US citizens overseas; contributes to the global community through its Teams and The FAWCO Foundation, which provides development grants and education awards. Since 1997, FAWCO has held special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.

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.

FAWCO's Club Development Workshops bring FAWCO knowledge and expertise to local clubs. FAWCO connects our experts with the club to help on issues like volunteer management, financial control, using social media, and effective communication.

If you are interested in learning more about the Organization, the advantages it provides for its members, as well as the contents of its various programs, please visit: www.fawco.org





We are delighted to invite you to a very special event to celebrate the marriage of Prince Harry and Megan Markle, followed by the screening of the FA Cup Final!

We have a fantastic venue booked with a special buffet which will be served during the afternoon.

Partners and children are also invited.

Places are limited but at the same time we need a minimum number to make this event work so please sign up as soon as possible.

The invitation is open to all British Woman Club and American Woman Association members.

Date: 19 May 2018 Time: From 13:30 PM

Venue: Ararat Park Hyatt Hotel

Menu

Buffet menu served in the centre of the table:

Appetizer

Heirloom tomato, mozzarella salad, pine nut dressing, basil eggplant salad with walnuts crumble and herbs, asparagus quinoa salad with flaked salmon, orange mustard dressing, duck prosciutto, grilled peach, roquefort cheese mashed salad, flank steak salad, chimichurri sauce, assorted bread selection.

Main Course

Bbq pork ribs, gremolata sauce, chicken kebab, marinated onions, tomato sauce, salmon tikka, cumin yogurt sauce, cilantro, lime tandoori gobi tikka, mint chutney, mango relish, potato wedges, steamed rice, grilled tomatoes.

Dessert

Assorted cut fruits in season, seasonal fresh fruit tart, rose wine basil syrup poached peach, chocolate pot de crème.

Price 13.30PM - 17.30PM - **RUB 3,600.**

The special price for the alcohol package is **RUB 1,000**. It includes wine, sparkling wine (to begin) international beer and mineral water in unlimited quantities.

Soft drink package is **RUB 500**.

The buffet is offered to children of 12 years and under at the price of **RUB 2,300** including drinks.

Kindly note that after 17:30 PM we will start to offer all beverages a la carte however the space will still be available to us until after the football has finished.

Please wait for the upcoming Monday Updates to sign up through the link.

We do hope you can join us!

Your 2018 AWO Board

Michele Kullen
President,
Charity Liaison

Becky Zenkevich
Vice President,
Facebook

Nori Minnis
Secretary

Michelle Rowe
Treasurer

Irem Sunar - Ozat
Newsletter

Dawn Biyashev
Interest Groups

Susan Partridge
Monday Updates

Rini Judy
Membership

Eugenie Tsesarenko
Membership
Monday Updates

Wendy Soucy
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Danielle Kuznetsov
Spread Sunshine,
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Kelley Jackson
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