



NEWSLETTER - November 24, 2020

“The turkey. The sweet potatoes. The stuffing. The pumpkin pie. Is there anything else we all can agree so vehemently about? I don’t think so.”

- [Nora Ephron](#) (1941-2012), American journalist, writer, and filmmaker.

Happy Thanksgiving everybody! Although it's been a surreal 2020, there are still many, many things to be thankful about. Thanks for being part of the AWCB!



We are swiftly closing on the end of the year. Despite the fact that I have hardly gone anywhere this year and my activities near home have been severely restricted, I feel this year has flown. I can hardly believe that our board has been in place for eight months now. In our **December 16 Member Meeting**, scheduled on Zoom, we will update you on all the things we have been working on and what we see coming up in early 2021. More details to follow.

Though we haven’t seen each other much face-to-face, **we do our best to keep up** by newsletters, Facebook, email, Instagram and video chats. One of our board

members, Lorraine, has been hosting informal [Chit Chat & More sessions](#) (next one is Friday, November 27!). They are scheduled at various days and times, giving members and potential members an opportunity to pop in and catch up. Please consider joining one of these to share your news.

And speaking of sharing news... This month, we've started a **Member News section** of this newsletter in which we can send along, well, member news - see below. With the sale of our Clubhouse and COVID restrictions on meeting, word-of-mouth no longer seems to work to share good, bad or sad news. We have been very sorry to learn of the passing of some of our long-term members and we know you might want to send your condolences. Details, when available, are provided in our Member News. We also have good news to share, so check the Member News section for details about births, moves or other events in our members' lives. If you have news to share, please [tell us!](#)

Our **Angel Tree giving initiative** has been a resounding success this year. With the help of many Secret Santas and some very generous donors, Heather Bloemperk has been making the lists and checking them twice. We will give a full report of what was done in the near future. For now, delivery of those gifts is top of mind. Thank you to all of you who donated this year.

This autumn especially, I have been pleased to **welcome several new members** each month. Our club, like all clubs, is restricted from holding events. However, we are unique community that finds ways to stick together, to help each other and to welcome newcomers. As Thanksgiving grows closer, I reflect that I am so thankful to be a member of the AWCB – not just another expat club, but one with a distinctive social and philanthropical focus, with an illustrious history and a bright future.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.
Kelly



CLUBHOUSE AUCTION SALE: PHASE 2!!!!

**Great stuff still for sale for you AND the general public until 9:00 PM,
November 29!**

It's a win-win situation: we're delighted with the auction thus far as it's helping us clean out the Clubhouse AND are pleased that you've been able to benefit from some super **bargains on furniture, home decor, and other goodies.**

There's still items on offer (and even some new ones added in), so help us promote the auction by sharing the auction link below to your friends and family!

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/awcb-house-sale-auction-16683>

Let us know if you would like any further information. Thanks as always for your support!



DONATIONS FOR AWCB ANGEL TREE & NAVIVITAS

**ONE MORE DATE DROP OFF DATE AVAILABLE:
Thursday, November 26**

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Our club's most treasured fundraising event - **the Angel Tree** - has been an amazing success and we couldn't do it without the help of all our generous donors! Members far and wide have stepped up to help this year, as well as our beloved sponsor: the SWIFT team of La Hulpe.

Because of your generosity, up to now we have been able to gather gifts for 196 children at 4 different facilities this year (Alseberg Refugee Center (ARC), La Cite Joyeuse (LCJ) Nos Pilifs Center (NP) and Oasis Belgium (Oasis)).

We are pleased to say the gifts will be collected and distributed in time for St Nicholas. Once again thank you to all who participated, and wishing you all a special holiday season from the HOPE team.

If you'd still like to contribute, **all info and instructions on how to give are [available here](#)**, so please have a look and make this year's holiday season an even brighter one in these exceptional times. There's still one more day to drop off a donation at the Clubhouse, so please do so on **November 26** and use the door at the cafeteria (i.e. the "up"/exit side of the driveway).

Again, huge thanks to those of you who have already contributed with kindness and generosity!

For any further questions, contact HOPE@awcb.org



PS AWCB donations to Navivitas still welcome!

- Ground coffee
- Sugar cubes
- Individual sized drinks (small bottles or cartons of juice, Cecemel, or cans of soda)

For more information, please contact Club member [Nancy Evans](#) (0475 49 11 78)



Virtual Chit-Chat session

Friday, November 27 - 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Zoom

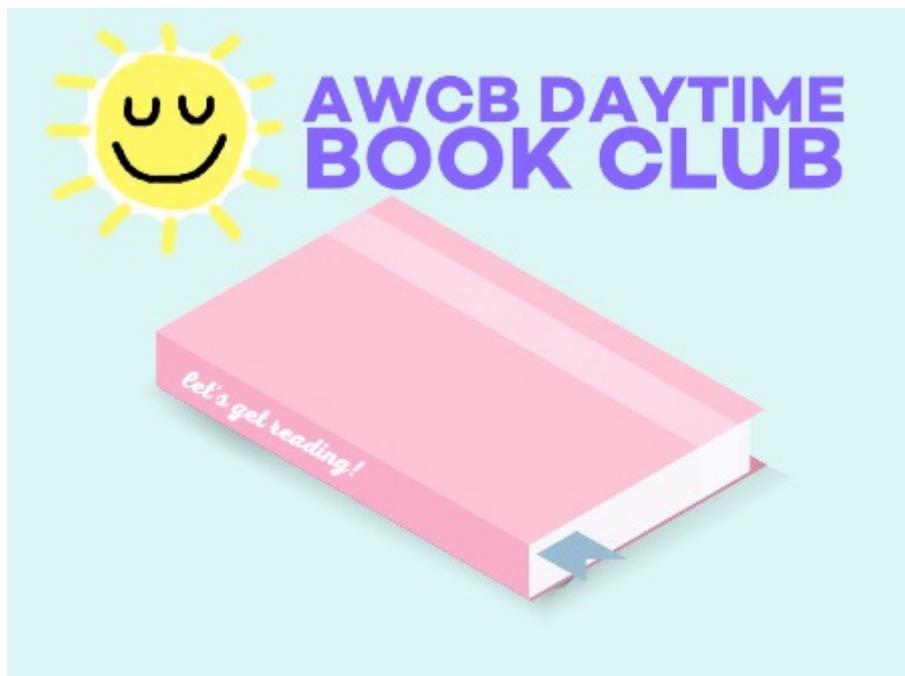
In these weird COVID times, physical distance doesn't have to mean social distance. Join hostess and Board member Lorraine De Bock in these **fun and informal virtual catch up sessions** to stay connected with fellow AWCB members and friends. Grab your favorite beverage, get comfy and cozy in for some good conversation from the comfort of your own home! Stay for the whole shebang or just pop in for a quick hello - the main thing is to reconnect and enjoy each other's company. With the holidays approaching, make this a new tradition to share some cheer together!

Make sure you RSVP to get the Zoom link - and mark your agendas already for these sessions:

[Friday, November 27 - 8:00 - 9:00 PM](#)

[Friday, December 4 - 10:30 - 11:30 AM](#)

[Friday, December 11 - 8:00 - 9:00 PM](#)



AWCB Daytime Book Club
Tuesday, December 1

Readers, are you ready to discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens? Join the **Daytime Book Club gang** and get ready for a great convo about the book. The plan right now is to meet via Zoom, but [sign up](#) and we'll inform you if something changes in the meantime. And get ready for more reading enjoyment as we head into 2021!



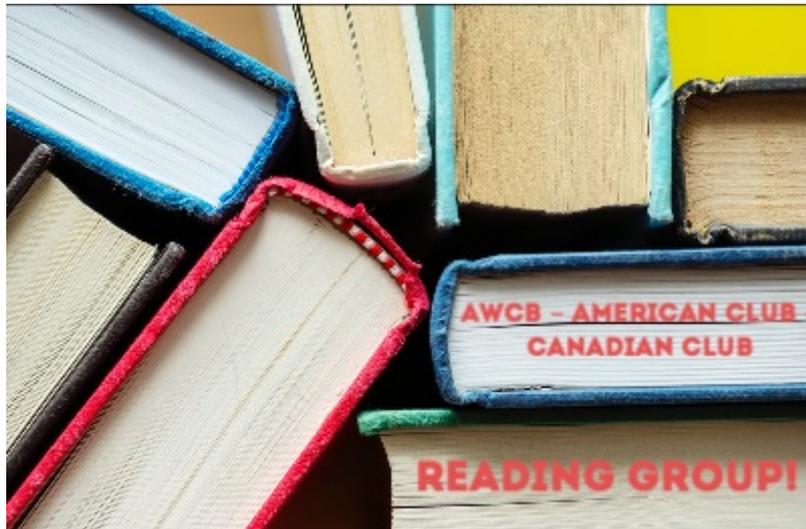
Looking for some other things to do these next few weeks?

Make a reflex to check the [Events section](#) regularly and discover some great ways to stay connected. The following events around the corner are open to AWCB members:

- **Wednesday, November 26:** [PWI \(Professional Women International\) Brussels Women and Money Seminar](#) - learn more about money management and financial independence at this third in a series of workshops

- **Saturday, November 28:** [Virtual wine tasting](#) - improve your wine knowledge with some experts!

- **Monday, December 7:** [Intro and French fun](#) - join our sponsor Go French for some simple conversation and activities *en français*



**AWCB - American Club - Canadian Club Book Club
Wednesday, December 9**

Reading reminder: **AWCB - American Club - Canadian Club Book Club** also has some upcoming get togethers (location/format TBC) and will meet on December 9 for its usual reading discussion and good conversation. New members always welcome!

The Group also has in 2021 schedule all set and is looking for good recommendations of books to carry on the tradition through the year. Got some ideas? Contact [Genevieve Bergiers](#) for more information.



FAWCO Foundation Educational Awards - January 27 deadline!

Interested in enhancing your skills? Do you have a child or grandchild that is going to university and/or has a passion to pursue?

Check out the [available grants](#) offered by FAWCO Foundation, and be sure to get started on your application(s) today as that January 27 deadline is right around the corner...! Don't miss out.

Also, be sure not to miss the latest edition of FAWCO's [Inspiring Women magazine](#) for great features, interviews, and more!

More info about FAWCO activities can be provided by our fabulous FAWCO rep [Heather Bloemperk](#)



Welcome to this new section of the newsletter! It's meant to share YOUR news with fellow members. All types of info and contributions which you'd think would be interest to fellow members are encouraged, just [let us know](#). We hope you find this section interesting and a great way to stay even more connected, informed and part of the AWCB Community!

In the memory of our past Club members:

Liliane Coucke Smith (1920-2020)

Liliane Coucke Smith, a nurse who conspired against the Nazi occupation of her native Belgium and later ministered to refugees, died at home Thursday Oct 19th with her husband of 64 years and their three children by her side. She was 100 years old on October 3rd, and her life was honored that month by Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut in an address to the US Congress.

Liliane Coucke was born in Paris of Belgian parents in 1920 and was graduated from the Universite Libre de Bruxelles in 1942 with the French education equivalent of summa cum laude. Belgium already had been occupied by Germany for two years and she was an active *resistante*. Always a gentle, amusing, and charming woman she recalled in later years among other incidents how a Wehrmacht soldier helped her with a heavy load when she was boarding a streetcar. What he didn't know was that the bulky package consisted of parts for a clandestine printing press to provide war news and anti-Nazi resistance information.

As a nurse and while the war raged, Liliane Smith accompanied advancing Allied Forces from Belgium into Germany. When the war ended, Liliane Smith was part of a United Nations team that helped resettle more than 10 mln displaced persons, many of whom had been slave laborers and concentration camp prisoners. At one point, the US Army provided a military aircraft and flew her across Germany to testify for the prosecution in a war crimes trial at Nuremberg.

She was a supervisor in setting up six refugee care centers in the American occupation zone. Liliane Smith often said her proudest professional achievement in life was that no one in her care died. Decades later, a New York City taxi driver recognized her and hugged her in gratitude for saving his life with her medical attention after his release from a concentration camp. The moment was memorialized in a New York Times letter Dec 7th, 2003.

Relevant to today's health crisis, Liliane Smith also undertook the mission of controlling contagious childhood diseases among refugees in Italy. In 1950 she accepted the position of French-English translator and interpreter to the newly created US Navy's Sixth Fleet headquarters, Naples.

At the Navy headquarters, Liliane met and married Dudley C. Smith, a Princeton graduate and US Naval officer. For many years they divided their time between the US and Europe before moving permanently to Groton Long Point, CT.

Once in the US, Liliane Smith freely shared her memories and experiences with children and adults alike. They ranged from a video interview with a fourth grade class in Alabama to talks before library groups and clubs in Connecticut. She also was interviewed at length in 2015 and 2016 for a videotaped memorial commemoration of women's contributions to the war effort. That event was a joint undertaking by the American Embassy in Belgium

and the Belgian government for a permanent record of women's achievements during World War II.

Besides her husband Liliane is survived by their son Dudley C. Smith 3d, an IT executive, and his wife Sharon, Raleigh NC; Michelle Lambeau, a conference interpreter and documentary film maker, Sedona AZ; Craig A. Smith, a medevac helicopter pilot, and his wife New London attorney Kelly Reardon, Stonington CT.; and grandchildren Kelsey and Mack.

Funeral arrangements are in the hands of Dinoto Funeral Home, Mystic CT. Services will be private. A celebration of Liliane Coucke Smith's life is planned for the spring, COVID-19 permitting. After that and in accordance with her wishes, her ashes will be scattered in the Bay of Naples beside the city where she married her husband in 1956. Eventually his ashes will join hers, Mr. Smith said.



Dorothy Gillette

Dorothy Gillette, AWCB President from 1979 to 1981, died 11 November 2020. Dorothy was a pillar of support to many activities in the American Community. Her gentle guidance helped to strengthen the American and Belgian friendships so vital to the growth and success of our Club. She directed the United Fund after her retirement from being Club President. She still found time to remain active in the ABA, as Club Treasurer, ISG Board, Cookbook editor and not least volunteer in clubhouse renovations planning. She was remembered in a private ceremony on 20 November. If you wish to send a message of support or remembrance, please write to [Club President Kelly Hogan](#) to obtain contact details.

Jeanine Susini

Jeanine Markarian Susini

*La Famille Susini a la grande tristesse de vous faire
part du décès de Jeanine Markarian Susini le
dimanche 01 Novembre 2020.*

*C'était une femme dévouée et forte, une épouse, une
soeur, une mère et une grand-mère aimante.
Elle nous manquera terriblement.*

*Si vous souhaitez faire un geste, pas de fleurs mais
vous pouvez faire un don à l'association Parkinson
en effectuant un virement au compte
IBAN: BE62-7320-4260-3461
avec en communication "Don en mémoire de Jeanine
Markarian".*

Merci pour votre soutien.



Barbara Mogg Guignard (1941-2020)

Barbara Mogg Guignard, 79, of Columbia, died Thursday, September 3, 2020. Born March 31, 1941, in Indianapolis, Indiana, she was the daughter of the late Millard E. Mogg and Juliana Bauer Lapenta. Mrs. Guignard was a 1963 graduate of Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. During her junior year, she had the unique opportunity of studying abroad for a year at The Institute of American Universities in Aix-en-Provence, France. While there, she met her future husband, James "Jim" S. Guignard. Following college, Mrs. Guignard was employed by Delta Airlines from 1966-1973 in the sales and reservations division at the Washington, DC office. Following her marriage to Jim in 1971, they spent a brief period in Washington, DC, and then relocated to Columbia in 1973.

Mrs. Guignard had a true gift for the art of entertaining and was passionate about music and travel and was a patron of the arts. She was a fabulous cook and decorator and could turn a bunch of flowers into a masterpiece, making her home resemble a page from a home and garden magazine. Barbara and Jim hosted many musical events in their home to help raise money for the Friends of the School of Music, and Barbara was the perfect hostess, coordinating every detail. She and Jim greatly enjoyed entertaining family and friends, and over the last 30 years hundreds of people graced their home. Whether it was a party, an event or just Christmas dinner, her warm and inviting manner made everyone feel special. She also loved to garden and dedicated many hours to the beautification of her yard and her special little gardens.

From 1982 to 1991 Barbara and Jim lived in Brussels, Belgium, where she was the Chairman of the Travel Committee for the American Women's Club in Brussels. During that time, she coordinated many trips for its members to places around the world, like Moscow, Tel Aviv, and Istanbul.

She was also an avid supporter of The University of South Carolina School of Music and the Columbia Music Festival Association (CMFA). Mrs. Guignard also pursued other activities within the community and was a member of the Gay Gardner's Club, English Speaking Union, and Friends of the School of Music, where she previously served on the Board of Directors. Survivors include her husband, James "Jim" S. Guignard; brother, Stephen "Steve" A. Mogg of Pensacola, FL and his children, Christopher "Chris" A. Mogg of Buda, TX and Carey Mogg Hensley of Pace, FL, and their respective children; sister, M. Lucinda "Cindy" Karra of Columbia; sister-in-law, Emilie Guignard of Columbia, her children and grandchildren; as well as her brothers-in-law, Allen Guignard and wife, Rita, of Greenville, SC, and John Bruce Guignard and wife, Claudia, of Columbia along with their children and grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepfather, Biagio Lapenta. A celebration of her life will be held at a future date at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Friends of the School of Music, c/o University of South Carolina School of Music, 813 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29208, Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community, 1 Still Hopes Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169 or Columbia Music Festival Association, 914 Pulaski Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Memories and condolences may be shared by visiting www.ShivesFuneralHome.com.

**Here's what's new with Sue:
an update from past AWCB President Sue Frick!**

"Hi All, it is wonderful to be asked to provide some information on the changes in our lives since we have left Belgium. As many of you know, we retain an apartment in the Auderghem area near St. Julien Church, and have not been able to return since last December. Definitely hoping to get there in the Spring of 2021.

In spite of this crazy year, a lot has happened in our lives. I will try to give you the highlights!

Clara Elizabeth Zander was born to my oldest daughter and her husband on April 23, 2020. She is a joy and our first grandchild. Erin has been excellent at sending pictures and videos so that we can see her development from newborn to an active infant! We are in hopes of seeing them for Thanksgiving but as Co-Vid surges in Missouri, this probably will not happen.

My husband has been working as an Intentional Interim Pastor in Northwest Missouri. COVID virus has increased his workload as he has had to learn much about technology and streaming worship services. The past music director retired from the church after 50 years of dedicated service, and most of the other fill-ins were in delicate health or not wanting a long-term position. I have been playing and singing the specials for most of the church services. We will be leaving this church after Christmas Eve services.

At the end of June, we signed a contract on a beautiful house in Osage Beach, Missouri (in the Lake of the Ozarks). After searching for over a year, we gave up on purchasing lakefront property and found the perfect house! We have spent the summer moving trailer loads to our new home, and finally moved our big items on October 26. This home is much closer to our daughter's family who live in St. Louis, as well as our youngest daughter who works at Fort Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma as an Athletic Trainer.

Our middle daughter, who teaches at the American School in Santiago, Chile has spent much of her time in the US since June. It was a joy to spend so much time with her this summer. She has been doing on-line teaching so things have worked well.

I wish you all the best for the coming year, and prayers for the end of COVID. I am excited to hear about the sale of the house which was one of the things decreed by the previous board before I became President.

Sincerely,
Sue"



Introducing Mila Elaine Chalak!



And last, but certainly not least in the Member News department, we are excited to announce our newest woman in the club: **Mila Elaine Chalak, daughter of Julie Kmet, one of our Directors at Large.** Mila was born on Saturday, September

26, 2020 at 6:37PM at St. Luc Hospital at 7lbs 10z and 49 cm. Mila is the first child and grandchild for Julie and her husband Ayman's families. Currently, at 2 months old she can hold her head up, grab for her pacifier and knows who Mama and Dad are!

Congratulations to the proud parents and welcome to the AWCB, Mila!



Volunteers (STILL) needed to help us prepare for the Clubhouse sale!

We'd never turn down your offer to help us with the Clubhouse clean out/organisation. Our standing invite is still in force, so [drop us a line](#) and we'll get in touch. Not to sound like a broken record, but we appreciate your interest and many thanks in advance!!

Thank you as always for your involvement!