

American International Women's
Club of Cologne e.V.
Milestones from 1961 to 2011

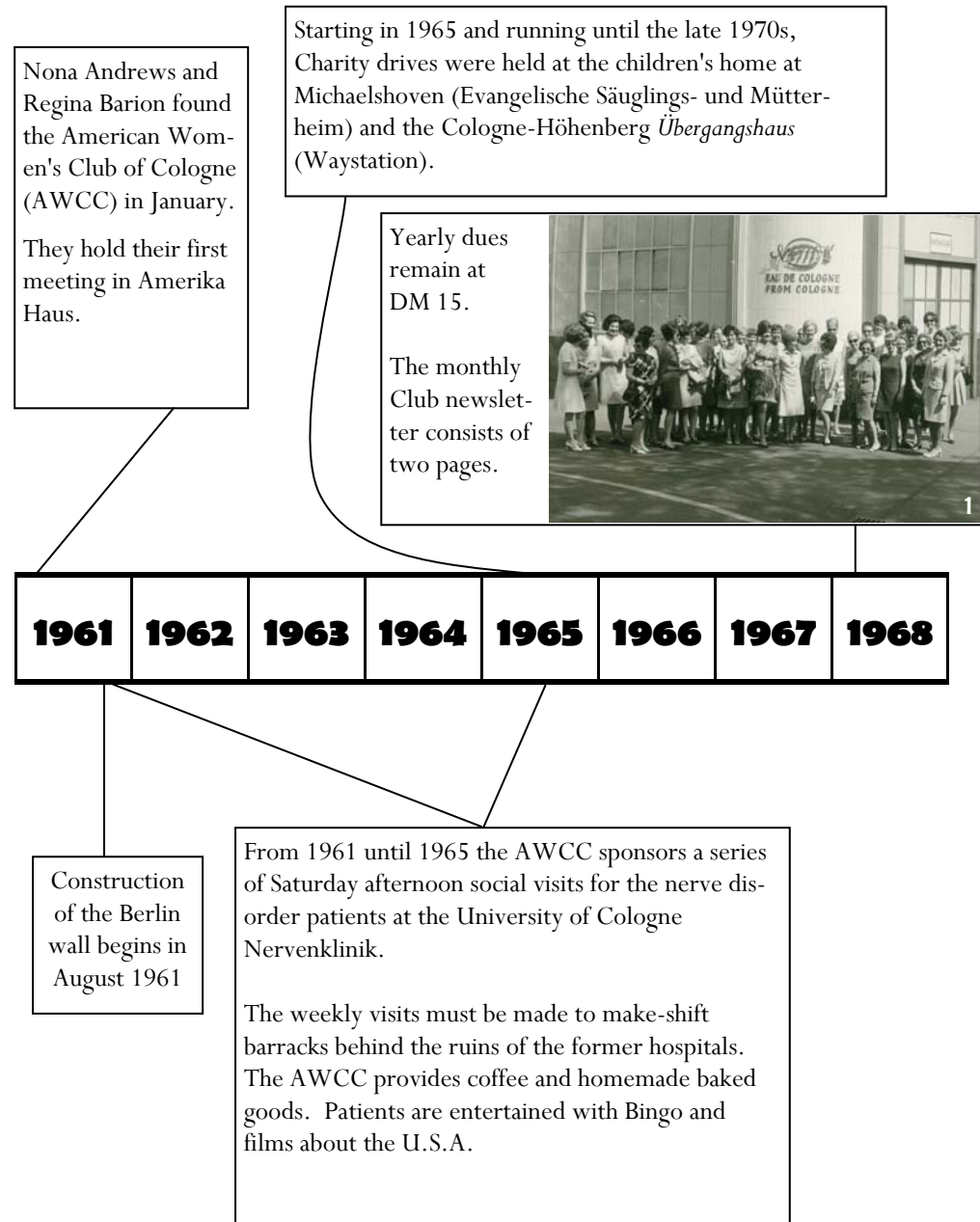
An Introduction by Sharon K. Reamer

Most of us know we are travelers through time. It becomes all too clear to us as our children grow, our hair whitens, and we begin to realize or discard the goals and dreams of our youth.

All of us are also travelers through space, although most Americans are not as acutely aware of this as expatriate Americans. We have left homes and relatives in the U.S. to start new lives –for a few months or years, for decades, sometimes for a lifetime – in foreign countries around the globe. It is instructive and often inspiring to look back, and marvel at the small area of space we—as AIWCC members—have carved as part of our journey on planet Earth.

I learned a great deal about my Club and our place – in both space and time – while Robin Goldsby and I perused the notebooks full of photographs and memorabilia collected and lovingly preserved by AIWCC/AWCC archivists over the past five decades. I hope you enjoy this timeline, constructed in part from the 45th Anniversary Brochure (provided by Cynthia Lehmann) and including a wealth of enhancements provided by our current archivist, Lynda Rosenkranz.

What I've learned has made me proud to be a fellow traveler with all of you AIWCC members. Here's hoping the Club will persevere and thrive for the next fifty years and beyond.



AWCC joins FAWCO, the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas.

The Belgium Army Officers' "Club Astoria" is generously made available for AWCC special events.

AWCC celebrates its 10th anniversary with a gala dinner at the American Embassy Club in Bonn. Club membership reaches sixty-seven.

Charter Member, Edith Kulhavy is elected FAWCO Vice President.

The AWCC Arts Program offers monthly guided tours in English of local museums and other local cultural attractions.



From 1984 to 1987 the 'Tanker War' between Iran and Iraq catalyzes the first major oil crisis of the 1980's.

1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
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As part of the activities of the FAWCO Interim Meeting in Düsseldorf, AWCC hosts the representatives for a day in Cologne that includes a reception with Cologne's mayor (John van Nes Ziegler, known as 'Big John') at the *Altes Rathaus*.



The Club bulletin jumps to six pages. Due to the economic crisis brought on by oil shortages, fewer American companies are bringing managers to Germany. AWCC membership drops to forty-three.

AWCC celebrates its 20th Anniversary at Club Astoria.

AWCC hosts Düsseldorf FAWCO representatives for a day in Cologne.



Club membership shoots up to ninety-two.

AWCC's first "Women's Night Out" event takes place and is an immediate success.

An AWCC June luncheon at the American Embassy Club in Bonn marks the Club's last social event at this venue. The American Embassy hosted many Club events, so that its relocation to the new capitol in Berlin marks the end of an era, both for American diplomats and for Club members.

Berlin becomes Germany's new capitol and seat of the federal government. Embassies begin the move to Berlin.

AWCC hosts the first FAWCO regional meeting for Germany at Hotel Lyskirchen.

October 3, 1990, West and East Germany are reunited.

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
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AWCC celebrates its 25th anniversary with a luncheon at Cologne's *Ratskeller*.



AWCC publishes its first brochure!
AWCC celebrates its 30th anniversary with a champagne brunch at the Embassy Club in Bonn.

AWCC celebrates its 35th anniversary with a festive luncheon followed by coffee and cake at the Cologne Flora. Members donated DM 1,000 for the Children's Hospital Cancer Wing in Cologne (photo below).



The AWCC bulletin grows from six pages to twenty-four pages. Bulk mailing streamlines the delivery of the bulletin to Club members.

The official Club year changes from January through December to July through June.

The first monthly 'morning coffee' attracts younger members with small children.



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The AWCC bulletin is greatly improved by the availability of digital printing technology. The bulletin page count now averages between thirty-two and forty pages.

The AWCC Executive board expands to include a FAWCO Representative and Membership Chair.

AWCC membership exceeds 100!

AWCC hosts its third annual charity gala at the Excelsior Hotel Ernst. This year's gala raises €11,000 for the Ronald McDonald Elternhaus (photo right).

Club activities expand to surrounding areas, including Bonn. There are a total of twenty-five activities each month.



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Membership exceeds 200 and includes women with nationalities from twenty-nine countries.

The AWCC Executive Board expands to include a Charities Chair. The charities committee initiates various fund-raising activities (photo left).



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2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
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The AWCC website launches in February.

AWCC celebrates its 40th anniversary with a dinner dance at the Cologne Wolkenburg in June (photo below).

Security precautions ramped up at Amerika Haus, Cologne after the September 11th attacks which immediately eliminates opportunities for the Club to utilize Amerika Haus resources. AWCC formerly held many meetings and events at Amerika Haus over the Club's forty year history.



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AWCC celebrates its 45th anniversary at Limone Opera Restaurant.

The first annual charity ball is held at Bootshaus Albatros, Rodenkirchen.

The press room for the Berlin FAWCO conference celebrating the organization's 75th anniversary is organized by AWCC members.

An overwhelmingly positive vote at the AGM approves registering AWCC as a *gemeinnütziger eingetragener Verein* (e.V.), the equivalent of a non-profit club, in the city of Cologne.

The AWCC Charity Gala is held at Bootshaus Albatros, Rodenkirchen.

AWCC achieves e.V. (non-profit club) status.

A membership survey is conducted to analyze member wants and expectations.



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AWCC becomes an Associate Member of Amerika Haus NRW e.V.

The Club receives the Ambassador's Certificate of Appreciation (photo left).

The AWCC 4th annual Charity Gala at the Excelsior Hotel Ernst raises €8,000 for Diakonie Michaelshoven. The pilot project includes the purchase of a new mobile crisis

bus offering services to women in danger of domestic violence.

Club members vote to change the Club name to the American *International* Women's Club of Cologne in recognition of the diversity and background of Club members. A new Club logo is also approved and introduced at the AGM.



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2009	2010	2011
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The AIWCC 5th annual Charity Gala at the Excelsior Hotel Ernst raises €14,000 for Kinderhospiz Balthasar to underwrite clown therapy for one year for inpatient children (photo below).



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AIWCC proudly celebrates its 50th anniversary with two special events. The 6th annual Charity Gala which raises €5,700 benefiting the FAWCO Development Grant: The Right to Food & Water (photo above). Also, a 50th Anniversary High Tea at Schloßhotel Lerbach in March.

A Message from U.S. Consul General Janice G. Weiner

These were Consul General Weiner's opening remarks for the 50th Anniversary Charity Gala celebration of the American International Women's Club of Cologne, on Saturday, January 29, 2011

Julie Holter, Lieber Oberbürgermeister Roters, Ladies and *your* Gentlemen, all of you gathered here this evening at the hotel Excelsior Ernst.

First of all, thank you so much for the invitation. It's an honor to be able to celebrate with all of you the 50th Anniversary of the American International Women's Club of Cologne.

Fifty years – that's a long time! When I started to think about fifty years of history, the first thing that occurred to me was to look back fifty years and remember where the world was then.

It was 1961 –Konrad Adenauer – who hailed from Cologne and had been Lord Mayor of Cologne –was Chancellor of Germany; John F. Kennedy was President.

1961 was the year the Berlin Wall went up; and it was the year Kennedy issued his famous challenge, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

As a result, the Peace Corps and Vista were founded; As a result, we started a program to land a man on the moon. It was quite a year.

Think for a minute how different Germany was then—divided, the height of the Cold War; how different the US was—

there had been no Civil Rights Movement, no March on Washington, there was still segregation in the south. There was no color television, let alone laptop computers, Internet and Facebook, CDs or DVDs.

We have all come a long way since 1961—together. The transatlantic relationship has grown and developed; a unified Germany is now a true and valued partner of the US, as together we face challenges around the globe.

We invest in each other's countries; we rely on each other; we share the same values. And through that period of building—rebuilding Germany, rebuilding Europe, building the transatlantic relationship —the American International Women's Club of Cologne has been there.

It's a remarkable history in a remarkable city throughout a remarkable time.

Like Germany and the U.S., you have changed and grown with the times, you've helped Cologne through your charity work, you've helped each other, and helped many expatriates feel at home.

Here's to the next fifty! Zum Wohl! Enjoy the evening!