

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUBS NEWS

North American Connection (NAC)

West Midlands

Summer is here at last which means it's actually the beginning of our new membership year at the NAC which runs from beginning of June to the end of May. Looking back at the past several months, we can't believe how fast this year has gone! We've had so many fun social events, with many of them raising money for our chosen charity for the year June 2016 to May 2017, which was MacMillan Cancer Support. We have also delightedly welcomed new members this past year into our increasing West Midlands expat family.

Our last charity event for the year was 'Cinco de Mayo' held at a member's home. We decorated the house and garden in festive colours and lights and served lots of home made Mexican food and some fabulous frozen margaritas! We invited our spouses and our British friends to join us and over 50 of us ate and drank and danced to Mexican and Spanish music, and then settled down for a fun American & British pub style quiz. We raised over £1,300 on the evening for MacMillan Cancer Support through drink sales, quiz entries and a raffle.



This year we have so many more events to look forward to, including our family 4th July celebration taking place on the Sunday before. We're looking forward to a great American style barbecue with face painting and games for the kids. We also have our usual coffee mornings, pub lunches and dinner evenings lined up. Plus, some interesting book club meetings, craft days, theatre nights and day excursions to enjoy. Last but not least, we have scheduled in several of our very popular and lively Bunco charity nights for the coming year! If you live in the West Midlands area and haven't found us yet, we would love to meet you! Most of us are women from the United States or Canada, but we welcome other expatriates too, and anyone with a particular connection or interest in joining. We are a diverse group ranging from short to long-term expats and also have quite a few 'lififers', expats who have chosen to settle here in the UK permanently! We live in the West Midlands with members reaching as far as an hour radius outside Birmingham, including Solihull, Leamington Spa, Lichfield, Stratford upon Avon, Worcester and Oxford. Please do come along to one of our events to see if you would be interested in joining us as a member. You can find out more about us by visiting www.naconnect.com

KCWC

Are you new to London or interested in attending lectures from leading experts, enjoying exclusive experiences, and meeting new friends? Then KCWC is a great starting point. As one of London's longest established and largest women's organisations, we have more than 800 British and international members from over 52 countries.

Each month KCWC holds a General Meeting with a high profile guest speaker at a prime London location. Past speakers have included HRH Princess Michael of Kent, Anthony Geffen, Zac Goldsmith, Earl Spencer, Anton Du Beke, Alexandra Shulman and Jo Malone.

The meetings are a good way to meet other members, sign up for activities, enjoy listening to a keynote speaker and join fellow members for an optional lunch at a prestigious local restaurant afterwards. The General Meetings are also a great opportunity to know more about discounts and promotions offered by our preferred partners as they display their products and offers at our showcase tables. KCWC members benefit from special discounts on these showcase tables.

In addition to the General Meetings, KCWC also offers approximately 35 activities. These

are organised by members who volunteer their time and skills by running a wide variety of weekly and monthly activities. Topics include history, culture, art, design, fashion, music, theatre, local tours, UK and international travel, special events, technology, sports, golf, tennis, languages, arts and crafts, food, dining, wine tasting, book and lecture groups, country walks, bridge, feng shui, and much more.

There are also a variety of evening and weekend activities which working women can enjoy. These include theatre, happy hour, dining out, jazz and music appreciation, evening speakers, and special events. For those interested in making a difference in the community, KCWC's Volunteers for Charity group works with several local charitable organisations. There is so much on offer at KCWC and members get to discover London while making new friends at the same time.

Recent Highlights

Our April General Meeting featured guest speaker Alexandra Shulman, former Editor of British Vogue and author of the recent book *Inside Vogue: A Diary of My 100th Year* in conversation with renowned interior designer Nicky Haslam. Also in April, we distributed Easter gift baskets to Befriending Plus and the Wandsworth Foodbank, and our Special Events team hosted members for an evening of pampering and luxury treatments at Harrods' Urban Retreat.

In May, our keynote speaker was Jo Malone, the founder of Jo Malone London and Jo Loves. She delighted members with stories from her life, from humble beginnings to building two internationally renowned fragrance brands. KCWC's June General Meeting was held at the Roof Gardens in Kensington with guest speaker Emma Manners, Duchess of Rutland. The Duchess spoke about the fascinating history of Belvoir Castle with a focus on how she has been painstakingly restoring its gardens to Capability Brown's original plans. The meeting was followed by KCWC's annual luncheon where department store Fenwick of Bond Street presented a fashion show on The Summer Look.

Meanwhile, our activity leaders welcomed the beginning of spring with a full programme of activities and events.

Following their successful spring 2016 World War II lecture series, the British History group walked from London Bridge to Rotherhithe for a two-mile stroll through some of the city's most historic areas, after which they lunched at the historic Mayflower pub. The London Walks and Treasures group toured



KCWC General Meetings at the Royal Geographical Society



KCWC April General Meeting Speaker Alexandra Shulman in conversation with Nicky Haslam



KCWC Volunteers for Charity prepare Easter baskets for the community



KCWC May General Meeting Speaker Jo Malone with KCWC President Catia Dal Poz

Jewish Hampstead and Woodberry Down, and Country Walks hit the trails from Milford to Godalming in search of bluebells.

The Antiques and Design group visited the collections of Clive Christian Perfume Town House Mayfair and also toured Crosby Hall on the Embankment. Contemporary Art Club visited art galleries in Fitzrovia, while Art History hosted lectures on the Russian Revolution, Giacometti, and Michelangelo and Sebastiano. Classical Music and Opera visited Wigmore Hall, one of the world's great concert halls, to hear award-winning keyboard virtuoso Kristian Bezuidenhout and Classical Opera's period orchestra perform Mozart's earliest keyboard concertos.

The After Six in the City group hosted a dinner at the riverside Sea Containers Restaurant at the Mondrian Hotel, in addition to a series of evening lectures at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Foodies enjoyed cooking classes on the topics of Polish cakes and French sauces and basic knife techniques.

Theatre group attended performances of *42nd Street*, *An American in Paris*, *The Kid Stays in the Picture*, and *Don Juan* in Soho. Travel group visited Petworth House in the South Downs, and also travelled to Lisbon and Sintra in Portugal and Bologna and Ravenna in Italy.

Upcoming Events

Though summer holidays are upon us, KCWC's activity leaders have plenty of activities planned for the warmer months. The Country Walks group will hit the trails from Hassocks to Lewes on the South Downs Way, and London Walks & Treasures will learn about the regeneration of the new river from Woodberry Down to Woodberry Park. The Dog Walking group will explore London's parks with their four-legged companions, including outings to Hampstead Heath and Richmond along the Thames Path.

Antiques & Design will host a lecture on Jade: The Chinese Jewel, and Classical Music & Opera will visit the historic St John's Smith Square to enjoy one of Mozart's first operas, 'Apollo et Hyacinthus'.

Foodies and After Six in the City will co-host an Asian Fusion Cooking Demo, and After Six in the City will host dinners at Bank Restaurant and Bar as well as BBAR in the Rubens Hotel. Wine Society will visit Boodles Gentleman's Club for a Californian/French Fine Wine Pairing Dinner with wine critic Steven Spurrier. The Wine

Society and Foodies will co-host an evening exploring the delights of Sicilian cuisine and wine.

British History has planned a lecture on Women in the Frame at the National Portrait Museum. In the autumn, British History's popular History of London course returns and over several weeks it will cover the development of the city from Roman times to present day.

Learn More About KCWC

KCWC General Meetings are open to non-members for a guest fee of £10, redeemable if joining on the day. The meetings are usually held on the first or second Thursday of each month between September and June. Prospective members are welcome to attend a Coffee Morning or a Happy Hour where guests can come along for an informal chat over coffee or a drink and enjoy the company of other international women. There is no need to pre-register to attend a Hospitality event and the cost is your own tab. For further information please contact potential@kcwc.org.uk or visit the website: www.kcwc.org.uk. To join KCWC, please visit www.kcwc.org.uk and click on Join Us or email potential@kcwc.org.uk.

Save The Date

September General Meeting:
Thursday, 21 September 2017,
Royal Geographical Society,
1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
9:30am -12pm.

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American Women's Club of London (AWC)

"Summertime is always the best of what might be" Charles Bowden.

What a fantastic time of year it is, to be outside visiting gardens, taking in some of London's great Museums, travelling to some far away land or volunteering at a local charity close to home. If you are new to London, the AWC can help you settle in, answer all of those crazy questions, help you transition into the new area and all the while making some wonderful friendships along the way!

The American Women's Club of London, the AWC, is an international organisation that helps members meet and greet other women to form true friendships. Our mission is to provide social, cultural, educational and philanthropic activities for our members living in and around London. We have some perfect opportunities coming up this summer for you to learn more about the club and make some new friends! At the Soup Kitchen the AWC volunteers help prepare and serve food, coffee and tea, as well as pass out clothes to homeless and marginally homed, elderly, and poor individuals. AWC's volunteers work under the direction of the Kitchen Manager for food prep and serving, and with a church employee in handing out clothing and toiletries from the Clothes Closet. On July 3rd, 17th or 31st team up with other ladies and feel great by the end of the day. Have you ever wanted to experience a traditional British pub quiz, but didn't think you would know any of the answers? Well, this is your chance! Our fabulous quizmaster, Adam from AdVenture Quizzes, will be creating a truly special quiz just for us, so no need to study up on premier league soccer or 1000 years of British history. And it's not just a bunch of trivia - some of the challenges are visual, musical, and even edible! He will also put your puzzle-solving skills to the test and literally keep you guessing. What quirky questions will he come up with this time? Win or lose, you are guaranteed to



have fun! On Saturday, July 29th and Saturday, September 23rd, join us in the private room in the back of the charming Queen's Head pub. We will compete in teams of 4-6 people, with multiple opportunities to win prizes. Partners and guests are welcome, and food and drink will be available for purchase at the pub. This is a popular event, so sign up early!

Our biggest fundraiser- Founder's Day Gala that took place at the end of April, was an incredible event! It took place at the Hippodrome Casino and was themed "Casino Royale"! The tickets included four drinks (welcome prosecco and three beers/wine or soft drinks), hors d'oeuvres, gaming tournament and live entertainment. In addition, there was a silent auction to benefit the AWC with plenty of alluring items. The attire for the evening was Bond themed and it was a smashing success!

Are you a big fan of beer, new friends and exploring fun neighbourhoods? If so, meet us on any of the Thursdays for a weekly pub meet up. We try to explore a new neighbourhood every week, so stay tuned for where it'll take place next. No RSVP required. On Thursday, August 10 join us on a private tour of Frogmore House and Savill Gardens. They are located within Windsor Home Park, the private park adjacent to Windsor Castle. It is open to the public a small number of dates each year known as Charity Open Days, which usually take place in June, except during the month of August, when applications for tours are brisk. A short taxi ride from Frogmore lays The Savill Garden, where we will enjoy lunch in the café before setting out to explore. The 35 acres of interconnected gardens include the Hidden Gardens, Spring Wood, the Summer Gardens, the New Zealand Garden, Summer Wood, The Glades, Autumn Wood and the Winter Beds. Sir Eric Savill first created this woodland garden in the 1930s, and since then many others have undertaken a tireless quest to add their own expertise and creativity. The Rose Garden in particular, designed by Andrew Wilson and opened by H.M. the Queen in 2010, is a magnificent addition. Visitors can wander the swirls of rose beds, and enjoy the perfume at its best from a central walkway.

If you like to travel, then why not spend the last few days of summer in the charming Italian town of Verona. See the ancient Roman arena where gladiators once spilled each other's blood on the sand. There will also be visits to Giotto's amazing 14th century masterpiece, the Scrovegni Chapel in Padova, and Palladio's remarkable neo-classical architecture in Vicenza, as well as the serene waters of beautiful Lake Garda. Verona is also the medieval setting for Romeo and Juliet, with its own Casa di Giulietta on whose balcony romantics from around the world act out the play's famous scenes. The trip will take place on Monday, September 18th, coming back on Thursday, September 21st.

Join us for a "New Member Wine and Cheese Party" on Wednesday, July 26th, from 7pm till 8pm. No need to explain this event! It's a great

way to meet new friends, current members and do a little socialising! Come and learn more about the Club and London and mellow out with a glass of wine. It is open to everyone and please RSVP - we hate it when we run out of wine! It's at the AWC Office on 68 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3LQ.

If evenings don't work, then come along on Tuesday, July 11th at 10:00 am for a "New Member Coffee". It is, just what it says, a coffee for women who are thinking about joining and want to know a little bit more about the Club. It's a great way to meet members or make a new friend. It's in this safe environment that you can ask all those silly questions we all have about being new and living in a new country. The coffee is open to everyone, but please RSVP so we have enough coffee and pastries! It's very casual and at the AWC Office on 68 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3LQ.

Each month we host a meeting with a special guest speaker to provide members with an opportunity to learn something new! We also use the time to talk about the AWC club news and upcoming events, and of course, it is always fun to see and meet other women in a social environment. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, July, 25th, from 10am till 12pm. The guest speaker is Helen Sanderson who will teach us how we can easily declutter our homes and bring calm to our lives. Helen began her career as a painter and fine artist, and through this developed her interest in creating calming and inspiring spaces. She also has a background in psychotherapy, giving her a unique combination of skills and experience. She works as a personal declutter coach, dealing with each person's mindset and individual situation, not just their clutter. In 2005, she set up Quiet Room Designs (now Ministry of Calm) and has worked with the NHS, Marie Curie Cancer Care, The Ministry of Justice, and Guardian News and Media. She will talk about the positive and transformative effects that decluttering has on people's lives and how it can meet an individual's need not only for physical organisation, but also for emotional and spiritual order. She will bring practical tips and advice on how to undertake this task, and how to create wellbeing, peace, and order in one's home and life.

The meeting will take place at the Marriott Kensington Hotel, 147c Cromwell Road, Kensington, London SW5 0TH. For more information and to RSVP please email awc@awclondon.org or call 020 7589 8292.

There really is no need to look further! Join the AWC and you can take advantage of all the events and activities on offer throughout the year.

For more information about these events and to RSVP, or for more information about the Club in general, come by the AWC office at 68 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3LQ or call and talk to Lauren, our Office Manager, on 020 7589 8292, or check out the website at www.awclondon.org or email the office awc@awclondon.org. No matter how you look at it the AWC is a great resource and a wonderful way to make some new friendships!