

AMERICAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF ROME

THE FORUM

FALL 2023



THE AWAR FORUM FALL 2023 EDITION

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Melissa Cicci (page 9) served formerly as AWAR's Board Secretary. She has been actively involved in the organization in various roles since joining in 2018. Melissa is in the travel business and is frequently on the road to far-flung locales, including visits to her family in the U.S.

Dorothy Dowling (page 10) has been an AWAR member for more than 30 years, serving as First Vice President, President for two terms, and Historian. She organized AWAR's Professionals and launched the AWAR archive project.

Elizabeth Barsanti (page 17) has been an AWAR member since 1974.

Deborah Shayne (page 20) is a long time resident in Rome and member of AWAR. She has been an English teacher for all of her life and now loves designing and fooling around with paper.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, I am pleased to be the new editor of the Forum.

In preparation for this role, I spent time reviewing past editions of the Forum and speaking with Maureen Fant. Maureen did such a fabulous job with the Forum and I hope to continue providing the quality that you have come to expect from her. (Maureen has promised to stay involved, which is a great relief for all of us). It is not my intention to have the Forum undergo major changes, but there will be some formatting changes as well as the frequency will be reduced to three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) to better align with AWAR's activity schedule.

As I am new to many of you, I want to introduce myself. I moved to Rome in September of last year after living my entire life in the US, mostly in the Midwest (Indiana and Ohio with a three-year diversion in Washington, DC). I was born in Indiana and spent most of my career there as an attorney, working in the very exciting field of Utility regulation. Even I yawn at that. When I turned 50, I started thinking about what the next chapter of my life should look like. Over a conversation and a glass of wine or two with a friend, we discussed what we would do in life in money and talent were no obstacle.

If I spoke the language, I told my friend, I would move to Rome. He challenged me and I started to learn Italian, which remains an ongoing pursuit. I went to law school in my 30's so I was used to sweeping changes in life. As an aside,

my friend, a lawyer also, said he would leave the practice of law and turn to a career on the stage. He is the process of making that transition.

I have been here a year and I am now a proud Roman, spending days among beauty and art and navigating, successfully and unsuccessfully, the bureaucracy. If you want to spend a day exploring and eating, let me know.



Because AWAR consists of people new to Rome as well as people who have been here for many years, I want to make sure that the Forum is relevant to all members, as well as provide information about all of the AWAR activities and events. If you have ideas, concerns, suggestions, complaints or just want to chat, please reach out at editor@AWAR.org. If you want to meet for aperitivo, so much the better.

In this edition of the Forum, we are providing a preview of the upcoming year's activities as well as current information on obtaining a driver's license. We have a movie review, a couple of art reviews, a travelogue, and thoughts on transitions.

Ciao, Melanie

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear AWAR Members,

Welcome back to a brand new exciting 2023-2024 AWAR season!

We kicked off our 2023-2024 year with a return to Villa Taverna last Thursday. I was so pleased that over one-hundred were able to attend and that we were able to welcome new members at the beautiful residence of the American Ambassador. The new Ambassador, Jack Markell, along with his wife Carla, welcomed us with kind and inspiring words.

The feedback has been overwhelming positive and I think it bodes well for the coming year.

We have a lot of great events planned this year, including the return of monthly morning coffee and monthly evening aperitivi. Watch your email for updates on various events.

Last year AWAR made many great changes to our wonderful organization

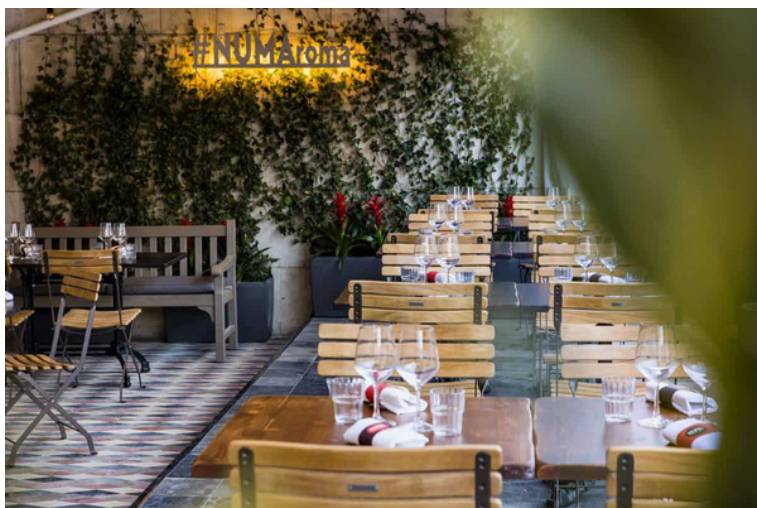
that has poised our organization for the future, and the modern and forward-thinking woman.

Change isn't always easy, but I've been proud and honored on how supportive the AWAR membership has been throughout the process of digitization, the move to becoming a green and paperless organization, and the updating of our Constitution and Bylaws and Practices and Guidelines.

Last year we had a wonderful cohesive and hard-working Board and I'm pleased that this year the 2023-2024 Board is equally so! We have great plans for the coming year, including a goal of doubling our membership. We hope each and every one of you members will help us achieve this goal!

Warm regards,

Wendy Holloway
AWAR President 2023-2024



MONTHLY MEETINGS

UTE WINKLER | EVENTS CHAIR

Our monthly general meetings kicked off with a bang at Villa Taverna. But if you missed the first gathering, don't fear, we have some great events coming in the year ahead:

Brunch, NUMA al Circo,

Viale Aventino, 20, Saturday, October 28, 11:00 am

Thanksgiving Dinner at Casa Mia

Via Simeto 15, Tuesday, November 21, 7:30 pm

Holiday Party at Casa Bleve

Thursday, December 7, 7:30 pm

Hold the date for the following meetings in 2024. Details to come!

Thursday, January 18, Evening

Thursday, April 18, Lunch

Saturday, February 17, Lunch

Thursday, May 23, Evening

Thursday, March 21, Evening

Thursday, June 13, Evening

ACTIVITIES

COFFEE BREAK

We are resuming our morning coffees on the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am. Join us at Mark your calendars and join us for a nice morning break on the following dates:



VIVI BISTROT

Palazzo Bonaparte, Piazza Venezia, 5

October 3	March 5
November 7	April 2
December 5	May 7
January 9	June 4
February 6	

MONTHLY APERITIVI

AWAR is also organizing regular monthly aperitivi. Locations will vary, but the first gathering (postponed from last week) will be at a charming vinoteca in Prati, so come have a glass of wine!

VINOTECA TEMPERE PRATI

Via Giuseppe Gioachino Belli, 70

Thursday, October 19, 7:30 pm

Please RSVP through the event calendar at awar.org.



KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

As women, we face diverse and unique health concerns across our life that may affect our overall health and wellness.

Here are some numbers to know:

BLOOD PRESSURE

Your blood pressure reading will fall into one of these four categories:

NORMAL

Blood pressure readings of less than 120/80 millimeters of mercury, or mmHg

ELEVATED

Readings consistently ranging from 120–129 systolic and less than 80 mmHg diastolic

HYPERTENSION STAGE 1

Readings ranging from 130–139 systolic or 80–89 mmHg diastolic

HYPERTENSION STAGE 2

Readings consistently ranging at 140/90 mmHg or higher

CHOLESTEROL

Healthy levels of cholesterol differ, depending on your age and sex:

PEOPLE 19 AND YOUNGER

LDL cholesterol is less than 110 milligrams and HDL is more than 45 milligrams.

MEN 20 AND OLDER

LDL cholesterol is less than 100 milligrams and HDL is more than 40 milligrams.

WOMEN 20 AND OLDER

LDL cholesterol is less than 100 milligrams and HDL is more than 50 milligrams.

Source: Mayo Clinic Health





"BARBIE"

BY MELISSA CICCIO

The Barbie phenomenon just keeps on rolling. At the end of September, Barbie had grossed an estimated \$3.4 billion dollars in 73 international territories. This is the first time a movie directed by a woman alone has reached this commercial threshold I'm in awe of 40-year-old Greta Gerwig.

I hadn't planned on seeing Barbie. I never played with dolls (baby dolls or Barbies). And the pre- and post-opening hype was so intense that I thought the movie couldn't possibly live up to its expectations. I'm usually disappointed after reading too many glowing, gushing reviews in advance.

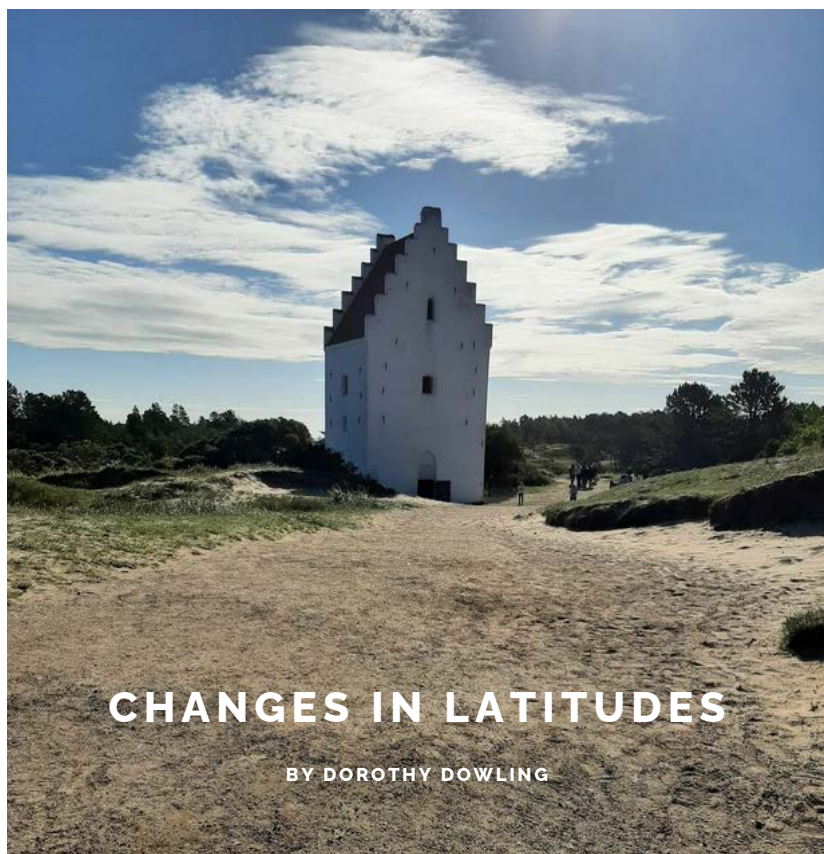
But I gave in to the hype and invited my mother to see it with me for her 86th birthday. Not only did it exceed my expectations,

but I laughed, cried, hugged my mother, and left the theater feeling elated, joyful, and in a seriously good mood. I'm also in awe of all the men (Mattel execs, actors, producers), who green lit, supported, and came along for the ride on a movie with such beautiful girl power.

Greta Gerwig is a marvel (the opening scene alone is worth the price of admission); Margot Robbie is not just a beautiful blonde; Ryan Gosling is a scream, and yes, a hunk; Kate McKinnon is hilarious; and America Ferrera pulls off one of the best monologues ever about being a woman.

I still don't look good in pink, but I plan to see this one again. With my husband.





CHANGES IN LATITUDES

BY DOROTHY DOWLING

Horace Greeley had no idea that by uttering the phrase "Go west, young man" so many young men and women would not only go west, but east, north and south as well. Traveling gives us insights to cultures, natural wonders, modern inventions and much more. In addition to learning how to become patient.

Case in point: I was booked on a fjord cruise, and looked forward to seeing a number of Norwegian fjords and getting a bit of respite from this hot, hot Roman summer. Ah, a bit of cooler temperatures.

We boarded in Kiel, and discovered that the passenger terminals there had roofs covered in soil and plants, in support of natural means of heating and cooling. After a couple of days, we inched our way (as only a huge pass-



enger ship can do) into the fjord at Geiranger, oohing and aahing over the numerous waterfalls and lush vegetation before us. Fully prepared for the day with sweaters, jacket, walking shoes and folding umbrella, Geiranger was a delight. My admiration for bus drivers grew by leaps and bounds, as they very courteously did a dance on the roads, giving and receiving precedence as was the case. As I was later on my way back to the ship, an alert appeared on my phone concerning weather conditions. And then another one

appeared, advising people not to travel. By then all passengers were already back on board, as we had scheduled to stop at Maløy the next day, which is the western-most point of Norway, and home to hardy Norwegians. But in the meantime the captain of the ship was monitoring the storm Hans that was brewing and blowing and decided that we would be safer seeking calmer waters.

After a day of sailing (and being rocked to sleep at night by the waves) we arrived in Aarhus. And discovered that they have a wonderful system of volunteers – whenever there is a

TRAVELOGUE

festival or a ship in port, these generous souls wear a vest over their clothes to indicate they are volunteers, and hand out maps and provide information on what to see and where to go. Most of them are retired persons, and they do this to help out. Hats off to them, they were all smiling and welcoming and proud of their town.

So we headed to Denmark, and two places I had never even heard of, Aarhus and Skagen. On the way, the seas were indeed very rough and we learned that Hans wreaked havoc in Norway, with many needing to be evacuated and homes destroyed.

I was able to visit the church (formerly Catholic but later Lutheran). Some of the original religious paintings have now been restored and offer color to the stark white walls. The town also pays tribute with a number of statues to those who worked hauling coal. The following day we were in Skagen (and I learned how to pronounce it correctly!) and walked out on the sand to the point where the North Sea meets the Baltic Sea (and yes, the winds were fierce). There is also a church that has been half-buried in the sand (they had problems with

climate back in the 1600s too) and has more recently been excavated half-way. Many on board complained that they didn't get to Maloy and Stavanger. True, but we traveled safely and were still able to see new places. Modern communication technology means that procedures are set up and implemented to ensure our well-being and safety. A fundamental part of traveling is learning to accept that Mother Nature (and sometimes other forces) have other ideas. It's up to us to take positive thoughts with us or complain. Can't wait for the next trip – my suitcase is always half-ready.

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GETTING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

BY MELANIE PRICE

If you are new to Italy and you come from the United States, you have one year from the date of your residency to obtain a driver's license if you intend to drive in here. For the first year, you can drive with an American license, so long as you have an international license (a translation of your American license, obtained from AAA).

In my first year in Rome, I have encountered many people who have never taken the step to get an Italian driver's license and have been driving for years with only their US license. These people are braver than I am, my friend. If you are caught without an Italian driver's license after your first year, you can face hefty fines or worse (plenty of people have shared their horror stories). It is better to just suck it up and get your license.

The first step in the process is passing a notoriously difficult written test, in Italian (There are two exceptions: in the Valle d'Aosta the test may be taken in French, and in South Tyrol the test may be taken in German). as well as a driving test. The written test is known as a "theory test" and if you do an online search, you will come across many horror stories. Not to fear, says someone who is starting to study for the test. There are many online resources and autoscuole to help prepare you for the process. There are also many apps and translations to assist you in your preparation.

The theoretical tests come in the form of a quiz on a computer and all the questions are in Italian. Books with test questions are available at bookshops in Italian only; although most driving schools will have have English translations for sale. You can also find resources online and at Amazon.it. Currently, the theory test has 30 true or false questions that you must complete in 20 minutes. If, God forbid, you have more than three answers

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT WITHOUT AN ITALIAN DRIVER'S LICENSE AFTER YEAR ONE, YOU CAN FACE HEFTY FINES, OR WORSE.

LIVING IN ROME

wrong, you have failed the exam and will have to wait a month before you can retake it.

Once you pass the theory test, then you get your pink sheet (foglio rosa), which allows you to practice on the road. The law requires you to have at least six hours of driver's lessons accompanied by a qualified and authorized instructor. When you think you are ready, you can apply to take the driving test, which takes the better part of a day. As if all of this is not stressful enough, you are allowed take three driving tests in total, and two of any one type: for instance, if you pass

the theory test the first time, you have two chances to complete the practical exam; if you fail the theoretical test twice, the foglio rosa is no longer valid and you have to start over.

The good news is that, if you are under 50, your license is good for 10 years. If you are 50-70, the license is good for 5 years. If you plan to be a bus driver, you have to be under 60 years. So much for my dreams of life as an Italian bus driver.

As I am still in my first year, I have not yet obtained my driver's license, but I am starting the process. I have friends who have driver's licenses, so if they can do it, so can I. I hope.





PICASSO RETURNS TO ROME

BY MELANIE PRICE

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Pablo Picasso's Death and the 70th anniversary of an important exhibition in Rome, Galleria Nazionale D'arte Moderna e Contemporanea has curated an exhibition of over 300 of his artworks through 5 November, 2023. The exhibition consists of drawings and paintings, as well as correspondence, photos, and press clippings from 1953, when Picasso came to Rome to preview paintings and sculptures at the Galleria Nazionale.

A friend and I recently went to the exhibition on a Friday morning. If this is your first time in the Galleria Nazionale, it is a worthwhile endeavor to wander the first floor of the

museum, which has artworks from the 1800s. However, I would suggest that you leave plenty of time for the second floor, where you will find a trove of Picasso drawings and paintings. The Picasso exhibition has an impressive and expansive coll-

GALLERIA NAZIONALE D'ARTE MODERNA E CONTEMPORANEA

Viale delle Belle Arti, 131
www.lagallerianazionale.com

**Open from Tuesday to Sunday,
9am – 7pm. Closed on Mondays.**

Show runs until November 5.

ART REVIEW

-ection of artworks on loan from the Museo Casa Natale Picasso di Malaga. The art works were completed between 1905 to 1972, with a breadth of works from the artist's various periods.

Several of the displayed works are from the The Vollard Suite, completed from 1930 to 1937 and considered the most significant cycle of prints made by Picasso.

The most interesting of the displayed art works were clusters of drawings and paintings of the same female model over time. Seeing Picasso's evolution from an early art-school-trained artist to his co-founding and full-on embrace of cubism is magical. There are three notable series to see: the portrait of Françoise Gilot, the *Dos*

mujeres desnudas (1945), and the representation of Jacqueline Roque (1958).

Picasso came to Rome twice. In 1917, he spent three months here and had a studio on Via Margutta. He returned for the exhibition in 1953. The political and historical backdrop of the exhibition in 1953 is fascinating and it garnered quite a bit of attention. The New York Times headline proclaimed: ROME REDS ATTEND BIG PICASSO SHOW (New York Times, May 4, 1953). Picasso previewed several hundred pieces, including paintings titled "War" and "Peace".

The current exhibition transports us to a different time, in the artist's life as well as ours. For 11€, you will have an interesting morning. Plus, the restaurant is pretty good to discuss the amazing art you shared.



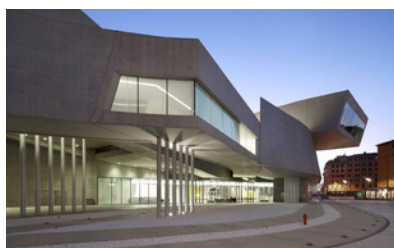
THE MAXXI

BY ELIZABETH BARSANTI

The Maxxi Museum is one of the important modern buildings in Rome. Designed by the poliedric Turkish architect Zaha Haddid (also painter, designer, fashion), it's in the northern area of Rome, basically across the street from the Auditorium Parco della Musica, itself another important piece of architecture (designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano). Managed by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, it's main focus has been on architecture, and students of architecture frequent its library and urban-planning exhibits and hang out in its pleasant, modern air-conditioned café to study and chat (closes at 18.00).

As of September 2023 the museum has a new Artistic Director, Francesco Stocchi, who was previously curator of modern and contemporary art for the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam, and the word is that he will provide new impetus and ideas to widen the horizons of what the Maxxi will offer, on a par with international museums worldwide. The museum's new collection displays research into Italian and international painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, video, installation, performance and sound experimentation.

There are several exhibitions running



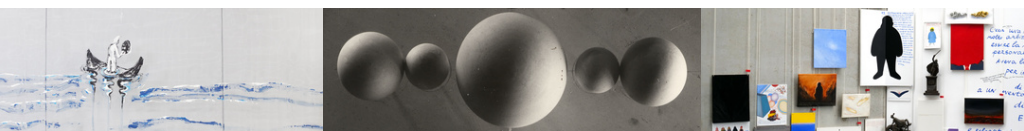
currently, and there's a video gallery with videos about the work of artists dealing with the great transformations of contemporary society. Running until October 6 is a photo exhibition of interesting portraits of women by Ilaria Magliocchetti Lombi, the daughter of a friend of mine. These beautiful photos can be inspirational for girls nowadays, to raise awareness of their rights and encourage them to cultivate their talents and dreams.

The museum is a pleasant, airy place to visit, with inclined walkways and unexpected vistas. There's a separate, spacious "Mediterraneo" restaurant with an outdoor garden abutting on a quirky fountain which is a suitable place to take children, who can run around safely, skate, etc.

MAXXI - NATIONAL MUSEUM OF 21ST CENTURY ART

Via Guido Reni, 4 A, Rome
www.maxxi.art

**Open from Tuesday to Sunday,
 11 am – 7 pm. Closed on Mondays.**



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

AWAR's Sustaining Members, or Friends of AWAR, are businesses, schools, universities, and individuals who assist our association in its purpose. We thank them all for their involvement and support!

JOHN CABOT

Founded in 1972, JCU is an independent, four-year liberal arts university offering undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, and study-abroad programs to English-speaking students from all over the world.

ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

Founded in 1964, is a nondenominational, coeducational, American international day and boarding IB World School in the heart of Rome, grades 9 to 12, with an optional postgraduate year.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Since 1969, AUR has provided an American liberal arts education in Rome to students from all over the world. It currently offers ten B.A. and three M.A. degrees.

THROUGH ETERNITY TOURS

Started by Connecticut native and Rome adoptee Rob Allyn, this tour company is guided by the conviction that there is no more life-affirming experience in the world than travel. Through two decades in business, they've been recommended by Rick Steves, Pauline Frommer, and Forbes Magazine. They combine a team of professional guides and travel experts with friendly, English-speaking customer support to create uniquely engaging and user-friendly cultural experiences.

ANTICA FORNACE DERUTA

Hand-made and hand-painted dinnerware and home goods in the world-famous style from Deruta, Italy. Antica Fornace Deruta is integral to the history of this ancient town of artisans and factories in the Umbria region. As such, it also maintains an exceptional museum with a one-of-a-kind collection of antique pottery from the original large-scale factory in town (1900-1970), complete with artists' renderings and prototypes from 1300-1900's. Made In Italy. Made in Deruta.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOL OF ROME

Established in 1947, the American Overseas School of Rome provides a rigorous and well-rounded American international education from pre-K through grade 12.

MARYMOUNT

Founded in 1946, Marymount is a Catholic, English-language, Early Childhood (age 2) through Grade 12 school offering an American international curriculum, the IB Diploma Program, and AP courses on a 40-acre parkland campus.

JACOBINI WINERY

Azienda Carafa Jacobini is a family-owned estate sprawling over one hundred acres just south of Rome in Ariccia, Lazio's wine country. We hand-selected only our best grapes to produce a limited, high quality white organic wine, Jacobini IGP Lazio.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

From the very first edition of The Forum, April 25, 1960.

What will people think of our activities in 53 years?

APRIL 21st LUNCHEON

This was a day of real celebration - the FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the AWAR in 1955. As Mrs. Bohle reminded us, we were in exalted company - the 2,713 anniversary of the founding of Rome and the day of the official opening of Brazil's new capital, Brasilia. There was a record attendance and when our "birthday cake" was cut at the large table centered in front of the dais, all eyes were drawn to the group of original members of AWAR gathered there.

We received many congratulatory telegrams. Among them were messages from our Honorary President, Mrs. James D. Zellerbach, who was seeing her husband off to America, ex-Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce, our first Honorary President, and Signora Piera Carpani-Glisenti, the first Italian woman to receive the honorary title of Commendatore.

Mrs. Outerbridge Horsey, our Honorary Vice-President, marked the occasion in her graceful speech and then Mrs. Lorenzo Paolozzi amusingly introduced our guest speaker, Peter Ustinov. We can't say he topped Alicia Paolozzi, but the stories he told of the overwhelming hospitality he has experienced in the United States and his many anecdotes combined to provide one of the most entertaining intervals of the day - a tribute to the deftness of this urbane and talented man.

The beautiful creations of the Flower Arranging Group were everywhere in evidence and in the anteroom, a striking exhibition of sculpture done by members was shown.

We all enjoyed our anniversary party, and may there be many more to come!



BY DEBORAH SHAYNE

There is a particular sense of displacement when we transition into another phase of our life. We may be transitioning into a big change that we know is coming, like retirement, the loss of a loved one, becoming a parent or even a seemingly less significant moment like the change in season. We may be changing jobs, changing homes or changing partners. We are not robots and change is part of being human. We think about the future and what it may hold for us. We have some clues but the unknown and the mystery of it are still out there.

Think of walking through a dark tunnel which is claustrophobic and scary. We may become depressed and anxious. Where is that damned light which people are always talking about? We have to slow down, maybe even sit down and rest for awhile to prepare for that change in our lives we know is coming.

We may be alone when we face this future, maybe we have a loved one who accompanies us, but our feelings are our own to experience.

When we pause before the new, we inadvertently tend to take an internal snapshot of what our lives have been so far. If we are anxious about the next step, perhaps we also tend to be, in this period, dissatisfied with what has gone before. Instead, if we are people who can open our arms to embrace the change, we may feel that our past experiences have made us more solid and welcoming. All of us are different in how we experience these inevitable transitions.

I think that we must accept our feelings in this moment and allow ourselves the freedom to feel ambivalent. Trust that unpredictability is as part of our nature as our strong desire to plan our lives.