

About the French American Chamber of Commerce in Houston Constance Bost, Executive Director



The French American Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, non-governmental, 100% independent, member-driven organization, made by companies for companies. Our mission: foster the French-American business community, support businesses in their settlement and development in Houston and build bridges for US companies with France. The FACC Houston is a place to exchange, learn and network.

Constance Bost, an early champion of this luncheon series, is the FACC's Executive Director and brings a background as an international entrepreneur to her role at the Chamber.

An exciting array of events is coming up and a complete listing is available on the website. Every November, FACC's signature event celebrates the arrival of Beaujolais Nouveau.



About the International Friends of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

The **Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna** brings together one of the largest, most complex collections in the world, spanning over 5000 years. The collections reflect diverse global cultures. They are housed in a palace of fine arts, which is an artwork in itself and in 2016 celebrated the 125th anniversary of its grand opening. The wide-ranging accumulation of works, including the Collection of Paintings by Old Masters, is the result of centuries of passionate collecting by a long succession of Habsburg family members and is open to all who wish to be inspired by and enhance their understanding of art. We are grateful to Sabine Haag, the museum's General Director, for her enthusiastic support of this luncheon series.

The **International Friends of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna (IFKHM)** is a dynamic group of patrons, collectors, and connoisseurs, united by their love of the museum's extraordinary imperial collection and masterpieces of European art, with a desire to see them properly cared for and passed on to future generations. We thank Bärbel Holaus-Heintschel for her continuing involvement with this series. www.khm.at

International Friends
of the
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna

Next Time...

Our luncheon next quarter will feature Antoine Plante, Artistic Director and one of the founders of Mercury Chamber Orchestra, dedicated since 2000 to music of the Baroque and beyond.

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*The Art of
Business*

The Accidental Winemaker
Conrad Johnson, AWI Wines

March 21, 2019
Chef Soren Pedersen's
Houston



About Conrad Johnson



Conrad Johnson has brought a background rich in international experiences to his 37-year career as an auditor with independent accounting firms and to AWI Wines which he started a decade ago. He was born in Venezuela to American parents while his father worked there for a global energy firm. From an early age, Conrad took an interest in learning Spanish, becoming fluent before heading to the U.S. for high school and college. He earned a B.S. in Management from Tulane University and an M.B.A. in Accounting from the University of Houston.

Conrad began his career with Price Waterhouse in Houston, during the oil downturn of the early 1980s, as an auditor of public companies operating all over the world. The firm sent him to Madrid for three years where he and his wife, Jill, welcomed Lindsey into the family, joining older sisters Erin and Meredith. After returning from Madrid he continued to work with companies in the energy sector as well as helping PW offices throughout Latin America whose clients were accessing the U.S. capital markets. Subsequently, Conrad spent almost 10 years in Mexico where he was a partner with PW and EY before returning to the U.S. to join UHY and continuing to serve clients operating globally. While on a visit to audit a client's operations in Argentina in 2007, Conrad happened upon *the Vines of Mendoza* and the possibility to start a vineyard in the Uco Valley of the Mendoza region.

With several other investors, AWI Wines was born, signifying what it is – ***A Wild Idea***. From planting the first vines to harvesting, blending, and commercializing, AWI is a labor of love for Conrad, especially now that the wines have won awards in the International Wine Competition of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The wines are found at restaurants and at [AWI Winery of Texas](#).



Jill & Conrad - Sunset at the Vineyard



Award-Winning Wines

About the Cover Art

The Math Expert by Barthel Beham

We chose this painting from the Kunsthistorisches' collection as our cover art not for any physical resemblance the subject may have to our speaker, but rather because it illustrates two of Conrad Johnson's talents – wine and numbers. The artist, Barthel Beham (1502-1540), was from a family of well-regarded engravers in Nuremberg where he was a student of Albrecht Dürer. In accordance with the style of portraiture at the time, Beham's unnamed subject sits at a slight angle from the viewer and is caught in the midst of his occupation, making calculations. His skills with math may have included auditing since by this time the profession which originated in France in the 14th century had spread across Europe. That he sits at his desk with a glass of white wine at hand reflects a belief spanning centuries -- working with numbers goes better with a touch of the grape! If only his glass had been filled with AWI Wines' award winning sauvignon blanc. <https://www.khm.at>

About *The Art of Business*

The Art of Business is a luncheon series featuring business people presenting a topic of interest highlighting how commercial enterprise spurred artistic endeavors and how their creative spirit led to business ventures. Emphasis is on the history of Europe from Ancient Greece to the mid-20th century with topics at the crossroads of culture and commerce, such as --

- Looted, lost, and stolen art and legal steps to get it back
- Commercial art and design as valuable intangible property protected from counterfeiters
- Commissioning new operas and attracting the businesses who sponsor them
- Managing and planning for private collections of works of art, wines, cars, and stringed instruments
- The business of being an international opera star
- Digitally preserving films and TV programs using technology developed for the oil business

Have an idea for a presentation?

Contact Meril Markley at 832.876.7895 or mbmarkley@mmarkley.com

About RSM



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