

Global Link

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WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

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THANK YOU TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS

Nancy Horan
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<http://www.facebook.com/aafsw>

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Upcoming AAFSW Projects

Arts, Crafts and Small Business Fair

Planned for April: Overseas Members Can Participate Too!

AAFSW is planning a fair to showcase our members' creative and business talents. The fair will take place on a weekend in April (exact date to be determined) in the community room at AAFSW headquarters in Ballston, VA. Holding the fair in a private home is also a possibility—if you are interested in hosting, please contact us at office@aafsw.org.



Overseas members are welcome to participate! You can:

Send us photos of your work and/or promotional materials with links to your website or blog. These will be displayed in a special area for overseas participants.

Send us a few samples of your work to display or sell (please keep shipping risks in mind).

Participate as a buyer! We'll post photos and other information on our website, so you can network with other vendors or and/buy items from them.

Participate “virtually” in the fair itself! We'll match you with a local member who will look out for items you want. If you both have smartphones, you can even get real-time photos and updates from the fair.

A small fee will be charged to those who wish to sell items. The fair will be free to all shoppers, and refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there—in person or virtually!

To sign up or for more information, contact office@aafsw.org.

“Your Foreign Service Move”

Writers and Editors Needed

AAFSW is planning for the next volume of the “Realities of Foreign Service Life” series, tentatively entitled “Your Foreign Service Move.” This publication will be a collection of articles on each phase of the moving process: packing out, shopping for consumables, choosing a school, preparing young children for a transition, etc.

Writers will interview other community members to include a range of experiences. We are seeking two experienced editors/project leaders (in exchange for small royalty payments) and a range of writers. If you would like to join the team, please contact office@aafsw.org.



From the President's Desk

It's not too late for New Year's resolutions, and I hope AAFSW will find a place on your list. Let's "be the change we want to see in the world" and help make the "world" of the Foreign Service community

the kind we all want to live in.

If you agree, please consider putting at least one of the following actions on your list of resolutions this year:

Tell others about AAFSW and encourage them to join.

As our membership expands, the flow of funds, volunteers and new ideas will allow us to expand our services, information and opportunities while lowering costs.

Help us reach out to all foreign affairs agency spouses, partners and Members of Household.

Do you know any same-sex partners, male accompanying spouses, parents or adult children living at post, spouses and partners from agencies other than State, etc., who might not know about AAFSW? Please tell them that we need their ideas and unique perspectives, and that we'd like to know how we can help support and represent them as part of our community. If you are in one of these categories yourself, I would love to hear your ideas at president@aafsw.org.

If you are overseas, become an AAFSW representative.

Find out what issues are on people's minds. Help match new spouses with mentors. Encourage people to join Livelines. Publicize our initiatives at your post. Most of all, be an essential link in our global network!

Share your ideas and energy by working on a project or committee: the SOSA awards, help for evacuees or divorcing spouses, or many other worthwhile initiatives!

If you are in DC, be sure to volunteer for our Art&BookFair this fall. Both weekday and weekend hours are available, and the committee is forming now! Contact bookfair@aafsw.org.

If you are in DC or passing through, attend at least one of our fun and friendly activities.

In addition to our great programs at the State Department, we are also planning Oakwood happy hours, playgroup gatherings, a Valentine's party, a panel discussion on third-culture kids, a 4th of July picnic, and much more.

Share your wisdom and experience with others.

Submit an informational article to our website, help advise others on Livelines, and send us a photo from your overseas life for the Global Link or an AAFSW video.

I look forward to working with you this year to further strengthen our shared community!

Your volunteer representative,

Patricia Linderman
AAFSW President
president@aafsw.org

Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA)



GLIFAA, officially recognized by the U.S. State Department, represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) personnel and their families in the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Foreign Commercial Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, and other foreign affairs agencies and offices in the U.S. Government. Learn more at www.glifaa.org.

Password Change

The password to the members-only section of www.aafsw.org has recently changed, as it does at the beginning of every year. All current members will be notified of the new password. If for some reason you have not received the new password, please contact office@aafsw.org.

AAFSW Program News

March Program: Women's History Month

AAFSW's March 20, 2012 program, "Celebrating Women's History" will be co-sponsored by the Women's National Democratic Club. Speakers will include: Molly Williamson, retired from the Foreign Service with the rank of Career Minister, and currently a scholar with the Middle East Institute; Martha Kumar, a communications advisor to the Obama administration; and Musimbi Kanyoro, President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women.

The program will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the Department of State. There will be a \$15 charge per person to cover catering costs. Join us and bring lots of guests to celebrate Women's History Month with some fascinating women!

Please use the coupon below to reserve your seat for this event or reserve online at www.aafsw.org.

Valentine's Day Party

The Foreign Born Spouses Group would like to invite all AAFSW members to a Valentine's Party on Saturday, February 11th, from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM. It will be held in the Community Room at AAFSW Headquarters, Randolph Towers, 4001 North 9th Street, Arlington, VA 22203.



Please bring your sweetheart and something good to eat or drink! RSVP to Ana Luisa Gallardo at fbspouses@aafsw.org.

Panel Discussion: Global Nomads

AAFSW and the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF) are organizing a social event and panel discussion, tentatively scheduled for Sunday afternoon, February 26 at the Oakwood Apartments in Falls Church, VA. (Check www.aafsw.org, AAFSW's [Facebook page](#), or our popular email discussion group, [Livelines](#), for updates.)

The panel will consist of adults (18+) who have grown up in the Foreign Service or moving internationally for other reasons and will include contributors to the new book "Writing Out of Limbo: International Childhoods, Global Nomads and Third Culture Kids." They will talk about the effects of their experiences, what they might have done differently, how parents can support them, etc.

There will be no cost to attend this event All Foreign Service parents, teens and mature preteens are invited, to learn more about the challenges and opportunities presented by our unique lifestyle.

MARCH 20 PROGRAM: CELEBRATING WOMENS' HISTORY

Please reply no later than Wednesday, March 14, 2011. The event takes place on Tuesday, March 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Department of State (C Street Entrance.) The cost for this event is \$15 per person for members and guests. Send this form with payment to:

AAFSW Reservations
4001 North Ninth Street, Suite 214
Arlington, Virginia 22203

You may also reserve and pay online in the members-only section at www.aafsw.org.

MARCH 20 PROGRAM

Name (as you wish it to appear on the name tag)

Date of Birth and Passport or Driver's License Number

Telephone

Name of guest(s), D.O.B.'s and Passport or Driver's License Numbers

FSYF News

KIDVID Contest

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF) are co-sponsors of the 17th annual KIDVID Contest. Contestants submit an original DVD that depicts life for Foreign Service youth at your post.

This contest is open to children between the ages of 10 and 18. Winners will be awarded cash prizes and are invited to attend the annual FSYF Youth Award Ceremony held in the summer. The contest is administered by the Overseas Briefing Center, a division of FSI's Transition Center.

One of OBC's most popular resources is its collection of post audiovisuals, which depict the housing, schooling, recreational facilities, community life, and city life. KIDVIDS, which are a part of the overall collection, communicate and highlight these same aspects from the viewpoint of the younger members of the Foreign Service Community.

Submissions must be received in the Overseas Briefing Center by April 16, 2012. Contest winners will be announced by the end of May.

For complete contest guidelines or questions, contact Maureen Johnston at the Overseas Briefing Center. Email johnstonm5@state.gov or phone (703) 302-7277.



Studying U.S. History While Overseas

American students overseas may not be able to study U.S. history at international schools. FSYF offers a page of information and links

which can help "plug the gap." Read more here: <http://fsyf.org/history/history.html>.

FSYF Is Now On Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Foreign-Service-Youth-Foundation/144834078886661>

"Like" the Facebook Page to receive news of what is going on at FSYF, and join in the conversation with others in our community.

AFSA News

AFSA Tax Guide

The American Foreign Service Association's "Federal and State Tax Guide for Foreign Service Employees" can be found in the AFSA News section of the February issue of the Foreign Service Journal. The guide provides the latest changes to tax laws, credits and issues related to overseas employment. To access the guide online please go to www.afsa.org/afsa_news.aspx.

Job Announcement

Position: Associate Coordinator for Retiree Counseling and Legislation

The American Foreign Service Association seeks a full or part-time Associate Coordinator for Retiree Counseling and Legislation at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. Established in 1924, AFSA is the professional association and exclusive bargaining agent of the United States Foreign Service.

The duties of the Associate Coordinator are to monitor legislative, regulatory and department actions that affect federal retirement and health benefits, advise AFSA leadership and membership about these issues, and develop retiree initiatives and lobbying efforts. In addition, s/he will keep AFSA members informed about federal benefit issues through programs and assisting in the production of the AFSA Newsletter and articles in other AFSA publications and on-line. S/he may also be called on to respond to AFSA retiree member inquiries about federal benefits, assist members in resolving benefits issues and provide intervention and liaison on their behalf with the department and other agencies. S/he will report to the Coordinator for Retiree Counseling and Legislation.

The candidate must be able to analyze complex regulations and legislation, and write clear guidance about their application. Applicants must have excellent writing and editing skills, and demonstrate understanding and tact in dealing with people, and mature judgment. An ideal candidate will have experience in counseling or legal services, a background in federal retirement benefits and regulations, familiarity with the Foreign Service.

Please send cover letter, resume, two short writing samples and salary requirements to jobs@afsa.org. Please specify "Associate Coordinator for Retiree Counseling and Legislation" in the e-mail subject line. No calls please.

Overseas Voting Information

AAFSW would like to pass this important information from the Federal Voting Assistance Program on to our members overseas. For more links to voter information websites, please visit our Voting Resources page: <http://www.aafsw.org/overseas-post-info/voting-resources/>.

REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR BALLOT FOR UPCOMING PRIMARIES

Voters from these States should visit the FVAP.gov web portal to register and request their absentee ballot for the February, March, and April 2012 Presidential Preference Primaries (P) and State Primaries (S) listed below:

February Primaries (30-Day Notice):

NOTE for February Primaries: If you have not received your requested State ballot, submit the back-up Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot at FVAP.gov.

Missouri (P): February 7

Arizona (P): February 28

Michigan (P): February 28

March Primaries: (60-Day Notice)

Georgia (P): March 6

Massachusetts (P): March 6

Ohio (P,S): March 6

Oklahoma (P): March 6

Tennessee (P): March 6

Vermont (P): March 6

Virginia (P): March 6

Alabama (P,S): March 13

Mississippi (P,S): March 13

Illinois (P,S): March 20

Louisiana (P,S): March 24

April Primaries: (90-Day Notice)

District of Columbia (P,S): April 3

Maryland (P,S): April 3

Texas (P,S): April 3 (This is a change, the election was originally scheduled March 6)

Wisconsin (P): April 3

Alabama (Primary Runoff): April 24

Connecticut (P): April 24

Delaware (P): April 24

New York (P): April 24

Pennsylvania (P,S): April 24

Rhode Island (P): April 24

It may not be too late to participate in the SC and FL January primaries. View the Primary Election Calendar at www.FVAP.gov for more information.

Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes! All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members, and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States should submit an FPCA for these elections by going to the FVAP.gov web portal or by following the instructions in the Voting Assistance Guide, also available at FVAP.gov.

Be sure you include an email address, phone number, and/or fax number on your absentee ballot application in case your local election official needs to contact you. Remember, many States allow you to submit your form electronically, and deliver your ballot electronically or provide online ballot access. Go to FVAP.gov or your State's election website to see how you can return your form.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office at <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/wheresendfpc.html>, or visit your State website.

Vote the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) The FWAB is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election (or longer based on your geographic location) you think you will not receive your State ballot in time to vote and return it (especially in February Primary States), vote the FWAB at FVAP.gov. The FWAB is also available in embassies and consulates and military installations around the world.

Additional information

Check your State's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information, and links to your local election offices. Find your State's website at FVAP's web portal: <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html>.

If you'd like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process please go to the FVAP.gov web portal or call FVAP at 703-588-1584 (toll free 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584). Email vote@fvap.gov and don't forget to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow @FVAP on Twitter for election updates throughout 2012.

Family Liaison Office Resources

AAFSW would like to share a few handy links that have come across our radar screen recently.

InfoQuest

Information Quest (also known as InfoQuest) is the Department of State's contracted resource and referral service for employees and their family members. Anyone experiencing an unaccompanied tour may use IQ's informative online resources. Access the website here: <https://www.worklife4you.com> and use the screen name "statedepartment" and password "infoquest." If you are a State Department family member or employee, you are also eligible to use IQ's telephonic services via 1-866-552-4748.

Services offered through InfoQuest include:

A Care.com premium membership discount. Finding regular or backup child or eldercare is a challenge. Through the IQ program, employees will receive a 25% discount on premium membership. This service level allows the member to view resumes and certifications of the screened caregiving candidates, and provides capability to directly contact the service providers.

The LifeMart Discount Center is a fully managed employee discount center that offers over 600 pre-negotiated discounts on fitness centers, dining, travel, shopping, entertainment and more.

Geriatric Care Management. IQ/LifeCare will arrange for highly qualified geriatric care managers (GCMs) to conduct in-person assessments and services for caregivers and their loved ones.

Legal Services include document preparation services to assist employees, spouses or domestic partners with the preparation and/or updating of important legal documents such as simple wills, simple living wills and advance directives such as Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care Power of Attorney and Health Care Directives

Financial Services: Free 30 minute telephonic financial counseling on up to three new topics per year to assist with budgeting, credit repair, debt management and/or debt consolidation. Free 30 minute telephonic or in-person financial planning sessions on up to three new topics per year (e.g. investments, college planning, home buying, retirement planning, etc.) \$75 discount on fee-based financial planning services.

Relocation Services provide employees with personalized relocation packets that provide personalized referrals for real estate or rental agents, moving companies, detailed information on communities

Disaster Support provides total personalized recovery assistance: researching options to making reservations, scheduling appointments, conducting transactions and arranging for deliveries.

The Care Connection Program helps employees who are facing challenging life events (illness, aging parents, a new baby, deployment, disasters etc.) network and seek support as needed.

In addition, the website includes:

- Best-in-class health and wellness content from Healthwise
- Articles from esteemed Yale New Haven physicians
- Parenting advice from Dr. T. Berry Brazelton
- State regulations on childcare centers and family daycare homes nationwide
- Legal content forms
- Online assessments
- Financial calculators that can be used for college planning, personal or home finances, investment or retirement
- A library of over 150 medical animations
- Audio (educational) tips and registration for monthly Webinars (web-seminars)

If you are privileged to have access to the State Intranet, you may read more about InfoQuest services here: <http://intranet.hr.state.sbu/Workforce/EmployeePrograms/Pages/IQInformationQuest.aspx>

MHN Employee Program Resources

For emotional/mental health/well-being articles and self-assessments visit MHN's customized support services website at <https://members.mhn.com/> using the company code 'unaccompaniedtour' to login. For any questions regarding these resources, please contact FLOaskUT@state.gov.

Classified Advertising

AAFSW now offers free classified advertisements to its members. The *Global Link* is sent by mail and electronically to our members and to Community Liaison Offices worldwide for a sizable total monthly readership.

Do you have a business or service that you would like to advertise to the Foreign Service community? Send a brief notice (100 words or less) to office@aafsw.org for approval with the subject line AD FOR GLOBAL LINK. If you have a business website, it can be hyperlinked in the electronic version of the newsletter, so please include your URL. Advertisements will run on a space-available basis for one month at a time and will rotate in order of receipt.

We also accept classified advertising for real estate rentals and sales, as well as sales of other items (cars etc.) on our website, www.aafsw.org. View or submit ads here: <http://www.aafsw.org/classified/classified.htm>.

Not a member of AAFSW? Join now! Apply online at our website: <http://www.aafsw.org/aafsw/membership.htm>.

Get Well Soon

Jewell Fenzi, longtime AAFSW volunteer, author of "Married to the Foreign Service," and founder of the Spouse Oral History Project, has been in the hospital but is now recovering. Her contact information for well wishes can be found in the AAFSW Member Directory.



We Love Your Photos!

AAFSW publishes photos of our activities and events in the *Global Link* newsletter, on our website, www.aafsw.org, and on our [Facebook page](#). If you are a member of an AAFSW interest group, or are attending one of our activities, please take a few photos to share!

For publication in the *Global Link*, photos must be taken at "print resolution" or at least 1024 x 768 pixels in size. For the website or Facebook page, "web resolution", or less than 640 x 480 pixels is acceptable. Using a flash for all indoor shots is also very helpful!

Please email your photos to newsletter@aafsw.org. Include your name, the name of the event or group, the date taken, and any captions that you would like to include. Identification of the people in the photos is optional: in general we try to include names for the *Global Link*, but we understand that some people would prefer not to be named on the website or Facebook page.

Thank you for sharing your photos, and helping to "connect the Foreign Service community at home and abroad!"

Help Us to Help You!

Your cash donations to AAFSW are always welcome but there are also several other ways to help financially that won't cost you a penny! Last year we made over \$700 from Amazon.com because you ordered from Amazon by way of the AAFSW website. Thank you!

Here are some other options :

- Register at GoodSearch.com and enter "AAFSW" as the cause you wish to benefit. Use the site whenever you search the internet and a penny will be donated to AAFSW each time you do. (This may not sound like much but think about how often you search online each day.)

- Register at GoodShop.com and use the site whenever you shop online. More than 2,500 major brands are available with more than 100,000 coupons. A percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to us.

- Register at GoodDining.com and up to 6 percent of every dollar you spend at 10,000 participating restaurants will be donated to AAFSW.

Find Us On Facebook!



Become a fan of AAFSW on Facebook today by clicking the Like button on the front page of our website, www.aafsw.org, or going directly to <http://www.facebook.com/aafsw>. We thank you for your support!

AAFSW is on Twitter!



AAFSW will now be able to send short "tweets" with our news and events. You can also send us instant feedback! Visit <http://twitter.com/#!/AAFSW> and follow us today!

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February 2012

PLACE
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