

Global Link

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE WORLDWIDE •WWW.AAFSW.ORG•MARCH 2012

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

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AAFSW Welcomes New SOSA Coordinator and Assistant

AAFSW would like to thank Kay de Kuiper, our 2011 coordinator for SOSA (the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad), for her outstanding work. Since Kay decided not to continue for personal reasons, we have recruited a new SOSA coordinator and assistant, and we are very excited to welcome them both to the AAFSW team.

Our new coordinator is Lara L. Center. Here is her introduction, in her own words:

"I am excited to be the new SOSA coordinator. Even more so, because I am a 2009 recipient of the award for EUR Bureau for work I did at the Luxembourg National Museum of Military History.

Life before the Foreign Service was much different than today; I worked as an environmental consultant in the DC area. Today, I am the trailing spouse of a Foreign Service Officer which has provided me unique opportunities working at post, learning foreign languages, traveling and earning a second Master's degree online.

January 2003 was a big transition for me when we arrived at our first post in Guadalajara, Mexico. We have also served in Caracas, Venezuela, Luxembourg and DC. I am the proud mom of an almost 4-year-old boy and am expecting our second child, a daughter in early March.

I look forward to working with AAFSW this award season and am anxious to read the nominations about the work of outstanding officers and family members abroad."

Our new assistant coordinator is Lynne Moo. Lynne is a social worker with a background in fundraising and volunteer development. She worked in St. Louis, Missouri before beginning life both abroad and as a mother. She has lived in Shanghai, China and is currently living in Arlington, Virginia where she is raising her three young girls.

The SOSA program recognizes outstanding volunteers at overseas posts, whether employees or family members. If you know a terrific volunteer abroad, please consider nominating him or her. For more information, call our office or write to sosa@aafsw.org.





From the President's Desk

Thank you for reading this month's *Global Link!* If you are in the DC area, I hope to see you at one of the many exciting upcoming events we have planned.

If you are overseas, or elsewhere in the U.S., please

join the conversation in one of our dynamic virtual communities, such as Livelines (our flagship group with over 4,300 members), Facebook (with new Foreign-Born Spouse and CLO Alumni groups) or Twitter.

We are proud that Livelines is bringing us more Foreign Service officers and specialists as members, in addition to our traditional constituency of spouses and partners. If you are in this category, welcome! You make our organization stronger as we work to build community and advocate for our shared interests, shoulder to shoulder with AFSA and other groups. I look forward to your ideas and suggestions at president@aafsw.org.

At the same time – and without contradiction – we stand firm as an independent advocate for Foreign Service spouses, partners, and Members of Household. If you are in this category, please know that for AAFSW, you are not “trailing” anyone else – you are the main attraction!

In fact, the more spouses and partners I interact with in this demanding but enjoyable volunteer job, the more impressed I am with your incredibly diverse talents and achievements. Fundamentally, Foreign Service spouses and partners have just one thing in common: you have chosen to spend your life with a Foreign Service officer or specialist. But what kind of people would do that? I think I have found a few answers:

Adventurous people, who are ready to face a new language, culture and living environment every few years.

Flexible people, who re-invent themselves at each post as they discover new roadblocks and new opportunities.

Open-minded and **worldly** people, who speak several languages, know how to navigate a new culture, and have friends on multiple continents.

Dedicated and **unselfish** people, who know that family members also serve, and who are often involved in awe-inspiring volunteer projects abroad (see the SOSA awards!).

Finally, you are **resilient** people, who keep going through hardships, often with the help of others in our community.

You – and the employees that share your lives – are **my kind** of people and I am proud to represent you.

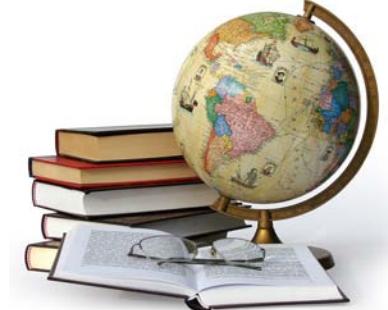
Patricia Linderman

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Think Ahead to Art&BookFair 2012!

Are you coming back to the US this summer? Retiring? Are you interested in books and art? Fundraising? Publicity, marketing or sales?



The BookRoom and annual Art&BookFair raised close to \$100,000 last year for AAFSW and its activities. Since our members move around the world on a regular basis, we are always looking for volunteers who can work with donations, help in the pricing and sorting of the art and books, and help with the organization of the annual Art & BookFair, (A&BF).

Our BookStore and BookFair are an exciting tradition for the Department of State and its employees. The general public forms a line early on the first weekend. We offer books and art that no other sale can offer, because our donors have lived all over the world.

The A&BF is a good fundraiser for AAFSW, but we depend on volunteers. This year we need a BookFair Volunteer Coordinator, an Art Corner Coordinator, and someone to partner with the Chair to help guide the A&BF into the 21st century! If you are interested, please contact Judy Felt at (703) 370-1414 or bookfair@aafsw.org.

AAFSW's March Program

The Evolving Roles of Women Today

AAFSW's March 20, 2012 program, "The Evolving Roles of Women Today," 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; Ms. Musimbi Kanyoro, President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women; and Denise Rolark-Barnes, publisher of the Washington Informer newspaper.



Molly Williamson is a scholar with the Middle East Institute, a consultant, and frequent guest lecturer at Johns Hopkins University, World Affairs Councils, and National Joint Staff College.

Williamson is a former Foreign Service Officer, having served six presidents, achieving the rank of Career Minister. She was the Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Energy

(2005-2008), Principal Deputy, then Acting Assistant Secretary of State (1996-1999), Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, (1993-1995).

She has had numerous postings in the Middle East including Chief of Mission and Consul General in Jerusalem during the Madrid Peace Process (1991-93). She was engaged in operational defense structure bottom-up reviews, the policy challenges of Iraqi provocations, crises in Rwanda and Somalia, and nuclear tests in South Asia.

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro is the President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women and has been a life-long advocate for the health, development and human rights of women, girls and minority groups. She was born in Kenya and has lived and worked in many parts of the world.



The Global Fund for Women advances women's rights by mobilizing resources and making grants to creative, women-led organizations that provide high impact solutions to local, regional and international human rights issues.

She serves on numerous boards including the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) and Realizing Rights. Prior to the Global Fund, Kanyoro served with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the World YWCA.

Musimbi's visionary leadership style is compelling and innovative, She is the recipient of the 2011 Changing the Face of Philanthropy Award.

Ms. Rolark-Barnes is the publisher of The Washington Informer, the leading community newspaper serving the African-American community in the Washington Metropolitan area. She also oversees The Washington Informer Charities, a nonprofit organization that addresses literacy and promotes careers in journalism through internships, partnerships with local schools and writing competitions, and hosts the popular "Reporters Roundtable" on cable television. She is a graduate of Hampton University and Howard University Law School.

Ms. Barnes heads the Washington Informer Charities which sponsors The Annual Washington Informer Spelling Bee as well as journalism internship programs, scholarships and the annual MLK Peace Walk. She is active in the DC area where she is president of AARP-DC, and she serves on the boards of the United Black Fund and the Historical Society of Washington, DC. Ms. Rolark-Barnes is a member of Leadership of Greater Washington.

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 in the February 2012 issue of *Global Link* to reserve your seat for this event or reserve online at www.aafsw.org.

More AAFSW Program Notes

December Program Review

As Foreign Service pros, we all know government housing is not created equal. Admit it. You've coveted your colleague's extra closet or eat-in kitchen or commanding views of the Mediterranean Sea... getting over that one is turning out to be a long personal journey, but I digress. Envy turned to awe on December 15, 2011 as members of the AAFSW toured the Renwick Gallery's exhibit "Something of Splendor: Decorative Arts from the White House." We beheld 95 magnificent objects—furniture, ceramics, metals, glass and textiles—from the permanent collection of the White House. Clearly, the president's house is government housing unlike any other.



1818 Armchair from the "Something of Splendor" exhibit.

I thought I was pretty special when GSO allowed me to select kitchen curtains once upon a posting, but presidents and their spouses make their mark on the White House in much more significant ways. We drooled over several examples of official White House china, including one of the Reagan's 220 place settings in cherry-red (so Nancy) and a serving dish from the Lincoln's purple design (who knew Mary Todd

was so hip?) Amidst displays of artwork and smaller decorative items were exquisite pieces of furniture, such as an ornately-carved chair that President Monroe purchased from France (along with 57 other pieces) to refurnish the White House after the 1814 fire. Our tour guide explained that not long after, Congress decreed the White House must be furnished by "American manufacture." Hmm, sound familiar?

Actually, several aspects of the White House brought the Foreign Service to mind. In the early years, tired and outmoded furniture was auctioned off, much like embassies worldwide do today. The White House now holds on to its fine furnishings and re-upholsters and refurbishes to combat the infamous "wear and tear." And just like Foreign Service personnel, presidents can bring along personal effects to remind them of home. Weight restrictions, however, are not an issue and, really, neither is decorating with over 30,000 items in the White House permanent collection from which to choose.

The exhibit gave a true taste of the craftsmanship and care that has always gone into appointing the White House to befit our nation's head of state. My attempts to camouflage standard embassy-issue sofas with ethnic textiles and homemade pillows are far more humble, but done in the same spirit to make the most of government housing. I know I am in good company! The Renwick exhibit runs until May 6, 2012. More information is available at <http://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/archive/2011/splendor/>.

*Leslie Ashby,
AAFSW Member*

Arts, Crafts and Small Business Fair

This exciting fair will be held on a weekend to be determined in April in the Community Room of Randolph Towers, AAFSW's office in the Ballston area of Virginia. Overseas members are VERY welcome to participate. You may send us samples or photographs of your work or service, and we will display them at the Fair. Local members, please share your talents and network with others at this fun event! You may sell your work or simply display your creations. Please contact office@aafsw.org to participate or with any questions.



Yet More AAFSW Program Notes

Valentine's Day Party Review

Over 20 people, including foreign-born spouses, other AAFSW members and Foreign Service officers, braved icy winds on February 11 to celebrate love and friendship at the Foreign Born Spouses Group's Valentine's party in AAFSW's Community Room in Ballston. The group enjoyed great conversation, wine and the warmth and comfort of delicious food from many countries.



More Photos

We regularly post photos of AAFSW activities and events, including the Valentine's Day Party, above, on our Facebook page.



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

Foreign-Born Spouses Group Scrapbooking Event March 8th

The Foreign Born Spouses Group would like to celebrate the start of the spring season with a lovely and useful way to keep track of our amazing memories. Patricia Murer will introduce us to this art on Thursday, March 8 at 11:00 a.m. at her home in Lorton, Virginia. Afterward we will enjoy lunch together. Please share a dish with us, and let us know what are you bringing.

If you have any questions or to RSVP, please email Ana-Luisa Gallardo at fbspouses@aafsw.org, call her at 202-841-2358, or call Sheila Switzer, 703-623-6695.

Oakwood Happy Hours Continue

The Oakwood Happy Hour on Jan. 24 went very well. About 25 people attended, including newcomers, participants in AAFSW's new mentoring program, mid-career spouses, male spouses, and representatives from the Family Liaison Office and the Foreign Service Youth Foundation. The FLO representatives spoke to the group and praised AAFSW. New A-100 and Specialist classes are arriving in March, so please check Facebook and Lifelines for the date of the next event!

AAFSW Picnic Sunday, July 1st

If you'll be in DC this summer, mark your calendar: AAFSW's picnic co-sponsored with Foreign Service Youth Foundation is confirmed for Sunday afternoon, July 1. We have reserved the picnic area and shelter at Nottoway Park in Vienna (the same place where FSYF holds the fall picnic). Food will be potluck, and volunteers will lead some fun activities. The event is for couples and singles with and without kids. Hope to see you there!

FSYF News

FSYF Contests

Every year, the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF) organizes a series of contests for Foreign Service youth. The contests offer U.S. foreign service kids and teens the opportunity to showcase their talents, accomplishments and unique perspectives on the world. Winners receive cash prizes thanks to generous contributions from FSYF sponsors and are recognized at the annual youth awards ceremony at the Department of State in July.

The deadline for entries to all the contests listed below is April 30, 2012. Questions? Contact FSYF at fsyf@fsyf.org or 703-731-2960. Or, visit the FSYF website at: <http://fsyf.org/contestawards/contestawards.html>.

Art Contest

Sponsored by State Department Federal Credit Union. This contest challenges kids and teens to create art in any flat medium based on a given theme. The 2012 theme is "Color My World." Nine winners (three in each of three age categories) will receive cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$500.

Community Service Contest

Sponsored by Clements Worldwide. This award honors U.S. Foreign Service youth who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer efforts at home or abroad either in community service or in service to their peers while facing the challenges of growing up in an internationally mobile lifestyle. Two winners will each receive a \$1,500 U.S. savings bond (or \$750 cash equivalent).

Essay Contest

Sponsored by McGrath Real Estate Services. This contest challenges middle and high school students to answer a topic question in 1,000 words or fewer. The 2012 topic question is:

For High School students: "Globalization is a process that opens diverse societies to economic, political and social influences from beyond their borders. How would you, as a foreign service youth, build on this process to improve communication between people from different cultures with young people from the United States?"

For Middle School students: "Thanks to the world wide availability of e-mail, Face book, Skype, YouTube and online games, Third Culture Kids (TCKs) can stay in touch with friends, classmates and family easily. Access to such varied forms of communication

technology allows kids the freedom to reach out and maintain a wide range of relationships around the world. How can (or do) you as a Foreign Service Youth make use of these communication tools to create deeper awareness across the globe?"

In describing your efforts to facilitate greater cultural appreciation and understanding among young people, feel free to let your imagination roam and consider a range of alternatives-- including designing your own video game or using different types of software -- in your own approach. Six winners (three in each middle and high school category) will receive cash prizes ranging from \$150 to \$800.

Young Writers and Artists Needed

It's time to produce the next issue of "Here, There & Everywhere," the newsletter created by U.S. Foreign Service kids and teens around the world and published by the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF). FSYF wants your articles, illustrations, photographs, short stories, poems, song lyrics and more!

The theme of this upcoming issue will be "People, Places & Things We Love."

Kids and teens around the world: Send your submissions to fsyf@fsyf.org by March 24, 2012

Kids and teens in the DC area: attend a newsletter workshop on Saturday, March 3rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Oakwood Apartments in Falls Church, VA. RSVP by March 2nd to fsyf@fsyf.org

The workshop is free and lunch is provided. If you cannot attend, please send your submissions to fsyf@fsyf.org by March 24, 2012.

Panel Discussion Co-Sponsored with FSYF Sunday, February 26th

AAFSW is co-sponsoring a panel on Global Nomads/Third-Culture Kids with the Foreign Service Youth Foundation on Sunday, February 26 from 2-4 at Oakwood Falls Church. Adults in their 20s and beyond who grew up internationally will discuss the long-term effects of their mobile childhoods. This is a free event with light refreshments. Please contact office@aafsw.org to RSVP.

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>.

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!



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.

Mentors Wanted

AAFSW has begun a pilot program of one-on-one spouse mentoring, created primarily for new A-100 spouses and first-tour spouses. We are trying to match mentoring volunteers from our AAFSW membership with mentoring requests from the "newbies" based on as many points in common as possible: ages of children, languages spoken, areas of professional interest, and the like.

We have over a dozen mentor/mentoree pairs at the moment, and we are eagerly awaiting feedback from those involved. Of course, we need lots more volunteers, especially those whose spouses are still active duty, and are still likely to be serving overseas.

This program has the potential to do two wonderful and worthwhile things - help people who are new to the Foreign Service with their many life challenges, and create the next generation of AAFSW leaders.

If you know of anyone who might want or need mentoring, or if you are interested in becoming a mentor yourself, please send an email to mentor@aafsw.org Thanks!

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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!

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