

Global Link

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WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Caroline Amberger
Melinda Pavek
Anne Sullivan
Marcia Ledogar
Denise Welch

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 2 in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the Department of State. RSVP using the mail-in coupon in the November issue of *Global Link*, or RSVP online at www.aafsw.org.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Our new directory will be issued soon in downloadable PDF format. If you would like a printed copy of the directory to be mailed to you, please contact the office by email or phone with your name and street address.

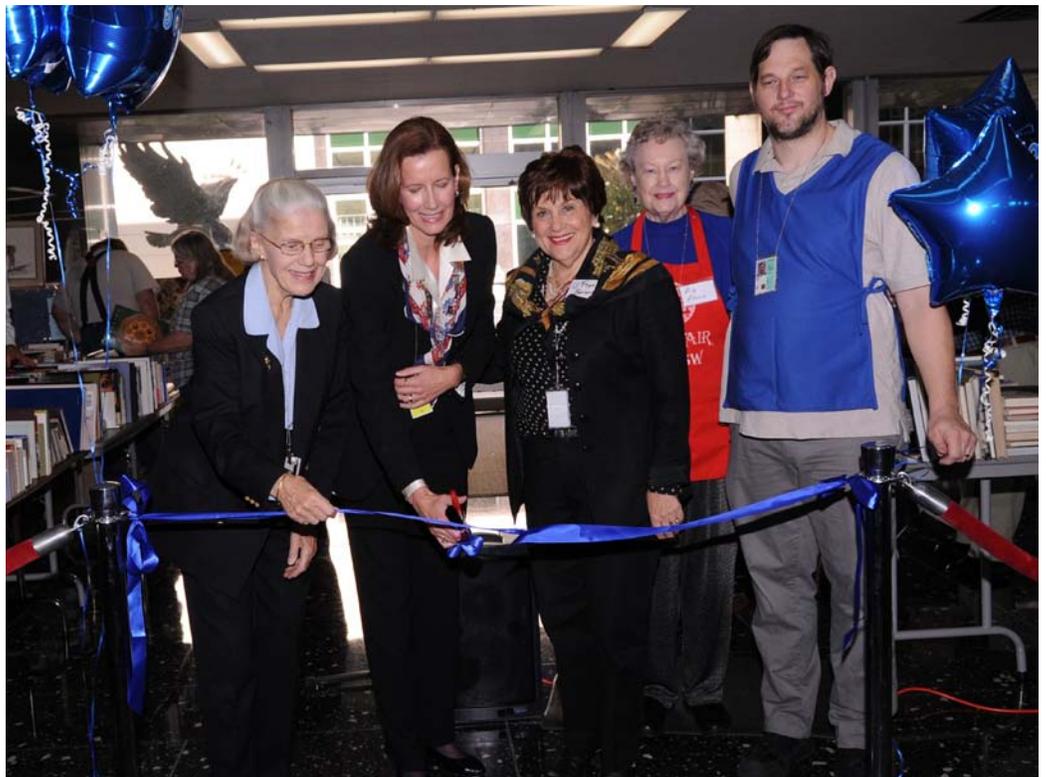
Global Link is provided to the U.S. Foreign Service community as a service of the Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide. Your membership fees support this newsletter along with other AAFSW services. Please visit us at www.aafsw.org to learn more—and join today!

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AAFSW's 50th Annual Art&BookFair

It is perhaps fitting that this Art&BookFair, our 50th consecutive event, saw many substantial changes. We hired a new BookRoom Manager, had to adjust our dates because of a booking glitch, and faced numerous other challenges that are too detailed to mention here. The bottom line is that we pulled it off, even with an unusual number of setbacks.

This year, we grossed approximately \$60,000 which is on the low side of our average, but not unprecedented. People pitched in, learned new skills and gave enormously of their time with tremendous energy and good will. We shared information and supported each other though it was not always easy. In short, we had fun!



AAFSW Art&BookFair Chairperson Mette Beecroft, Honorary President Lisa Carty, President Faye Barnes, Art&BookFair volunteer Dolly Edwards, and BookRoom Manager Brian Neumann at the ribbon-cutting ceremony opening our 50th Annual Art&BookFair.

Art&BookFair is an endeavor with many moving parts: pick-up of book and art donations, sorting, pricing and boxing of books, logistics, security, telephones, electricians, movers, tent rental, publicity and coordinating volunteers. Of course, nothing would happen were it not for all the volunteers who work during the event and during the entire year, for that matter. (Assembling the volunteer roster is a considerable job, in itself.) Clearly, there is a task for everyone.

Continued on page 3.



From the President's Desk

2010 is drawing to a close. This has been a year of marking milestones. We commemorated 50 years

of AAFSW achievements in June; we presented five spousal fellowships to entrepreneurial members to enable them to start their private businesses overseas; despite some challenges, we organized our 50th annual Art&BookFair; and finally we documented 20 years of volunteer service overseas with the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism (SOSA) in an online publication. This year's awards take place on Thursday, December 2nd. The Dorman Award for an AAFSW member and the Tragen award are also highlighted in this December celebration of volunteerism.

Where to go from here? What does the AAFSW of the future look like? Do we continue our annual Art&BookFair and the daily sales at BookPlace in the Department? Will the next generation of AAFSW members continue these traditions or do we need to look at alternative fundraising? With income from Art&BookFair down this year, the Board needs to focus on many of these issues over the next few months. Let us know if you have any thoughts on our future direction.

I wish to thank and acknowledge Mette Beecroft for her consistent hard work as Art&BookFair Chairperson. I echo my thanks to the 2010 volunteers mentioned in her article, and to our new BookRoom Manager, Brian Neumann who helped us pull off this big event.

A special thank you and acknowledgement also goes to our almost invisible but so critical Livelines moderators. Livelines is one AAFSW's biggest contributions to the modern Foreign Service community. This email discussion group was established to provide a sounding board and virtual support for members of the Foreign Service. It has created a virtual community in which members help each other by sharing information drawing from their own experiences and providing advice and citations to the relevant regulations when necessary.

From all of us, a big thank you to Bert Curtis who served as moderator of the group for over seven years. Now employed full time at the Department of State, Bert turned over the reins to Jen Dinoia this summer. These volunteer moderators admit members to the group based on guidelines established by AAFSW, and monitor and moderate the discussion. Thanks so much to both Bert and Jen and to all of the AAFSW members who serve as our group experts and regularly respond to queries.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season.

Faye Barnes
AAFSW President
president@aafsm.org

Attention Former CLOs

Let's kick-off the revitalized Former CLO Association (and the holiday season at the same time) by getting together for snacks and discussion at my house in Great Falls, VA on **Saturday, December 4, at 2 p.m.** All former CLOs are invited!

RSVP to clogroup@aafsw.org. Please include your name, town, and phone number, and indicate if you will need a ride or are able to offer one. Would love to see what we can turn this association into.

Donna Ayerst
Former CLO Association Chairperson
clogroup@aafsm.org

AFSA Scholarships

High school seniors and college undergraduate children of Foreign Service employees (active-duty, retired, and deceased) are eligible to apply for one-time only AFSA art/merit awards and renewable need-based AFSA financial aid scholarships for the 2011/2012 school year. Academic and art merit awards are \$1,800 and financial aid scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$3,500.

Applications will be available on November 15, 2010 and the submission deadline is February 6, 2011. For more information, visit <http://www.afsa.org/scholar> or contact Lori Dec at dec@afsa.org.

Art&BookFair, from page 1.

The Art&BookFair Committee started to meet in May to put this year's Fair together. Once a month thereafter, it met to discuss progress and solve problems. Anne Kauzlarich, BJ Harrick, Judy Felt., Barbara Ratigan, Lucy Whitley, June Carmichael, Dianne Bodeen, Sheila Switzer, Anna Dworken, Marian Rondon, Faye Barnes and Brian Neumann attended all or most of the meetings. Barbara Butcher and Richard Livingston remained as involved as they could. An enormous thank you to this "hard core" of the Art&BookFair Committee whose participation was absolutely crucial to the success of the Fair.

In addition to our faithful volunteers, we continue to receive splendid support, year after year, from the Department of State. This includes Diplomatic Security, Facilities Maintenance Service, General Services Management, Global Publishing Solutions, the Office of Real Property, the US Diplomatic Collection, the Office of Presidential Appointments and the Office of the Director General of the Foreign Service. We also have benefited greatly from the pro bono publicity received from *The Foreign Service Journal*, *State Magazine*, AFSANET and USAID.

To everyone who has supported the Art&BookFair in one way or another through the years, we express our heartfelt gratitude.

In closing I would like to remark that the fifty-year mark is a good occasion to take stock of the future prospects of the event. As people turn to purchasing and reading material electronically, one has to ask if we should be looking for other means of fundraising. One also must ask if there is a younger generation waiting in the wings to carry on the Art&BookFair tradition. Essentially, this year's event ends with a question: What next for the Art&BookFair?

Mette Beecroft

AAFSW Art&BookFair Chairperson
bookfair@aafsw.org

Please see AAFSW's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/aafsw> for more photos of the Art&BookFair.

AAFSW Awards Program December 2nd

The annual AAFSW Awards Program will take place on Thursday, December 2 in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the HST at the Department of State. (**Please note the program is on Thursday rather than Tuesday.**) We will welcome in the holiday season by recognizing the outstanding volunteer efforts of the 2010 SOSA, Tragen, and Dorman Award recipients.

This year the awards ceremony will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and refreshments will not be served until completion of the program at 11:30. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon members and guests can mingle and enjoy the opportunity to personally chat with the 2010 award winners. The program is free to all members and guests. RSVP with the coupon below, or online at www.aafsw.org.

DECEMBER 2 PROGRAM: AAFSW AWARDS PROGRAM

Please reply no later than Thursday, November 25, 2010. The event takes place on Thursday, December 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Department of State (C Street Entrance.) These event is FREE to everyone, but reservations are required. Please send this form to:

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

You may also reserve online at www.aafsw.org.

AAFSW AWARDS 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

Meet The Winners of the 2010 SOSA Award

Shirley A. Winter – Yaounde (AF)

Shirley is a family member with over 10 years experience as an American Red Cross swim instructor and a professional in the field of aquatics. She used those skills to establish a sustainable water safety program that will impact generations of people. During her two years in Yaounde, Shirley worked with the orphans of “Green Eyes in Africa,” and not only brought her love of the water to these children, many of whom were disabled, but also taught more than 100 Cameroonians and expatriates swimming lessons and water safety skills.

In partnership with the American School of Yaounde (ASOY), Shirley developed and implemented a swim program modeled after an American Red Cross water safety program.

Recognizing that the interest in competitive and recreational swimming was on the rise in Cameroon, she met with the Vice-President of the National Swimming Federation to ensure that pool employees and patrons were properly trained in water safety. As a result of her meeting, Shirley offered two lifeguarding courses to the staff at the local pools in the city. She also taught swimming lessons to Embassy adults and children including the LES staff. She further turned her attention to nannies and housekeepers in the expatriate community, many of whom had a fear of water, yet worked in residences that had pools.

Shirley achieved her goal of passing down the skill of swimming and knowledge of water safety to generations to come.



Association of KL (IWAKL) who supported the Afghan widows’ group with goods and services as well as contacts and mentors to promote their developing cottage industry skills. In addition, Shameera has worked tirelessly to establish a community center for the refugees with plans for a literacy center, training in employment, health and hygiene issues, and a recreational center for the children. In July 2010, she and a group of friends organized a fundraiser which raised sufficient funds to pay six months’ rent on a facility suitable for the center’s needs. She continues to work to make the center a permanent fixture.

Shameera’s humanitarian efforts are assisting refugees of a war-torn country to find suitable homes where they can live in peace and prosper.

Shameera M. Wiest – Kuala Lumpur (EAP)

Shortly after her arrival at post, family member Shameera Wiest volunteered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to work with the Afghan Hazara community in Kuala Lumpur. Her substantive knowledge about Afghanistan contributed greatly to the improved welfare of the Afghan refugee community in Malaysia. Working with the UNHCR and Malaysian NGOs, she helped the refugees assimilate into Malaysian culture and become productive members of the ethnically diverse host country.

Shameera developed a number of network support groups for the refugees within the Embassy community and with expatriate and local organizations. In addition to teaching English and arranging healthcare seminars, she enlisted the help of the International Women’s

Mindy R. Michels and Melissa E. Schraibman – Tirana (EUR)

Foreign Service employee Melissa Schraibman and partner Mindy R. Michels helped a small group of Albanian activists to create a vibrant and active lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in Albania.

Violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was common in Albania. But through the collaborative efforts of this newly-formed group, Mindy and Melissa helped establish a grassroots organization, Alliance Against LGBT Discrimination. The duo met each week with the members of the Alliance and provided support, inspiration and skills development. They hosted strategic planning sessions for the new NGO, defining its identity, core values and mission. Melissa and Mindy trained and mentored the leadership team in grant writing, membership recruitment, press strategies, organizational development, and grassroots activism.

The Alliance created a social and activist network that transformed the lives of the people it reached. There are now weekly discussion groups, social events, regular grassroots actions, and a very active Facebook group with over 1100 members. Mindy also participated in an ongoing working group sponsored by the Dutch Embassy on LGBT issues. As part of the group, she assisted in drafting a comprehensive non-discrimination law in Albania covering everything from discrimination on the basis of religion to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The volunteer accomplishments of Mindy and Melissa showcase what volunteer service can achieve on behalf of transformative diplomacy.



Beth A. Brownson – Mumbai (SCA)

Foreign Service employee Beth Brownson's commitment to community outreach and social service has raised the image of the U. S. Consulate and the American people in Mumbai, and inspired the Consulate's broader participation in the NGO community.

Beth reached out to a number of local NGOs, learned about their needs, and determined which organizations would be most appropriate for Consulate volunteers. She then established a Social Outreach Committee with rotating chairs, each of whom would organize monthly events with a pool of respected NGOs. In this way, Beth created effective, well-organized, and user-friendly volunteer opportunities for the community that will continue well beyond her time at post.

Beth focused her volunteer efforts with a number of children's shelters in the city. She recruited Consulate staff to install a vegetable garden at the Women's Empowerment Center and Network and made weekly visits to teach the girls how to garden scientifically. Beth also organized Consulate staff members to shepherd groups of children from three shelters to the Nehru Science Center over successive weekends. Every time she traveled on business to rural Maharashtra, she took with her a van full of clothing and toys collected from the Consulate community to distribute in tribal villages.

Beth has transformed the way the Consulate relates to the local community and has given fellow volunteers the skills they need to continue community service around the globe.

Jose M. Torres – San Jose (WHA)

During years of service with the Salvadoran Red Cross, family member Jose (Mauricio) Torres saw the great need for Central America to have its own search and rescue dog capability. He and fellow Red Cross members started the first canine search and rescue teams in the region.

During his Foreign Service Officer spouse's tour in Washington, DC, Mauricio spent two years learning with the members of Virginian Task Force One, one of only two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) teams that deploys internationally. Upon his arrival in San Jose, Mauricio contacted the Costa Rican Red Cross and the Fire Department to offer his assistance with their fledgling canine search and rescue program. Coordinating with the Fire Department, he set up a weekly training schedule which has resulted in marked improvement in the performance of the dogs and handlers. As a native Spanish speaker and trained dog handler, he is helping the Red Cross rewrite its dog training manual.

Not content with passing on knowledge, Mauricio is also building links between the Costa Rican teams and experts in the U.S. He invited his former trainer from FEMA to Costa Rica to give a workshop to the Fire Department and the Red Cross. The Red Cross subsequently invited the FEMA trainer to speak at a Central American canine search and rescue conference it will host for five countries in 2011.

Mauricio still provides guidance to the search and rescue dog handlers in El Salvador and they in turn look forward to the upcoming conference. Through his volunteer actions, Mauricio is building Central America's capacity to respond to natural disasters. His personal goal is to leave behind a viable and self-sustaining canine search and rescue program that can respond in a swift and professional manner in order to save lives throughout the region.

Congratulations to all the winners! To view photo slideshows of all the winning SOSA projects, please visit our SOSA page at <http://www.aafsw.org/sosa.htm>.



Two Easy Ways You Can Help AAFSW

Search the Web with GoodSearch!

Every time you search the web using GoodSearch.org, AAFSW will receive a small commission.

To benefit AAFSW, just enter "AAFSW" when asked "Who Do you GoodSearch For?"

Thanks for your support. Every little bit helps!



Shop Amazon.com and Benefit AAFSW!

When you start your holiday shopping this year, please remember to click through the Amazon links on our website, www.aafsw.org. As you can see from the budget on the previous pages, AAFSW nets several hundred dollars every year through our affiliation with Amazon.com. It's a quick and easy way to help, and we really do appreciate it!



Ode To Freedom

AAFSW Members Participate in Multi-Cultural Diplomacy

On September 11, 2010, in remembrance of the victims of 9/11 and in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam, unusual partners joined together to present a beautiful concert at the Rachel Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexandria, VA.

The program included: a Ukrainian orchestra; American and Vietnamese conductors; American, Vietnamese, and Ukrainian soloists; Ukrainian and Vietnamese choruses; a Vietnamese composer; and a Ukrainian bandura (a traditional Ukrainian stringed instrument) player.

The evening began with three national anthems: the Kyiv Chorus sang the anthem of the Ukraine; the Vietnamese Choir of DC sang for the Republic of Vietnam; and AAFSW member Deborah Miller sang the Star-Spangled Banner, all accompanied by the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra.

What followed was a spectacular array of multi-cultural artistry.

The Kyiv Choir (and soloists), led by American conductor Matthew McMurrin and Ukrainian conductor Vika Konchakovska, unexpectedly sang lively arrangements of traditional American pieces like “Camptown Races”, “Yankee Doodle”, “You’re a Grand Old Flag”, “Sing, Sing, Sing”, “America the Beautiful”, “God Bless America” and “New York, New York”. It was quite touching to hear these well-known lyrics sung with strong but charming Slavic accents, and to see their obvious sympathy and admiration for the United States and the trauma it suffered in 2001. They also sang some lovely a capella Ukrainian songs.

The second half of the program consisted entirely of music composed and conducted by Le Van Khoa, a war refugee born in the Mekong delta who came to America in 1975. In addition to over 600 compositions and arrangements, this multi-

talented man teaches piano, hosts a weekly radio show called “Music in Our Life”, is an award-winning photographer (and teaches photography), and ably conducted the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra despite language barriers. Included were several breathtakingly beautiful songs in Vietnamese, an exquisite Nocturne for solo violin and piano, and the Vietnam 1975 Symphony. The bandura was played by Kateryna Myronyuk, wearing traditional folk costume. The grand finale was a stupendous piece for the combined choruses and orchestra entitled “Hymn to Freedom”, which was sung in Vietnamese and Ukrainian simultaneously!

VIPs in attendance at this glittering event included representatives from the U.S. Department of State, the US Navy, the Department of Homeland Security, the Mayor of Alexandria, and the Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States. AAFSW member Jackie Wright was one of the leaders of the organizing committee that brought together so many talented people for an unforgettable celebration of international goodwill, respect, and remembrance.

Debbi Miller

*AAFSW Membership Chairperson
membership@aafsw.org*



Ambassador Oleksandr Motsyk with Jackie Bong Wright, organizer of the event, Debbi Miller, soloist, and Sheila Switzer, AAFSW Program Chairperson.

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December 2010
