

# Global Link

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## WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Andrew Jenkins  
Patricia Murer  
Karen Clark  
Kierstin Van Camp-Horn  
Rachel Smith  
Jonathan Pinoli  
Anna Estrina  
Leslie Marie Leedy Stroope  
Harvard J. Chao  
Marge K. Catt  
Paul Andrew Evanson  
Katherine Clatanoff  
Sara Vail Palmquist  
Michael Walls  
Phillip B. Hayes  
Henry J. Weiss  
Kristin Karin Hawkins  
Sandra Cortina  
Jackie Bong-Wright  
Alice Lowenthal  
Kadiatou Traore



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## AAFSW Board Elections

It is time once again to vote for the Officers of the Board of Directors of AAFSW. Each AAFSW member has the right and responsibility to cast his or her ballot in support of the candidates. The positions are uncontested but your vote is vital to the organization. You also have the right to write in the name of someone who you think would make a good officer even if she is not on the proposed slate.

The following comprise AAFSW's proposed slate of officers for 2011:

### President: Patricia Linderman

Patricia Linderman has been a Foreign Service spouse for 20 years (14 of them overseas), and is a writer, editor, translator, language teacher and former Community Liaison Office Coordinator with a Master's Degree in German literature. Among many other projects, she co-edited AAFSW's "Realities of Foreign Service Life" books, co-authored "The Expert Expatriate," and co-authored the musical play to celebrate AAFSW's 50th anniversary. She is also editor-in-chief of the literary magazine *Tales from a Small Planet*, home of the "Real Post Reports."

Patricia's husband is a State Department Consular Officer. They have two sons, aged 18 and 15. She is returning to Northern Virginia this summer from Guayaquil, Ecuador, where her diverse activities included serving as PTO president at the international school, working online from home, organizing events for leprosy patients, hosting coffees for English-speaking expatriates, rescuing baby iguanas from her locally adopted cats, scuba diving, and running her SUV into the back of a local bus.

Patricia's priorities as AAFSW president would include expanding membership, increasing the availability of online information for spouses/partners, and providing more services for overseas members.

### First Vice President: Jen Dinoia

Jen Dinoia is the spouse of a special agent with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. She has accompanied him to domestic postings in Virginia and California and overseas postings in Caracas, Venezuela and Reykjavik, Iceland. She is currently staying at home with their three children in Northern Virginia, and enjoys reading, writing, walking, yoga and Pilates.

While living overseas, Jen worked for the U.S. Embassy in Caracas and at the International School of Iceland. She is a long-time volunteer with AAFSW and currently serves as the Livelines Moderator. She also founded and moderates the DS Spouse Yahooogroup.

### Second Vice President: Lisa Wilkinson

In 1969, when Lisa got married in Mazatlán, a two-officer post on the Pacific coast of Mexico, little did she know that as a Foreign Service wife she would be referred to as a "dependent spouse!"

*Continued on page 5.*



## From the President's Desk

As I mentioned last month, AAFSW's marketing committee has been looking at ways to make our 51-year-old organization relevant to

current and future generations of the Foreign Service. What do we have to offer today?

We have already implemented a mandatory one-year membership in AAFSW for new members wishing to access our Yahoogroup, [Livelines](#). (The over 4,000 current members of Livelines have been grandfathered in and are not affected.) Livelines is currently AAFSW's greatest benefit and service to the community: it serves as a bulletin board to advertise housing, cars, furniture for sale or giveaway; it is a sounding board and a reality check; it provides practical answers to the queries involved with moving, the transportation of effects, insurance, pet transport/medication, foreign-born spouse concerns, and the myriad questions that are part of the FS lifestyle.

Another new perk of membership is that AAFSW members can advertise their products and services in the *Global Link*, free of charge, on a space-available basis. See page 7 of this issue for details.

Spouses who are seeking employment will have a chance to join the new [AAFSW SkillsBank group](#) on LinkedIn. Finding a job is all about networking! This group will not only facilitate professional networking between Foreign Service family members, but will be marketed to State Department Human Resources Officers at home and overseas and to the Global Employment Initiative (GEI) managers that work in 16 different countries and regions.

We are also in the early stages of developing a mentoring program for spouses of entry-level Foreign Service employees. Share your experience! AAFSW members have years of relevant experience ready to offer the new generation. We will be setting up this program to offer online and face-to-face mentoring when possible. For more information about mentoring and to sign up, please email [mentor@aafsw.org](mailto:mentor@aafsw.org).

The AAFSW board will soon be voting on the entire package of marketing suggestions and there will be more information coming your way. Some of the ideas include social events for entry-level spouses, as

well as a series of informal programs with speakers who are subject matter experts on education, special needs, finance, employment options, volunteerism, as they relates to life in the FS.

Look for changes on the [AAFSW website](#). Our new webmaster, Sean McKee will soon be "renovating" and updating it. A new board will also be elected shortly, and I am excited that AAFSW will continue to offer services and support that help the 21st century Foreign Service community.

*Faye Barnes*  
*AAFSW President*  
[president@aafsm.org](mailto:president@aafsm.org)

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## Link Up with LinkedIn

We have just launched a new service for our members. The AAFSW SkillsBank is a network on LinkedIn designed to promote our members' employment at home and abroad. This will be a closed (members-only) social and professional networking platform for eligible family members (EFMs) and will also include U.S. State Department HR staff, hiring managers and GEI Advisors.

If you are already on LinkedIn, [click here to join the network](#) or go to [linkedin.com](http://linkedin.com) and search for "AAFSW." Your SkillsBank membership will be active as soon as your AAFSW membership is confirmed.

If you are not yet an AAFSW member, and would like to join, please visit <http://www.aafsw.org/join/membership.htm> to apply online.

Once your AAFSW membership is active, you can join the LinkedIn group right away.

If you are an Human Resources Officer at an Embassy (or a Global Employment Initiative Advisor) you can sign up for this service without joining AAFSW (though we would be delighted if you did join, of course!) Apply directly from the LinkedIn page above. You will receive an email asking for your contact information from the AAFSW SkillsBank administrator requesting your name, phone number and official state.gov email account. Once your eligibility is confirmed, your membership in the SkillsBank will be approved.

We encourage you to forward this information to the HR officer at your post. Remember, HROs can join for free! Questions? Contact the SkillsBank moderator, Aleksandar Blagoevski-Trazoff, at [skillsbank@aafsw.org](mailto:skillsbank@aafsw.org).

# May Program

## U.S.-Iraq Relations

Please join us on **Tuesday, May 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon** in the Benjamin Franklin diplomatic reception room on the 8th floor of the Department of State for this interesting program



We are honored to have His Excellency Ambassador Samir Shakir Mahmood Sumaida'ie as our speaker. As Iraq's ambassador to the United States, he will offer a unique overview of US-Iraqi relations, as well as his perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing his own country during its current political evolution.

H.E. Samir Shakir Mahmood Sumaida'ie was appointed Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in July 2004. Prior to his appointment to the U.N., Ambassador Sumaida'ie served as the Minister of Interior in Baghdad. In this capacity he managed a domestic security force of over 120,000 and made considerable progress in reconstituting, and reorganizing the Ministry and its operations.

In addition, Ambassador Sumaida'ie served as a member of Governing Council (GC) in Iraq. In that capacity, he was Chairman of the Media Committee, and played an integral role in the founding of the Iraqi Telecom and Media Commission and the Public Broadcasting Institution. He was also Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and member of the Security and Finance Committees.

In April 2006, he moved to Washington DC

as Iraq's first ambassador to the United States of America since 1991.

Ambassador Sumaida'ie was born in Baghdad. Upon finishing high school in 1960, he won a scholarship to study abroad in the United Kingdom where he graduated from Durham University with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1965, and took a diploma in Computing in 1966. He then returned to Iraq as one of the first computer specialists in that country and worked with the Baghdad Electricity Board and Iraqi Petroleum Company before leaving the country in 1973.

A successful businessman, Ambassador Sumaida'ie founded a procurement agency in 1978 and embarked on a number of entrepreneurial ventures in his career. In the 1980's Ambassador Sumaida'ie established a design office in London, pioneered the use of computers in Islamic art and completed important works in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom. In the mid-nineties, he expanded his activities into China and opening an office in Beijing as a business consultant.

Prior to the removal of the Baathist regime, Ambassador Sumaida'ie was actively involved in opposition efforts. From his exile in the United Kingdom, he co-founded the Association of Iraqi Democrats and later, the Democratic Party of Iraq. As leader of these organizations he attended practically all opposition conferences throughout the world, and built close working relationships with other leaders of the opposition who went to become principal political leaders of the New Iraq.

*Sheila Switzer.*

*AAFSW Program Chairperson  
[programs@aafsw.org](mailto:programs@aafsw.org)*

### MAY 10 PROGRAM: U.S.- IRAQ RELATIONS

Please reply no later than Tuesday, May 3, 2011. The event takes place on Tuesday, May 10 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](http://www.aafsw.org).

### MAY 10 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

# AAFSW's March Program

Empowering Women with the WNDC

To commemorate Women's History Month, AAFSW and the Womens' National Democratic Club (WNDC) co-sponsored a program on Women's Empowerment at the WNDC's New Hampshire Avenue mansion on March 15.

The program started with a "Meet the Artists" exhibition, featuring the works of local women artists accompanied by a continental breakfast.

A panel discussion followed, moderated by AAFSW President **Faye Barnes** who outlined a brief history of the modern womens' movement from suffrage to the present day.

Kenyan native **Rosemary Seguero** spoke of how both her father, a Senior Chief, and her mother, a prominent elder, worked toward empowering women in Kenya. Ms. Seguero is President of Hope for Tomorrow, an organization dedicated to eliminating poverty. She stressed that womens' empowerment is critical in building a civil society and making leaders accountable.

**Dr. Marilyn Sephacle**, President of the Women Ambassadors Foundation and a Howard University professor, remembered observing a "sea of men's suits" at the UN General Assembly in the 1980s. For Dr. Sephacle, the exclusion of women in diplomacy is a "glaring paradox" given women's aptitude for dialogue and ability to compromise. Though women are still under-represented in diplomatic circles, Dr. Sephacle noted that today 11 of 23 African ambassadors to the U.S. are women.

**Eleanor Smeal**, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, noted that women have been at the core of the recent freedom movement in the Middle East. She said that ideological battles and political redistricting threatened women's gains here in the U.S. and in the world, noting in particular that Congress had eliminated the U.S. contribution to the United Nations Population Fund. She urged women to keep fighting not just for equality but "for everything we believe in."

Many AAFSW members stayed after the discussion for a convivial lunch hosted by the WNDC. AAFSW wishes to thank Patricia Fitzgerald and other WNDC members for hosting this event.

*Barbara Reionx  
AAFSW Member*

# Professional Development Fellowships

Foreign Service spouses and partners who are not in a position to pursue their career paths overseas may apply for a Professional Development Fellowship (PDF) through the Family Liaison Office (FLO). The program, which is open to spouses and partners of direct-hire U.S. Government employees assigned to or residing at an overseas post under Chief of Mission Authority, is designed to assist with maintaining, enhancing, and/or developing professional skills.

The fellowships reimburse some of the costs associated with activities such as continuing education and distance learning through an accredited university, professional development, participation in professional conferences, and dues for membership in professional organizations. FLO will grant PDFs of up to \$2,500 once activities are completed, and after the grantee submits the reimbursement request. Selected applicants must fund a minimum of 25 percent of the cost of the proposed activities while the Fellowship stipend will cover the additional cost up to the \$2,500 maximum. The Selection Committee will not consider any requests that do not meet the minimum amount requirement of \$1,000.

Spouses and partners of those employees assigned to unaccompanied posts are also eligible to apply. Spouses and partners of those employees on domestic assignments will not be considered. Previous awardees who have been awarded fellowships for two consecutive program cycles must wait one program cycle before reapplying.

The 2012 fellowship period will cover activities that commence on October 1, 2011 and conclude no later than August 15, 2012. **The application deadline is May 15, 2011.** Details and the application form are available on the FLO website at [www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c25927.htm](http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c25927.htm).

For additional questions, email [FLOASKFellowship2011@state.gov](mailto:FLOASKFellowship2011@state.gov) or call (202) 647-1076.

*Gabrielle Hampson  
Communications & Outreach Officer  
U.S. Department of State*

*Election, from page 1.*

32 years later, after ten overseas posts, there has been a marked improvement in the status of the FS spouse, thanks to AAFSW!

When Lisa's husband retired, she joined the League of Women Voters, Ikebana International, and the Smithsonian Encore Choral, and increased her involvement with AAFSW. She was also president of the Washington Seoul Women's Association from 2005-2010: an organization composed of female US Military, FS officers and American spouses of those who have served in Korea, and wives of Korean diplomats presently assigned to their Embassy in the US.

An intelligence analyst with a B.S. in Foreign Service, she worked with the United Nations Development Program in NY prior to her marriage. In her Foreign Service life, she has had several "odd" jobs: elementary school teacher, international sales representative for a US international airline in Taipei in 1976, ESL teacher as well as a member of the Board of Directors of Save the Children Korea. She is a recipient of the Lesley Dorman award for her service as co-chair of the Foreign Born Spouses group.

Lisa has three young grandchildren who live with their parents in Colorado and a daughter, who still loves living in foreign countries and is working in London.

**Margaret Teich: Secretary**

Margaret and her family had the "typical nomadic lifestyle of living in five overseas posts on five

different continents." During those years, she was able to find work in various embassy positions or on the local economy. Her husband recently retired from the Foreign Service.

Upon returning to the DC area in 1997, Margaret joined AAFSW and served as the Office Manager for the organization for several years.

**Lucy Whitley: Treasurer**

Lucy has been an AAFSW member since 1986 and has served as the Treasurer or Book Operations Treasurer for the last six years. She is the widow of FSO Philip Savitz, and the mother of Adam, a college student. Her abbreviated FS career took her to Barbados, Austria, and Germany. She hopes to continue to contribute to the future of the AAFSW by maintaining its financial stability in these difficult economic times.

**Gina Necula: Assistant Treasurer**

Gina has accompanied her Foreign Service Officer husband since 2004. They have been assigned to Iceland and Macedonia, and currently posted to DC.

Gina holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and has volunteered before as a co-treasurer with the International Women's Association in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. She looks forward to supporting the mission of AAFSW to "give members a stronger voice when working on common concerns and a chance to enjoy shared interests."

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## AAFSW 2011 Election Ballot

**President**

- Patricia Linderman
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

**First Vice President:**

- Jen Dinoia
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Vice-President**

- Lisa Wilkinson
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary**

- Margaret Teich
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer**

- Lucy Whitley
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

**Assistant Treasurer**

- Gina Necula
- Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

Send your completed ballot to:

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

You may also vote online in the members-only section at [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org).

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# Intranet Access for Family Members is Long Overdue

Staying connected is one of the challenges of the Foreign Service lifestyle. Not only staying in touch with friends and family around the globe, but also, unfortunately, accessing the various offices at the Department of State that we depend on.

For the spouse or partner of a Foreign Service Officer, these challenges are doubled. The FSO has direct access to many resources at work. While a partner can sometimes ask the FSO to handle certain problems, the reality is that workdays in consulates and embassies are busy, and our requests are often pushed to the back burner (if not by the FSO, then by the person actually fulfilling the request).

The resourceful Foreign Service partner knows about Yahoogroups such as [Livelines](#), HomefrontUS, and FSPets, and websites such as [aafsw.org](#) or [talesmag.com](#) and other online resources. But it can still be quite frustrating when the only solution is to find a certain document on the intranet, in the FSI library, or in the FAM. For those who have access to these online resources, the solution is just a click away, but for those of us who do not have access, an answer to “just get it off the intranet” means our quest is not over.

My husband has been in the Foreign Service for 2-1/2 years (if we start counting from his A-100) class, and for that entire time at least one of the following obstacles has prevented me from getting information:

1. I am not in D.C. and can't get to FSI and/or don't have a State Department ID
2. When I am in D.C., I have to be at work and the FSI hours don't mesh with my work schedule.
3. When I'm overseas, I don't have an employee “fob” to get on the intranet (my husband is doing non-immigrant visa work right now and does not have one either, so he can't just login for me in the evenings)
4. My husband did a lot of work to get me an OpenNet login for the computers in the CLO library at post, but I still didn't have an intranet login and password. However, I realized that even if I jumped through all the hoops to get one, I would very rarely be able to use the computers there because the consulate is closed in the evenings and I have to work during the days. (The consulate was about a 45-minute drive from our house, with traffic, so I couldn't go on my lunch break.)

5. Often, I cannot physically go to the consulate (e.g., to pick up necessary forms).

6. I am now on Separate Maintenance Allowance (as is our Community Liaison Office Coordinator), so I am cut off from all direct access and am back to asking my husband to take care of things. It sometimes seems that if I were in D.C. during SMA things would be easier, but I'm in Oklahoma! Based on anecdotal evidence from other Monterrey families on SMA and from the accounts of SMA families on the HomefrontUS Yahoo Group, it seems a lot of people on SMA are not in D.C., since they prefer being near their extended families while they separated from their partners.



Asking others at post is sometimes helpful, however, at our first post in Monterrey I discovered that the majority of the families there were also new to FS life, so they knew little more than I did, or what they knew was very specific to their own situations. The conflicting information was more confusing than helpful. CLOs are a great resource, if your post has one (not all posts do!), but many of them work part-time. And while sometimes they can help navigate the bureaucracy, a CLO is not a substitute for direct access to the resources we need.

As was pointed out recently on Livelines, another major obstacle for many is that their partner is not with State – OpenNet, for instance, excludes many non-State FSOs, though in theory much of the information there applies to all FSOs.

Many ideas have been suggested, from a State-run password-protected community on the web to a secure website using existing internet sites and/or platforms. From personal experience I can say that **any resource at all** that would be accessible to all spouses anywhere in the world would be a godsend.

Not having direct access to the information I need has been the single most frustrating aspect of Foreign Service life for me. Even when there are larger problems, this always seems to be a complicating factor. Considering that all of us as spouses/partners have already cleared a background check, it seems like something could be done to solve this problem and still keep information secure.

*Heather Torrance is the wife of a State Department Foreign Service Officer who is currently posted to Monterrey, Mexico.*

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# 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](mailto: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](http://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>.

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## AAFSW 50th Anniversary Performance DVDs

DVDs of the AAFSW 50th Anniversary Musical Play are now available for online purchase at \$7 apiece. Don't miss this memorable performance, written, directed and performed by members of the Foreign Service community! Visit <http://www.aafsw.org/dvd.htm> to find out more and order your DVDs today!

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## Mentors Wanted

AAFSW is seeking experienced, current Foreign Service family members to offer guidance to newbies as part of a pilot mentoring program. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact [mentor@aafsw.org](mailto:mentor@aafsw.org). Thanks!

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## We Love Your Photos!

AAFSW publishes photos of our activities and events in the *Global Link* newsletter, on our website, [www.aafsw.org](http://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](mailto: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!"



## April Peck Herbert, Ph.D.

### Academic Counselor/Writing Tutor

Elementary, middle and high school students need to be critical readers of their own writing. They not only require strategies for using the six traits of effective writing but tools to evaluate and develop an understanding of what makes good writing. Help them become strong writers for competitive school admissions, Standards of Learning exams, SAT, and success in life. Classes are of one, two or three students at my home at times convenient for you and your children.

[aprilpeckherbert@yahoo.com](mailto:aprilpeckherbert@yahoo.com)

703-865-6594

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## Dog Walkers Wanted

AAFSW member is seeking caring, responsible, mature individuals who want a part time work opportunity in a rapidly growing pet services business (dog walking and pet sitting) serving the Northern Virginia area. My business is based on going the extra mile for both the two and four legged clients. Interested persons must love and put pets first, enjoy working outdoors and be available for a flexible (generally midday) schedule. If you love animals, want to get some exercise and get paid for it, please contact Barbara at [wags\\_arlinton@yahoo.com](mailto:wags_arlinton@yahoo.com).

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## Some Useful Family Liaison Office Contacts

Official Website: <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/>

Unaccompanied Tours Blog: <http://FoggyBottomRambles.blogspot.com>

FLO email contacts:

General Questions: [FLO@state.gov](mailto:FLO@state.gov)

Employment: [FLOAskEmployment@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskEmployment@state.gov)

Education and Youth: [FLOAskEducation@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskEducation@state.gov)

Evacuation Support: [FLOAskEvacuations@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskEvacuations@state.gov)

Support Services: [FLOAskSupportServices@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskSupportServices@state.gov)

Unaccompanied Tours: [FLOAskUT@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskUT@state.gov)

Naturalization: [FLOAskNaturalization@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskNaturalization@state.gov)

Family Member Training: [FLOAskTraining@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskTraining@state.gov)

FLO Publications: [FLOPublications@state.gov](mailto:FLOPublications@state.gov)

Community Liaison Officer Program: [FLOAskCLO@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskCLO@state.gov)

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## Shop [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and Benefit AAFSW!

Please remember to click through the Amazon links on our website, [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org). AAFSW nets several hundred dollars every year through our affiliation with [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). It's a quick and easy way to help, and we really do appreciate it!

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Services Center

Main State, Room 1252

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Tel: 202-647-3086

Lesley Dorman

Tel: 202-484-3497

[housing@aafsw.org](mailto:housing@aafsw.org)

**Book Room**

Main State

Room B-816

Brian Neumann

Tel: 202-223-5796

[bookroom@aafsw.org](mailto:bookroom@aafsw.org)

**Livelines Moderator**

Jen Dinoia

[livelines@aafsw.org](mailto:livelines@aafsw.org)

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