Global Link

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AAFSW

May 2004

Help Us Plan for BOOKFAIR

BOOKFAIR 2004

October 15-24, 2004

If you have a flair for promotion and sales or an eye for collectibles, we need your help! The next AAFSW BOOKFAIR is scheduled for October 15-24 and we are already making plans for organizing this major fundraiser. Please join us!

WHAT: BOOKFAIR 2004 Planning Meeting

WHEN: May 15th, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: AAFSW Office
5125 MacArthur Blvd. N.W. Suite 36
Washington, DC 20016
Tel: 202-362-6514
Email: office@aafsw.org

May Calendar

May 2
FS Book Event

May 6
Day on the Hill

May 7
Foreign Affairs Day

May 15
BOOKFAIR Meeting

May 15
FSYF Scavenger Hunt

May 17
Fundraising Committee Meeting

May 18
AAFSW Program

May 19
FBS Meeting

WILL YOU BE RETIRING FROM THE FOREIGN SERVICE SOON?

FSI's Career Transition Center (CTC) offers several "must do" courses for those considering retirement - the Retirement session covers a great deal of information on the nuts and bolts of retiring. They find it useful to take the course five years before actual retirement so they can focus on financial planning, and again when the decision is made to retire for the latest information. Check with the CTC for the dates of the next Retirement courses.

In addition, the Transition Center offers the Job Search Program for those wishing to re-enter the job market after retirement. This valuable 4 week course has a special bonus for spouses who are 'retiring' along with the employee: AAFSW facilitates a dialogue especially geared to family members and spouses who will be undergoing many of the same transition reactions that leaving a life in the Foreign Service brings to employees. This session takes place on the Thursday of the first week of the course in a room that will be publicized on the first day. The dates to look for are:

Job Search Program	August 2, 2004
AAFSW Spouse Retirement session	August 5, 2004
Job Search Program	October 4, 2004
AAFSW Spouse Retirement session	October 7, 2004

Spouses are welcome to join many of the sessions the employees will attend. This special session will highlight solutions which are particularly helpful, as well as focus on the normal transition concerns that retiring brings. It has been found extremely helpful for **both** spouses to listen to the speakers - sometimes it helps to have two sets of ears! ***Spouses should remind employees to keep them informed of these upcoming events***.

SUMMER 4th of JULY PICNIC!!

Mark your calendars NOW for the festive summer picnic AAFSW coordinates to celebrate our U.S. Birthday! Because the 4th of July falls on Sunday this year, we will extend the celebration with a picnic for all ages on July 5th at Nottoway Park in Vienna. Join us for the games and the companionship as returnees, local members and newcomers meet each other and their families. Anyone wishing to give a hand in the logistics and details would be welcomed with smiles of gratitude! Call the AAFSW for more details this summer - and don't forget to help us celebrate!

A warm welcome to our New Members

Cori Ann Alston
Deborah Lynn Beyea
Jason M. Hancock
Greetje Keith-Bouwhof
Paola Koski
Gretchen Letvin
Joelle MacDonald
Nicole & Arran McWhirter
Marlene M. Nice
Carolyn W. Norton
Kristin O'Grady
Salote C. Pierce
Renee Savastuk
Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau

Happy Birthday!

Irene Barrows, wife of the late Ambassador Leland Barrows, will celebrate her 94th birthday on May 15. Irene joined the French Group several decades ago and has actively participated until last fall. Not that she wanted to stop coming to our meetings, but the physical barriers were sometimes too difficult, like climbing the many stairs to the main entrance of a house. The French Group always looked forward to being entertained in Irene's home; memories of her elegant table and her perfect preparations of the "goodies" to enjoy before the meeting started will be treasured forever. Her keen analysis of French texts, her witty remarks, her superb memory regarding events in the Foreign Service and her personal recollections of life with her husband in challenging countries enriched our meetings immensely. Irene infused our group with a great sense of loyalty and thanks to Irene's strong will, energetic, fair-minded and just demeanor we have always been able to enjoy a sense of sisterhood within the AAFSW community that we will work hard to maintain in her absence. We miss her at our meetings, and we all, her friends from the French Group and within AAFSW, wish her a Happy Birthday!!

Christel G. McDonald
Chair, AAFSW French Group

SELLING A CAR?? BUYING A RUG??
RENTING A TOWNHOUSE?? GOT A JOB TO PUBLICIZE??

Check out AAFSW's newly expanded website feature: Classified Advertising!! At last you can connect with others in need - just go to WWW.AAFSW.ORG and go to the NEW Classified Advertising section. AAFSW members can post their ads for free - anyone can respond, and the details of the delivery/payment/details can be left to the two parties to negotiate. Isn't this something we've all wanted at some time or another? Check it out!

Plan Ahead!
Annual Welcome Back Potluck Picnic
September 19, 2004

Join us from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm at Lubber Run Park, Arlington, Virginia. FSYF will provide hotdogs and drinks. Please bring a dish to share with six people. Program Directors will offer activities for teens and pre-teens. Activities will be offered for the younger children during the program. Dr. Samuel Theilman, Deputy Director Mental Health Services Crisis Response, will speak on what parents can expect from the re-entry process.Take this opportunity to connect with old and new Foreign Service friends and to tell returnees about the current Washington scene. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, September 15. Please RSVP to Melanie Newhouse at 301-404-6655 or e-mail fsyf@fsyf.org.

Calling ALL Applicants for AAFSW Positions!!
You have the talent we need!

* AAFSW GLOBAL LINK PRODUCTION MANAGER - DC area only

* AAFSW MEDIA DIRECTOR - may be located anywhere that has internet access

Want to work with an amazing organization that has YOUR best interests at heart? AAFSW has two paid, contract positions available for family members of the Foreign Service that begin in July, 2004. We have done a bit of a reorganization of duties for the work of AAFSW GLOBAL LINK PRODUCTION MANAGER and AAFSW MEDIA DIRECTOR. The work may have changed from what you recall in the past, so please contact AAFSW for the updated position descriptions. The contracts are for one year and may be renewed.

WE NEED YOUR STATEMENT OF INTEREST NOW!

If you are interested, please let us know NOW! We will accept applications that include work history and capabilities until June 1. For complete position descriptions, please contact the AAFSW Office by emailing or contacting Office@AAFSW.org.

AAFSW VOLUNTEER POSITIONS BECOME AVAILABLE!!

*** AAFSW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR** *** AAFSW TREASURER TEAM** *** AAFSW SECRETARY**

Much of the work of AAFSW is done by our valiant volunteers - and you can be one of them! We believe that getting some mentoring on just how to do a job is helpful and three of our volunteers are willing to help bring interested people on board NOW for the FUTURE!

Shannon Jamison (who has done such a splendid job of bringing in a host of new members as the Membership Chair) leaves in the summer of 2005 and would like to pass her wisdom on early to her successor. She would be delighted to job-share until she has to leave to aid the transition.

The duties of maintaining AAFSW Finances are fulfilled by a very capable team, including the positions of Treasurer, Bookfair Treasurer, and a number of ad hoc Financial Committee members who meet quarterly. The team would welcome new input and could find a place for anyone interested in becoming more involved with AAFSW Finances.

Mary Houdek (who keeps the Board in shape by recording the minutes as the Secretary) would love to have a back-up for her work. Mary travels a lot and AAFSW Secretary could be the perfect candidate for a job-sharing position or for someone interested in taking the position over at some point (which would have to be voted on by the membership).

Last year, the membership voted to make the elected officials' terms of office for two years (the Treasurer and Secretary positions are elected; Membership position is appointed). Even though those years don't end officially until next year, we need to look ahead for planning and training purposes.

WON'T YOU COME AND JOIN OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM?

Winners of the AAFSW/ Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Vounteerism Abroad 2004

This annual award was begun in 1990 by Mrs. Susan Baker, wife of then Secretary of State James A. Baker III, and the first award was given in May 1991 on Foreign Service Day. All US Government direct-hire employees and family members over 18 are eligible for the award. On Foreign Affairs Day, May 7, 2004, AAFSW is honored to recognize five deserving volunteers from the various geographic bureaus. They have made a remarkable difference in their communities, both American and host country, while serving abroad.

MARY JO AMANI, GUATEMALA CITY

Since her arrival in Guatemala in July 2001, Mary Jo has demonstrated extraordinary compassion for disadvantaged youth, dedicating hundreds of hours to improve the quality of education and to inspire a reading culture in poor, marginal areas of Guatemala City and the countryside. Safe Passage, a Guatemalan community organization working with children living at the city dump, has benefited from Mary Jo's teacher training program to develop a Montessori-like approach for young children. Building on this revolution in teaching methodologies, she began a children's library and brought in trainers to conduct workshops with teachers on how to use books effectively. Most recently she has developed a grant proposal for the construction of a new building for Safe Passage and funding prospects look favorable.

JUNE CARMICHAEL, HANOI

Because of June's love of museums and 14 years in retailing, she identified a great need in the museum shops of Hanoi. She began a series of projects with the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology presenting lectures on the importance of museum shops, collaborating with the shop manager to design and locate vendors to produce a VME mug, and helped the museum director launch Vietnam's first museum membership program. She is currently working to produce a simple museum tote bag. June also encouraged the director to join in the worldwide celebration of International Museum Day and saw thousands of Vietnamese attend this special free family activity day, raising awareness of their own rich cultural heritage.

ZINA LYNCH, DAKAR

Zina is involved with "Ker Yaakaaru Jigeen Ni" (House of Hope) shelter for raped, abused and pregnant girls in Senegal. She began her involvement by soliciting friends in the US for clothes, linens and hygiene items. She moved on to garner support from the USAF in Dakar to raise funds for the House's new building. And she enlisted support from Catholic Relief Services to manage the fundraising account and to establish a website for the shelter. Zina also is the Commissioner of Dakar's softball league, managing and operating the concessions to raise funds for the league and played an instrumental role in making the West Africa regional softball tournament an international success. Zina Lynch has made an impact on both the Senegalese and American communities that will continue long after her departure because of her efforts to ensure the sustainability of each of the projects with which she has been involved.

THERESA MCGALLICHER, KATHMANDU

A champion for the less fortunate she has encountered in Nepal, Theresa believes that introducing the "haves" to the "have nots" is a sure way to improve the lives of both. As chair of the Education and Training Committee of The Active Women of Nepal (AWON), she conducted site visits to prospective and ongoing programs to give out 218 scholarships and provided skills training to 64 women. Theresa spent countless hours online seeking other sources of funding for organizations her committee couldn't support. She also acquired and sold over 400 masks for the Masquerade Ball last year, AWON's biggest fundraiser. She sold Women in Development calendars to raise more than $6,000 for scholarships for girls. Four orphanages have also received Theresa's time and energy as she became their unofficial advocate bringing them donations of books, toys, clothes and other volunteers.

AMY SEBES, TIRANA

Amy volunteers well over 40 hours a week addressing the often unheard and neglected needs of trafficking in persons/victims. With strong determination and devotion to the cause, with relentless advocacy on their behalf, with an entrepreneurial mind and endless energy, she is helping these victims rebuild their lives. At a shelter in Tirana for trafficking victims, Amy established the Association of Albanian Girls and Women (AAGW) to teach these victims handicrafts, the sale of which will provide them with income. She also works to ensure the victims have a voice in decisions that affect their lives and well-being. Thanks to Amy's work through the AAGW, more than 30 residents of the shelter—former victims of trafficking—have had their hope and their lives restored.

The following nominees deserve honorable mention for their outstanding contributions to their respective communities. AAFSW encourages posts to recognize their efforts:

Kathleen Ahern, La Paz
Sandra W. Bagley, Antanarivo
Jennifer Breiman, Dhaka
Maxine Brinsfield, Moscow
Marguerite M. Davis, Strasbourg
Charlotte Davnie, Vilnius
Deborah T. Delare, Bucharest

Wendy Dwyer, New Delhi
Mira M. Hankins, Maputo
Maria Pastrana Lujan, Mexico City
Maurice R. Olfus, Port au Prince
Angel Rivera, Panama City
Elaine Saxe, Mexico City
Lee-Allison Sibley, Calcutta
Judy Snellgrove, Managua
Karen Sprakties, Ashgabat
Ron and Sheri Verdonk, Sao Paulo
Patricia and Dave Williams, Colombo
Angelena Vernal Young, Ljubljana

It is rewarding to know that through volunteering, the best of the American spirit is exemplified to our host countries. We salute you all.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PEARL RICHARDSON
PART 2 - The Iran Working Group

This is the second of two columns based on Pearl Richardson's 1987 interview with Penne Laingen for the Foreign Service Spouse Oral History Collection. After Cy Richardson's medical evacuation to Frankfurt from Tehran weeks before the hostages were taken in November 1979, Pearl returned to Washington with her spouse.

In January, 1980, as soon as we were settled in the old Rock Creek Motel, I *had* to go to the State Department to ask if I could work on the hostage problem. There was an Iran Working Group, and from that day until August 8 when I left for Lima, I volunteered every single day, except weekends, from 8 in the morning until 6 at night.

The Iran Working Group was, I think, located in the only secure conference room in the State Department. That meant there were no desk drawers; everything was out in the open. There were no windows so you didn't know if it was snowing or raining, or what was happening outside. You brought your lunch, or went down to the cafeteria and brought lunch back, or you skipped lunch. Five of us were there all the time, and we had lots of other volunteers. Whoever was free picked up the phone and answered, "Iran Working Group," and dealt with the problem. Things were tense, and I was always amazed that none of us had a heart attack.

We just gave advice, often off the top of our heads. But we found we could handle it very well. You know the State Department doesn't accept collect calls, but the hostage families had been told to call collect. We couldn't accept the calls, but we would take the number and phone them right back.

I felt it was very, very important to have the volunteer Working Group, because, frankly, the Department wasn't set up to handle hostage families. We ended up not only counseling and talking to families every single day, but we took calls from Congress, from the press, from anybody who called in wanting to help.

State did things that I'm sure the general public is not aware of. We had one case, I can only call her a child bride, a second wife of one of the hostages. She couldn't open a checking account; she didn't have a power of attorney from her husband. We managed to call the bank, explain the situation, and get her a checking account. We got her a job. One woman who always asked to talk to me was getting hate mail. Unbelievable! I called the Postmaster General and found that she had to give the post office permission to screen her mail before it was sent on to her. Which she did, and they caught the person who wrote the letters.

At one point, the Department got a psychiatrist to talk to us about "burnout" and things like that. I think they did an awful lot and, for the first time in my memory at State, money seemed to be no object! I have often wondered what the Department did with all of those sensitive files. We were dealing with many kinds of people . . . with the families of young Marine guards; with retired Foreign Service families; with people whose marriages were on the rocks when they went to Iran . . . some went for the money, but I don't condemn them for that. We were dealing with people who were caught in the embassy accidentally.

We were dealing with all age groups, all educational backgrounds, and you had to . . . I don't know . . . you sort of had to have a feel for it. I think I grew and learned a lot. I got a tremendous kick out of telling a senator that I could not release the names of the hostages. Now, that was childish, but how often can I stand up to a senator!

I thought the rescue mission was a mistake, and that President Carter was absolutely pushed into it. When the details came out, I was angry because it was ill-conceived, ill-equipped. I thought it was foolish. I mean, Tehran isn't on the coast, Tehran is inland. Okay, take away all that . . . nothing is inconceivable, but to have it fail because of mechanical break downs, and then a bus load of Iranians suddenly appears and what do you do with them? The whole thing was ludicrous. Helicopter failure. Equipment failure. And what would we have accomplished? If it had succeeded, if it had been well planned, if, if, if . . .

Eventually Cy was assigned to Lima, and the day before I left Washington, I called every family member, even both sides of a divorced couple, and told them I would come back when the hostages were released. Every few weeks in Lima, I bought a hundred or more postcards and sent them off to the families to let them know that I hadn't forgotten them. I always kept in touch, and when the phone rang at three one morning Cy said, "It's gotta be for you." Rumors were already in the wind; I picked up the phone, and a voice said, "Pearl, I think you can buy your ticket to Washington."

I flew home to be there when the hostages arrived. I saw the families at the Marriott Hotel . . . some of them had been at Washington area meetings and I knew them. Other people recognized my husky voice and came up to me and said, "You're Pearl. We didn't really believe you'd come home." With everything I'd been through, I had to be there.

I think the life of everyone involved was affected in some way, not only the hostage families, but I'm thinking of myself, of Cy. For us, there was a period before the crisis, then there was the hostage taking, and there's now. For good or bad, it affected us all

. —Edited by Jewell Fenzi, AAFSW oral historian

Intriguing would be the word to best describe the events of April 20th as Mr. Hou spoke of Chinese art and so kindly demonstrated the art of Chinese calligraphy. Pictured from left to right: Barbara Gordon, Program Coordinator; Terri Williams, AAFSW President; Mr. Chi-liang Hou, Program Speaker; Dr. Alice Koo, Interpreter; and Sandy Taylor, AAFSW Vice President.

Mark your Calendar!

Below are tentative dates for upcoming AAFSW Programs. Each will promise to be packed with information that will not only interest you but keep you coming back for more!

September 14, 2004
October 12, 2004
December 7, 2004
March 15, 2005
April 19, 2005
May 17, 2005

SPECIAL MAY 18th Program
10:00 - 12:00 AM
FREE to AAFSW MEMBERS!!

On May 18th, all AAFSW members are invited to attend a special meeting that looks at AAFSW - its operations, activities and membership benefits. As an update on the many recent changes, FLO's Deputy Director Judy Ikels and FSI's Career Transition Center's Ray Leki will give an overview of how recent events have affected their operations. As AAFSW was a founding force for both organizations, it will be important to see what they now face, and how AAFSW might coordinate with them today. Using our normally scheduled 8th floor Program time and location, we will also explore our own operations and how we relate to the Foreign Service world around us. Members overseas are invited to answer two question by email response to Office@aafsw.org:

What is important to you about being a member of AAFSW?
What can AAFSW do to enhance your and/or your family's life in the Foreign Service?

YOUR VOICE CAN INFLUENCE OUR FUTURE!!

May 18th Program
Please reply no later than May 14th

Name (as you wish it on name tag): _____
Telephone Number: _____

Please send form to:

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AAFSW
May 2004

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