

GOOD LUCK, BUT NOT GOOD-BYE

Terri Williams, President Emerita

With the results of the Board of Directors election on our doorstep, the reality that I am no longer President of AAFSW sinks in. See page 8 for a listing of new Officers and Committee Chairpersons. As I read this list of new and not-so-new names, I am a jumble of emotions: pride, confidence, anticipation, and relief.

I became active in AAFSW in 1998 as the elected Membership Chairperson. During this time, AAFSW began a series of meetings to reexamine the organization's mission and goals. I participated this journey of rediscovery with many other members who shared a deep personal commitment to the success of AAFSW. It was this feeling of support and worthiness that led me to become more active as First Vice President. Mette Beecroft, then President, and I soon formed a team leadership concept that gave me the confidence to become President when the position opened. Three years have quickly passed, and I look back with a sense of pride for all we have accomplished and a sense of camaraderie with all who have been part of the changes.

I now move into the President Emerita position that Mette forged. Rest assured, Mette will still play an important role within AAFSW as our State Liaison. It is critical that AAFSW have someone within the State Department to handle the many tasks that must be done onsite. In any case, Mette correctly points out that an organization can have more than one Emerita/Emeritus! I know that just as Mette has continued to have an important impact on the organization, I will have the same opportunity. I look forward to it.

Finally, it is the relief that my husband welcomes! This has been the most challenging job I've ever had, and it has impacted our family time. It has been my goal to increase membership and encourage members living in or coming to the D.C. area to take active roles in AAFSW. The more energy we put into AAFSW, the more we can accomplish. We will continue to work on this, but for now, I wish our new leadership good luck overseeing this fine organization.

Thank you AAFSW!

ACCEPTING 2005 SOSA NOMINATIONS NOW

Nominations are being accepted now until December 6, 2005 for the annual AAFSW/Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA). This award recognizes the outstanding volunteer activities of U.S. Government

employees and family members over the age of 18 serving overseas. One winner will be selected from each of the regional bureaus, and, from these, a worldwide winner will be chosen to receive the newly established Green Global Volunteer Award.

WORK FROM HOME: ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIBERS

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training has an ongoing need for qualified people to transcribe oral history interviews.

Qualifications include:

- Tape player or transcription machine that accepts regular sized cassettes
- Some knowledge of the world of foreign affairs
- Keen ear
- Fast typing speed

The Association pays \$60 per tape hour, NOT per work hour. (A professional transcriber takes about three hours to finish a tape hour.) Assignments must be completed at a minimum of one tape per week. The Association is willing to mail/pouch tapes to good transcribers who cannot come to their office at FSI due to overseas assignment or other reason. Serious candidates may contact Marie Warner at marie_warner@adst.org or 703-302-6820.

AAFSW
5125 MacArthur Blvd. NW
Suite 36
Washington, D.C. 20016
tel: 202-362-6514
fax: 202-362-6589
email: editor@aafsw.org

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Fatima E. Chrystal
Shirah Daves-Brody
Norman Galimba
Elizabeth Ann Hubbard
Sandra M. Kalschur
Jennifer S. Lowrey
Jane E. McMullen
Tessa (Kate) Van Til
Karen Wiebelhaus

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Alice Pickering
Michael Whitaker

WOMEN IN TRANSITION OFFERS SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you are recently divorced or are going through another kind of difficult adjustment, AAFSW's **Women in Transition** would like to help. For more information or if you wish to contribute ideas and assistance, contact Nancy Longmyer at 703-532-4694 or divorce@aafsw.org.

The Family Liaison Office can also help and has several publications on divorce, death, and other challenging situations online at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/rsrscs/pubs/c1980.htm>

YOU'RE INVITED!

AAFSW'S 7TH ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY BARBECUE

All Foreign Service employees and their families are cordially invited to a potluck barbeque on Monday, July 4, 2005 from 3:00pm to 6:30pm. Rain or shine, the day promises to hold good food, great conversation, and fun for ALL! Tell your friends and join us at Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Rd., Vienna, VA.

Bring your own food for the BBQ, a dish to share with 8 people, and a blanket or lawn

chair. We will have crafts, sand volleyball, a water balloon toss, relay races, and face painting. Beverages, watermelon, hot dogs, and cake will be provided. This event is funded by AAFSW, FSYF, and AFSA.

Please RSVP and sign up for a dish by July 1 at office@aafsw.org or call 202-362-6514. Want to help? Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up, or help with children's activities. Visit www.aafsw.org for more details.

FBS GROUP GATHERS

AAFSW's Foreign-born Spouses Group will meet on Wednesday, May 18 at noon for a quiet, easy lunch at Normandy Farm in Maryland. Members will wish bon voyage to those who plan to vacation with family this summer.

Members of the Foreign-born Spouses Group come from a variety of countries and cover the entire range of the Foreign Service

experience from newly minted spouses to widows and wives of retirees. Many of the new, younger spouses find this group to be a good source of information about American Foreign Service life.

For more information on the Foreign-born Spouses Group and to join, please contact Lisa Wilkinson or Chris Zarr at fbspouses@aafsw.org.

2005 SOSA NOMINATIONS, *continued from page 1*

This year, both the SOSA and Green Awards will be presented at a ceremony at the Department of State in December. All winners will be flown to Washington, D.C. to receive their awards, which last year consisted of a certificate signed by the Secretary of State, a pin, and a check for \$1,500. Read more about past SOSA winners at <http://www.aafsw.org/aafsw/awards.htm>.

Nominations must be received by **December 6, 2005** and should cover volunteer activities in one or more of the following categories:

- Exceptional service to the USG community at post
- Outstanding activities directed toward the host country
- Exceptional service in emergencies at post

Posts and individuals may submit as many nominations as they wish. Each nomination should not exceed three printed pages and should include the name of nominee and, if a family member, the name and relationship to the direct hire employee and position and agency. Also include the nominator's name, agency, and a description of association with the nominee. The narrative should discuss the actions and qualities that qualify the nominee for the award with specific examples of accomplishments that fulfill the criteria.

All nominations should be mailed to: AAFSW Office, 5125 MacArthur Blvd, NW, Suite 36, Washington, D.C. 20016 or emailed to: office@aafsw.org or faxed to: 202-362-6589. For more information call AAFSW at 202-362-6514.

FRENCH ANYONE?

Christel McDonald, French Group Chair

At the end of May, the AAFSW French Group will gather for a joyous lunch at the home of our gracious hostess, Jane Taube. The French Group luncheon was started years—nay, decades—ago by Mrs. Adele Rogers, wife of Secretary Rogers. She never failed to invite us to her home at the end of the "French Group season" to enjoy the swimming pool while sipping cool drinks

before partaking in a delicious dejeuner in her lovely, tree-filled garden.

If you would like to join us for a summer lunch at a French restaurant in July and August, please call Christel McDonald at 703-525-9755 or email frenchgroup@aafsw.org. We welcome those who are returning from overseas.

Entretemps, bonnes vacances!

AAFSW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BECOME NEXT SOSA CHAIR

Ginny Taylor, our hardworking SOSA Chairperson, will be leaving us next year, but it is not too soon to seek her replacement. It could be you! Ginny is in a perfect position to guide you through the entire process during her final SOSA in 2005. Many changes are in the wind for AAFSW's most prestigious award. Training with Ginny is a wonderful opportunity to gather the background knowledge needed to help AAFSW take SOSA to new heights. Please contact Ginny at 202-944-2386 or sosa@aafsw.org.

BOOKFAIR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEEDED

BOOKFAIR 2005 may seem far off, but planning has already begun. AAFSW seeks a BOOKFAIR Volunteer Coordinator to begin preparations for recruitment and other tasks. The sooner the job gets going, the easier the work is! The good news is that the job ends when BOOKFAIR does, and the chance to meet many other dedicated members is unsurpassed. Contact the AAFSW office at 202-362-6514 or office@aafsw.org.

DIPLOKIDS BLASTS OFF

Diplokids, the social group for Foreign Service children aged 5 to 10, continues to grow. Once co-sponsored by the Foreign Service Youth Foundation and AAFSW, Diplokids will now come under the full direction of FSYF's Youth Programs. President Emerita Terri Williams says the move "just makes sense," and is fully supported by AAFSW.

"I'm so excited to see this program move forward," says Anne Sullivan, Diplokids

Coordinator. "We felt a crucial group of children was being left out once they were too old for the Playgroup. Now, they can maintain friendships they developed in the Playgroup, or make new friends their age who share their globally-mobile lifestyle."

Watch for more information about summer activities, the ever-popular Halloween Party, and volunteer opportunities for kids and parents in future issues of the Global Link and online at www.fsyf.org.

UPCOMING FS YOUTH EVENTS

Diplokids adventure

Join Diplokids on Saturday, May 14 from 10:00am to 12:30pm for a Good Knight Event. Good Knight Castle (www.goodknight.org) puts on interactive programs for children (best for ages 6 to 12). This tour/show will have a "Lord of the Rings" theme, ending with a knighting ceremony. Younger siblings may attend. The cost is \$10 per person. Families must register and pre-pay. We are getting a group rate. To register, email fsyf@fsyf.org or call 301-404-6655. For more information, visit www.fsyf.org.

FS High School Graduation BBQ

FSYF invites all Foreign Service High Schoolers to celebrate the end of the school year and graduation. Join us Saturday, May 28 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm at the home of Emma and Molly Welch, 5922 Autumn Drive, McLean, Virginia. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Please RSVP by May 27 at fsyf@fsyf.org or call the FSYF office at 301-404-6655.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

The George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center offers training for all foreign affairs employees and adult family members.

May 2-3

SOS (MQ 911)

May 7

Explaining America (MQ 115)

May 10

Advanced SOS (MQ 912)

May 11

Emergency Medical Care (MQ 915)

May 14

Going Overseas for Singles (MQ 200)

Going Overseas for Families (MQ210)

Going Overseas for Kids (MQ230)

Logistics for Adults (MQ220)

May 16-17

SOS (MQ 911)

May 18-20

Presentations: Design to Delivery (MQ111)

May 21

Protocol (MQ 116)

May 24

Advanced SOS (MQ 912)

May 25

Legal Considerations in the FS (MQ 854)

May 27

Communicating Across Cultures (MQ 802)

To register, contact the Transition Center at 703-302-7268.

For a full class listing, visit <http://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/c6950.htm>.

7 WAYS YOU CAN MAKE BOOKFAIR GREAT

Dianne Bodeen, Art Corner Co-Chair

October may seem far away, but BOOKFAIR preparations are already underway. Before, during, and after the event, you can help BOOKFAIR reach its full potential with your generous donations of time, energy, books, and more. For more on what goes on backstage at BOOKFAIR, and why we do it as we do, please visit www.aafsw.org.

Donate books

If you live in the D.C. area and would like to donate books, or know of someone who wants to contribute a first-rate library to the cause, please contact the Bookroom Manager, Robin Jones, at 202-223-5796 or bookroom@aafsw.org. If you are overseas, please send only the rarest of unique books; give the others to a good cause in your country. In all cases, please do not donate old textbooks; underlined, dirty, moldy books; most magazines; standard travel books before 2001; or any almanacs.

Price books

AAFSW's BOOKFAIR is considered one of the best in the area because real attention is paid to pricing books appropriately. Book pricing is a skill you can learn by coming to AAFSW's Bookroom at Main State regularly for at least eight days to get the hang of it. We ask volunteers to be available regularly, if not necessarily frequently, for staffing sake and for you to price with ease and independence. If you are a bibliophile, this is the place for you.

Donate art and handicrafts

Art Corner is always a popular, money-making attraction at BOOKFAIR. To donate art and handicrafts, contact contact Robin or Art Corner Manager, Dianne Bodeen, at 703-536-2235 or artcorner@aafsw.org. Contributions from overseas are always welcome and encouraged. They can be

pouched to: Bookroom, B816, HST, DOS. If possible, please include any information that would make the items more interesting to buyers (i.e., date, origin, use, etc.).

Commemorative items without artistic merit are not worth your effort.

Price art and handicrafts

Pricing art and handicrafts for Art Corner is part knowledge, part divine inspiration, and several parts mutual consultation. If you like antique shops, yard sales, and museums, you would enjoy this job. To improve Art Corner, we would like to find volunteers who have knowledge of specific categories (dolls, for example) to review items, provide information, and make repairs. There is also an urgent need for another person to share the management of all aspects of the Art Corner. Contact Dianne for more information.

Sell year-round at Book Place

If you have a love of books or people or both, serve as a cashier at Book Place in Main State. Priced books are moved and then sorted at Book Place, which doubles as a book store for State Department customers from 12:00 to 2:30pm daily. Priced books must be shelved each day before opening. Again, regularity and promptness take precedence over frequency. If you commit to a day, you must be there. This job is great fun!

Coordinate BOOKFAIR volunteers

The team of volunteers that makes BOOKFAIR run needs leadership. The BOOKFAIR volunteer coordinator(s) collects sign-up forms, assigns tasks, and during the event, reports to the Exhibit Hall by 7:00am each day to give volunteers their assignments and aprons and generally keeps things running smoothly. Two people can easily share this important job, much of which can be done

from home early on. Parking privileges are included. See page 3 for details.

Volunteer at BOOKFAIR

Help put on BOOKFAIR by setting up, staffing the sale, or cleaning up at the end. There is something for everyone to do: bring items from

storage to the Exhibit Hall, stock shelves, create displays, run the cash register, help customers, pack boxes and crates, and the list goes on. BOOKFAIR is a lively place...someplace you will want to be. It is not always glamorous work, but your help is indispensable!

One of the most important things you can do is to fill out the BOOKFAIR volunteer form early to get security clearance to work the event. Forms will be available at www.aafsw.org and in upcoming Global Link issues.

BOOKFAIR VOLUNTEERS HAVE THEIR SAY

Mette Beecroft, BOOKFAIR Chair

Following the 44th Annual BOOKFAIR in October 2004, questionnaires were sent to all BOOKFAIR volunteers to gain feedback on work experience, organization, and BOOKFAIR in general. While the return rate was only 19%, volunteers that did respond offered these insights and ideas.

Many of the respondents have been volunteering at BOOKFAIR for at least 15 years and some for as much as 35 years. The overall average was 13 years. Six people have been volunteering for six years or less.

Most people have volunteered to do many BOOKFAIR/Place jobs—treasurer, cashier, reader, sorting and pricing, setting up BOOKFAIR, setting up Art Corner, floor walker, picking up books, picking up objects for Art Corner, pricing Art Corner objects, Stamp Corner, clean-up, and security “detail” to check items at the front door. The variety of jobs illustrates just how many types of jobs need doing for BOOKFAIR to exist.

As for why people volunteer, most of the replies fell into four categories:

1. They like books and like to see them redistributed for a second life.
2. They believe in providing the scholarships that BOOKFAIR

makes possible.

3. They believe in AAFSW and want to help support it and continue a 44-year tradition.
4. They enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones.

The question about willingness to volunteer yielded inconclusive results. However, several noted that full-time work, living out of the D.C. area, and poor health were reasons why they are not always able to make a specific volunteering commitment.

While two people commented on how well BOOKFAIR was organized, others suggested making it easier to donate books and pricing books lower, as other book fairs in the area do, so that books will sell more quickly. Other suggestions for improvement included fewer security personnel, more public hours, better light in the Stamp Corner, recruiting the younger generation to work, and starting BOOKFAIR at noon on opening day.

Generally, respondents seemed to think that BOOKFAIR is still important because of the money it raises and the fact that it helps to make the



public more aware of the Department of State and the Foreign Service. They consider BOOKFAIR an interesting event for the Washington, D.C. community, and it “confirms” that reading continues in “everyday lives.”

On the question of publicity, some people said they could not judge while others thought that the publicity was adequate. Suggestions for new advertising targets included senior citizens establishments, malls, bookstores, more local newspapers, and other U.S. government agencies.

FYI

Families in Global Transition (FIGT) announces its 7th International Families in Global Transition Conference to be held **September 15–17, 2005** in Houston, TX. The 2005 Families in Global Transition conference will be a forum where members of internationally mobile families gather with those who assist them—human resource personnel, relocation experts, educators, and counselors. Representatives from the government, missions, military, corporate, and education sectors will share their perspectives on their common goal of helping families make smooth intercultural transitions. For more information, visit www.figt.org.

AAFSW EXPLORES THE CULTURE AND ART OF GEORGIA

June Carmichael, AAFSW member

As I checked the weather before heading to AAFSW's March 15 program "The Country of Georgia," I decided this was a great day to acquaint myself with another new country, as we in the Foreign Service have a habit of doing. I figured this time it would be easy; I didn't have to learn the language—there are 33 of them—nor did I have to pack out for the move to Tbilisi. I could just sit back and enjoy the program with about 50 other people.

President Emerita Mette Becroft, who was pinch-hitting for President Terri Williams, welcomed and reminded us it was not too early to start thinking about our next BOOKFAIR. Program Chair Barbara Gordon then introduced our guest speaker, Nana Maraneli, who is currently FSI's Georgian instructor. She earned her Ph.D. from the Morris Tories Institute of Foreign Languages in Moscow and went on to lead various educational, artistic, and cultural institutions in her native Georgia.

Nana gave a historical overview of her beloved Georgia, which is about the size of North Carolina. She showed us some fascinating photos of cultural treasures housed in museums and the countryside. Georgians excel in pictorial arts and music. They have an excellent troupe of prima ballerinas and other folkloric dancers (who have appeared at Kennedy Center), as well as famous pianists and baritones. Nana ended her presentation with a sincere invitation to contact her for more conversations on Georgia at her home.

For me, a good presentation entices the audience with a piece of information that compels them to explore further, even after the program is over. For me, the "hook" was the importance of Georgian frescos in the art world. I knew about Italian frescos, but I had



never heard about the wonderful soft blues Nana referred to in the Georgian works. I later discovered online that in September 2004, Ambassador Miles and the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament visited Gelati Monastery near Kutaisi to see results of a fresco renovation project funded by a State Department Ambassadors Cultural Heritage Preservation Fund grant. Phase I of the renovation identified environmental and microbiological elements as the cause of heavy damage to the frescos.

Despite a technical glitch with the slide projector, Nana's presentation was interesting, engaging, and certainly, well-received.

OUR NATION'S CAPITAL: MORE THAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Barbara Gordon, Program Chair

For the last program of our season and to welcome the coming of spring, it seems appropriate to review some of the rich and continuing developments in the cultural life of our nation's capital city. Mr. Neale Perl, President of the Washington Performing Arts Society (WPAS), is more than qualified to do so. Please join us on **Tuesday, May 17** at 10:00am in the 8th floor Diplomatic Reception Rooms of Main State.

Mr. Perl was born in New York, and began studying the cello at the age of ten. He graduated from Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and Temple University in Philadelphia. After being awarded a fellowship to study in Paris with some of the finest cellists, he came to Washington, D.C. in 1980 where he co-founded the Washington Chamber Society. For eight years he served as Executive and Artistic Director of this organization, and performed more than 80 concerts with the ensemble, including performances at the Terrace Theater of the Kennedy Center and at the French Embassy. Always involved in multiple cultural

activities, Mr. Perl helped produce the first American Violin Congress with Sir Yehudi Menuhin, as well as the first World Cello Congress with Mstislav Rostropovich.

After meeting his future wife in Washington, D.C., Mr. Perl moved with his family to La Jolla, California to become Executive Director of the La Jolla Chamber Music Society, one of the leading presenters of classical music on the West Coast. In this capacity, he not only organized major musical events throughout the area, but also established an educational outreach program to advance the careers of top young artists, as well as to collaborate in an after-school enrichment program benefiting youth at risk.

Despite his important achievements and recognition on the West Coast, Mr. Perl and his family loved Washington, D.C. to the extent that he enthusiastically accepted his appointment in September 2001 to become the third president of the Washington Performing Arts Society. He has already made an impact on the cultural life of our city, and you will be



fascinated by the stories of his colorful past and his views and plans for the present and future. Of particular interest to AAFSW members is how over a 30-year period WPAS has developed a close relationship with 50 foreign embassies and D.C. public schools.

To end the program, and by special request, Mr. Perl will honor us by playing selections on his beloved cello. This is AAFSW's final program before the summer break, and it promises to be delightful. We hope to see you there!

MAY 17 PROGRAM

Our Nation's Capital: More than Politics and Government

**PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2005**

Coffee & tea at 10:00am, program begins 10:30am on the 8th floor Diplomatic Reception Rooms, Main State (Please use the C Street entrance of the State Department.)

Please send form and check made out to AAFSW for **\$15** per person to:
**AAFSW Reservations, 5125 MacArthur Blvd.
NW Suite 36 Washington, D.C. 20016**

MAY 17 PROGRAM

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

Social Security Number

Telephone

Name of guest(s) and SSN(s)

Contact AAFSW

OFFICERS

President

Judy Felt
Tel: 703-370-1414
president@aafsw.org

President Emerita

Terri L. Williams
Tel: 703-289-1654

Mette Beecroft
Tel: 301-320-7698
emerita@aafsw.org

1st Vice-President

vicepresident1@aafsw.org

2nd Vice-President

Sandy Taylor
Tel 301-388-0170
vicepresident2@aafsw.org

Secretary

Connie Griffin
Tel: 703-272-3046
secretary@aafsw.org

Treasurer

Lucy Whitley
Tel: 703-536-2183
treasurer@aafsw.org

Book Operations Treasurer

bookfairtreasurer@
aafsw.org

Membership

Joan Sitnik Walsh
Tel: 703-319-2110

Alicia Sinclair
Tel: 301-654-6588
membership@aafsw.org

Programs

Barbara Gordon
Tel: 202-338-0176
programs@aafsw.org

Public Relations

Lesley Dorman
Tel: 202-484-3497
publicrelations@aafsw.org

ADMINISTRATION AAFWS Office

Debbi Miller
5125 MacArthur Blvd.
Suite #36
Washington, D.C. 20016
Tel: 202-362-6514
Fax: 202-362-6589
office@aafsw.org

Book Room

Main State, Room B-816
Robin Jones
Tel/Fax: 202-223-5796
bookroom@aafsw.org

Media Director

Leslie Ashby
Tel: 514-220-0154
editor@aafsw.org

Global Link Production

Susan Lee
Tel: 703-507-6190
newsletter@aafsw.org

Web Master

Kelly Midura
kelly@aafsw.org

Website Advertising

Gretchen Letvin
Tel: 703-790-0647
advertising@aafsw.org

Livelines Moderator

Bert Curtis
livelines@aafsw.org

Legal Consultant

Jennifer Joy Bronk
legal@aafsw.org

SERVICES

Housing Desk

Employee Service Center
Main State, Room 1252
Tel/Fax: 202-647-3573
housing@aafsw.org

Marguerite Fry
Tel: 202-333-0611

Lesley Dorman
Tel: 202-484-3497

Kay Youngflesh
Tel: 703-683-0890

Archivist

Virginia Moore
Tel: 301-530-5902
archives@aafsw.org

Oral History

Jewell Fenzi
Tel: 202-387-4024
oralhistory@aafsw.org

LIAISONS

AFSA Liaison

Patty Ryan
Tel: 202-966-7696

Ann LaPorta
afsarep@aafsw.org

Legislative Liaison

Chris Zarr
Tel: 301-229-7218
congressrep@aafsw.org

State Liaison

Mette Beecroft
Tel: 301-320-7698
staterep@aafsw.org

Senior Living Liaison

Marguerite Anderson
Tel: 301-652-5433
seniorliving@aafsw.org

ACTIVITIES

Art Corner

Dianne Bodeen
Marion Precht
artcorner@aafsw.org

BOOKFAIR

Mette Beecroft
Tel: 301-320-7698
bookfair@aafsw.org

CLO Association

clogroup@aafsw.org

Foreign-Born Spouses

Lisa Wilkinson
Tel: 703-356-9233

Chris Zarr
Tel: 301-229-7218
fbspouses@aafsw.org

French Group

Christel McDonald
Tel: 703-525-9755
frenchgroup@aafsw.org

Loans/Adult Education

Joan Pryce
Tel: 703-739-0770
edloans@aafsw.org

Medical Evacuee Support

Judy Smith
Tel: 202-882-3021
medevac@aafsw.org

Playgroup

Allison Blackman
Tel: 703-390-1045
playgroup@aafsw.org

Post Representatives

Ruby Carlino
postrep@aafsw.org

Scholarships

Joan Sitnik Walsh
Tel: 703-319-2110
scholarships@aafsw.org

SOSA

Ginny Taylor
Tel: 202-944-2386
sosa@aafsw.org

Women in Transition

Nancy Longmyer
Tel: 703-532-4694
divorce@aafsw.org

5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW
Suite #36
Washington, DC 20016

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MAY 2005

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**AAFWSW NOW ACCEPTING
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