

GLOBAL LINK

Published by the Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide • www.aafsw.org • April 2006

AAFSW ATTENDS TRIBUTE TO EXCELLENCE

On February 23, 2006, several representatives of AAFSW attended the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training's (ADST) Tribute to Excellence dinner to honor former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell with the Ralph J. Bunche Award for Diplomatic Excellence and Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci with ADST's International Business Leadership Award. According to the *Washington Times* ("Diplomats Rock at Tribute to Powell, Carlucci" by Gail Scott, February 27, 2006), the black-tie event was "the diplomatic equivalent of a rock concert" with the presence of dozens of current and former U.S. ambassadors, Afghan and Iraqi diplomatic officials, not to mention AAFSW President Judy Felt, Second Vice-President Sandy Taylor, Senior Living Chair Marguerite Anderson, and other AAFSW members.

An independent nonprofit organization located on the FSI grounds, ADST advances understanding of American diplomacy and supports training at FSI through a variety of programs and activities. In addition to its research opportunities, exhibitions, book series, and award programs, ADST

has, since its founding in 1986, recorded more than 1,500 interviews with former participants in the U.S. foreign affairs process for its Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection. According to ADST, the purpose of the collection is "to capture for public use the knowledge, direct experiences, and perspectives of many whose stories are otherwise not recorded. Their detailed accounts of the making and implementing of foreign policy, the contexts, and the personalities involved give insights and provide information often not found in official documents or in memoirs and histories published elsewhere."

About 60 new interviews are added each year. The oral history collection has become one of the largest in the country on any subject and the most significant on foreign affairs. Over the years, AAFSW has significantly contributed to this effort by interviewing FS spouses and family members who shed light on



L to R: President Judy Felt, friend, and Pat and Sandy Taylor, Second V-P

the joys and hardships of FS life. AAFSW is an ex officio member of ADST's Board of Directors.

Jewell Fenzi heads up AAFSW's Oral History Committee. Contact oralhistory@aafsw.org or 202-387-4024 to learn how you can get involved. ADST's Oral History Collection is unclassified. The oral histories are available for sale individually and as a collection on CD-ROM and later this year will be available on the web site of the Library of Congress. The spouse oral history CD contains over 125 spouse oral histories. For further information, contact Marilyn Bentley at marilyn_bentley@adst.org or 703-302-6990.

LUNCHEON TO HONOR AAFSW VOLUNTEERS

One good turn deserves another, so AAFSW is honoring its many volunteers at a special luncheon on Tuesday, April 25 at 12 noon. Without the creativity, initiative, enthusiasm, and countless hours of work that our volunteers donate to AAFSW, the organization would cease to function and, we believe, the FS community would be the worse for it. Volunteers are

the very backbone of the organization, and it is time to celebrate their efforts, large and small, over the past year. For more information on the event, contact the AAFSW main office at office@aafsw.org or 703-820-5420 or AAFSW President Judy Felt at president@aafsw.org or 703-370-1414. We hope all our volunteers can come and be honored!



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email: office@aafsw.org

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Kelley Coyner
Margaret Hansen
Neil Andrew Hohmann
Rebekah Newquist
Tin Tin Nu Raschid
Elke Sabine Trick

MISCONCEPTIONS OF ISLAM

Lisa Wilkinson, FBS Group Co-Chair

Members of AAFSW's Foreign Born Spouses Group met for lunch at the Dacor Bacon House on February 14, 2006 to hear guest speaker (and FBS member) Bibi Meer discuss misconceptions of Islam. Bibi, who is a Muslim, is an artist, mother, grandmother, and wife of Ahmed Meer, who served as Minister Counselor for Science and Technology at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul before retiring. Bibi also grew up in the foreign service as her father was an Indian diplomat who served as Ambassador of India to the United Kingdom and other European countries.

Bibi began her discussion by saying, "Misconceptions of Islam are ubiquitous these days. And it is easy to see why. This is the religion that the September 11 terrorists claimed to profess...[but] did the religion of Islam dictate such terror?" She explained several aspects of Islam that non-Muslims often do not know in an effort to dispel some of the misunderstanding and prejudices. Bibi also differentiated between Islam and the people

who claim to practice it and emphasized the similarities between Islam and the Christian religion. For example, she explained that the Koran has one whole chapter dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Moreover, much like the Roman Catholic belief that Mary is the Virgin Mary, she is referred to in the Koran as the Goddess of Chastity.

Bibi's presentation propelled FBS members into a very animated but friendly discussion about Islam. Other Muslims in attendance were very helpful in answering additional questions. The discussions also covered the differences and similarities of religions. The subject was so thought provoking that everybody stayed longer than usual. It was a very culturally constructive afternoon! The fact that attendees were of various religious affiliations—Muslim, Hindu, Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, as well as non-believers—made this the FBS Group's most interesting get-together in quite some time. Care to join us? Email fsbpouses@aafsw.org.

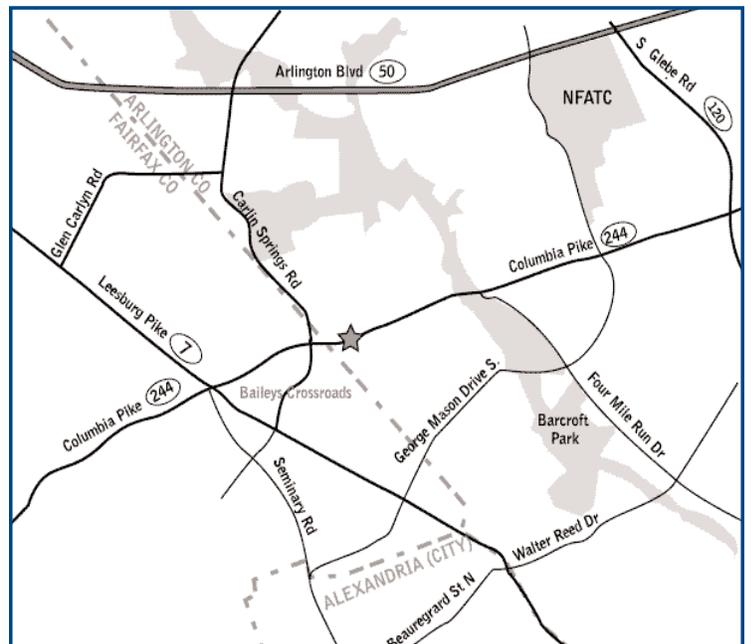
AAFSW OFFICE OPEN HOUSE

Want to see where the magic happens? Then mark your calendars to attend AAFSW's main office open house on Thursday, June 8 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. We have had time to fill the shelves with our library of Foreign Service resources, break in the conference room with numerous Board of Directors and committee meetings, and generally settle into this new office space to see to the daily administration of the organization. We hope you will take this opportunity to visit AAFSW and learn more about our members who volunteer their time and energy to sustain and enhance our many services.

It might just inspire you!

The office is located at 5555 Columbia Pike in Arlington, VA, which is just east of Carlin Springs Road. There is plenty of free parking and the AAFSW office can be accessed directly from the upper (rear) parking lot. As always, AAFSW regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 11:00am

to 3:00pm, and you are always welcome to drop by.





WEIRD AND WONDERFUL ART CORNER TREASURES

Dianne Bodeen, Art Corner Co-Chair

I was recently asked whether contributions to the Art Corner could reveal anything about the buying habits of Foreign Service members. Upon reflection, I concluded that the only inference I could draw was that we seem to have a perennial appetite for the unusual! So unusual, in some cases, that we at the Art Corner do not even know what we have sold when we have sold it.

Occasionally during BookFair, a customer will remark on what a wonderful example of something we have, so we quickly note just what it is. On one occasion, a man approached us enthusiastically holding up an item from Africa that we had been totally unable to identify. He informed us it was used by a relatively obscure tribe in West Africa and that he was an avid collector of their wares. Art Corner was a buyer's market for him!

Finding a home

Nothing gives us more pleasure than to unite a unique item with the person for whom it was destined. Several years ago, we had a marvelous sideboard from Eastern Europe detailed with many marvelous figures in decoupage. It was love at first sight for a State Department employee, although she might have thought better of it when she tried to move it into her northwest apartment. Last year, another customer was taken by a superb Indonesian carving; she had just the perfect place for it in her home, and we were overjoyed to sell it to her. Two years ago, we were able to provide objets d'art for an Australian diplomatic family, and they returned the following year to acquire a few more gems.

We also see annually some regular shoppers who are on the lookout for special items. With luck, we see them on numerous days, giving us the opportunity to continually whet their appetite for yet another exotic item. The extraordinarily beautiful Japanese kimono that

we showed for several years was bought last year by a repeat customer who felt strongly that it should have a good, caring home!

Knick-knacks to collector's items

While the Art Corner gets donations of more generic tourist items, we have also received some marvelous collections. Two years ago it was West African masks; last year we received wonderful dolls from all over the world. Baskets are favorites as are fabrics from around the world. Less numerous are items like the extraordinary pottery we received several years ago from the Ivory Coast. Certain shoppers are always on the lookout for good quality African items, and we are often able to satisfy them!

How to help

The Art Corner is always looking for volunteers to help organize and price donations. It is a fun job that does not require a huge time commitment. Contact Dianne Bodeen or Marion Precht at artcorner@aafsw.org.

To donate art and crafts to the Art Corner at any time of year, contact BookRoom Manager Robin Jones at bookroom@aafsw.org or 202-536-2235 to arrange pick-up. From overseas, send packages via the pouch to:

Robin Jones

AAFSW BOOKROOM

B816 Main State

(HST)

Please place on the front of the package:

VIA UNCLASSIFIED POUCH

With all donations, the more information (origin, medium, date, function, etc.) about the items you can provide, the better. Our customers appreciate it when we can offer some background on our stock, and they are more likely to buy!

HELP WANTED: FSYF PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF) seeks a part-time Program Director. Responsibilities include publishing youth newsletters; organizing outdoor adventure retreats, community service activities, and family picnics; and working with program directors, volunteers, and staff on FSYF's high school, middle school, and elementary programs.

Flexible hours, but must be available on some weekends and afternoons/evenings. \$18-25 hr/3 to 7 hours per week. An ideal job for a FS spouse or former FS youth living in or returning to NoVA this spring or summer. Contact Melanie Newhouse, FSYF Executive Director, for more information at fsyf@fsyf.org or 301-404-6655.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARDS

April 18 is the deadline for FSYF's Una Chapman Cox Award and Harry M. Jannette International Award, which recognize the volunteer efforts of FS kids (grades 7 to 12) at home and abroad. Kids nominate themselves. Go to <http://www.fsyf.org/award/awards.html> for nomination forms or contact fsyf@fsyf.org or 301-404-6655.

HOME-BASED BUSINESS GUIDE

There is a new resource available through the FLO: an in-depth guide to starting a home-based business. If you believe you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur, check out this guide at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/62696.htm>

RSVP ONLINE

If ever you misplace your Global Link or simply prefer to do things online, you can access RSVP forms for AAFSW's 8th floor programs on AAFSW's website. Simply, log in to the Members Only section at http://www.aafsw.org/members/members_main.htm and click on the program headline that interests you. You can read the full program description and print off the RSVP form to mail in with your payment. Any questions? Contact office@aafsw.org or 703-820-4520.

CYBERSPOUSE BEGINS SERIES ON FRUGAL LIVING IN D.C.

AAFSW's own Cyberspouse (a.k.a. Webmaster Kelly Midura) is a stay-at-home parent currently posted back to Washington, D.C. As such, she has been "researching" ways to get by on one income for some time now. She will share her money-saving secrets in a series of articles, beginning with ways to creatively furnishing your D.C. area home on a budget.

In Frugal Furnishings, the Cyberspouse says, "...unless you are independently wealthy, it is

likely that mortgage or rent payments will take a substantial bite out of your income, leaving limited funds with which to furnish your new home. But I have furniture, you say! I distinctly remember sending it to storage ten or fifteen years ago! The Cyberspouse is here to tell you to be prepared for a slight reality check when your storage contents are unpacked..." To read more, go to <http://www.aafsw.org/articles/midura/frugalfurniture.htm>.

NEW EMAIL GROUP FOR FS STAY-AT-HOME PARENTS

Fsathome, a new email discussion group, was created for and by FS spouses who have chosen to stay home with their children. It is primarily for parents of children who are in preschool or older, and its original purpose is to organize monthly get-togethers in the Washington, D.C. area. The group is sponsored by AAFSW and is offered free of charge.

Topics of discussion may include part-time, freelance, portable, or work-at-home careers;

living on a single income in Washington, D.C.; moving and re-entry concerns of older children; parenting TCKs, and so on. The community is growing steadily and welcomes your participation. If you are a FS stay-at-home parent and would like to join fsathome, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fsathome>. Please state your spouse's agency affiliation when you fill out the registration form, as well as your reason for joining.

EMAIL UPDATES FROM AAFSW

Did you know that every month AAFSW sends out an email announcing updates and special features on www.aafsw.org? This service is especially nice for those of us who do not receive the Global Link on a timely basis due to the pouch or other mailing delays or who have slow Internet connections and cannot surf websites at our leisure.

If you have not been taking advantage of this free service, you can easily sign up at any time by going to www.aafsw.org and scrolling down to the bottom of the home page. Simply click the link and follow the simple instructions. Happy reading!

NEVER TOO EARLY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

AAFSW has made its Voting Resources page a permanent fixture on its website at <http://www.aafsw.org/overseas/voting.htm>. We hope to encourage U.S. citizens overseas to register to vote, find absentee voter information by state, and research political parties and candidates throughout the year by supplying links to numerous websites. Take a look and send your link recommendations to webmaster@aafsw.org.

BEFORE THERE WAS ONLINE SHOPPING...

Think you are far from home in Ouagadougou or Dushanbe? Thanks to the Internet, long distance calling, video conferencing, and other technology, we are never more than a dial tone or a mouse click away. Our desire to talk with friends and family, read the latest news from our home town, and buy Oreos and affordable footwear can be (almost) instantly gratified no matter where we are posted. Once upon a time in the Foreign Service, communications and consumables were not so easy as retired FSO Hugh MacDougall recalls:

“My first post overseas was the American Embassy in Conakry, Guinea, early in 1961. This was a country that had just broken away from France, which had duly pulled out its aid, and aligned itself with the Soviet Union and Communist China, not to mention North Vietnam. Communication with the State Department was still largely by surface pouches (i.e., by sea), which took many months. Only letters went by air mail. Every four or five months a huge bunch of sea pouches would arrive, with all the old packages sent by family and friends—great stacks of back issues of magazines and other periodicals from home!

There was no such thing as telephone communication to the U.S. In cases of urgency, we sent telegrams that, like the Embassy's official telegrams, were typed out on tape, stuck onto blue telegraph forms, and submitted to the Guinean Government telegraph office. We got our official telegrams the same way. One advantage was that the telegraph office closed at 9:00pm, so there was very little worry of being awakened at night because somebody in Washington forgot that not all the world is in one time zone.

There was little to buy in Conakry, except for a small variety of fresh produce and fruits. The stores had virtually no imported goods. I recall ‘pricing’ the same rusty can of carrots three years in a row in order to fill out required State Department forms on ‘what things cost.’ Our fresh produce (meats, eggs, cheese, fresh vegetables) arrived every two weeks or so



Hugh MacDougall en route to Guinea in 1961 aboard the SS United States.

aboard a passenger liner from France. It was a giant group order that had to be divided among the Embassy staff in accordance with what they had ordered, and we essentially stopped work for a day while everyone turned up to dole out the loot. I early realized that the best job was cutting up the giant wheels of cheese into the original orders—you could nibble as you worked.

We ordered all our canned and bottled goods, notions, toiletries, not to mention beer, wine, and liquors, from one of two dealers in Denmark. Everyone ordered separately and then all the Embassy orders were combined and sent at once every six months. Then, about six months later, we would receive case after case of our goods (minus what got broken in handling), and hope that customs clearance would not take more than a couple of weeks.

The Embassy equipped each house with a freezer. When we heard (if we were lucky) that an extended electricity cut was planned, we would truck the freezers to the Embassy where they could be hitched up to a generator. Yet we were a happy post, as small ‘hardship’ posts often are if they have half-way decent leadership.”

Hugh MacDougall, FSO 1958-86 and active participant on AAFSW's Livelines email discussion group, served in Conakry, Recife, Paris, Abidjan, Lourenco Marques, Dar-es-Salaam, and Rangoon. His wife, Eleanore, has been a member of AAFSW since 1978.

THE MORE YOU KNOW

FSI is offering these courses in April and May 2006 to all FS employees and adult family members:

April 4 & 11 Targeting the Job Market

April 5 A Safe Overseas Home

April 7 Realities of Foreign Service Life

April 18 Advanced SOS

April 19 Traveling with Pets

April 22 Protocol

April 24–25 Security Overseas Seminar (SOS)

April 25–27 Regulations, Allowances, and Finance

April 26 Encouraging Resilience in FS Children

April 29 Singles in the Foreign Service

May 1-2 SOS

May 5 Communicating Across Cultures

May 6 Explaining America

May 9 Advanced SOS

May 10 Personal Finance Seminar

May 13 Going Overseas Series:

Going Overseas for Singles, Going Overseas for Families, Logistics for Adults, Logistics for Kids

May 15–16 SOS

May 20 Protocol

May 23 Advanced SOS

May 24 Legal Considerations in the Foreign Service

For more information and to register, contact the Transition Center at 703-302-7268 or FSITCTraining@state.gov. For a full listing of classes, visit <http://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/c6950.htm>.

PART-TIME SUMMER JOB OPPS AT FSI

The Transition Center at FSI seeks one Coordinator, three Teachers, and three Teacher's Aides for its Young Diplomats Day (YDD) and Youth Security Overseas Seminar (YSOS) offered to FS kids in grades 2 to 12 throughout the summer.

For coordinator and teachers: teaching background required, but not certification. Knowledge of FS life preferred. Teacher's aides should be FS senior high school or college students with recent overseas experience. For more information, contact Eileen Kelly Burkart at BurkartEK@state.gov. Closing date is **May 5, 2006.**

ARAB CULTURE AND ISLAM: AN EMBEDDED JOURNALIST'S PERSPECTIVE

Barbara Gordon, Programs Chair

Because of her 24 years experience as a journalist in all the countries of the Middle East, as well as several years in Europe and Africa, Barbara Ferguson, our speaker for the **April 18, 2006** program, has her own unique views concerning this complicated part of the world. Ms. Ferguson is currently the Washington, D.C. bureau chief for *Arab News*, an English-language daily newspaper circulated in the Middle East and headquartered in London. She is also the co-chair of the International Correspondents Committee of the National Press Club, and the winner of numerous journalism awards.

In spring 2003, Ms. Ferguson took leave from her Washington, D.C. bureau chief position to be embedded with the U.S. Marine Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1st Marines Expeditionary Force. There she had many fascinating and eye-opening experiences. After her return to Washington, and at the request of Lt. Gen. James Amos, with whom



Barbara Ferguson on the USS Boxer, preparing to return to Iraq.

she served, Ms. Ferguson began training hundreds of Marines (including intelligence officers) who were being deployed or re-deployed to Iraq. Her mandate was to teach them everything they needed to know about the culture and religion of their destination.

In spring 2005, she expanded her "Arab Culture and Islam" training to include mid-East bound civilian Americans, helping them become culturally competent on mid-Eastern issues. She now regularly trains U.S. Corrections Officers, police, and intelligence

officers on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice. All this is in addition to her "regular" job as a journalist and bureau chief for the *Arab News*. We are extremely fortunate to have Barbara Ferguson share with us her unique experiences and perspectives of this crucially important part of the world. Make plans to attend and bring some friends! You won't want to miss it!

APRIL 18 PROGRAM

ARAB CULTURE AND ISLAM: An Embedded Journalist's Perspective

**PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2006.**

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, 5555 Columbia Pike,
Suite 208, Arlington, VA 22204-3117**

APRIL 18 PROGRAM

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

Social Security Number

Telephone

Name of guest(s) and SSN(s)

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Last year, FLO offered for the first time its e-Entrepreneur program to teach FS family members how to set up online, home-based businesses. Over 100 people took advantage of the three-day workshops, so FLO is offering them again in 2006. Three sessions will be at Oakwood, Falls Church on May 31–June 2; July 17–19; and October 23–25. Family members from any foreign affairs agency can apply at <http://www.fse-entrepreneur.com/>

[apply.htm](#).

FLO has also started an e-Entrepreneur Train-the-Trainer program, the latest on April 3 and 4. The workshop is designed to train FS family members, CLOs, and SNAP Local Employment Advisors (LEA) to teach the full three-day e-Entrepreneur program to others at post. AAFSW member and LEA for Canada, Debbie Thompson, says, “The challenge FLO faced was to find a way to train more

spouses in the basics of e-business ownership. With...the Train-the-Trainer course, spouses can join LEAs and trained CLOs in offering this valuable tool so that a much greater number of spouses will be able to launch their own businesses, regardless of their overseas or domestic location.”

For more information on e-Entrepreneur program, please contact JennekeFijn van Draat at FijnVanDraatJE@state.gov.

BURN BEFORE READING: A CHALLENGE TO REVAMP U.S. INTELLIGENCE/SECURITY

Barbara Gordon, Programs Chair

On **Tuesday, May 16, 2006**, AAFSW will host the last 8th floor program of this series with guest-speaker, Admiral Stansfield Turner. Director of the CIA from 1977 to 1981 after more than 20 years of service in the U.S. Navy, Admiral Turner has just written a fascinating book, [Burn Before Reading: Presidents, CIA Directors, and Secret Intelligence](#), in which he explains the complicated relationship between the

CIA Director, the President of the United States, and the U.S. Congress. Since the founding of the CIA, each generation of public servants has had to negotiate this delicately balanced and problematic relationship.

In discussing the machinery of intelligence gathering, this highly qualified author reveals how personal and political considerations often interfere with the business of

government and the nation's security. Admiral Turner's unique background and experience make his lecture of particular relevance to the present and future concerns of our intelligence community. Here is a chance for all of us to learn more about how those we entrust with our safety can best protect the security of our country. Mark your calendars now and take this opportunity to RSVP early!

MAY 16 PROGRAM

BURN BEFORE READING A Challenge to Revamp U.S. Intelligence/Security

PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006.

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, 5555 Columbia Pike,
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MAY 16 PROGRAM

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

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