

GLOBAL LINK

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

BOOKFAIR '06 IS HERE!

BookFair '06 begins on Friday, October 13, 2006!

The 46th annual BookFair of the AAFSW will open at 2:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall at the Department of State. Thousands of used books, stamps, coins, art and collectibles from around the world will be available. On the final day (October 22nd) books will be half-price.

This year we are inviting you to a Wine and Cheese Reception on Thursday, October 12th in the Exhibit Hall from 6:00–8:00 pm. The reception costs \$10 per person and is open to the public. We will have books and art objects available for sale. Please see page 7 for RSVP information.

The BookFair opens officially on Friday, October 13th for State Department employees, retirees and families. Come look and buy from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

Visa/MasterCard and checks are accepted.

On the weekends, the BookFair is open to the public. Bring your friends, neighbors and colleagues! New books are added every day!

WHO SHOULD COME? Anyone who loves books; anyone who hopes to benefit from an AAFSW scholarship; anyone who uses services such as Livelines or the Housing Desk; anyone who wants to run into Foreign Service friends (and make new ones)! Support our many projects by coming to the BookFair and by bringing friends!



BOOKFAIR '06



October 13—22

BOOKFAIR '06 CALENDAR

October 12

6–8 pm
Vernissage
State Department Exhibit Hall
Admission through "C" Street Entrance

October 13

2–5 pm
OPENING DAY (must have State Department pass or be escorted)

October 14–15

10 am–4 pm
OPEN TO PUBLIC—
EVERYONE INVITED!

October 16–20

11 am–3 pm
Building pass holders and escorted guests only.

October 21–22

10 am–4 pm
OPEN TO PUBLIC. EVERYONE INVITED! LAST DAY BOOKS ARE HALF PRICE!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Dianne Bodeen
Tonya Dedmond
Cynthia Kochanek
Victoria A. Rose

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Dana Andrews
Electra Beahler
Charito Beal
Ruth B. Day
Nancy Horan
Betty Lou Hummel
Jane E. Owens
Alice T. Rodes
June Byrne Spencer

Judie Pruett
To support the AAFSW Scholarship Fund in memory of Roger Street, whose sons Bryan and Patrick are both former recipients of AAFSW scholarships.



5555 Columbia Pike
Suite 208
Arlington, VA 22204-3117
tel: 703-820-5420
fax: 703-820-5421
email: office@aafsw.org

REMBRANDT: FOUR HUNDRED YEARS LATER

Following the theme of our September program, “The Art of Splendor”, we have planned another illustrated lecture for **October 24th**, by an outstanding art historian who specializes in seventeenth-century Northern-European art: Aneta Georgievska-Shine. Her subject is Rembrandt van Rijn, Dutch painter and printmaker of the 17th century, who is considered one of the great innovators in the history of Western art. Though he is best known for his psychologically revealing self-portraits, Rembrandt is also the acknowledged master of light and shadow, rich color, and luxuriant brushwork. These qualities were emulated by generations of later artists, and in her lecture with slides, Aneta will be discussing and highlighting some of the most engaging and memorable facets of his oeuvre.

Aneta Georgievska-Shine was born and educated in Macedonia, where she received a B.A. in English Language and Literature. Upon moving to the United States, she began studying art history, earning her PhD at the

University of Maryland under the mentorship of Arthur Wheelock, curator of northern baroque paintings at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. She received a post-doctoral curatorial fellowship from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

Her articles have appeared in academic journals including *Artibus et Historiae*, the *Marburger Jahrbuch für Kunstwissenschaft*, and *The Art Bulletin*. Forthcoming publications include articles in *Artibus et Historiae*, *The Nederlands Kunsthistorisch Jaarboek*, and *Word and Image*.

Since 2001, she has regularly taught upper division courses at the Department of Art History and Archaeology of the University of Maryland, ranging in scope from 15th century Italian art, to 17th century Dutch and Flemish art, and theory and methodology of art history. In addition, Dr. Georgievska-Shine is a frequent lecturer at the Smithsonian, the National Gallery of Art, and throughout the Washington-Baltimore area. Her upcoming engagements include a guest lecture series entitled



“Artists Looking at Other Artists – On Making a Masterpiece” and one on the origins and evolution of the major European art museums. This year she is also co-organizing an important international conference of the Historians of Netherlandish Art which will take place in November.

Aneta has a remarkable ability to make the listener feel a part of the period she is discussing, and it is a great privilege to be celebrating the four-hundredth anniversary of Rembrandt’s birth with her. This is a program not to be missed! Send your reply today!

OCTOBER 24 PROGRAM

Rembrandt: 400 Years Later

**PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2006.**

Coffee & tea at 10:00 am, program begins 10:30 am 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**

OCTOBER 24 PROGRAM

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

Social Security Number

Telephone

Name of guest(s) and SSN(s)

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Helen Long

Everything was looking great. We had been at our new posting for a few months: the children were settled in school, I had unpacked boxes and started a job, my husband was comfortable at work, the neighbors had called on us, we all knew where the grocery store was and when the mail came in, and we had everything checked off our arrival list.

Then late one night the telephone rang and it was from my sister calling from the States saying that our mother was in the hospital following a heart attack and was not expected to live. My heart sank, my stomach turned, and I realized that my remaining parent was about to leave this earth forever and I was thousands of miles away.

In the morning my husband made my travel plans for me. The children went to school and I began to pack while watching the emails for any updates on my mother's condition. It was a rush against time. Would I get home in time? What would I find when I got to my sister's home and what would I need to do if and when the worst should happen? It had been 17 years since my father died. Would I react the same way and handle things as well as I had then?

By the time I reached Colorado it was Christmas Eve. The presents that my mother had brought with her from Virginia were under the tree and I recognized her handwriting on the tags. She had prepared for the visit for weeks and I could see evidence of her being here all over the house. Her jewelry was upstairs by her bed. Her wallet was in her purse, stuffed with grocery coupons just like always. Her nightgown lay on the bed, waiting for her to put it on one

more time. She was so evident, yet slipping away at the same time.

By the time Christmas morning came, my sisters and I had agreed to remove Mother's life support, as she had told us many times that we must do if she was ever in this condition. She died the following evening.

After the funeral, I started thinking about what I would have to do next. Living in Saudi Arabia did not make it particularly convenient. There were guidelines and procedures for each duty I had to execute under the will. There were laws and documents and attorneys to guide me. Closing the house, selling the car and probating the estate needed to be done. But those were the easy things to think about. Where would I turn, how could I manage all of this long distance, and how many trips from overseas would it take to finish? My head began to swim.

Looking back on this event, I realize that I utilized most of the well-known services available to me at the time. But there were several that I overlooked. Naomi Ritchie of the Family Liaison Office suggested the following resources within State:

Family Liaison Office (flo@state.gov) will assist a family as needed, providing referrals and acting as a liaison with other offices.

For support and some counseling: **Employee Consultation Service** (part of MED), staffed with 6 clinical social workers who have helped employees and families during the various ups and downs of life (email is MEDECS@state.gov).

Work Life 4 You is a free resource and referral service that is available for permanent employees and family members overseas (www.worklife4you.com).

Office of Casualty Assistance provides on-going support to U.S. Government employees and their family members following a death.

After all the buffet dishes are cleared away and all the thank you cards are written, one sits quietly and wonders 'what do I do next?' It seemed to me that there had to be an answer.

Based on my own experience, I decided to dedicate a large portion of the business I own to helping people with the mundane tasks associated with disposing of and distributing personal items and property following the death of a loved one. After returning to the States, I trained with a well-known Washington DC based estate sale company which has been in business for over 30 years. They showed me how to sort through rooms filled to the brim with memorabilia, categorize and organize for selling, donate and distribute items, and find people to help with appraisals, trash disposal and pricing. Once I felt comfortable with my skills, I added conducting estate sales to the list of services my company offers.

In short, there are many ways to handle the liquidation of an estate. The steps I would suggest, should you find yourself in this situation, are as follows:

- Obtain the Survivor Checklist from FLO (www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo) to make sure legal and financial concerns have been addressed.

Continued on page 6

AAFSW'S SOS—SPOUSE ON THE SCENE She gets the story . . . You get the scoop!

Melissa Hess

Welcome to the kick-off of AAFSW's newest informational column, SOS—Spouse on the Scene! AAFSW's roving reporter with a nose for news, interviews the “movers and shakers” of interest from our global community to bring information directly to Foreign Service spouses. Many thanks to Ann Greenberg, Director of the Family Liaison Office, for agreeing to be our first guest . . .

News is 24/7 and SOS doesn't let any grass grow under her feet, so heads up! She's on the move in search of her next story and may be coming soon (virtually) to a post near you! Watch for new SOS interviews every quarter!

An interview with Ann Greenberg, Director of the Family Liaison Office, News and Views

Q. Tell us a little about yourself. What was your professional background prior to becoming the Director of the Family Liaison Office (FLO)?

A. I am a Foreign Service family member with over 15 years of government experience as a contractor and direct-hire employee with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Department of State. Before serving as Director of the Family Liaison Office, I was the Local Employment Advisor in San Salvador for the Strategic Networking Assistance Program (SNAP) where I offered employment support and networking services to embassy family members. The success of the program led to the expansion of SNAP services to Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, which I served as the first Regional Employment Advisor. Prior to this, at overseas posts in Lithuania and El Salvador, I worked as an independent consultant.

Q. What is your vision for the Family Liaison Office?

A. My greatest vision is that the Department and global family member community will have an increased awareness of FLO services and programs available to them. In addition, I feel that direct outreach to

family members is critically important. A recent world-wide survey provided insights to help identify needs and tailor programs.

Increased inclusivity is also very important. Members of household make up over five percent of our family members overseas and the FLO office is doing everything it can to make our programs available to all family members.

Q. There have been times when people have remarked, “The Family Liaison Office really hasn't done much for me overseas.” How would you respond to this?

A. I would ask: Have you ever had a sponsor at post, attended an embassy holiday party, been evacuated, or received post orientation? These services are those of the Community Liaison Officers (CLO's), who we see as our agents in the field and are directly supported by FLO.

Q. How are the Family Liaison Office and the CLO program related?

A. FLO administers CLO training, both in D.C. and in the field, five times per year. Over 200 CLO's world-wide are supported by tools and information provided by our office. FLO and CLO provide many of the same services at different levels, including support for spousal employment, crisis management, and education. In addition, FLO assists with expeditious naturalization and provides support for families on

unaccompanied tours. The CLOs manage sponsorship and welcome orientations at post. They perform an essential support role for U.S. mission communities and serve as an extension of FLO overseas.

Q. What is the Family Liaison Office doing to have a greater connection with and more outreach to the Foreign Service community overseas?

A. In February 2006, FLO conducted a survey of spouses and members of households' worldwide. Though a normal survey of this type ranges from a seven to 12 percent response rate, we received an overwhelming 35% response! Clearly, this survey struck a cord. The results will be published in an upcoming article in the July/August issue of State magazine.

FLO publishes FS Direct, an informational newsletter that is sent via e-mail on a monthly basis to over 3300 family members around the world. It provides important announcements, articles on upcoming initiatives, and information about benefits and opportunities available to family members.

One of my biggest frustrations is reaching family members directly. Currently, the only way to do this is through the employee or the CLO. The results of the recent survey indicated that we are not reaching everyone, so we encourage family members to sign up for FLO publications as a way to stay current on

the latest information and services for family members. We have a variety of publications that are sent out on a subscription basis. All a family member has to do is sign up by contacting us at FLO@state.gov. All publications are free. In addition, on the FLO website at <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/>, there is a wealth of information on a wide range of programs and issues of concern to family members.

Q. *What about singles in the Foreign Service? Is FLO providing any services to them?*

A. FLO serves the entire FS community. At post, we encourage singles to participate in all of the CLO events and activities as a way to integrate into the community, get to know others, and have fun. At post, CLOs are a resource for singles. FLO is a resource for any personal issues they may have, including adoption, elder care, and expeditious naturalization.

Q. *Supporting Foreign Service employees at unaccompanied posts is an important issue right now. How is FLO contributing to this?*

A. Unfortunately, the reality of today's Foreign Service is that the number of unaccompanied positions has increased dramatically over the last few years. All indications are that this trend will continue. Unaccompanied tours create real hardship and disruption for separated families. FLO is providing support to these families through the development of Homefront US, a listserv where families can share information, frustrations, and get support while employees are overseas. In addition, FLO has a website and a 24/7 telephone hotline counseling and referral service that is available to family members whenever they feel stressed and want to talk to someone. A handbook for children is being developed that will provide suggestions and ideas so that children can maintain

communication and connection with the absent parent during periods of separation. This year, in conjunction with Foreign Affairs Day, the Department distributed medals and certificates of recognition to children of employees separated by service at unaccompanied posts. As the needs are identified and continue to grow, programs and initiatives will be developed to address those needs.

Q. *Finding meaningful employment overseas remains one of the greatest challenges to Foreign Service family members. Can you tell us about family member employment? When family members return to Washington, are there any services available from FLO?*

A. Family member employment remains one of the most important concerns as indicated by the results of our survey. FLO has a number of programs and opportunities available to support family member employment.

Traditionally, a majority of our spouses have sought employment inside the mission and in the past, FLO has worked very hard to establish the family member appointment, which provides retirement, and health benefits to family members working inside U.S. missions. In addition, for the past six years, the FLO, the AAFSW and AFSA cooperated to change legislation ultimately making it possible for family members who had worked in PIT positions overseas to retroactively receive retirement benefits (PIT buy-back). Most recently, HR/Retirement has taken the lead in processing and certifying individual requests to buy back these benefits. FLO supports the Office of Overseas Employment's new recruitment policy that authorizes eligible family members to receive a preference in hiring inside U.S. missions overseas.

For those spouses who are interested in continuing their current career and seek opportunities on the local

economy, SNAP provides job search support and networking assistance through the help of Local Employment Advisors. SNAP is currently operating at 35 posts around the world and we are looking forward to expanding to six more posts this fall.

FLO has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Manpower, which gives family members access to over 3000 on-line training courses worldwide and job placement services in 68 countries.

FLO has negotiated bilateral work agreements in 98 countries and de facto work arrangements in 54 additional countries that allow spouses to obtain work permit authorization more easily.

When coming back to Washington, FLO offers a bi-weekly Job Seekers Networking group and an on-line publication, The Network, which lists job opportunities and job fairs in the area.

For more information on any of these initiatives, please visit the FLO website or contact FLOAskEmployment@state.gov.

Q. *If the entire Foreign Service community was assembled in one room, what would you want to say to them? What would you like them to know?*

A. I would like them to know that although the Foreign Service community is as broad and diverse as the American community it represents, we are working together toward common goals and ideals. When we work together to build a sense of community overseas at missions and in the Department, everyone wins. Employees can do their jobs more effectively and family members experience a greater sense of the value of their contributions as they move around the world every two or three years. Ultimately, when we work together as one community, all of our lives are easier.

VOLUNTEER

Foreign Service High School Volunteering event will take place October 14th from 2-4 pm at:

New Hope Housing
Mondloch Family
Emergency House
Shelters
3510 Lockheed
Boulevard
Alexandria, VA 22306

All Foreign Service High Schoolers are invited to help out. Plan on a day of painting, cleaning and running a program with homeless preschoolers at the Shelter. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Foreign Service Youth Foundation at fsyf@fsyf.org or call 301-404-6655.

WHAT DO I DO NEXT? Continued from page 3

- Check with family members and distribute personal items according to instructions in the will.
- Go through the entire home with a large trash bag and remove all trash and recycling.
- Remove items that you do not wish to sell (designate a room be sealed off during the sale).
- If you are having an estate sale (where the house is open to the public to come through and purchase belongings), you will need to set up large tables and cover them with a sheet or tablecloth. Like items must be grouped and you must categorize and organize. Talk to people in the know to find out what items sell at sales in your neighborhood. Have one entry and exit for customers to use and be sure to enlist plenty of volunteers on the day of the sale so that customers can be helped with their purchases and things run smoothly.
- Set a date and time for your sale. Put an ad in the classifieds section of the paper and signs around the neighborhood.
- Most of all, utilize all the resources in your community and at State.
- Arrange for a charitable organization to pick up whatever is left when the sale is over and prepare yourself for discarding or donating items that you are emotionally tied to. It is a good rule of thumb to be prepared for one-half to one-quarter of the sale items to remain, depending upon length of the sale, location of the sale and clientele.

My company's most recent estate sale in McLean brought back many memories of my mother's estate sale. Some of the items were from the same era. Some of the family's emotions were similar. All in all, the dignity and respect for the people who once occupied this home (this life) were observed.

There is a next step even when the unthinkable happens. All of us have had to, or will have to, take that step sooner or later. Create a game plan before you need it and search out people you trust who can help you get the job of handling an estate done properly, especially if you are resident overseas.

Helen Long is president of Long Solutions, LLC and lives in Vienna, VA. To learn more, email longsolutions@cox.net.

PLAY AWAY!

A AFSW is proud to announce the appointment of a new playgroup coordinator, Jen Hoyer. Jen is the mother of 3 handsome boys ages 8, 6 and 2. They've been abroad for the past 7 years (Merida, Nairobi, Nicosia) and Jen has been a playgroup coordinator for most of those years! She looks forward to providing a warm and welcoming playgroup for you and your children. She lives in Falls Church and can be reached through playgroup@aafsw.org or by calling the AAFSW offices.



Contact AAFSW

OFFICERS

Honorary President
Maggie Pearson

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

Presidents Emeritae
Terri L. Williams
Tel/Fax: 703-289-1654

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

1st Vice-President
Elaine Neumann
Tel: 703-920-5773
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

Assistant Treasurer
Margaret Teich
Tel: 703-250-5099
treasurer2@aafsw.org

Membership
VACANT
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 & SERVICES

AAFSSW Office
Debbi Miller
5555 Columbia Pike, #208
Arlington, VA
22204-3117
Tel: 703-820-5420
Fax: 703-820-5421
office@aafsw.org

Housing Desk
Employee Services 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

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

Media Director
Kim Furnish
editor@aafsw.org

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

Web Master
Kelly Midura
kelly@aafsw.org

Website Advertising
Jeff Porter
Tel: 1-443-618-9046
advertising@aafsw.org

Livelines Moderator
Bert Curtis
livelines@aafsw.org

Legal Consultant
Jennifer Joy Bronk
legal@aafsw.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AFSA Liaison
Patty Ryan
Tel: 202-966-7696
Fax: 202-362-1716

Ann LaPorta
Tel: 202-248-4246
afsarep@aafsw.org

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

Art Corner
Dianne Bodeen
Marion Precht
artcorner@aafsw.org

BookFair
Mette Beecroft
Tel: 301-320-7698
Fax: 301-320-0963
bookfair@aafsw.org

CLO Association
VACANT
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

Legislative Liaison
Chris Zarr
Tel: 301-229-7218
congressrep@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

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

Playgroup
Jen Hoyer
playgroup@aafsw.org

Post Representatives
Ruby Carlino
postrepresentative
@aafsw.org

Scholarships
Phyllis Wickman
scholarships@aafsw.org

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

SOSA
Terri L. Williams
Tel/Fax: 703-289-1654
sosa@aafsw.org

State Liaison
Mette Beecroft
Tel: 301-320-7698
Fax: 301-320-0963
staterep@aafsw.org

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

5555 Columbia Pike
Suite 208
Arlington, VA 22204-3117



OCTOBER 2006

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
MERRIFIELD VA
PERMIT NO. 2711

Address Service
Requested

BOOKFAIR '06 IS HERE!