

CAST YOUR VOTES: NEW AAFSW OFFICERS

It's election time again at AAFSW. As a member of this organization, it is your right and responsibility to vote for the Board of Directors candidates you consider best for our future. Although the positions are uncontested, your vote is important to the organization, and you can always write in a candidate that does not appear on the ballot. The mail-in ballot appears below. Additionally, you can go to www.aafsw.org and vote online. The voting deadline is **May 1, 2007**.

The following individuals comprise the AAFSW's proposed slate of officers for 2007:

FAYE BARNES **President**

Faye Barnes served as the Director of the Family Liaison Office from June, 1998 to September 2005. During her tenure the FLO expanded and launched the SNAP and Global Employment program to assist spouses with career management and employment abroad. She was successful in getting Department support for retirement credit for family members employed in PIT appointments overseas, an effort that was supported and advanced by AAFSW and AFSA lobbying on the Hill. Since September 2005 she has continued to work for the Department of State as the Customer Service Coordinator in the Office of Retirement.

Faye and her family served overseas for 20 years in London, Mexico City, Bonn, Lima, Madrid and Caracas. She worked as the Community Liaison Office Coordinator in her last three overseas tours: London, Mexico City and Bonn. Active as a community volunteer, Faye was President of the Bonn American Women's Group, 1985-86 and the Lima Government Women's Group in 1979-80.

During a Washington tour, 1987-1991, Faye worked in Public Relations at the National Press Club.

Faye is a foreign born spouse from Canada with a B.Sc. (Food and Nutrition) from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada and a M.S. from the University of Minnesota. She is married to Richard L Barnes, a retired FAS officer. The Barnes are proud parents of two TCKs, daughters Erin and Allison, born abroad in Caracas and Lima, both recipients of AAFSW/AFSA Merit Scholarships.

ELAINE NEUMANN **First Vice-President**

After 37 years in the Foreign Service my husband is now contemplating retirement. We've served in Senegal, Iran, North Yemen (before the North and South merged), the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, and Afghanistan. We've survived four separated postings, including Viet Nam before joining the Foreign Service.

I have supported AAFSW's Book Fair during the 70's and 80's, worked locally and overseas in the 90's and have been a sole caretaker for my 91 year old mother since 2000. The issues of Separated Spouse and of Elder Care and overseas accompaniment are of particular interest to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 1st-VP position in the last two years and am looking forward to serving another term and working with the board on the many issues that are important to Foreign Service Families.

KATHRYN (KATY) KOCH **Second Vice-President**

I'm looking forward to joining the AAFSW board. My husband Matthew and I started our Foreign Service life in 1985. We have served in

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Kate Aubert
Agnes L. Bates
Marcus A. Cox
Archana Dheer
Deborah Dorcus
Florence Mwela
Lidia V. Rozdilsky
Karen Welch

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Teresa Banyas



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2007 Board Elections

AAFSW APPROVED

A study of the reentry experience of Foreign Service spouses is being conducted by one of our AAFSW members, Sharon Maybarduk, a candidate for the Masters in Social Work degree at Smith College School for Social Work. The AAFSW has approved this study and the questionnaire, which Ms. Maybarduk will be sending to AAFSW members, both domestic and international. AAFSW members are invited to participate as the study results may be helpful to Foreign Service spouses and family members returning from an overseas assignment. Watch for the questionnaire in the mail! If you have questions or concerns, you can contact AAFSW at our office.

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Amsterdam, Moscow, Vienna, Abu Dhabi, and Tokyo.

I was one of two fulltime CLO coordinators for two years in Tokyo. I've also worked as a writer, editor, substitute teacher and ESL instructor. Matt and I love to sing and always join choirs wherever we're posted overseas. We have one son, Robby, who is now in 8th grade.

LUCY WHITLEY

Treasurer

I have been a member of the AAFSW for 21 years and have served as the Treasurer and the Book Operations Treasurer. Our abbreviated foreign service duty took us to Barbados, Austria, and Germany.

I hope to contribute to the future of the AAFSW by maintaining its financial stability while increasing funds for community service.

MARGARET TEICH

Assistant Treasurer

For the past 27 years, my family and I have had the typical nomadic lifestyle of living in 5 overseas posts on five different continents. Fortunately I was able to find work in various embassy positions or on the local economy in four of our overseas postings. Upon returning to the DC area, I joined AAFSW in 1997 and became the office manager for the organization until our next overseas posting in 2003. My husband has recently retired from the Foreign Service. We are rediscovering the DC area, re-connecting with old friends and simply enjoying "life after the Foreign Service".

VACANT

Secretary

- Two-year term with the possibility of re-election.
- Prepares minutes of all Board meetings and other meetings when so asked.
- Works closely with AAFSW Office Manager and Media Team to coordinate dissemination of accurate minutes and information.
- Oversees the maintenance of Association records.

- Acts as parliamentarian at Board meetings, ensuring that Roberts Rules of Order are followed.

If you are interested in serving as AAFSW Secretary please contact Elaine Neumann at vicepresident1@aafsw.org

BALLOT

2007 AAFSW Board Election
Deadline: **May 1, 2007**

Please mark the appropriate box:

- I endorse the slate of officers as presented
- I would like to vote for the following write-in candidate(s):

INTRODUCING OUR NEW HONORARY PRESIDENT: DIANA NEGROPONTE

Diana Negroponte is a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution where she is creating a Latin American project. Recently, she was a Senior Scholar at the U.S. Institute of Peace, where she wrote the early history of the organization. She received her doctorate from Georgetown University and wrote her dissertation on the decade long struggle to make peace in El Salvador. Dr. Negroponte has a bachelor's degree from the London School of Economics & Political Science and a law degree from the Washington College of Law, American University. She has also studied at the Instituto-Iberoamericano in Mexico City and the Institute Catholique in Paris. She has taught at Georgetown University in Washington DC, and at Fordham University in New York

In the 1980s and again in 1997, Dr. Negroponte practiced international trade and aviation law with Paul,

Hastings, Janofsky & Walker. She also worked with the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico City in preparation for the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Diana Negroponte's keen interest in public policy has led her to the Board of Trustees of Freedom House, a not for profit organization dedicated to issues of freedom, democracy and human rights, where she chairs the Development Committee. She is also a member of the Board of the Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Women's Foreign Policy Group. She is a member of Amnesty International and the Council on Foreign Relations. Before marriage, she was the Executive Director of the International Office of Britain's Conservative Party and worked in the Secretariat at the European Common Market in Brussels.

Ms. Negroponte is committed to problems of global development,

having served as a teacher of the blind in Uganda with Voluntary Service Overseas, the British equivalent of the Peace Corps and a construction worker on the Yugoslav/Rumanian border with International Voluntary Service. She continues to build houses for those in need with Habitat for Humanity International and gives much time to the issues surrounding micro-finance as a member of the Board of Opportunity International, a global philanthropic organization.

Diana Negroponte is a U.S. citizen, speaks French and Spanish and relaxes by listening to music and gardening. She and her husband, John Negroponte have adopted five children from Honduras.



ANNOUNCING BOOKFAIR 2007

The Board of AAFSW is proud to announce the dates of the 47th annual BookFair. BookFair '07 opens on Friday, October 12 and the closing date is Sunday October 21. We had an amazing BookFair in '06 and know that this year will be bigger and better than ever. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Thinking about taking that fall cruise to Alaska? By all means book it, but not during the exciting BookFair '07! Save the date, **October 12th through the 21st.**



WHITHER AFGHANISTAN?

Barbara Gordon, AAFSW Program Chair

The Honorable Ronald E. Neumann, our current U. S. Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan since July 2005, has graciously agreed to fill us in on all the latest developments in that fascinating country. He will be returning from his post (to retire) just in time to be the featured speaker at our **April 24th** meeting.

Ambassador Neumann has served for more than 30 years in the Middle East, including as our Ambassador to Algeria (1994–1997) and as Ambassador to Bahrain (2001–2004), and subsequently in Iraq where he was deeply involved in the political aspects of the US/Iraqi military operations in Fallujah, Najaf, and elsewhere. Because of his long-term familiarity with the entire region, he was the logical choice to deal with the resurgence of the military and Taliban fighters, who were seeking to undermine what had seemed to be a success on the part of the U.S. and its allies in stabilizing the

beleaguered country of Afghanistan.

Our speaker received his B.A. in history and his M.A. in political science from the University of California at Riverside. He served as an Army infantry officer in Vietnam, and holds a Bronze Star. He has received several Foreign Service awards, including two Superior Honor Awards. In Baghdad he was awarded the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. He is the first diplomat since the establishment of the modern State Department to have served as ambassador to the same country as his father—which puts his family in the distinguished company of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams, who were both U.S. emissaries to Great Britain.

It was through the good offices of AAFSW's 1st Vice-President, Elaine Neumann (his wife), who made an overnight telephone call, that we are fortunate enough to have this important diplomat arrange his schedule so that he can share his



knowledge, views, and expertise with us. You will find him to be an extremely engaging speaker, and if you have any interest at all in the current events in the Middle East, make your reservations **NOW** for this superb program! As always, any guests you wish to bring are very welcome.

Please note the date of the program has been changed from April 17 to April 24.

APRIL 24 PROGRAM

Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann

PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007.

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 24 PROGRAM

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

Social Security Number

Telephone

Name of guest(s) and SSN(s)

OUTSTANDING WOMEN AMBASSADORS ADDRESS AAFSW

Barbara Gordon, Program Chair

On March 20th three amazing women addressed AAFSW at the State Department: Her Excellency Datin Paduka Dr. Rajmah Hussain from Malaysia, Her Excellency Dr. Faida Mitifu from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Her Excellency Elena Borislovova Poptodorova from Bulgaria.

While we were able to announce Mittifu and Poptodorova in the February Global Link, Her Excellency Datin Paduka Dr. Rajmah Hussain from Malaysia was a more recent addition to the program. Born in Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Hussain did her advanced studies at the University of London.

She joined the Foreign Service of Malaysia, and quickly rose to the top, serving in 5 of her country's embassies abroad, three of them at the Ambassadorial level—Paris, Geneva, and Vienna. Her 30 years of service as a career diplomat has culminated in her appointment as Ambassador to the United States in 2006.

Three distinguished women with three distinctly individual personalities representing three wildly different cultures presented a dazzling program for a large group of members and their guests. All three alluded to the "glass ceiling" - that invisible barrier to gender equality that exists in the mind

and in attitudes, though it no longer exists in law. All three became prominent in the "man's world" of diplomacy through notable educational successes and through their own personal excellence. Each told a bit of their respective country's political history, and the impact that history has had on women's rights and opportunities. Each was eloquent and entertaining, combining dignity, humor, intelligence, and femininity. It was a tremendous privilege to learn from these women, who won both our respect and our hearts.



Clockwise from top left: Her Excellency Dr. Rajmah Hussain, Ambassador from Malaysia; Her Excellency Elena Poptodorova, Ambassador from Bulgaria; Her Excellency Dr. Faida Mitifu, Ambassador from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

ADVOCACY: WHAT AAFSW IS DOING FOR YOU KEEPING THE FOREIGN SERVICE “FAMILY FRIENDLY”

Ann La Porta, AFSA Co-Liaison

From the time when AAFSW was instrumental in founding the Family Liaison Office (FLO) over 25 years ago the organization has been in the forefront supporting our Foreign Affairs families. Where we perceived there was a need, AAFSW has lobbied for the families. We have effected changes in State Department's policies towards dealing with families.

After the 444 day hostage situation in Tehran ended in 1981, AAFSW began to work with the Department to see what support could be given to families evacuated because of political or other crises overseas. In 1985 the Evacuee Support Network was formed. We worked closely with FLO, especially when large numbers of evacuees descended upon Washington. After 20 years, the Bureaus have now taken on this duty, supporting families who are evacuated from posts because of dangerous conditions. Involuntary Separate Maintenance Allowances (ISMAs) have been increased to better meet the needs of families who have been evacuated or who have spouses in unaccompanied posts.

In 1998 AAFSW hosted an Inter-Agency Round Table on Elder Care which focused the Department on Elder Care needs. The department launched a policy review. Now it is possible for both the employee and the spouse to make two round trips each tour to help an aging parent.

AAFSW members actively lobbied on the Hill to secure the possibility for some 300 spouses who worked overseas in “permanent, intermittent, temporary” (PIT) positions to buy back retirement benefits which were not available during

the years they worked. The regulations and funding are now in place for claims to be filed.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's double pronged policies of Transformational Diplomacy and Global Repositioning announced in January 2006 have added new pressures for Foreign Service families. Under her new guidelines for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service employees must meet five of seven requirements, one of which is serving in an unaccompanied post. In 2001 there were 200 unaccompanied positions in posts which were considered too dangerous for families. Today there are 800 positions at two dozen posts. More than one-third of upcoming assignments will be to unaccompanied posts.

FLO has created a new position, Program Specialist for Unaccompanied Tours, to help meet some of the needs of this increasing number of families. The specialist's name is Nan Leininger and she can be reached at LeiningerNW@state.gov.

AAFSW's website, www.aafsw.org, has added a new section “Going It Alone”. The heading, which can be accessed through the home page masthead, lists resources at FLO and elsewhere. The section includes articles by spouses and how they have coped with the separation as well as opportunities to add your own experiences.

Besides the website, AAFSW maintains a YAHOO! listserve group dedicated to information sharing for and by Foreign Service families. “Livelines” can be accessed and joined through the website. This free group is

moderated by an AAFSW member currently posted with her husband in Stockholm. Livelines now has more than 1200 subscribers. Group conversations range from “Will there be a nursery school at my next post?” to employment and separation issues. It is an invaluable source of information for Foreign Service families.

In 1995 in an effort to streamline the process of moving overseas, transiting and coming home, State established what is now called the “Service Corridor”. Of the 21 different sources of support for families relocating 9 are now located in the Service Corridor with a further 10 either close to or in the Main State building. These include the FLO, travel, transportation and the Employee Service Center. Families passing through with a cramped schedule have one-stop shopping to accomplish most of the details involved in moving plus the cafeteria, much needed during the long process. Also employees have ready access to their Bureaus.

State Management now proposes to move the Service Corridor completely out of Main State to an annex across the street in Columbia Plaza. Employees would be separated from their offices and business appointments; families would have nowhere to eat during the frantic moving process. AAFSW, AFSA, FLO and the Director General all oppose this plan. However, Management, claiming that the need for office space for high-level bureaus supercedes the needs of transiting employees, has already moved Transportation out of the corridor.

AAFSW, primarily through President Emerita and State Liaison Mette Beecroft, has been lobbying vigorously since last November against this move. We will continue to do so in our efforts to keep State Department “family friendly.”

Another thing we will do is to reconstitute the Forum. This is a special committee which looks into and addresses the concerns of families. The Evacuee Network, the Elder Care project, the PIT Buyback have all been projects initiated by the Forum. In this time when Foreign Service employees and their families

are being asked to make extraordinary sacrifices for their country we feel that we must explore what we can do to support the families. Our out-going President, Judy Felt, has volunteered to chair the Forum Committee. We will be looking for committee members and issues in the near future.

While we recognize that diplomacy is changing, we still feel it should be a career where families can live together when the circumstances are safe, and that families should be supported when they must be separated.

FSI TRANSITION CENTER SEEKS SUMMER HELP

Have a teaching background? If you'll be in DC this summer you might enjoy the opportunity to help with either Young Diplomats Day (YDD) or the Youth Security Overseas Seminar (YSOS). YDD is a one-day introduction to the world of diplomacy for children of USG employees assigned abroad. The dates for YDD are July 9, 16, 30 and August 13. During YSOS children explore safety and security threats they might face in an overseas environment and identify resources to protect themselves. The dates for YSOS are June 19, July 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7 and 14.

Training is provided to teachers and teachers aides, who receive a daily stipend. To apply or for more information please contact Archana Dheer at Dheera@state.gov. Closing date for application is **April 30th**

FBS HOSTS AN APRIL EVENT TO REMEMBER

WHAT:	Piano and flute recital
WHERE:	12410 Meadow Field Drive Fairfax, VA. 22033
DATE:	Wednesday, 11th April 2007
TIME:	10:45 am

You are cordially invited to enjoy the spirit of famous composers Rachmaninoff, Barber, and Prokofiev in a very special morning recital at the home of Mascha Brown Cuadrado on April 11th. We will be privileged to hear their works performed by Ukrainian-born pianist Oksana Skidan, accompanied by flautist Lauren Panfili.

Ms. Skidan graduated from the Leontovich Music School in Ukraine and recently from the Eastman School of Music. Since July of 2005, Ms. Skidan has performed and taught in the Washington, D.C. area, appearing at the George Mason Center for the Arts, the Towson University Center for the Arts and the Embassy of Ukraine. She is the winner of several

international music awards.

Lauren Panfili is a professional flutist and teacher in the Washington, DC area. She performs regularly at venues such as the Kennedy Center and the National Cathedral. She has had the opportunity to play with the National Philharmonic, the Alexandria Symphony, the Master Chorale of Washington, the Choral Arts Society and the National Cathedral Choir.

If you have any questions or need directions call Mascha Brown Cuadrado at 703-273-2181. Please RSVP to Sheila Switzer 703-569-8867 or email sheila_switzer@yahoo.com and please let her know what dish you are contributing to the brunch.

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MARCH/APRIL 2007

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NEW OFFICER ELECTIONS AND BOOKFAIR 07