

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who came out to shop, volunteer and support at BookFair '07. It takes the hard work of many members and friends to launch our main event each year, but the rewards are worth it.

Please look in the December issue of the Global Link or on our website www.aafsw.org, for many photos and more extensive information about the event.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Elizabeth Deckelman
Ann M. Roebuck
Caroline C. Brennan
Marion L. Tiger

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Jan Skoog
Mary Clarke Penney
Christine M. Shurtleff
Charlotte P. Harrell

AAFSW is happy to welcome a new SOSA Chairperson. Our thanks to Cathy Salvaterra for accepting the position.

GOT A FABULOUS KID? GET A SCHOLARSHIP!

AFSA is proud to offer AAFSW Financial Aid Scholarships as part of the AFSA Scholarship Fund's Financial Aid Program. These awards are provided to children of Foreign Service employees. Applications for the 2008 program of awards are available beginning November 1st on the AFSA website, www.afsa.org.

In the 2006/2007 school year, the AFSA Scholarship Fund assisted 53 Foreign Service kids with college financial aid awards totaling over \$129,200. Awards range from \$1,500 to \$3,500 depending on the need of the family.

To be eligible for any AFSA Scholarship a student must be claimed as a dependent on the most recent IRS tax form by a US Government Foreign Service employee (active, retired with pension, deceased or separated) who has served or is serving at least a year abroad with a foreign affairs agency as defined by the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (Department of State, USAID, USIA, IBB, Commerce Service or Foreign Agriculture Service). Children of AFSA Governing Board and Committee on Education members are ineligible for AFSA awards or scholarships.

If you have any questions, please contact AFSA at 202-944-5504 or toll free at 1-800-704-2372.



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org

Program

DECEMBER 4TH PROGRAM A TIME TO REJOICE AND RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Our December program features the annual AAFSW Awards Presentation. This special occasion is truly a time to rejoice. In addition to welcoming the holiday season in the exquisitely decorated Benjamin Franklin Room, we pay well-earned tribute to the 2007 winners of prestigious volunteer awards. We invite you to join us in the recognition of service and volunteer work which daily improves the lives of FS employees and family members and directly impacts the AAFSW mission.

The Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad recognizes employees or family members over 18 years of age who have contributed to the well-being of their mission community or host country by their selfless volunteer activities. One winner from each geographic bureau is selected and receives a cash award of \$2500 as well as a certificate signed by the Secretary of State and a pin commemorating the event. This annual AAFSW award was established in 1990 with the encouragement and support of Secretary and Mrs. James A. Baker. Since 1990, SOSA has grown through the generous financial support of former Secretaries of State, the Green Family Foundation, and individual AAFSW donors.

The December program will also include presentation of the Lesley Dorman award which recognizes an AAFSW member who has given outstanding service to the organization. The Ele Dodson Tragen Award will also be presented. This award was instituted in 2006 by Mr. Irving Tragen in loving memory of his wife Ele. It honors family members whose efforts and advocacy have enhanced

the global rights and benefits provided to FS spouses. The Tragen Award is administered by the Dacor Bacon Foundation in conjunction with AAFSW and FLO.

Recognizing outstanding volunteer service sets the perfect tone for rejoicing and ushering in the holiday season. Members and guests can further enjoy the special musical program provided by AAFSW member and former office manager Debbi Miller. Debbi's care and flair in planning this program are guaranteed to please the crowd. Make every effort to attend this special December program and join in the rejoicing!



Honorees celebrate at the 2006 SOSA Awards

DECEMBER 4TH PROGRAM

ANNUAL AAFSW AWARDS PRESENTATION

**PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007.**

Coffee & tea at 10:00am, program begins
10:30am in the 8th floor Diplomatic Reception
Rooms, Main State (Please use the C Street
entrance.) Please send this form and check
made out to AAFSW for \$15 per person to:
AAFSW Reservations, 5555 Columbia
Pike, Suite 208, Arlington, VA 22204-
3117

DECEMBER 4TH PROGRAM

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

Social Security Number (or date of birth)

Telephone

Name of guest(s) and SSN(s)

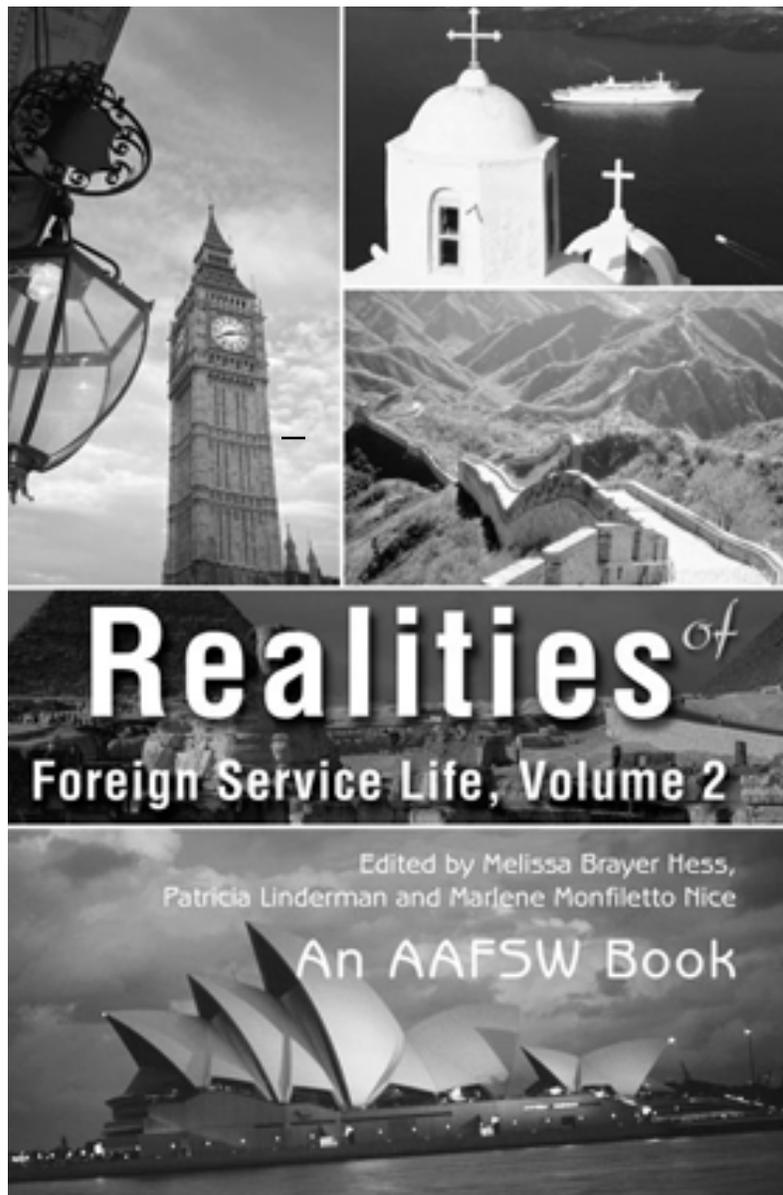
BOOK LAUNCH! LOOKING BACK ON OCTOBER

Thank you to all of our members and friends who joined us for the October 23rd special event celebrating the launch of the second volume of “Realities of Foreign Service Life”, an AAFSW publication. Foreign Service writers and editors were present to read excerpts from the book and we were thrilled to have AAFSW Honorary President Diana Negroponte as our keynote speaker.

Ms. Negroponte is the spouse of Deputy Secretary John Negroponte and was present to relay some of her experiences as a veteran Foreign Service spouse. A descendant of Charles II's mistress Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, and George Villiers, 4th Earl of Clarendon, who served as Queen Victoria's three-time Foreign Secretary, she was born in London, England. Her father was Sir Charles Villiers, a merchant banker who was the chairman of British Steel from 1974 until 1988; her mother was Sir Charles's second wife, the former Countess Marie Josée de la Barre d'Erquelines.

Volume Two of AAFSW's Realities of Foreign Life contains the perspectives of 29 members of the U.S. diplomatic community - including employees, spouses and family members - sharing their own insights on Foreign Service life. The new edition updates the first book's candid insights into the Foreign Service lifestyle. Focusing on the “realities” faced by diplomats and their families outside the embassy or consulate walls, the authors explore topics such as schooling and housing abroad, intercultural marriage, medical evacuations, employment for accompanying partners, and the growing number of unaccompanied assignments.

Co-editors Melissa Brayer Hess, Patricia Linderman and Marlene Nice are longtime members of the U.S. Foreign Service community. Marlene is a Foreign Service Officer and former journalist, and Melissa and Patricia are co-editors of the first volume of Realities of Foreign Service Life and co-authors of the book *The Expert Expatriate: Your Guide to Successful Relocation Abroad*.



JOIN THE FBS NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The exquisite work of the Byzantine Icons is sublime, it conveys spirituality, peace, and many other feelings. As world travelers we come to experience and appreciate the art of each country.

The FBS want to enhance their knowledge of art history, and we are pleased to present Dr. Dimitar Mihaylov, First Secretary for Political and Cultural Affairs from the Embassy of Bulgaria to enlighten us with a presentation about the history of the magnificent art of Bulgarian Icons and its majestic monasteries.

The program will take place on November the 14th at 11 AM at the residence of Sheila Switzer. Please join us and bring a dish to share.

If you are interested in attending this interesting and special educational gathering please RSVP to Sheila Switzer 703-569-8867 or e-mail to sswitzer9@verizon.net or Carmen Geis 703-503-9117.

NEW EDUCATION TRAVEL ALLOWANCES

In July State Department began to implement changes to the Education Travel Allowance benefits passed by Congress last year.

With these changes dependent students can travel to the US and, for the first time, to a third country for their secondary and post-secondary education. They can also store personal effects at or near the school or ship those effects once a year during trips to post. The measure also extends education travel to dependents attending graduate-level programs prior to their 23rd birthday. Details may be found in the July 22, 2007 State ALDAC allowance biweekly or contact the FLO Education and Youth Services Coordinator at flo@state.gov.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP AAFSW

First: Volunteer your time and talents.

Second: When you renew your membership you are given the opportunity to make a donation to AAFSW. If you do not need to renew this year, please consider sending a donation anyway. It can be designated for scholarships, SOSA awards, or headquarters (to be used where needed). You can be assured that your donation will be well used in the Foreign Service community. Here are some ways to give:

A) Checks. They are, of course, always welcome.

B) Appreciated stock. You may receive a tax deduction for the appreciated amount without having to pay capital gains tax on the appreciated stock. For example: Assume you bought some shares of a stock for \$500.00. Now, some time later, these shares are worth \$1,000.00 (Aren't you clever!). Tell your broker to transfer the stock to AAFSW (call our office—(703) 820-5420—for transfer details.) You will receive credit for a tax deduction for \$1,000.00, and you will pay no tax on the \$500.00 appreciation.

C) IRAs. When you are at least 70 1/2, you may make a donation directly to AAFSW without paying tax on the distribution. These donations must be made by December 31, 2007. (Remember: the donations may not go first into any personal account. Call the AAFSW office for further information.)

D) Estate Funds. Remember AAFSW in your will.

N. B. With any donation, consult your tax adviser, as individual tax situations may vary.

FLO SUPPORTS THOSE ON UNACCOMPANIED TOURS

In late August the Family Liaison Office at the State Department published “A Comprehensive Continuum of Support for All Colleagues Assigned to Unaccompanied Posts, Before, During and After the Tour.” While this may not be the most scintillating of titles, it provides essential information for those on unaccompanied tours, those contemplating unaccompanied tours and their families.

An unaccompanied tour is becoming a way of life for the Foreign Service family. In 2001 there were 200 unaccompanied positions world-wide; today there are 800 positions at two dozen postings including more than 2,000 Foreign Service Officers that have either served or are serving in Iraq. One-third of this past summer's assignments were for unaccompanied positions. In addition there is increasing evidence that many State employees have returned to the US suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome. This also affects family members.

The five page list compiled by FLO includes services offered by State Department before the tour, during the tour and after the tour.

The “Before” list includes: information for decision-making, an introduction to Iraq and a pre-departure seminar for employees and their families. The “During” list gives an overview of social services at post and in Washington as well as support services offered by FLO to families. Finally, the “After” list includes out-briefings, support groups for returnees and accommodation for those injured while at post. There are also listservs and directories for family members of those on unaccompanied tours.

This document is available from FLO only on the Department Intranet. AAFSW has recently posted it on www.aafsw.org as a PDF article. To access it, go to the “Going it Alone” link on the website. It should be listed under Department of State Resources. Although the entire document is now accessible, some of the links in the document are only available on the Department Intranet.

For more details about access to the services offered contact Nan Leininger, FLO Program Specialist for Unaccompanied Tours at LeiningerNW@state.gov.

Ann La Porta AFSA co-liaison

SOME ADVICE FROM BILL GATES

Recently dished out at a high school speech about 11 things people did not learn in school:

Life is not fair- get used to it.

The world won't care about your self esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

You will NOT make \$40,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president with a car phone, until you earn both.

If you think your teacher is tough, wait until you get a boss. He doesn't have a tenure.

Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for flipping – they called it opportunity.

If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forests from the parasites of your parents' generations, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear any resemblance to real life.

Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

Television is not real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Be nice to nerds. Chances are you will wind up working for one.

UPCOMING TRANSITION CENTER COURSES

The George P. Shultz National Affairs Foreign Affairs Training Center offers training for all foreign affairs employees and Eligible Family Members. Classes are held at the Shultz NFATC FSI at 4000 Arlington Blvd. in Arlington, VA and fill quickly. You can check the FSI course catalog on the Department's OpenNet (<http://fsi.state.gov>) for space availability.

For more information please contact FSITCTraining@state.gov or call 703-302-7268.

November 2007

11/3 Realities of Foreign Service Life (Saturday)
11/5-6 Security Overseas Seminar
11/9 High Stress Assignment Outbrief Program
11/14 Raising Bilingual Kids (evening)
11/14-16 Making Presentations: From Design to Delivery
11/19-20 Security Overseas Seminar
11/26-29 Retirement Planning Workshop
11/27 Advanced Security Overseas Seminar
11/29-30 Regulations, Allowances and Finance

December 2007

12/1 Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad (Saturday)
12/3-4 Security Overseas Seminar
12/5-6 English Teaching Seminar: An Employment Option
12/7 High Stress Assignment Outbrief Program
12/11 Advanced Security Overseas Seminar
12/17-18 Security Overseas Seminar

January 2008

1/2 Advanced Security Overseas Seminar
1/7-8 Security Overseas Seminar
1/11 High Stress Assignment Outbrief Program
1/19 Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad (Saturday)
1/22-23 Security Overseas Seminar
1/25 Explaining America
1/28-31 Retirement Planning Workshop
1/30 Managing Rental Property from Overseas (evening)

TAX CONSEQUENCES FOR EMPLOYMENT ABROAD

In 2007 the IRS initiated a new rule for Federal Income taxes which has adversely affected Foreign Service families who have a family member employed in the private sector overseas.

Formerly, the IRS excluded from Federal Income Tax that income earned abroad, up to a certain amount, of couples filing jointly (the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion). Under the new rule, all income is added together and the tax which would have been paid from the income earned abroad is deducted. This has resulted in a tax increase of several thousand dollars for some families.

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) has established a core group of more than 50 Foreign Service families who have been affected by this new rule. It has guidelines of who to write, your Congressman, the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, and points to make in these letters. If you are affected by this rule, contact Ian Houston, AFSA Legislative Officer, at Houston@afsa.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The budget presented is for AAFSW's 2008 fiscal year which runs from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. The actual income and expense numbers for 2007 and 2006 are based on AAFSW's Profit and Loss Statement and on the financial statements prepared by Ribis, Jones and Maresca, P.A., certified public accountants. The Oral History Project monies and the AAFSW Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) funds are accounted for separately and are not included in the budget. They are reported below.

Fiscal Year 2007

Income in FY 2007 decreased from the previous fiscal year by approximately \$23,000. Revenue from Book Operations and membership dues decreased significantly. Expenses, however, also decreased by about \$6,000. Last year our financial books were reviewed by the accountants rather than being audited which the accounting firm said was sufficient for an organization of our size. This saved us over \$1,700. Overall, expenses in FY 2007 exceeded income by approximately \$2,200. Fortunately, due to capital gains for the year on our investments (see below) our assets increased in value by \$14,800 over the year.

Fiscal Year 2008

The budget for 2008 is based on the 2007 and 2006 income and expense numbers, taking inflation into account. Capital improvements include the purchases of a charge machines for the Book Operations and software for Global Link production and our website. A new edition of Realities of the Foreign Service is being produced. AAFSW has agreed to provide funds for printing and promoting the new edition with the understanding that we will be reimbursed from sales.

AAFWS's contribution to the AAFSW/AFSA scholarship program will be a total of \$9,800, \$8500 plus designated scholarship donations of \$1,300 received between April 1, 2006, and March 31, 2007.

Investments

As of June 30, 2007, AAFSW had investments of \$221,298. These investments had a net unrealized gain of \$17,145 for the fiscal year. The dividends and interest from these investments are not re-invested but are used in the operation of the organization.

SOSA and Oral History Project

As of June 30, 2007, the SOSA fund totaled \$66,762. During the year, SOSA received donations totaling \$26,684 including \$20,000 from the Green Family Foundation and interest of \$1,834. In December 2006 five awards of \$2,000 each were given to recognize outstanding volunteers at posts abroad.

As of June 30, 2007, funds held by AAFSW for the Oral History Project were \$4,615. The Oral History Project received a donation of \$100 and interest of \$53 for the year.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met four times during the year. The committee members are Judy Felt, Elaine Neumann, Patty Ryan, Terry Walsh, and Lucy Whitley.

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns about the budget or would like a computer print-out of the Profit and Loss statement, please call Lucy Whitley at 703-536-2183. I would also appreciate calls from anyone wishing to attend a Finance Committee meeting.

Lucy M. Whitley, Treasurer

AAFSW BUDGET 2008

	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
FY Ending June 30	2008	2007	2007	2006
Income				
Advertising on Web	\$750	\$375	\$2,000	\$2,416
Amazon.com program	\$450	\$380	\$500	\$481
BookFair	\$70,000	\$66,696	\$75,000	\$78,428
BookRoom	\$28,000	\$25,026	\$30,000	\$30,864
Contributions etc.	\$3,500	\$3,701	\$2,000	\$2,460
Dividends & interest	\$9,000	\$9,706	\$6,500	\$6,375
Membership dues	\$22,000	\$19,895	\$24,000	\$29,595
Program fees 8th Floor	\$6,000	\$5,575	\$4,400	\$4,430
Realities of FS Life	\$3,300	\$2,045	\$1,000	\$1,816
Miscellaneous	\$100	\$200	\$100	\$83
Total Income	\$143,100	\$133,599	\$145,500	\$156,948
Expenses				
Ads on-Web	\$230	\$0	\$400	\$494
Audit/Review	\$2,250	\$2,058	\$2,050	\$3,800
BookFair	\$19,500	\$18,086	\$26,750	\$20,148
BookRoom	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$3,350	\$3,381
Capital Improvements	\$800	\$1,412	\$1,500	\$0
Donations				
Scholarships	\$9,800	\$9,700	\$9,700	\$11,500
FS Community	\$3,000	\$2,958	\$5,000	\$3,933
Send a Kid to Camp	\$750	\$710	\$800	\$710
Payroll Expenses	\$3,800	\$3,643	\$3,800	\$3,641
General				
Annual Dues	\$475	\$325	\$400	\$385
Bank Fees	\$50	\$36	\$100	\$60
Board Allowance	\$175	\$262	\$500	\$49
Public Relations	\$150	\$473	\$250	\$129
President's Allowance	\$175	\$2	\$500	\$237
HQ Allowance	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$1,035
Health Insurance	\$4,200	\$4,357	\$4,400	\$4,039
Other Insurance	\$3,370	\$3,209	\$3,250	\$3,325
Membership				
Newsletter	\$10,500	\$8,649	\$9,700	\$9,267
Mailings: brochures, etc.	\$900	\$608	\$2,000	\$1,769
Website	\$4,000	\$3,747	\$3,700	\$3,561
Media Director	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,240	\$6,000
Office Rent	\$10,230	\$9,880	\$9,880	\$10,354
Office Expenses.	\$3,000	\$2,901	\$2,600	\$2,459
Programs - 8th Floor	\$7,000	\$6,368	\$6,080	\$5,735
Program Support	\$145	\$23	\$250	\$300
Realities of FS Life	\$1,300	\$1,071	\$2,500	\$19
Salaries	\$47,300	\$45,851	\$47,300	\$45,423
Total Expenses	\$143,100	\$135,829	\$153,200	\$141,753

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