

FLO TURNS 30!

The Family Liaison Office was established in 1978 primarily as an advocacy organization. For 30 years has been working to effect policy changes and create programs and services for the benefit of United States Government employees under Chief of Mission authority and their spouses, partners, children and other family members. AAFSW salutes the FLO in 30 years of truly outstanding service. Below you will find, reprinted in its entirety as released by www.state.gov, John Negroponte's remarks at the March 5th FLO Birthday Celebration.

DEPUTY SECRETARY

NEGROPONTE: Thank you very much, appreciate it. Thank you. Thank you, Leslie. I'm delighted to be here today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Family Liaison Office. I'm sorry that Diana's not with us today, but she actually is traveling through – to El Salvador and Mexico as we speak and should be back by the end of the week.

On behalf of the entire Department of State, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to each of you for all of the important work that this office has done in the past 30 years and will continue to do long into the future. The Foreign Service is not just a career or a job. It's very much a way of life. Diana and I understand how difficult and demanding this way of life can be. Through overseas posts and assignments here in Washington, through separated tours and hardship posts, I have benefited from my family's incredible support. Diana and I have been a team raising our five children, as was mentioned, around the world and dealing with the challenges that face every Foreign Service family.

The Foreign Service family, and by that, I mean the broad community of employees and family members and significant others who support them, is the backbone of America's diplomatic presence overseas. Supporting our Foreign Service families remains a profound and personal calling for me and it continues to be a central priority for the Department of State, thanks to the good work of our Family Liaison Office. In 1978, with the commitment of a few dedicated individuals, the Family Liaison Office was formally established within the Department to improve the quality of life for Foreign Service families abroad. And people like you have been serving that important role for three decades now.

The individuals gathered here today do vital and important work. You work with spouses to find meaningful and fulfilling employment. You support both officers serving at unaccompanied posts and their loved ones at home. You coordinate with parents to overcome the challenges of educating their children in a new environment and helping parents find an appropriate school for children with special needs.

Continued on page 2.

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:

Charles R. Bertsch
Marcie H. Ledogar
Luisa McBride
Elizabeth S. Simkin

HOW CAN YOU JOIN AAFSW OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Visit <http://aafsw.org/aafsw/membership.htm> to fill out a membership application or renewal form online. When your information has been processed by our office, you will receive an email with instructions for online credit card payment.

HOW CAN YOU DONATE TO AAFSW?

Visit the members-only section at www.aafsw.org to donate online with any major credit card!

NEW AND NOTABLE AT WWW.AAFSW.ORG

Would you like to receive news about the Foreign Service community as well as AAFSW news and events on your Internet home page (My Yahoo, My Google, etc.) or through your browser's news reader? We now offer this service through Really Simple Syndication (RSS). To subscribe, visit www.aafsw.org and click the appropriate "Subscribe" button at the top of our news headlines.



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News to Use

Continued from page 1.

You help employees and family members who have experienced an evacuation and anyone who has had to face the difficulties that life in the Foreign Service can present.

Through isolated, demanding, and dangerous posts, the good people in the Family Liaison Office are the best allies that families could have. And the work of the Office is never really done. Constantly looking for better ways to serve their client base, these individuals have adjusted initiatives and altered programs to reflect the changing needs of our Foreign Service officers and their families. New issues and concerns will always arise and I'm delighted to say that this office is ready to address them.

So it's – again, it's an honor for me to be here to celebrate all that the Family Liaison Office has been able to do in the last 30 years and I'm confident that all of you are ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century Foreign Service and that because of you, the Foreign Service will rise to those challenges in the years ahead. Thank you very much.

NOT JUST FOR OFFICERS

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) has a lot of information of interest to AAFSW members on its website, especially at tax time.

Guidance on Legal Issues of Residence and Domicile:

<http://afsa.org/mbr/legalIssues.cfm>.

Year 2007 Tax Guide:

<http://www.afsa.org/taxguide.cfm>.

“Family Member Matters” columns listed by date of publication:

<http://www.afsa.org/FSVoice.cfm>.

AFSANET mailing list. Receive updates on issues of interest to the Foreign Service community:

<http://www.afsa.org/forms/maillist.cfm>

FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT FLO

Did you know that **FLO Helps DOS Foreign-born Spouses Become US Citizens**? FLO assists all direct-hire Department of State Foreign Service officers and their spouses who wish to become US citizens through expeditious naturalization. In 2007 FLO helped about 130 foreign born spouses of Foreign Service Officers become US citizens.

The Naturalization Specialist will discuss options, explain regulations for 319(b) naturalization, and facilitate case processing through liaison with the USCIS. Please review the FLO Naturalization web pages at www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/c1966.htm for details, contact information, and the service FLO provides for qualified applicants.

Did you also know that FLO has created a new guide titled Spouse and Partner Guide to the Foreign Service? Read FLO's new resource for those who are new to the U.S. Foreign Service or considering a Foreign Service career. Download it today at www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/. Contact the FLO at:

The Family Liaison Office (M/DGHR/FLO)

Harry S Truman Building, Room 1239

Department of State

Washington, DC 20520

Tel: (202) 647-1076, or (800) 440-0397

Fax: (202) 647-1670.

Email your questions to: FLO@state.gov

THE FREER-SACKLER - AN INSIDER'S POINT OF VIEW

Washington is not only the political capital of our country but it is also a Mecca for art lovers who want to visit its many famous and outstanding museums.

Our speaker, Katie Ziglar, is the Director of External Affairs of one of these museums – The Freer-Sackler. She has had 20 years of experience in the museum world beginning her career at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, then went on to work at the American Art Museum of the Smithsonian, followed by a stint with the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts and from there to the Freer-Sackler where she now serves as one of their top executives.

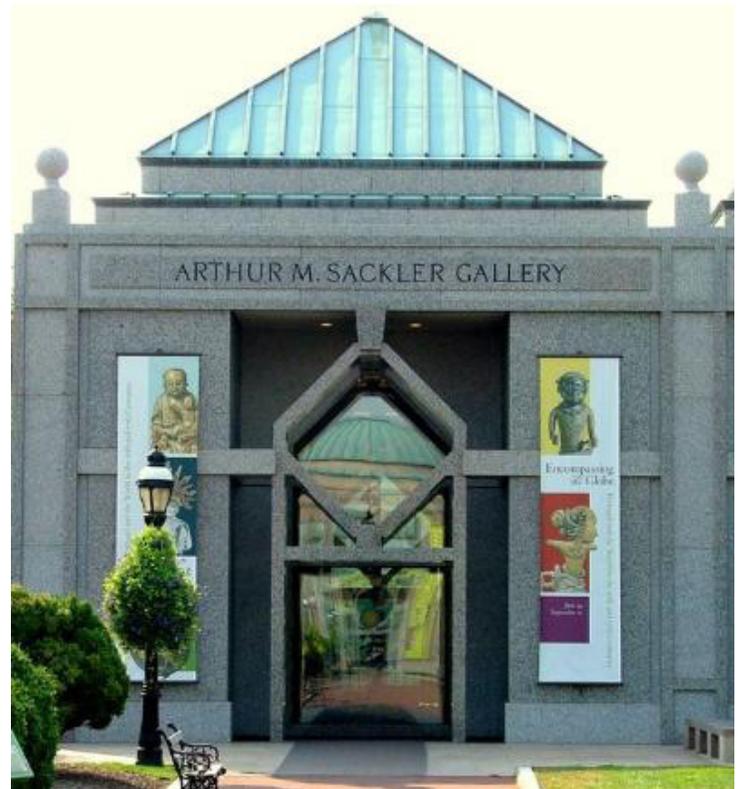
As such, she travels extensively to work out the intricacies of bringing and financing major exhibitions.

During the past year, Katie was involved in putting on such major exhibitions as: “The Bibles Before the Year 1000”, “Edo Masters from the Price Collection”, and “The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani”. But the biggest and the one that attracted the most visitors was “Encompassing the Globe: Portuguese in the World of the 16th and 17th Centuries”. Some 340 thousand people attended this outstanding exhibit, which is an average of 4,000 visitors per day .

According to her husband, Dick Miller, who is also her scheduler, Katie has many tall tales to tell about her experiences especially those behind the scenes that the public rarely sees or hears about.

Despite being super busy in preparing her upcoming exhibits and special events at the Sackler, Katie has agreed to come and share her special insights into her museum world. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members and their guests to learn more about “An Insider’s Point of View”.

Please join us on April 15th for a very artistic affair.



APRIL 15 PROGRAM: THE FREER-SACKLER GALLERY

PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008.

The event takes place on Tuesday, April 15 from 10:00 AM to 12 noon at the Department of State (C Street Entrance.) 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

Register online at www.aafsw.org.

APRIL 15 PROGRAM

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

Date of Birth and Passport or Driver's License Number:

Telephone

Name of guest(s), D.O.B.'s and Passport or Driver's License Numbers:

News to Use

READY, SET, VOTE!

Ever wonder how the absentee votes stack up?

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) administers the federal responsibilities of the Presidential designee (Secretary of Defense), under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) of 1986. The Act covers more than six million potential voters. The FVAP has three distinct goals. These are to: inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote; foster voting participation; and protect the integrity of, and simultaneously enhance, the electoral process at the Federal, State and local levels.

AAFSW reminds our overseas members to be prepared to vote absentee in this Presidential election year.

THE BASIC ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS:

Step 1

Citizen completes and mails the Federal Post Card Application Form (SF-76), The registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form can be found on www.fvap.gov.

Step 2

Local Election Official approves Registration request or requests further information

Step 3

Local Election Official mails absentee ballot*

Step 4

Citizen votes and mails the absentee ballot to the Local Election Official in time to meet state deadlines.

* In order to receive an absentee ballot in a timely manner, it is imperative for citizens to keep their local election official informed of address changes.

For more information on overseas voting, visit our voting resources page at <http://aafsw.org/overseas/voting.htm>.

ATTENTION RETIRING SPOUSES AND PARTNERS

Is your spouse or partner going to be hanging up the Foreign Service shingle and look for new employment or retiring? The National Foreign Affairs Training Center's Transition Center offers the Retirement Seminar and the Job Search Program to prepare employees for this important life-changing transition. Employee enrollment is essential and the dates of the Retirement Seminars and Job Search Program are below:

August 4, 2008 and October 6, 2008

Spouses and partners can participate in many of the workshops in the Retirement Seminar, so be sure to indicate your intent to attend. The psychological and financial aspects of retirement and career change information is immensely useful to both of you.. Additionally, AAFSW sponsors a special session for spouses and partners that deals with the issues you and your retiring partner undergo and highlights which sessions of the program you don't want to miss.

You are welcome to join your spouse or partner for the opening session of the Retirement Seminar and Job Search Program, then will be directed to your special session at the appropriate time. Make sure your spouse or partner knows that you are invited – you may not hear anything about this from the Transition Center's announcement cable, and neither of you may realize this! It's worth it to make your plans accordingly so you can attend as well.

Your participation as a spouse or partner is FREE – just please let us know that you will be attending by calling AAFSW at 703-820-5420 or sending an email to office@aafsw.org. You need not be a member of AAFSW to enjoy the benefits of this important session. You only need a photo ID to get into the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, but it helps if you call in advance to register. If you know someone else who is retiring – please pass on this important information!

Remember the dates for the AAFSW sessions, Life After the Foreign Service of LAFS as we call it, are August 4th and October 8th 2008. Be sure to join us for LAFS!

ABROAD FOR HER COUNTRY: TALES OF A DIPLOMATIC PIONEER COMING THIS APRIL

In *Abroad for Her Country*, Jean M. Wilkowski shares the story of her extraordinary career in the U.S. Foreign Service during the last half of the twentieth century. Born in an era when few women sought professional careers, Wilkowski graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and the University of Wisconsin and then rose through the ranks at the Department of State, from Vice Consul to the first woman U.S. Ambassador to an African country and the first woman acting U.S. Ambassador in Latin America.

During her thirty-five-year diplomatic career, Wilkowski was sent first as a vice consul to the Caribbean during World War II, when the Department of State was “even taking in 4-Fs and women.” She moved on to more challenging assignments in Latin America and Europe. For much of her career, she specialized in protecting and promoting U.S. trade and investment interests in such posts as Paris, Milan, Rome, Santiago, and Geneva. She also served during a revolution in Bogotá, attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, and the war between El Salvador and Honduras, when she called in U.S. humanitarian aid for 50,000 war-displaced persons.

In 1977 she became coordinator of the U.S. preparation for the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology in Vienna. She worked closely with Notre Dame president Theodore Hesburgh, head of the U.S. delegation, and accompanied the delegation on its fact-finding visit to the Peoples’ Republic of China.

“Ambassador Wilkowski has written a fully personal memoir around her years in the Foreign Service. She played a major role in opening the Service to women at a time when changing the old culture ran into its most formidable roadblocks. She was our first woman ambassador in Africa. This book provides fascinating insights into what that pioneering journey looked like from the inside from a person with great determination, strong personal faith, and the grit and guts to overcome silly and outdated barriers along the way. She writes lucidly, movingly, and entertainingly of her life experiences in one of the world’s most interesting careers,” said Thomas R. Pickering, former Under Secretary of State and Ambassador to the United Nations.

Jean M. Wilkowski entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1944, accepting career assignments to nine countries on three continents before retiring in 1980. She has received six honorary degrees and is the only woman to receive the Foreign Service Cup from the Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired (DACOR).

Abroad for her Country will be released April 25th by Notre Dame Press.

For more reviews of books of interest to the Foreign Service community visit www.aafsw.org.

SALUTING OUR FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE

April 13th marks the 265th anniversary of the birth of President, architect and Declaration of Independence author Thomas Jefferson. Let us not forget that the “Father of the University of Virginia” also served as our nation’s first Secretary of State under President George Washington.

Jefferson was quite a talented fellow. When President John F. Kennedy welcomed forty-nine Nobel Prize winners to the White House in 1962 he said, “I think this is the most extraordinary collection of talent and of human knowledge that has ever been gathered together at the White House — with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone.” A polymath, Jefferson achieved distinction as, among other things, a horticulturist, statesman, architect, archaeologist, paleontologist, author and inventor.

As Secretary, Jefferson sparred with Alexander Hamilton over national fiscal policy, especially the funding of the debts of the war, with Hamilton believing that the debts should be equally shared, and Jefferson believing that each state should be responsible for its own debt (Virginia had not accumulated much debt during the Revolution).

Happy Birthday Mr. Secretary, may today’s diplomats find inspiration from your accomplishments.

News to Use

THE MORE YOU KNOW

The George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center (or FSI) offers training for *all* foreign affairs employees and adult family members. These courses are offered in August and early September 2006:

April 2008

04/05 Transition to Washington for Foreign Born Spouses (Saturday)
04/7-04-08 Security Overseas Seminar
04/09 Personal Finances and Investments in the Foreign Service Context
04/11 Realities of Foreign Service Life
04/11 High Stress Assignment Outbrief Program
04/14-17 Retirement Planning Workshop
04/16 Traveling with Pets
04/19 Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad (Saturday)
04/21-22 Security Overseas Seminar
04/23 Singles in the Foreign Service
04/24-25 Private Security Overseas Seminar
04/28-29 Security Overseas Seminar

May 2008

05/03 Explaining America
05/06 Advanced Security Overseas Seminar
05/07 A Safe Home Overseas
05/10 Communicating Across Cultures (Saturday)
05/09 High Stress Assignment Outbrief Program
05/12-13 Security Overseas Seminar
05/14-15 Mid-Career Retirement Planning Seminar
05/17 Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad (Saturday)
05/21 Legal Considerations in the Foreign Service
05/31 Going Overseas for Singles and Couples without Children (Saturday)
05/31 Going Overseas for Families
05/31 Going Overseas - Logistics for Adults
05/31 Going Overseas - Logistics for Kids

June 2008

06/02-03 Security Overseas Seminar
06/05 Post Options for Employment and Training
06/07 Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad (Saturday)
06/09-12 Retirement Planning Seminar
06/13 Realities of Foreign Service Life
06/16-17 Security Overseas Seminar
06/17 Youth Security Overseas Seminar
06/20 High Stress Assignment Outbrief Program
06/24-25 Mid-Career Retirement Planning Seminar
06/26-27 Regulations, Allowances and Finance
06/30-07/01 Security Overseas Seminar
06/30 Young Diplomats Day

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>.

GROUPS FOR FS PARENTS

Foreign Service Youth Foundation is pleased to announce a new Yahoo group, aimed at Foreign Service parents who are interested homeschooling their children. If you would like to join this new group, please send an e-mail and identify yourself to: ForeignServicehomeschool-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or email FSYF@fsyf.org.

Other online groups for FS parents include:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FSparent/>

A group for American Foreign Service parents who would like to connect with other FS parents around the world to discuss raising children.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fsgifted/>

For members of the American Foreign Service community who also happen to be parents of gifted children. Shared advice and support on raising and educating the gifted child in the transient Foreign Service lifestyle.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FSspecialneeds/>

Created to bring together Foreign Service families to share information, stories and ideas about educating a child with special needs overseas.

FOREIGN-BORN SPOUSES APRIL PROGRAM



You are cordially invited to join the FBS on a special private tour to the magnificent Museum of the Society of the Cincinnati on Wednesday, April 16th at 12:00 PM. The Museum is located in 2118 Massachusetts Avenue NW. Washington DC.

Ambassador Larz Anderson and his wife Isabel spent the early years of the twentieth century collecting and entertaining around the world. They donated their residence and their art to the Society of the Cincinnati, founded by the officers of the Continental Army and Navy and their French counterparts in 1783 to perpetuate the memory of the American Revolution.

Today, the Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting increased knowledge and

appreciation of the achievement of American Independence by sponsoring scholarships, publications and other public programs.

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

More information about the Foreign-Born Spouses group can be found on this page at the AAFSW website: <http://aafsw.org/aafsw/fbspouses.htm>. Frequent updates and photos are posted to the site's Members Only section.



The Foreign-Born Spouses' March program was a Mardi Gras party at the home of Ana Maria Taylor. Prizes were awarded for the most original costume.

The event was also a welcome-home party for Florence Keene's husband, Lance, who had returned from a year in Iraq just the night before!

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