

GLOBAL LINK

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BOOKFAIR '08 HAS ARRIVED!

BookFair '08 will be officially opened by Patrick F. Kennedy, Under Secretary for Management, on **Friday, October 17th at 2:00 p.m.** This is particularly appropriate since Mr. Kennedy has supported the interests of AAFSW for at least 30 years. Until 5:00 p.m., State Department employees, retirees and escorted guests are most welcome. Visa, MasterCard and checks are accepted. From **October 20th to 24th**, BookFair is open from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, again for State Department employees, retirees and escorted guests.

On the weekends of **October 18/19 and 25/26**, the general public is cordially invited to attend BookFair from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Enter from C Street, and please bring your friends, neighbors and colleagues. New books are added every day.



October 17-26

This year, in addition to the used books, art and collectibles from around the world and stamps and coins which people customarily enjoy, we are featuring two outstanding guest merchants. They are Hakan Evin, owner and director of "Imperio Otomano," and Michelle Urbancic who will bring her "Silk Road Imports." Both merchants have very kindly offered to contribute a percentage of their profits to support the Professional Development Fellowships for family members that AAFSW is helping to develop.

Hakan Evin is a third-generation purveyor of fine oriental carpets. His well known and highly praised "Imperio Otomano" is headquartered in the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul. Michelle Urbancic is a Foreign Service spouse who has an import business, "Silk Road Imports." Plan to have a look at the carpets and fabric, leather and brass imports which will be on display for sale to benefit AAFSW.

Once again this year, we invite you to a Wine & Cheese Reception on **Thursday, October 16th** in the Exhibit Hall from **6 to 8 p.m.** The reception costs \$10 per person. We will have books and art objects available for sale. Please see page 4 of this *Global Link* for RSVP information.

The holiday season is approaching. This could be your chance to get an early start on your gift list. In addition, it is an opportunity to support worthwhile AAFSW activities with your purchases. BookFair is now 48 years old—one of the oldest if not THE oldest book event in the Washington area. Let's make sure that it continues to a ripe old age.

Mette Beecroft, BookFair Chairperson

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Wesley Ann Godard
Karla A Robinson
Thomas A. Smith
Janet R. van Coblijn
Sabrina Volciak

THANK YOU TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS

Dana R. Andrews
Elizabeth Figura
Nancy Horan
Mary W. Lucius
Helen Low
Jane Owens
Helen Skoufis
Elly M. Tierney

VOTING FROM OVERSEAS

AAFSW offers links to all the information you need to register and vote from your overseas post. Please visit our Voting Resources page at www.aafsw.org. Make your vote count during this very important election year!

PLEASE NOTE

The AAFSW Office, now located in Ballston, will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. See our new address, below.



AAFSW
4001 North Ninth Street
Suite 214
Arlington, VA, 22203
tel: 703-820-5420
fax: 703-820-5421
email: office@aafsw.org
Website: www.aafsw.org

News to Use



From the President's Desk...

Fall is in the air, and with this *Global Link* you will see that there are a few changes ahead for AAFSW.

First of all, this year's BookFair will have a different buzz, perhaps reminiscent of a *souk*! In addition to our usual array of great books, stamps and art treasures, we are also including two exciting vendors, Michelle Urbancic, a Foreign Service spouse who will be selling her popular "Silk Road Imports," and Mr. Hakan Evin, of "Imperio Otomano" known by all who venture into the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul for his fine carpets.

Both vendors will be donating a portion of their sales to the support of the Professional Fellowships for Family Members a successful spousal employment program managed by FLO.

AAFSW moved our office this summer and we are inviting our members, returning Foreign Service employees and family members to celebrate with us at our Open House, Thursday, October 2, 2008. See our new address on the front page of *Global Link*. Our phone number, 703-820-5420, has not changed. If the address seems familiar to some of you, it is Randolph Towers, where many FS families have stayed on a temporary basis. Stop by any time between 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. We will be in the conference room on the main floor. If you drive, rather than take Metro, you can park in the Ballston Mall for 3 hours for \$1.00.

Sadly, AAFSW is coming to the end of an era. Our indefatigable Program Chair, Barbara Gordon, announced that she will be retiring from her position in December, 2008. Barbara has organized a variety of fascinating programs over the years, covering politics, art, history, foreign affairs and local events. She is a walking treasury of knowledge of who's who in Washington. AAFSW members have benefited so much from her wide-ranging contacts. Thank you, Barbara, for your valuable and generous services to AAFSW.



Mrs. Elizabeth Brownstein speaks to AAFSW's Foreign-Born Spouses Group about her book "Lincoln's Other White House" at the Foreign-Born Spouses July, 2008 event, held at the Twin Oaks mansion in Washington, DC. For more information about the Foreign-Born Spouses and their active calendar of events, visit www.aafsw.org.

AAFSW RECONSTITUTES FORUM COMMITTEE

Throughout its history AAFSW has been an advocate for Foreign Service families. Thirty years ago, we were instrumental in founding the Family Liaison Office and Overseas Briefing Center. Today, we recognize volunteers overseas through the SOSA Awards and here in Washington with the Lesley Dorman Award.

Historically, beginning in the 1970's, AAFSW's advocacy was rooted in our Forum, a think tank for new ideas. The Forum Committee of AAFSW tackles inequities in the Foreign Service affecting families and attempts to solve or to ameliorate them. Here are some, but not all, of its past projects.

Pension Sharing for Divorced Spouses.

This was one of the earliest Forum projects, and ultimately gave divorced spouses the right to share their ex-spouses' pension if they had been married a certain number of years. Prior to, and during, the 1970's, many ex-wives were left destitute when their husbands divorced them. Some had devoted years to following their husbands around the world, raising families without a chance to earn a living or have a profession. Without this legislation, when the ex-husband retired or died, the new family would often receive all the pension or survivor's benefits.

Professional Associates Program. This was initiated in the mid-1980's due to a concern for the lack of employment opportunities overseas for spouses of Foreign Service employees. Committee members met regularly with Department of State management officials and members of Congress. There was a letter-writing campaign to Congressional members and staffers. Initially it was hoped that compensation would be available for official entertainment expenses similar to policies of other countries' diplomatic services. In the end the Professional Associates Program was established as described in the article on page 6 of this issue.

Foreign Service Families in Times of Crisis.

The Forum on the Foreign Service in Times of Crisis was initiated after the Iran hostage situation of 1979 in which 52 US diplomats were held against their will for 444 days in Tehran. Spurred on by the generally poor treatment of the hostage families in the U.S. and elsewhere, this Forum Committee worked with the advisory panel responsible for the Inman Report in 1985, officially known as the Secretary of State's Advisory Panel on Overseas

Security. While this report primarily addressed physical security concerns of embassies and internal planning for crises, Forum committee members attempted to include treatment of those family members evacuated by crises. Some of the committee's accomplishments were the guidelines for Separate Maintenance Allowances (SMAs) during involuntary evacuations, enhanced Mental Health Care coverage by insurance companies and the establishment of a Crisis Support officer at FLO. For many years AAFSW maintained an active Crisis Support Group of volunteers who met evacuated families at the airports, provided child care, accompanied them to medical appointments and offered general support. FLO and geographic bureaus are now tasked with supporting these families.

Elder Care Travel Benefits. In 1999 AAFSW convened an Inter-Agency Round Table to discuss what government agencies were doing to support elder care. A State Department working group was convened to examine the document which the Inter-Agency Round Table had produced. AAFSW was included as a full partner along with representatives from DG, MED, Allowances, FLO and the geographic bureaus. A new allowance for Emergency Visitation Travel made support possible for an employee or spouse who needed to travel to help elderly parents. Employees and spouses were each eligible for two such trips during the course of a Foreign Service career--one for each parent.

AAFSW feels that now is the time to re-energize the Forum Committee to deal with today's issues. We are planning a brainstorming session, tentatively set for Saturday morning, January 24, 2009 in the conference room of our new office in the Randolph Towers apartments at 4001 N Ninth St. in Ballston.

There are increased numbers of Foreign Service employees on unaccompanied tours. The families they leave behind face new problems. There is an increased expectation that a spouse should have the opportunity for a meaningful career while accompanying an officer. What issues would you like to tackle and work to solve?

Contact Forum Chair Judy Felt at judyfelt@aafsw.org, 703-370-1414 or Ann La Porta, Co-chair at a_laporta@yahoo.com, 202-248-4246 with your ideas or interests.

News to Use

FSYF MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVENTURE DAY

The Foreign Service Youth Foundation offers an "Away Day" training course for all Foreign Service kids in grade 5 through 9. We will travel by bus to Hemlock Overlook Center for Outdoor education in Clifton, Virginia, www.hemlockoverlook.org. Hot lunch included. Permission slips required! Interested? Find out more! Contact the Foreign Service Youth Foundation fsyf@fsyf.org or 301-404-6655 for your registration packet or visit the FSYF website at www.fsyf.org

When: Saturday, October, 4th 2008

Time: 8:45 am to 5:30 pm.

Cost: \$35 (FSYF members \$25, siblings \$20)

Where: Drop off and pick up at the flagpole at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Virginia.

CATALOGS DRIVING YOU CRAZY?

Are mail-order catalogs overwhelming your mailbox, APO, or pouch facility? A non-profit environmental advocacy organization, Catalog Choice, working with mail-order companies, offers an effective online system for removing your name from catalog mailing lists. Check it out at www.catalogchoice.org.

BOOKFAIR '08



October 17-26

BOOKFAIR'08 WINE & CHEESE EVENT

The Associates of the Foreign Service Worldwide (AAFSW) are pleased to announce their Third Annual BookFair "Wine & Cheese" Please join us on Thursday, October 16, 2008 from 6-8 pm.. This special event will be held the evening prior to the opening of AAFSW BookFair at the Department of State (C Street entrance).

This is an opportunity to purchase posters, books, records, and art objects from a large selection and to enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please RSVP using the form below.

BOOKFAIR '08
WINE AND CHEESE EVENT

Please RSVP no later than Friday, October 3, 2008. This event takes place on Thursday, October 16 from 6-8 pm at the Department of State (C Street entrance).

Please send this form and check made out to AAFSW for \$10 per person to:

AAFSW
4001 North Ninth Street
Suite 214
Arlington, VA, 22203

You may also RSVP at www.aafsw.org.

OCTOBER 16 BOOKFAIR WINE AND CHEESE EVENT

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

Passport or Driver's License #, Expiration Date, and Date of Birth

Telephone

List name of guests, with ID#, Expiration Date and Date of Birth

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Virginia E. Hayes Williams, mother of the former mayor of Washington D.C., Anthony Williams, announces the release of her autobiography, "Living Under God's Umbrella: My Journey"



Virginia Williams arrived in Washington D.C. from her home in Los Angeles ten years ago to help her adopted son, in his campaign for mayor. He was successful and served two terms.

Virginia, in turn, became very active not only in the politics of the city, but in working to improve the educational opportunities for inner-city children as well as working with their parents who themselves had received minimal educational training and thus were not providing a proper home background.

She became so much loved and respected that she was in constant demand to help solve the many social problems challenging the city. When it became clear to her that Washington had become her new home, she decided to share her Los Angeles home with her family, with a room set aside for her visits.

Virginia was born in Kentucky to a religious and musical family who encouraged her to pursue a musical career. She was so successful that she became known as the first American heroic dramatic soprano and opera singer.

In her book, she related stories of the great support and financial help of the famous African-American tenor Roland Hayes; of singing for Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in the White House; and of meeting and singing for Marion Anderson, who was so impressed that she urged Virginia to continue her opera lessons.

This she did to the point that she became highly recognized for the power and versatility of her voice, in her many concerts, in her performances with the Lira Opera Company, and for her many soundtrack recordings of movies including "Porgy and Bess" and "Carmen Jones".

Even today, Virginia continues to lend her voice in words and song to issues and events concerning faith, children, community, and education.

To find out and understand more details of this fascinating African-American story, the book, as many critics have said, is a "must read for people of all ages."

Barbara Gordon, Program Coordinator

OCTOBER 21 PROGRAM: VIRGINIA WILLIAMS PRESENTATION

Please reply no later than Tuesday, October 14, 2008. The event takes place on Tuesday, September 23rd from 10:00 AM to 12 noon at the Department of State (C Street Entrance.) Please send this form and check made out to AAFSW for \$15 per person to:

AAFSW Reservations
4001 North Ninth Street, Suite 214
Arlington, Virginia 22203

You may also reserve and pay online at www.aafsw.org.

OCTOBER 21 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:

UPDATE: PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

The State Department has expanded the Professional Associates Program for “appointment-eligible family members” (AEFMs) to fill positions left vacant at overseas posts because of the number of “hard to fill” (HTF) positions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other posts. In July, 2008 105 positions were announced for the 2009 regular season. However, more than 105 positions will be advertised to ensure good matches between bureaus and applicants.

AEFMs may apply for these positions at these posts only if their sponsoring employees are currently assigned and will be there for a minimum of one year. The deadline for the primary application for those currently at post is October 3, 2008. The AEFM's tour of duty begins and ends with that of the sponsoring employee.

AEFMs may apply for the positions at the same time as the sponsoring employee bids. However they can only fill the positions if the employee gets his or her job. Members of Household and dependents of contractors are not eligible to apply. Qualified eligible family members will be given preference over equally qualified Civil Service employees. The final choice of the applicant for the job will be made by the bureau.

The full details of the Expanded Professional Associates Program are found in Unclassified State Cable 00083239 of August, 2008 which expands on State 77496. Eligible family members who do not have access to State Intranet can request the information from their Community Liaison Office, or Global Employment Advisor at overseas posts or from the Family Liaison Office (FLO) at FLOAskEmployment@state.gov.

The original Professional Associates Program was a creation of an AAFSW Forum in the mid-1980's. It was passed as legislation by Congress but was never independently funded. FLO handled the program, which was set up to fill open consular positions and slowly expanded to include a few General Services positions during the mid-90's when new posts opened in Eastern Europe. However, the program never expanded to reach the 50 positions authorized. At its low point in the late 90's, it only included one or two positions.

A few years later, the program opened up to include HTF positions. But, bidding on the HTF positions never coincided with the regular Foreign Service cycle which would enable EFMs to bid with their sponsors. Nor were the bureaus convinced to hire EFMs for the positions over Civil Service employees bidding for the positions.

Hopefully with the new and Expanded Professional Associates Program more eligible family members will be able to line up a professional job before they get to post.

DEAR MEMBERS

By now, all of you with “8/31/2008” on the label of your *Global Link* have received a letter reminding you to renew your AAFSW membership. Some of you may have decided not to renew. You can take advantage of several AAFSW services without being a member: www.aafsw.org, Livelines, the Housing office, the Book Room, and so on. But, you should join anyway!

Does this sound like a public radio television fundraising drive? AAFSW effectively works the same way. We can listen to National Public Radio without paying anything. But if nobody donated, NPR would not exist!

Our organization is run by volunteers donating their time to helping you cope with problems that are unique to the Foreign Service. Everyone who works or volunteers for AAFSW has been in your shoes, but it may have been a long time ago. We need the input of our members who are out there experiencing Foreign Service life right now.

As an active member you have the opportunity to make your voice heard. We work very closely with FLO and OBC, but as we are totally independent of the State Department, we can lobby Capitol Hill on our own, answering only to our membership. Whether you live in the US or abroad, we are easily reachable by email, “snail-mail,” and telephone.

So please, send us your membership form today, or visit www.aafsw.org to renew and pay for your membership online. Save yourself some trouble by signing for three years or even longer. When you sign up for five years, you get one year free!

Thank you for your support,

Katarina Hamilton, Membership Chair

AAFSW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND UPDATE

The date next to your name on the address label of your Global Link tells you when your membership expires. If it is 8/31/08, your membership is renewable this year. You can update your member profile, pay membership dues, and make financial contributions to AAFSW two ways:

1. Complete this form and send it with your check (made out to AAFSW) to:

AAFSW
4001 North Ninth Street
Suite 214
Arlington, VA, 22203

2.) Visit this page at our website: <http://aafsw.org/aafsw/membership.htm> to submit your membership information and pay online with Paypal or a credit card.

Name _____

Membership

- One-year membership \$40.00
- Two-year membership \$80.00
- Three-year membership \$110.00
- Four-year membership \$135.00
- Five-year membership \$160.00

Contributions *(these are tax deductible)*

- Scholarships \$ _____
- Headquarters \$ _____
- Volunteerism Award \$ _____
- Other gifts/bequests \$ _____

Total payment \$ _____

Are there changes in your life to report? Help keep our database current!

Address, telephone, and/or email changes _____

Children's names and DOB's _____

Been evacuated recently? Where and when? _____

Been on SMA recently? _____

Changed jobs? _____

Been involved in AAFSW activities? _____

Ever been a CLO? _____

Contact AAFSW

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OCTOBER 2008

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Change Service
Requested

Check the date on your address label to see when your membership expires. If it says 08, then this will be last Global Link. Don't delay-renew now!