

GLOBAL LINK

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VOLUNTEER FOR BOOKFAIR '08!

Though BookFair does not take place until October, the BookFair Committee is already hard at work along with those who collect, price and store contributions. This is a job that never stops. If we are to carry on the BookFair tradition (and this is our 48th consecutive event), we obviously need volunteers to make it happen.

People seem to look at volunteering in one of two ways. Either they ask themselves how they can join in an effort to contribute something to the organization. Or, they ask what can they gain from it—what's in it for them.

In the case of the AAFSW, many people believe that it is a worthwhile mechanism for Foreign Service families to provide mutual support and therefore, even if they do not expect to benefit specifically, they join in the effort. Essentially, membership dues and BookFair keep the organization alive.

What kind of support does the organization provide to Foreign Service families? Even a partial list is long. Sometimes, the AAFSW has cooperated with others and sometimes it has acted independently. The list would include involvement in the Overseas Briefing Center; the Foreign Service Youth Foundation; the Family Liaison Office; the Inter-Agency Round Table on Elder Care; lobbying the Hill for annuity benefits for divorcing spouses, and much later for obtaining retirement benefits through the PIT "buyback." The AAFSW website, www.aafsw.org, has become a very valuable source of information and "Livelines", our email group, has grown to include well over 2,000 Foreign Service community members. AAFSW was also very involved in the publication of "Realities of Foreign Service Life" volumes I and II. People volunteer their efforts to BookFair because they believe that such involvement is important to sustain.

By the same token, volunteering might provide some individual benefits as well. Depending upon the degree to which you get involved, you can include the experience on your resume. If you like books, you'll have first choice of all the books that have been donated. You will also get an early look at all the wonderful items in the Art Corner. You are bound to see old friends or make new ones. Last but not least, volunteers often report that they feel that they get more than they give from the satisfaction of having joined in a worthy undertaking.

So, to borrow from last year's summer edition of "Global Link," there are many good reasons to "Sign up and show up!" We need your help!

Mette Beecroft
BookFair Chairperson

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Bridget C. Bittle
Nancy Cooper Brun
Theodore J. Craig
Patricia A. Hart
Lauren N. Huot
Katherine M. Jones
Stephanie McNulty
Elizabeth Sacharo-Perez
Jarrod Z. Simpson
Sri M. Solat

THANK YOU TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS

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News to Use



From the President's Desk...

Location, location, location-or so the real estate advice goes! We lost our lease at our Columbia Pike address so like many in the

Foreign Service at this time of year, we too will be moving. Our new location, after August 1, 2008, will be more convenient to public transportation since we are relocating to Ballston, just a couple of blocks from the Metro and the Ballston Mall. We will be located in the Randolph Towers apartment complex at 4001 N Ninth Street, between Fairfax Drive and Wilson Boulevard. Further details will be provided in the next issue of *Global Link*.

While our office space is considerably smaller, we will have access to the spacious community room that is part of the complex and will plan to utilize this for some future events.

It is apparent that we are deep into relocation season since "Livelines," our busy Foreign Service list serve, is filled with questions about relocation, transportation of effects and pets, new travel regulations and limitations, school choices and more. Thank you to all Livelines members for sharing their expertise and their opinions.

For those employees and families returning to the Washington area, we hope that AAFSW will continue to be a source of information and support for you. Adjusting to life back in the USA is easier if you have a support group and we are your Foreign Service support group. There is no Washington CLO, so AAFSW fills in with local information where FLO and the OBC do not provide services. Call AAFSW at 703 820-5420 or email us at office@aafsw.org. Check out our cable here: <http://www.aafsw.org/misc/cable.htm>.

AAFWSW programs will kick off on September 23rd in the Benjamin Franklin Room on the 8th floor at the Department of State. Since attendance has been slipping at the programs, we surveyed members to determine interests. Results indicate that we are on the right track with the topics we have selected for programs, featuring speakers on foreign affairs,

current events and the arts.

Parking was identified as a major disincentive to attending. Street parking, limited to two hours is usually available by 10 a.m. on 23rd Street beyond Columbia Plaza or on Virginia Avenue. If you are like me and don't have parking karma, parking at the Kennedy Center, costs \$9.00 for the entire day if you enter BEFORE 10:00 am. It is about a 10-15 minute walk from the Kennedy Center to the Department. Alternatively, if car pooling is an option, parking at Columbia Plaza is convenient, but pricey at \$18.00 for one person. And, of course, there is always public transportation to the Foggy Bottom Metro, also about 10 minute walk to the Department.

Respondents to the survey also indicated interest in having more time to socialize with members after the program. All programs will therefore begin earlier, at 10:15 A.M. We must be out of the Benjamin Franklin Room no later than 12:00 noon, so starting the program PROMPTLY at 10:15 should facilitate an expanded social hour, and time to enjoy the refreshments.

Wishing you a great summer and happy holidays. See you in September!

Faye Barnes
AAFSW President

CONGRATULATIONS!



Jason Curtis, son of Keith (Foreign Commercial Service) and Bert (State) Curtis is an AFSA Academic Merit winner and the AAFSW scholarship recipient (\$1800 prize).

In addition, Jason won an AFSA Honorable Mention Art Merit Award (\$800) for his musical arts submission (a Bach piano piece and an original composition of synthesized musical instruments). Bert Curtis, Jason's mother, is the moderator of AAFSW's "Livelines," and the family is posted in Stockholm.

For more information on AFSA Scholarship Program, contact Lori Dec at 202 944 5504 or dec@afsa.org or visit www.afsa.org.

GOT TCHOTCHKES?

BookFair is coming in October, and traditionally includes an Art Corner with collectibles from around the world. It is the perfect answer to what to do with all those “tchotchkes” that you collected overseas and are now threatening to make you overweight at packout!



We are able to sell almost anything, and the Art Corner has become a popular draw for our customers each October. If you have items to give, please include a note telling us what you can of their origin, or use, or any other information that may make them more attractive to buyers.

If you are overseas, you may send your contributions to the Art Corner at no charge by diplomatic pouch. Send them to:

Robin Jones/BookRoom
B186
Main State

We regret that we are not currently accepting book donations from overseas via pouch.

Contact Robin Jones in the Bookroom at (202) 223-5796 or bookroom@aafsw.org to arrange a local DC-area pickup or regarding arrangements for shipping from other parts of the U.S. Robin can also answer any other questions about the appropriateness of an item for donation.

By contributing your items to BookFair you can help yourself with a tax deduction, you can support the organization that provides many services to you, and you can contribute toward scholarships that may be available to your children.

STAMPS WANTED



The AAFSW Stamp Corner needs stamp, coin, and postcard collections for sale at the annual Book Fair and volunteers to assist in October. If you have

donations (donations to AAFSW are tax-deductible) or can volunteer, please contact Richard Livingston at stamps@aafsw.org or at (703) 319-9257. (E-mail preferred.)

THANK YOU DONORS!

AAFSW gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of current and retired members of the Foreign Service and the AAFSW members who responded to our request for donations to continue the successful FLO program of Professional Development Fellowships for spouses.

The intent of this successful and creative pilot program was to maintain, enhance and/or develop professional skills so that family members could continue to pursue career paths or develop a portable skill for overseas employment. Fellowships of up to \$2,000.00 were awarded for the past 3 years through the generosity of the Cox Foundation. The FLO program budget has been in the range of \$100,000.00 for the past two years. The program has limited funding to continue through this year. Without additional funding from AAFSW, given the difficult budget picture at the Department of State, it is unlikely that this program can continue.

Donations are tax deductible and you can donate by sending a check to AAFSW, noting that it is intended for the Professional Development Fellowships. For more information about the fellowships, and how you can donate to them, please visit www.aafsw.org.

Thank you to the following donors:

Ambassador Anne Armstrong
Ambassador Reginald & Mrs. Bartholomew
Ambassador Herman Cohen
Ambassador Marc Grossman
Ambassador William J. Heuval
Ambassador James R. Jones
Ambassador Max Kampelman
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Ambassador Richard Parker
Ambassador Edward & Mrs. Perkins
Mrs. Alice Pickering
Ambassador Harry W. Shlaudeman
Ambassador Monteagle Stearns
Ambassador Johnny & Mrs. Young

SURVEY OF FOREIGN SERVICE SPOUSES

Sharon M. Maybarduk, a U.S. Foreign Service spouse and 2008 graduate of the Smith College School for Social Work with a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work, shares a brief description of her thesis research study titled, "An Exploration of Factors Associated with Reentry Adjustment of U.S. Foreign Service Spouses", with the following study abstract:

This study was undertaken to provide information about U.S. Foreign Service spouse reentry adjustment in the published social work literature. The purpose is to inform social workers and others working with spouses and repatriates regarding the reentry phenomenon and to inform the development of intervention strategies in working with repatriates and their families in other occupations requiring extended overseas stays.

One hundred fifty-eight Foreign Service spouses who are members of the Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide (AAFSW), a Foreign Service spouse organization, responded to a mixed method questionnaire covering a range of reentry issues. These issues included demographic characteristics, and traits of the spouses' last overseas assignment and last reentry experience.

There were three clusters of quantitative findings: primary were the family systems factors, with greater reentry adjustment difficulties for younger spouses with fewer and younger children; overseas adjustment factors, with more reentry difficulties for spouses who participated in fewer activities overseas; and reentry factors, with greater readjustment distress for spouses whose reentry experience was more difficult than anticipated, those with less job satisfaction, and those who had been in the U.S. for a shorter period of time.

Qualitative results from short answer questions found: the return to familiar surroundings makes subsequent reentries easier, and more reentry information before reentry and the availability of counseling to those at risk would be helpful.

For more information on the study results, please visit www.aafsw.org.

SOSA REMINDER

The deadline for receipt of nominations for the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) is **September 12, 2008**.

This prestigious award recognizes volunteer efforts performed by USG direct-hire employees, spouses, family members (over 18), and members of household at posts overseas. Don't miss this opportunity to nominate those amazing volunteers who strive to improve the quality of life for those in the Mission community or in the local community. Individuals or posts may submit as many nominations as they deem worthy.

For specifics on eligibility and the nomination and selection process, please refer to State 045833 dated April 30, 2008. You can access the cable text on the AAFSW website at

<http://www.aafsw.org/aafsw/awards/sosa2008.htm>. You can also request a copy from your CLO or Management Officer at post. For additional information, please contact office@aafsw.org.

A SOSA winner will be selected from each geographic bureau and will receive a cash award of \$3000, a certificate signed by the Secretary of State, and a pin commemorating the awards ceremony which will take place in the Harry S. Truman Bldg. on December 9, 2008. Take the time now to recognize the heroes in your community who are making a difference in the lives of so many!

WHERE ARE THE FSI COURSE LISTINGS?

Due to space considerations, we will no longer include FSI Training Center course listings in the Global Link.

Course descriptions and a calendar of available courses are viewable on the State Department website at: <http://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/training/>. On this page there is also a link for subscribing to an RSS feed with updated information about upcoming courses for family members. Click the link to add the feed to your favorite newsreaders (My Yahoo! etc.).

If your spouse is attending a Retirement Seminar, don't miss the special session for spouses sponsored by AAFSW, Life After the Foreign Service (LAFS). Read more about it here: <http://www.aafsw.org/misc/lafs.htm>.

YES, I WANT TO HELP AT BOOKFAIR '08!

Please note the changed volunteer procedure:

- (1) We have eliminated two days of set-up shifts in hope of getting more volunteers for BookFair itself (October 17-26).
- (2) To volunteer even a few hours during the 15-day set-up period, from October 2 through October 16, **please call Robin Jones directly in the Bookroom at 202 223 5796**. Your help is URGENTLY needed for the set-up period.
- (3) To volunteer from October 17 through October 27, **please circle the shift(s) when you will be available**. Please do your best to honor your commitment because we depend on you. Let's have a profitable and well-staffed BookFair '08!

Please sign up no later than 9/15 to allow for special BookFair badges from Diplomatic Security and scheduling.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Email: _____

Do you have a Department of State badge?

Yes No

If you do not have a Department of State pass, please give:

Date of birth: _____

Driver's License (with state) or Passport #: _____

This information is required by Department of State Security.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
OCTOBER					17 Family Day Opening Day 2-5 PM Set-up 9-1 BF 1-5:30	18 Public Opening Day 10-4 BF 9:12:30 BF 12-4:30
19 Public Day 10-4 BF 9-12:30 BF 12-4:30	20 Building Pass Holders Only 11-3 BF 9-12:30 BF 12-4	21 Building Pass Holders Only 11-3 BF 9-12:30 BF 12-4	22 Building Pass Holders Only 11-3 BF 9-12:30 BF 12-4	23 Building Pass Holders Only 11-3 BF 9-12:30 BF 12-4	24 Building Pass Holders Only 11-3 BF 9-12:30 BF 12-4	25 Public Day 10-4 BF 9:12:30 BF 12-4:30
26 Public Day Last Day 10-4 BF 9-12:30 BF 12-4:30	27 Clean-up Day 9-? One shift until job is done.	I would like to assist: <input type="checkbox"/> Cashiering <input type="checkbox"/> I need a seated job <input type="checkbox"/> General Duties as assigned (no heavy lifting) <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to carpool Please note: <i>The times given are for periods when volunteer work is scheduled, not for hours when the BookFair is open to customers.</i>				

Please circle the shift(s) when you wish to work. The more the merrier!

Remove the form, fold and place a stamp in the designated spot and return promptly. Parking fees will be reimbursed for those who volunteer on any day October 20th through 24th.

**BOOKFAIR '08
AAFSW
5555 Columbia Pike, #208
Arlington, VA 22204-3117**

Place
stamp
here

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Elaine Neumann for hosting AAFSW's annual Volunteer Luncheon on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at her home in Falls Church, VA. Despite the record-setting heat, a good time was had by one and all!

AAFSW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND INFORMATION 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 in two ways:

1. Go to www.aafsw.org and click the membership renewal reminder on the left side of the page. Your AAFSW username and password are required to access the renewal page. Contact office@aafsw.org if you have forgotten these! After filling out the renewal form, you will be directed to a page where you can pay dues with PayPal or a credit card.

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

AAFSW Membership
5555 Columbia Pike
Suite 208
Arlington, VA 22204-3117.

Name _____

Membership Dues	Tax-Deductible Contributions
One-year membership \$40.00	Scholarships \$ _____
Two-year membership \$80.00	Headquarters \$ _____
Three-year membership \$110.00	Volunteerism \$ _____
Four-year membership \$135.00	Family Member
Five-year membership \$160.00	Professional Fellowships \$ _____
	Unrestricted Donation \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____	

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

Address, telephone, and/or email changes _____

Children names and DOB _____

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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