

## THE ANNUAL AAFSW AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 2008

On December 9, 2008, well over 120 attendees gathered in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the Department of State for AAFSW's annual awards Program. AAFSW members, as well as a large group of family and friends of the Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) Award winners, joined in the festivities to honor the 2008 SOSA and Dorman Award recipients. Also attending to honor SOSA recipients were several representatives from each of the six regional Department of State bureaus.

Among the honored guests were AAFSW's honorary President Diana Negroponte and the Department of State's Under Secretary for Management, Patrick Kennedy, who presented the SOSA Awards. Each of the six SOSA recipients spoke movingly of their projects and testified to the power of volunteer achievements.

EUR SOSA winner Bridget Guerrero told the audience how she was motivated to volunteer from the example of a group of nuns she met in Romania. The nuns told Bridget that during an overseas assignment, a person could choose to wait and see what the situation presented, or could jump in immediately upon arrival and seek ways to help others less fortunate. In Ankara, Bridget obviously chose to jump in and take action, as did all our SOSA recipients. Their spirit of can-do volunteerism and compassion is an example for all of us.

We congratulate Bridget as well as AF recipient Sherilynn Tounger (Ouagadougou), EAP recipient Amy Robinson (Rangoon), NEA recipient Susan Mattes (Baghdad), SCA recipient Cal McQueen (Karachi), and WHA recipient Ellen Brager (Santo Domingo).

In his remarks, Under Secretary Kennedy thanked the SOSA winners for their work and for their example, and said that the impact of their grass-roots diplomacy often reaches beyond official public diplomacy efforts. Under Secretary Kennedy then presented each of the recipients with an award certificate signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and a check from AAFSW for \$3,000.

The awards ceremony also included the annual presentation of the Dorman Award by former AAFSW President and current board member Lesley Dorman. This year's award was presented to AAFSW's Treasurer Lucy Whitley. Lucy has devoted countless hours not only to her responsibilities as Treasurer, but to every major undertaking that the association conducts. Lucy is a true example of a recipient of the Dorman Award which was established to recognize an AAFSW member who has contributed selflessly to all aspects of the organization.

*Continued on page 2.*

### WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Ellen Brager  
Bridget Guerrero  
Susan Mattes  
CalvinMcQueen  
Erica Rhodes  
Amy Robinson  
Maria Strickland  
Sherilynn Tounger

### THANK YOU TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS

Patricia A. Lavey  
Pamela D. Pelletreau  
Candace K. Stewart  
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# News and Views



## From the President's Desk...

Have you kept your New Year's resolutions so far? Most resolutions revolve around life style changes and on that

note, AAFSW is getting 2009 off to a good start with the Forum on January 24th. We have been following the discussions on "livelines," our Yahoo! Group, and hope to generate some concrete plans for a future Forum. Making recommendations for change that will improve the lives of the Foreign Service employee and family is the basis for all Forum discussions.

In the last issue of *Global Link* we featured detailed information about the winners of the 2008 Secretary of State Awards (SOSA) for volunteer service performed overseas. Recognizing and acknowledging volunteer activities is critical to any organization. AAFSW has a special award for an AAFSW member who has performed outstanding service for the organization. The Dorman Award, named for that icon of AAFSW, Lesley Dorman, was established in 1993 for this purpose. Lucy Whitley, AAFSW Treasurer, is the 15th recipient of this special AAFSW award. Lucy was selected by a panel chaired by Lesley Dorman and comprised of previous Dorman Award winners.

Lucy Whitley has been a member of AAFSW since 1986 when her spouse joined the Foreign Service. In fact, this astute FSO learned about AAFSW in his A-100 class and brought the information home to Lucy telling her she must join! Regrettably their Foreign Service career was short: Lucy and her spouse served overseas in only two posts before he became ill and returned to Washington, D.C. Now a widowed single parent, Lucy continues as one of those rare and incredibly talented and dedicated volunteers who do their work quietly and steadily without fanfare. Like our new leader in the White House, Lucy accomplishes her work without drama.

Lucy's love for working with numbers makes her a perfect fit as Treasurer. For over a year she

worked as both Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for AAFSW, creating and balancing our limited budget, working with our financial advisor in trying to wrestle something positive out of our investments in these trying times, reviewing our contracts, and keeping us on the straight and narrow. She is a veteran volunteer for Book Fair, and without doubt Lucy will be present and working for any other AAFSW program requiring assistance.

Congratulations to Lucy, the 2008 winner of the Dorman Award, for her outstanding volunteer service to AAFSW.

### *AAFSW Awards, from page 1.*

This year, there was no Tragen Award winner but Anne Kauzlarich of DACOR Bacon spoke briefly about Irving Tragen's wish to honor the memory of his wife Eleanor, who was active in advancing the global rights and benefits of Foreign Service spouses. To further promote the Tragen Award, DACOR Bacon has decided to expand the area of eligibility to include Foreign Service employees in addition to spouses and members of household.

The program closed with a delightful holiday recital by AAFSW member and professional soloist Francesca Kelly, accompanied by the Director of Music at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Sonya Sutton. Francesca's selections ranged from sacred to secular and concluded with her own personalized FS version of "I'll be home for Christmas" (see page 7 for lyrics). Needless to say, everyone left the program on a high note!

Please enjoy the following photos from the December awards program. And be sure and catch SOSA winner Amy Robinson's interview with Federal News Radio on the AAFSW website at <http://www.aafsw.org/awards/sosa/2008winners.htm>.

*The SOSA Chair wishes to thank the following members for their help and encouragement in making the December 9 awards ceremony a success: Margaret Teich, Debbi Miller, Barbara Ratigan, Katarina Hamilton, Sheila Switzer, Kelly Bermby Midura, Mette Beecroft, and Faye Barnes.*

# SOSA 2008



AAFSW President Faye Barnes presents retiring Program Coordinator Barbara Gordon with a gift in recognition of her many years of service to AAFSW.



SOSA Coordinator Cathy Salvaterra welcomes the audience to the annual AAFSW Awards program in the Benjamin Franklin rooms at the Department of State.



Lesley Dorman presents AAFSW Treasurer Lucy Whitley with the Dorman Award in recognition of her outstanding service to the organization.



Barbara Gordon addresses the audience in the Benjamin Franklin room.

# Congratulations to all the winners



Sherilynn Tounger accepts her award from Under Secretary Patrick Kennedy. Sherilynn founded "Chasing Lions," a charitable organization in Burkina Faso.



Susan Mattes thanks the SOSA committee for her award. Susan created the "OFF-Site," a recreational facility for Embassy personnel in Baghdad, Iraq.



Calvin McQueen accepts his award for revitalizing the Embassy community association in Karachi, Pakistan.



Ellen Brager accepts her award for co-founding the "Traveling Notes" music festival in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The artistic director for Traveling Notes, Jorge Aguirre, at right, joined Ellen in accepting the award.

# Recipients of the SOSA Award for 2008!



Bridget Guerrero accepts her award for founding the Ankara Refugee Support Group in Ankara, Turkey.



Susan Mattes accepts her award from Under Secretary Patrick Kennedy.



Amy Robinson accepts her award for coordinating refugee assistance in Burma after typhoon Nargis left devastation in its wake.



AAFSW member and professional soloist Francesca Kelly entertains the audience with a program of Christmas music.

# News and Views

## GET CONNECTED!

The Foreign Service community is more connected than ever! The January issue of *Global Link* featured a sampling of Foreign Service blogs. In this issue, we provide a sampling of Foreign Service email groups and online networks.

Many groups restrict their memberships to qualified individuals for privacy and security reasons. Establishing your eligibility if you are a member of the Foreign Service community usually requires an email to the group moderator. For more information regarding membership requirements for each group, visit the group home page as listed below.

### Groups with restricted membership:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/livelines/>  
“Livelines” is a Yahoo group sponsored by AAFSW. You must be a U.S. Foreign Service officer or a family member to join. Retired FSOs and their families are also eligible. You may also be eligible if you have passed the oral exam and are waiting for appointment to the Foreign Service. Email [livelines@aafsw.org](mailto:livelines@aafsw.org) for more information.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FSIraq/>  
A forum for the entire Foreign Service community, (FSOs, Specialists, DS and family members,) to discuss issues, share experiences and exchange information about service in Iraq.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HomefrontUS/>  
Sponsored by the Family Liaison Office at the Department of State to support family members of U.S. Government employees serving overseas at unaccompanied posts.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/A-100-2002/>  
For people who have passed the U.S. Foreign Service Officer written and oral exams. In addition, each Junior Officer class has its own Yahoo group, which can be located through this main Yahoo group.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FSSCareers/>  
For anyone who is interested in pursuing a career in the U.S. Foreign Service as a Specialist.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IMSers/>  
For U.S. Foreign Service Information Management Specialists. Membership granted upon receipt of a conditional employment offer from State.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DSonlineforum/>  
For the exchange of opinions, ideas, comments, job opportunities and other topics of general interest between current, former and retired members of Department of State Diplomatic Security.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dsspouse>  
DSASA, or the Diplomatic Security Agents Spouse Association provides support and “networking” for the spouses of diplomatic security staff.

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MOH\\_Network/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MOH_Network/)  
For all individuals who fall into the classification of Members of Household as defined in 3 FAM 4180 and their partners/sponsors.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FSparent/>  
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/FSspecialneeds/>  
Created to bring together families to share information, stories and ideas about educating a child with special needs overseas while serving with the U.S. Government under diplomatic Chief of Mission [Ambassador] authority.

<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/fsathome/>  
For U.S. Foreign Service spouses who are staying home with their children. Advice and support on living on one income, part-time and telecommuting work opportunities.

# News and Views

## Groups with open membership:

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

For people who are planning to take the U.S. Foreign Service Written Examination (FSWE). Those who have taken the exam are encouraged to share your knowledge of the process.

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

For those who have passed the U.S. Foreign Service Written Examination (FSWE) or Alternate Examination Program (AEP) and are preparing for the Foreign Service Oral Assessment (FSOA).

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

For those in the process of, or interested in becoming Foreign Service Office Management Specialists.

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

For “trailing spouses” of both genders. Sponsored by [www.talesmag.com](http://www.talesmag.com).

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

Also sponsored by [www.talesmag.com](http://www.talesmag.com), this group is for all expatriates.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/expat-homeschool/>

For expatriates who homeschool their children.

<http://www.facebook.com>

In addition to Livelines, AAFSW also has a Facebook group. To join, go to [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org) and click the Facebook icon on the left side of the page or search for “AAFSW” on Facebook.

Other relevant organization such as the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF), and Around the World in a Lifetime (AWAL) have Facebook groups—search for them by name if you are a Facebook member.

Finally, on both Facebook and Yahoo Groups there are groups for expats in every city and country of the world; for various international schools, community churches, womens’ clubs, Hash House Harriers...you name it, and you can probably connect with it online no matter where you are!

## KID-VID CONTEST

Calling all U.S. Mission Kids between ages 10-18...

FSI Transition Center and Overseas Briefing Center present the 2009 Kid-Vid Contest! OBC wants a DVD of your post from your viewpoint. Cash prizes offered to the top winners! See your Community Liaison Office Coordinator or Management Office for contest rules. The deadline is April 15, 2009.

*For more information, visit [www.fsyf.org](http://www.fsyf.org) or email [fsyf@fsyf.org](mailto:fsyf@fsyf.org).*

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

 New Foreign Service lyrics to the holiday standard provided by AAFSW member Francesca Kelly.

Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays  
Even though you're not sure just where home is,  
While the places you roam through in a kind of daze,  
Range from Kathmandu to Paris to Tabriz.

Our little New Year's tree in Moscow  
Shed its needles all around,  
And just try to find menorahs in Nepal,  
And on Thanksgiving Day in Turkey  
There's no turkey to be found,  
Yet my kids say nothing beats a  
Big Italian Xmas pizza,

Yes, we've had many homes for the holidays  
And they've all featured ovens much too small,  
After years of roast chicken on Thanksgiving Day,  
I'm so thankful for my U.S. Butterball!

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