

# Global Link

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## WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

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AAFSW  
4001 North Ninth Street  
Suite 214  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Tel: 703-820-5420  
Fax: 703-820-5421 [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org)  
[www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org)

## Wanted: Local Heroes

It's the time of year to time to look around in your communities and recognize the employees, family members and members of household who are performing outstanding volunteer service at overseas posts.

State ALDAC 042191 solicits nominations for the 2009 Secretary of State Awards for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA). These prestigious awards are administered by AAFSW and serve to recognize volunteer efforts in the following areas:



- Remarkable service to the Mission community.
- Outstanding activities directed towards the host country.
- Exceptional service in emergency situations.

Evaluation factors considered in the selection process include: scope and reach of activities, sustainability, ingenuity, and leadership. Check out the SOSA section on the AAFSW website <http://www.aafsw.org/sosa.htm> to read about the 2008 winners and their extraordinary projects.

A panel selects one award recipient from each of the six regional bureaus within the Department.

Winners will receive a cash award of \$2,500, a certificate signed by the Secretary of State, and a pin commemorating the awards ceremony which will take place on December 8, 2009 in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the Harry S. Truman Building.

Nominations for the SOSA awards should be sent to the AAFSW Office by e-mail to [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org) or by fax to 703-820-5421. Check with your CLO or Management Officer at post for a copy of the ALDAC which outlines the nomination procedure and requirements. You can also access the cable on the AAFSW website. The deadline for nominations is **September 11, 2009**.

So many amazing volunteers work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for others. Take the time to write up an award nomination for the heroes in your community!

*Cathy Salvaterra, AAFSW SOSA Chairperson*

## Art&Bookfair '09 is Coming Up!

This year's renamed Art&Bookfair will take place from October 16-25 at the Department of State. Volunteers are needed in many areas! Please see pages 6 and 7 of this issue to find out how you can contribute to this worthy project.





## From the President's Desk...

Graduations, the end of the school year, transfer season, bidding adieu to friends at post, home leave and

re-entry: these passages are all part of the life cycle of a Foreign Service community. If you are leaving post and are returning to the U.S., AAFSW is here to help you with the support of our organization and our interest groups.

If you speak French, keep it up with our French group. Join the lively Foreign Born Spouses Group for their great activities. At home with young children? Join the Playgroup and meet other parents. Are you a former CLO? Miss the action? We are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic former CLO to reactivate the CLO Association and give it a new focus. If you are going to a new post we keep you connected to life in Washington, D.C.!

As I follow AAFSW's email group, Livelines, I see how useful it is for all of us, but particularly for newcomers to the Foreign Service and to those coming to live in the D.C. area for the first time, in providing specifics on schools, on neighborhoods, on doctors, resources, etc. In reality we have our own "Angie's List," specific to the Foreign Service!

I hope that most of you returning to the U.S. will renew your AAFSW memberships and that those who are not members, but are benefiting from the resources we offer such as Livelines, will join and participate in AAFSW. To remain a viable and vibrant organization we need to add new members but we also need to retain you, the current members.

Why should you join AAFSW? Aside from what I have already outlined, and the subscription to *Global Link*, what else does the \$40 membership fee buy? We are looking at several options, still in the embryonic stage, to provide additional services currently not offered by any of the offices at the Department of State. In addition we are reviewing our programming at the Department because we do not think it is meeting your needs. We incur major expenses for each of the six programs we provide and we do not get enough attendees to cover these expenditures. We do not intend to cut the *number* of programs or services

we provide, but rather to expand what we offer, with discussions and programs of professional interest in a location where parking is not an issue! Join us, volunteer, and stay tuned for developments.

### AAFSW Scholarship Winner

Where does my money go? Some AAFSW funds from membership dues, Art&BookFair proceeds and designated donations go to funding the annual AFSA Scholarships and Merit Awards. All of the 2009 award winners are impressive young students who have been accepted at top schools in the United States.

This year we are extremely proud and delighted that the AAFSW scholarship winner is Rachel Midura, daughter of our own Creative Director Kelly Bembyr Midura and FSO Chris Midura.

Rachel is a distinguished student and creative writer



who utilized her TCK (third culture kid) experiences to enhance her academic resume. She has contributed to *Realities of Foreign Service Life* and has been published in AFSA's Foreign Service Journal.

Rachel attended schools in San Salvador, Springfield, VA, and Prague before returning to Reston, VA, in 2004. After graduating from South Lakes High School, Rachel will attend the University of Virginia as a Jefferson Scholar. Congratulations to Rachel—and good work Kelly and Chris!

*Faye Barnes, AAFSW President*

# Welcome Our New Membership Chairperson



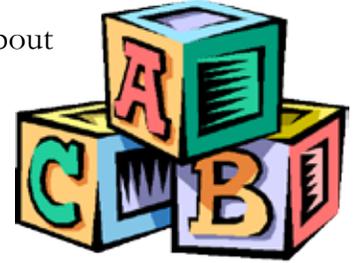
AAFSW is pleased to introduce Debbi Miller, our new Membership Chairperson. Debbi spent 31 years as a Foreign Service spouse, living in Milano, Paris, Bridgetown, New York, Wellington, and of course, DC. During that time she pursued a successful career as a classical singer, and raised three musical children. She was AAFSW's Office Manager for nearly five years, and has been a member since 1978. Her other interests include gardening, yoga, bridge, computer games, barbershop singing, travel, and whimsy. Debbi can be reached at [membership@aafsw.org](mailto:membership@aafsw.org)

## AAFSW Playgroup

Moving back to D.C.? Camping out at the Oakwood with your family? The AAFSW Playgroup is a great way to meet other Foreign Service parents and to find out more about the wonderful variety of children's activities and parents' resources in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Playgroup meets every Thursday morning at various locations in Northern Virginia from members' homes, to the Oakwood, to parks, pools, and other kid-friendly destinations.

For more information about the AAFSW Playgroup, email the coordinator, Brynn Gelband, at [playgroup@aafsw.org](mailto:playgroup@aafsw.org).



## Global Link Goes Green!

Due to cost and environmental concerns, we will be moving to electronic delivery of the *Global Link* newsletter beginning with the **October 2009** issue.

All members will receive an email with a link where they can download the newsletter in Adobe PDF format to either read online or print out at home. To read the newsletter, you will need a program called Adobe Reader which can be downloaded free if you do not already have it installed on your computer (most people do).

To ensure that all members receive their *Global Link*, we are asking that everyone check to make sure that AAFSW has a current email address on file for them. You can check your email address in the latest directory which is posted to the members section of our website. If the address is not current, please email us at [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org) with your preferred email address so that we may update our records.

Members who are truly unable to receive the *Global Link* via email will be able to request that a printed copy be mailed to them, as before. Please send us the coupon below by **September 1st** to be added to a limited postal mailing list for all future issues. Thanks for your understanding of the need for this cost-saving and "green" measure!

### PLEASE SEND ME A PRINTED COPY OF THE GLOBAL LINK NEWSLETTER

If you are unable to receive the *Global Link* by email, please send this coupon to the AAFSW office to be included on a limited postal mailing list.

You only need to request this service once: we will keep you on the mailing list for as long as you remain a member of AAFSW or decide to switch to online delivery.

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

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number in case we have any questions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### **AAFSW VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON**

AAFSW thanked the many volunteers who make our activities and events possible with a luncheon on June 9, 2009 at the home of Elaine Neumann in Arlington, Virginia. Members enjoyed a potluck buffet on Elaine's deck with a view of her lovely garden. Many thanks to Elaine for hosting the event— and to the volunteers for everything they do!



# July Program: The Freer-Sackler Museum

AAFSW cordially invites you to join us on **Monday, July 13th at 11 a.m.** for an educational tour of one of the most interesting exhibits at the Freer and Sackler Galleries. The cost of the program is \$15. This includes a lunch at the Gallery consisting of sandwich, salad and dessert. Please RSVP the office via email at [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org) or phone 703-820-5420 by **July 1, 2009**. (Do not use the coupon below.) Guests of members are permitted to attend.

Organized by the Smithsonian Institution's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in collaboration with The Moscow Kremlin Museum, this presentation features more than sixty exceptional objects that diplomatic missions, and trade delegations from Ottoman Turkey to Safavid Iran offered to the Tsars of Russia from the early sixteenth to the late seventeenth centuries.

The exhibition, only on view in Washington, D.C., explores the reasons why these extraordinary gifts were presented, their artistic and cultural impact, and how they inspired artists to develop a highly original visual identity that became a potent symbol for the Russian state and the Russian Orthodox Church

We will meet in the Sackler Pavilion, just inside the entrance to the Sackler at 11 a.m.

The Sackler is located at 1050 Independence Ave SW, very close to the Smithsonian Castle. The closest Metro stop is the Smithsonian on the Blue and Orange lines. There are two metro exits – one on Independence Avenue, and one on the Mall. If you come from the Independence Avenue side, you can cross the street from the Metro exit and the Freer Gallery will be in front of you. The Castle spires

should be visible down the block to the right—walk down the block towards the spires, enter the iron gates leading to the Castle garden, and the entrance to the Sackler will be immediately to the left.

Alternatively, if you exit from the Mall entrance of the Smithsonian stop, you can head towards the small pavilion between the Castle and the Freer Gallery—a path will lead to the Smithsonian Garden, and the museum will be on the right, just inside the gates. If you get lost, please call Courtney at 202-633-0419.

*Sheila Switzer, AAFSW Program Coordinator*  
[programs@aafsm.org](mailto:programs@aafsm.org)

## Recital Rescheduled

AAFSW cordially invites you to join us on **September 22** for a recital originally scheduled for April, but postponed due to a scheduling conflict.

The recital will feature the gifted Ukrainian Pianist Oksana Skidan, who will perform a duet with Dmitri Nazarene, including the music of Maurice Ravel, Francis Poulenc, Manuel de Falla, and Franz Schubert.

Anne Foley, music director and pianist, will be accompanying Erik Foley, who will be singing “Every Day is Ladies’ Day with Me” by Victor Herbert and “Santa Fe” by Alan Menken.

We will also enjoy the performance of a trio of accomplished students from Rockbridge Academy in Millersville, MD. They will perform London Trio No.3 in G. Major, Hob. IV: 3- 1 Spiritoso – II Andante – III Allegro.

Please mail in the coupon below or visit [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org) to reserve your seat online.

### SEPTEMBER 22 PROGRAM: RECITAL

Please reply no later than Tuesday, September 1st, 2009. The event takes place on Tuesday, September 22 from 10:00 a.m. 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](http://www.aafsw.org).

### SEPTEMBER 22 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:

# Art&Bookfair is Coming Soon: Volunteers Wanted!

Since the Art Corner has become increasingly important, the annual BookFair has been renamed the “Art&BookFair.” But, no matter what the name, we still need enough support to mount the event and to avoid the risk of losing (or drastically downsizing) what is now a proud 49-year tradition.

Not only does the event provide scholarship support to Foreign Service students, it also provides a large degree of direct support for AAFSW and its many activities. Without the funds raised by Art&BookFair, AAFSW’s capacity to contribute to the Foreign Service would be badly hampered.

Many people believe that our organization is a worthwhile mechanism through which we can provide mutual support and advocacy.

A brief look at the past and the present illustrates just what can be accomplished. In the past, the AAFSW established the Family Liaison Office (FLO) which performs various critical functions.

We were also involved in the establishment of the Overseas Briefing Center (OBC) which all Foreign Service families use to prepare for going overseas.

AAFWS’s Forum spearheaded the effort to provide funds for eldercare emergency travel.

Thanks in large part to AAFSW efforts, 526 family members were able to buy back 1,190 years of additional credit towards retirement.

Currently, AAFSW’s email group, “Livelines,” and our website, [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org), are of enormous utility for AAFSW members and non-members alike.

Here is a brief preview of the items on offer at this year’s event:

We have some wonderful items for the Art Corner!

Bill Littlewood’s incredible penguin collection contains a wide variety of these birds in all sizes and materials.

There will be an assortment of marvelous items from India, including a few things made by the Tibetan community there—unique gifts for people on your Christmas list.

Wall hangings include several of the wonderful padded, sequined Burmese type and also a gorgeous antique embroidered silk one from China. There are also stunning fabrics from West Africa and Indonesia.

So get your holiday and birthday lists assembled. And tell your friends! This is an opportunity to purchase some truly unique gifts.

## How can you help?

Some volunteers have been working all year to sort, price, pack-up and store the thousands of books which will be for sale. Other volunteers are needed for the event itself—unpacking, distributing and tidying up the books after people have looked at them.

Setting up the Art Corner requires many volunteers with a variety of skills—pricing items, identifying their provenance, and displaying them in an attractive and logical way.

And, there is always a need for experienced cashiers.

Here is an opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile cause; to work with old friends and make new ones; and to have early access to purchase interesting books and art objects from around the world.

Please use the form on the facing page to volunteer for this worthy cause!

We are also looking for anyone who enjoys creative advertising. If you can help with marketing for the Art Corner, please contact Robin Jones at [bookroom@aafsw.org](mailto:bookroom@aafsw.org) or 202-223-5796, or Dianne Bodeen at [artcorner@aafsw.org](mailto:artcorner@aafsw.org).

Since this is the organization’s major fundraiser, we want as many people as possible to be aware of the event and to take advantage both of our first rate book collection and of our unique Art Corner.

So, to quote Barbara Ratigan writing in 2006, “SIGN UP! SHOW UP! MAKE IT HAPPEN!”



*Mette Beecroft*

*Art&BookFair Chairperson*

## Art&BookFair Hours of Operation

- **October 16: 2-5 p.m.**  
Art&BookFair’09 opens.
- **October 17/18: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
Open to the general public.
- **October 19-23: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
Open only to building pass holders and their guests.
- **October 24/25: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
Open to the public.

# Yes, I want to help at Art&Bookfair'09!

**October 16-25, 2009**

Please sign up no later than September 14 in order to allow time to have special Diplomatic Security badges prepared and to schedule volunteer shifts. *Thanks in advance for any support you can provide! We can't do it without you!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not have a Department of State badge, please provide the following information:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Department of State badge?

*This information is required by Department of State Security.*

Yes  No

**Please circle the shifts that you are willing to work. The more the merrier!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11 	12 <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b>	13 <b>SET-UP</b> 9-12 12-3	14 <b>SET-UP</b> 9-12 12-3	15 	16 <b>OPENING DAY</b> 9:30-12:30 1-5:30	17 <b>PUBLIC DAY</b> 9-12:30 12-4:30
18 <b>PUBLIC DAY</b> 9-12:30 12-4:30	19 <b>BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS ONLY</b> 10-3:30	20 <b>BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS ONLY</b> 10-3:30	21 <b>BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS ONLY</b> 10-3:30	22 <b>BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS ONLY</b> 10-3:30	23 <b>BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS ONLY</b> 10-3:30	24 <b>PUBLIC DAY</b> 9-12:30 12-4:30
25 <b>PUBLIC DAY</b> 9-12:30 12-4:30	26 <b>CLEAN-UP DAY</b> 9-? <b>ONE SHIFT UNTIL DONE.</b>	<p><b>I WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>CASHIERING</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>I NEED A SEATED JOB</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>GENERAL DUTIES AS ASSIGNED (NO HEAVY LIFTING)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>I WOULD LIKE TO CARPOOL</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>I CAN DRIVE SHOPPERS FROM MAIN STATE TO THE METRO</b></p> <p>Please note: The times given are for periods when volunteer work is scheduled, not for hours when the Art&amp;BookFair is open to customers.</p>				

Please tear out this page and mail to AAFSW, 4001 North Ninth Street, Suite 214, Arlington, VA 22203. Limited reimbursement is available for parking or transport costs from October 19-23. Please try to honor your commitment because we really do depend on you!

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**OFFICERS****Honorary President**

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Faye Barnes

president@aafsw.org

**Presidents Emeritae**

Judy Felt

Terri L. Williams

Mette Beecroft

emerita@aafsw.org

**1st Vice-President**

Elaine Neumann

Tel: 703-920-5773

vicepresident1@aafsw.org

**2nd Vice-President**

Lisa Wilkinson

vicepresident2@aafsw.org

org

**Board Secretary**

Barbara Ratigan

Tel: 703-536-2015

secretary@aafsw.org

**Treasurer**

Lucy Whitley

Tel: 703-536-2183

treasurer@aafsw.org

**Assistant Treasurer**

Anna Dworken

treasurer2@aafsw.org

**Membership**

Debbi Miller

Tel: 703-860-0241

membership@aafsw.org

**Programs**

Sheila Switzer

Tel: 703-569-8867

programs@aafsw.org

**Public Relations**

Lesley Dorman

Tel: 202-484-3497

publicrelations@aafsw.org

org

**Forum**

Judy Felt

Tel: 703-370-1414

**Art&BookFair**

Mette Beecroft

Tel: 301-320-7698

Fax: 301-320-0963

BookFair@aafsw.org

**ADMINISTRATION  
& SERVICES****AAFSW Office**

Margaret Teich

4001 North Ninth Street

Suite 214

Arlington, VA, 22203

Tel: 703-820-5420

Fax: 703-820-5421

office@aafsw.org

**Creative Director  
(Newsletter and  
Website)**

Kelly Bembry Midura

Tel: 703-860-6723

kelly@aafsw.org

**Housing Desk**

Employee

Services Center

Main State, Room 1252

Tel: 202-647-3573

Tel: 202-647-3086

housing@aafsw.org

Lesley Dorman

Tel: 202-484-3497

Kay Youngflesh

Tel: 703-683-0890

**Book Room**

Main State

Room B-816

Robin Jones

Tel: 202-223-5796

bookroom@aafsw.org

**Livelines Moderator**

Bert Curtis

livelines@aafsw.org

**Facebook Moderator**

Jen Dinoia

facebook@aafsw.org

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIRS****AFSA Liaison**

Patty Ryan

Tel: 202-966-7696

Fax: 202-362-1716

Ann La Porta

Tel: 202-248-4246

afsarep@aafsw.org

**Archivist**

TBA

**Art Corner**

Dianne Bodeen

Marian Rondon

artcorner@aafsw.org

**CLO Association**

TBA

**Foreign-Born Spouses**

Huda Karaman

Troella Tyznik

fbspouses@aafsw.org

**French Group**

Christel McDonald

Tel: 703-525-9755

frenchgroup@aafsw.org

**Legislative Liaison**

Chris Zarr

Tel: 301-229-7218

congressrep@aafsw.org

**Loans/Adult Education**

TBA

**Medical Evacuee  
Support**

Judy Smith

Tel: 202-882-3021

medevac@aafsw.org

**Oral History**

Jewell Fenzi

Tel: 202-387-4024

oralhistory@aafsw.org

**Playgroup Coordinator**

Brynn Gelband

playgroup@aafsw.org

**Post Representatives**

Vacant

**Scholarships**

Carolyn Connell

Tel: 703-241-2422

scholarship@aafsw.org

**Senior Living**

Marguerite Anderson

Tel: 301-652-5433

seniorliving@aafsw.org

**SOSA**

Cathy Salvaterra

Tel: 703-538-1133

sosa@aafsw.org

**State Liaison**

Mette Beecroft

Tel: 301-320-7698

Fax: 301-320-0963

staterep@aafsw.org

**Women in Transition**

Nancy Longmyer

Tel: 703-532-4694

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Summer 2009

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