

# Global Link

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## WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Moses An  
James Allman-Gulino  
Danielle Bash  
William M. Bellamy  
Gregory R. Bollrud  
Jeremy B. Brenner  
David S. Burnstein  
Erin Carson  
Elisabeth B. Burgess Choi  
Scott Dalessandro  
Christopher H. Dorn  
Heather E. Ermarth  
Penelope J. Erwin  
Jennifer S. Fabris  
Melanie Field  
Tuve B. Floden  
Deanna E. Gordon  
Michael Griffith  
Janne C. Hicks  
Donice M. Jeter  
Derrell Kennedo  
Luz-Marina Kennedy  
Joyce L. Martin  
Kevin B. McCaughey  
Luis F. Mendez  
Theresa A. Meyer  
Melissa Miller  
Susanne Newberry  
Monica O'Keefe  
Rosemary T. Rakas  
Christina Robbins  
Aaron J. Rupert  
Kristine Schlegelmilch  
Audrey M. Seagraves  
Jeffrey H. Shelden  
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Danna J. Van Brandt  
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## From the President's Desk

I write this column at a time of sadness for our community, after violence in Libya took the lives of four of our colleagues, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, Glen Doherty and Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

Moments like this cause us to reflect on the bravery and dedication of all those serving their country, and the dangers we face around the world. Many of us were touched by the lives of these four men, and all of our hearts reach out to share the sorrow of their families and friends.

At the ceremony honoring these fallen colleagues, Secretary Clinton remarked, "So we will wipe away our tears, stiffen our spines, and face the future undaunted. And we will do it together, protecting and helping one another just like Sean, Tyrone, Glen and Chris always did."

Within hours of the tragedy's announcement, donation offers were pouring in for scholarship funds for the children of the affected families. (Please see page 2 of this issue of *Global Link* or [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org) for updated links to memorial funds.) As evacuations were announced for several countries affected by the violence, AAFSW's evacuee support volunteer Ann La Porta reported: "Since the notice went out about two hours ago, I have volunteers willing to meet planes at all three airports, plus offers to help with babysitting, children's and baby's clothes and equipment, and food preparation, and even someone who will help seniors with college applications."

Foreign Service life offers the chance to experience fascinating new places and to make a difference in the world. It also presents hardships and very real dangers. For employees and family members serving far from home, a strong community can make our shared adventure more enjoyable, and provide vital support at times of struggle and sorrow, "protecting and helping one another," in Secretary Clinton's words.

Let us honor the memory of Sean, Tyrone, Glen and Chris by continuing our tradition of service and solidarity that would make them proud.

*Patricia Linderman*  
AAFSW President  
[president@aafsw.org](mailto:president@aafsw.org)

### Condolences

AAFSW has received information as to where condolence letters to the families of those killed in Benghazi may be sent. If you would like to write to the families, please contact the AAFSW office at [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org) or 703-820-5420.

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# Information and Donations

AAFSW connects the Foreign Service community through our website, Facebook page, and other online communities. Over the past weeks, we have shared many links relevant to the recent events in the Middle East. Here are a selection of websites that may be of interest. (If you are reading the print edition of *Global Link*, please visit [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org) for a “live” version of this article.)

<http://www.rememberingchrisstevens.com/>

“Remembering Chris Stevens” is a Tumblr page set up by friends and family of the Ambassador who was murdered in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. On the page, you may read remembrances of the Ambassador, or donate through the Network for Good to a fund that has been established in his name “to support activities that build bridges between the people of the United States and the Middle East. In the spirit that inspired Chris, the family envisions the Fund to support activities that promote religious tolerance, cultural understanding, educational youth exchanges, and other people-to-people programs.” Credit cards accepted.

[http://www.youcaring.com/fundraiser\\_details?fundraiser\\_id=9332&url=benefitforseansmiths\\_family](http://www.youcaring.com/fundraiser_details?fundraiser_id=9332&url=benefitforseansmiths_family)

Sean Smith, the Information Management Officer who was murdered in Benghazi, was well-known in the online gaming world. His gaming friends have set up a fund to help with his family’s immediate financial needs as well as to contribute to college funds for his two young children. Credit cards or Paypal are accepted.

<https://www.facebook.com/TyroneWoodsMemorial>  
<https://www.facebook.com/GlenDohertyMemorial>

Facebook memorial pages in honor of Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty, the former Navy Seals and security contractors who were killed while attempting to protect State Department employees in Benghazi. Each page includes numerous remembrances and links to media articles about the men.

<http://www.afsa.org/donate>

The American Foreign Service Association is currently accepting donations in Ambassador Chris Stevens’ name for Foreign Service Youth Scholarships

and the Fund for American Diplomacy. A more specific donation method is in the works and may already be detailed on the AFSA website. Credit cards or Paypal are accepted.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheSorryProject>  
The Sorry Project is a Facebook memorial to the Americans killed in Benghazi created by Libyan citizens. It includes many photos and comments from Libyans who wished to express their respect for Ambassador Chris Stevens and their regret for the tragedy.

[http://turtlebay.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/09/14/the\\_thankless\\_task\\_of\\_the\\_foreign\\_service\\_officer](http://turtlebay.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/09/14/the_thankless_task_of_the_foreign_service_officer)

“The thankless task of the Foreign Service officer.” Editorial in *Foreign Policy* magazine, September 14, 2012.

<http://world.time.com/2012/09/12/ambassador-chris-stevens-the-american-who-loved-libya-1960-2012/>

“Ambassador Chris Stevens: The American Who Loved Libya (1960-2012)” is a feature article from *Time* magazine.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/14/opinion/in-libya-and-elsewhere-our-diplomats-deserve-better.html>

“In Libya and Elsewhere, Our Diplomats Deserve Better.” *New York Times* editorial by Prudence Bushnell, career FSO and former Ambassador to Kenya and Guatemala.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/budget/news/2012/09/18/38352/diplomats-national-security-and-the-house-budget/>

“Diplomats, National Security and the House Budget.” Editorial from the Center for American Progress, September 18, 2012.

<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/christopher-stevens-us-diplomats-honored-17241340>

ABC News honored American diplomats as their “Persons of the Week” on September 14, 2012.

# Art & BookFair 2012 Is Almost Here!

The 2012 Art & BookFair opens **Friday, October 12 at 11 a.m.** in the Exhibit Hall of the Department of State for those with employee badges and their escorted guests! Admission is free; Visa, Mastercard, Discover Card and checks are accepted.

**Weekends are open to the public**, so bring your friends! They can shop for great used books, artwork, handicrafts, stamps, coins, postcards and other collectibles from around the world. Books are half price on the last day, Sunday, October 21.

AAFSW has **flyers** that can be posted at a library, gym, book club or neighborhood coffee shop. Just call the office at 703-820-5420 to be provided with copies, or download and print them from our website here: <http://www.aafsw.org/2012/aafsw-art-bookfair-2012/> Help us to get the word out!

Thank you to everyone who signed up to be a volunteer. We look forward to a very successful event, thanks to your time and effort. We really could not do it without you!

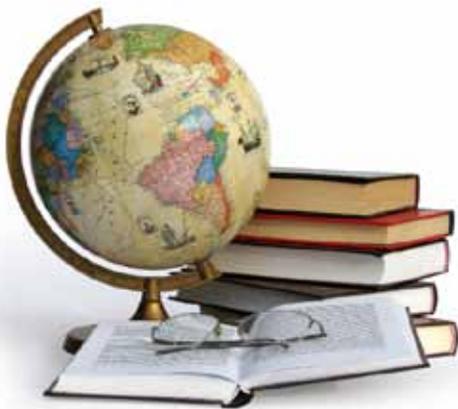
While we are no longer accepting book donations, **we will accept donations for the Art Corner until opening day.** We are happy to receive pottery, china, artwork, textiles, jewelry, silver, and brass. Objects from Foreign Service posts always sell especially well! To donate, call the AAFSW office 703-820-5420 or email [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org).



Busy volunteers at Art & BookFair 2011.

*Judy Felt*  
*Art & BookFair Chair*  
[bookfair@aafsw.org](mailto:bookfair@aafsw.org)

## Art & BookFair Hours of Operation



**Friday, October 12:** Opening Day. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to building pass holders and their guests.\*

**October 13-14:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the general public.

**October 15-19:** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open to building pass holders and their guests.\*

**October 20-21:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the general public. On the 23rd, the final day, most items are half price.

*\* Spouses are invited to attend the A&BF on both public and non-public days. If you volunteer at the Fair, you will receive an entry pass for all days. Diplomatic passport holders can simply enter at the C Street entrance (state that you are attending the A&BF). If you do not have a diplomatic passport, you*

*may enter with your employee spouse or with a volunteer holding an escort badge. If you need to be escorted, please contact us in advance, if possible, at [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org), 703-820-5420 or 202-223-5796, and we will be happy to help.*

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# More AAFSW News and Events

## New EFM Business Directory on Livelines

The latest addition to our online community is a new Business Directory for Eligible Family Members, hosted at our "Livelines" Yahoo! Group site.

EfMs (spouses, partners, older children) can add their businesses to the Directory, and all Livelines members will be able to access this information when they are looking for goods or services. This will be useful to members all over the world, not just in the DC area, since many services can be provided remotely, such as web design, life coaching, speech therapy, editing, and many more.

AAFSW hopes to offer an even more user-friendly database in the near future, but for now, please visit the Livelines home page <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/livelines/> and click on "Database" on the left-hand side. All members may add or edit entries (you can add recommendations for a business you have used).

If you are an AAFSW member and have not yet joined Livelines, you can get started by contacting [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org).

Running a business or providing independent services are great ways for EfMs to stay professionally active, earn money and maintain some continuity while moving from country to country. Let's work together to support our talented entrepreneurs and independent professionals!

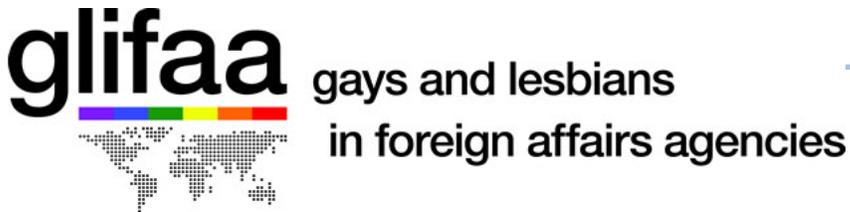
## New FLO Liaison Committee Gets to Work

AAFSW was instrumental in the creation of the State Department's Family Liaison Office, which is now celebrating its 30-year anniversary. This milestone inspired the AAFSW Board to create a liaison committee that will help keep our relationship with FLO useful and strong.

The Committee consists of myself (Patricia Linderman); former AAFSW President and former FLO Director Faye Barnes; former Community Liaison Office Coordinator Anne Cekuta; and Jill Katz Perlman, whose husband is currently on an unaccompanied tour.

The Committee has already met several times with the FLO leadership, and the members will now meet individually with FLO staff in all of the specialized areas. In the meetings, we will learn more about FLO's current initiatives and figure out how we can best work together to support our shared community. Please write to [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org) if you have any suggestions for the Committee.

*Patricia Linderman  
AAFSW President  
[president@aafsw.org](mailto:president@aafsw.org)*



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## A Taste of Argentina!

Join Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA) at a fundraising event. Thursday, November 8 between 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Embassy of Argentina at 1600 New Hampshire Avenue, NW in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available soon and will be \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Taste great wines of Argentina, nosh at a nice buffet, enter to win free raffle prizes of wine and tour the beautiful Argentinean Embassy.

Proceeds from the Taste of Argentina will benefit CEGA, an organization based in Argentina that provides scholarships for young students, and the GLIFAA Fund.

For more information or to RSVP please email [glifaaevents@gmail.com](mailto:glifaaevents@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

# AAFSW Playgroup Connects Foreign Service Parents



<http://www.facebook.com/aafsw>

The AAFSW Playgroup has been meeting since 1997 and is open to all Foreign Service moms and dads of preschoolers currently posted to the DC area. The group meets on weekday mornings, usually from 10am-noon at various parks or homes of members in the Falls Church/Vienna area.

The Playgroup is not only a great way to entertain kids, but is an invaluable networking opportunity for the parents! Get to know other people in your situation: exchange advice, offer and receive support, while learning about all the great, affordable things to do with kids in the DC area (like the petting zoo, above!)

For more information about joining the AAFSW playgroup email [playgroup@aafsw.org](mailto:playgroup@aafsw.org). For more information about starting a playgroup in Maryland or the District of Columbia, email the AAFSW Main Office at [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org).

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# FLO/OBC News

## Online Resource for Foreign Service Employees and Family Members

Information Quest (also known as InfoQuest) is the Department of State's contracted resource and referral service for employees and their family members. Anyone experiencing an unaccompanied tour may use IQ's informative online resources. To access the website [click here](#) and use the screen name "statedepartment" and password "infoquest". If you are a State Department family member or employee, you are also eligible to use IQ's telephonic services via 1-866-552-4748.

On the InfoQuest website you can:

- Search for child care, adult care, cleaning services, realtors, schools, and fitness centers nationwide;
- Read thousands of pages of educational content and download free guides; access interactive health tools including 3-D medical animations, and more;
- Participate in online seminars on topics ranging from stress management to child and adult care, nutrition, adoption, and a host of other issues;
- Access self-service legal forms and interactive financial calculators;
- Learn about college financing options, and even apply for educational loans online;
- Request free infant care, child safety, college care and adult care kits packed with valuable safety and educational items--and much more!

At FLO, we fondly refer to IQ as our "personal assistant." Take advantage of the great resources IQ offers!

Also, don't forget MHN! For emotional/mental health/well-being articles and self-assessments visit MHN's customized support services website at <https://members.mhn.com/> using the company code 'unaccompaniedtour' to login.

For any questions regarding these resources, please contact us at [FLOAskUT@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskUT@state.gov) and we will be happy to help!

## 2012 Special Education Needs Seminar Videos Accessible Online

The Transition Center invites you to view the Special Education Needs Seminar videos, available now on the Internet along with supporting documents. The Special Education Needs Seminar is offered at FSI annually for employees who have children with special educational needs and are already or plan to be assigned to a U.S. mission abroad. Multiple Department of State offices offer assistance and guidance to families seeking special needs information and support. This one-day seminar presents a comprehensive overview of the Department's special education support system and guides parents on how to proactively navigate the system to plan for their children's education overseas.

The topics and presenters are:

Navigating the System, Dr. Stanley S. Piotroski, Director, Employee Consultation Services,

Educating my Child, Dr. Pamela A. Ward, Regional Education Officer, Office of Overseas Schools

Parent to Parent, Dianna Rooney and Charles Roe, Family Liaison Office

To see the videos on the internet, visit <http://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/fslstraining/specialeducation/>

Links are provided to the transcripts and presentations that can be downloaded or printed.

For any questions or comments, please contact [FSITCTraining@state.gov](mailto:FSITCTraining@state.gov)

## Free Job Coaching for Family Members

Are you a Foreign Service family member thinking about getting a job or exploring other career-enhancing options such as training, volunteering, or starting a home-based business? The Global Employment Initiative (GEI), sponsored by FLO, is here to assist you. Our in-country, regional or virtual Global Employment Advisors (GEAs) will help you with resumes, cover letters, networking, or other career development ideas. Send an email to [gei@state.gov](mailto:gei@state.gov) requesting the contact information for the GEA covering your region or country.

From *FLO Weekly Update*

# Classified Advertising

AAFSW now offers free classified advertisements to its members. The *Global Link* is sent by mail and electronically to our members and to Community Liaison Offices worldwide for a sizable total monthly readership.

Do you have a business or service that you would like to advertise to the Foreign Service community? Send a brief notice (100 words or less) to [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org) for approval with the subject line AD FOR GLOBAL LINK. If you have a business website, it can be hyperlinked in the electronic version of the newsletter, so please include your URL. Advertisements will run on a space-available basis for one month at a time and will rotate in order of receipt.

We also accept classified advertising for real estate rentals and sales, as well as sales of other items (cars etc.) on our website, [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org). View or submit ads here: <http://www.aafsw.org/classified/classified.htm>.

Not a member of AAFSW? Join now! Apply online at our website: <http://www.aafsw.org/aafsw/membership.htm>.

## Mentors Wanted

AAFSW has a program of one-on-one spouse mentoring, created primarily for new A-100 spouses and first-tour spouses. We are trying to match mentoring volunteers from our AAFSW membership with mentoring requests from the "newbies" based on as many points in common as possible: ages of children, languages spoken, areas of professional interest, and the like.

We have already paired 50 new trailing spouses/partners with enthusiastic mentors and we are eagerly awaiting feedback from those involved. Of course, we need lots more volunteers, especially those whose spouses are still active duty, and are still likely to be serving overseas.

This program has the potential to do two wonderful and worthwhile things - help people who are new to the Foreign Service with their many life challenges, and create the next generation of AAFSW leaders.

If you know of anyone who might want or need mentoring, or if you are interested in becoming a mentor yourself, please send an email to [mentor@aafsw.org](mailto:mentor@aafsw.org). Thanks!

## Scholarship Fund

The AAFSW Scholarship Fund offers college scholarships for children of Foreign Service employees. Financial aid scholarships for 4 years of undergraduate college study are offered, as well as a merit award for a high school senior who is the child of an AAFSW member.

Donating to the Fund is now easier than ever! We have a new donation app on our Facebook page that you can use to contribute using Paypal or a credit card. Just click the "Donate to AAFSW" button at the top of our Facebook page.

The AAFSW Scholarship Fund directly benefits our Foreign Service community. We thank you for your donation!

## Join the AAFSW Team!

As AAFSW continues to expand its membership and activities, we need a lot of new volunteers to focus on specific tasks. We hope these will be enjoyable jobs that are limited in scope and easy to fit into your busy schedule.

Please see if you can help us out in any of the following areas! The title and job description can be flexible depending on your skills, interests and time available. All of these are best for people in the DC area – but short-term is fine!

**Art and BookFair Accountant.** This is a temporary position to assist the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer during the Art and BookFair in October.

**Happy Hour Planner.** (What could be more fun than that?) Planning and coordinating happy hours for the Foreign Service community as well as panel discussions on various topics of interest (roughly one event per month).

**Media Outreach.** Attending our events and writing blurbs about them for the website and Facebook; managing our Twitter feed & sending messages; promoting AAFSW on various e-mail groups; posting signs at the Department for our events or asking others to post them, etc.

**Diversity Outreach.** Volunteers are needed to help find ways for AAFSW to more effectively recruit, serve and represent male spouses, same-sex partners, singles and others currently underrepresented in the organization.

If you may be able to help in any of these areas, please contact [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org). Thank you!

## Connecting the Foreign Service Blogosphere

One of the most popular features on the AAFSW website is our Foreign Service Blogs page. Clearly, there is a lot of interest out there in what life is like for members of the Foreign Service community. If you have a personal or professional blog that you would like to list on the site, email [webmaster@aafsw.org](mailto:webmaster@aafsw.org) with the URL and a brief description.

In an effort to further connect Foreign Service bloggers and increase our own visibility we've designed a widget that you can put on your blog's sidebar which directs readers to our Foreign Service Blogs page.

Check out dozens of Foreign Service blogs and get the code to add our widget to your own blog at: <http://www.aafsw.org/overseas-post-info/foreign-service-blogs/>.

Read more Foreign  
Service blogs at  
[www.aafsw.org/](http://www.aafsw.org/)



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