

Global Link

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE WORLDWIDE • [WWW.AAFSW.ORG](http://www.aafsw.org) • NOVEMBER 2011

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AAFSW's November Program

American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month



AAFSW cordially invites you to join us on **Thursday, November 17** at 11:00 a.m. at the Embassy of Tribal Nations, located at 1516 P Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. We will learn about American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and the history of the National Congress of Indians (NCAI).

November is American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) Heritage Month. This year, the focus is Native American and Alaska Native Youth. It is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of native people. Native youth are charged with the responsibility of carrying on these cultures, traditions, and histories and it is crucial that they are provided with the support, tools, and skills to thrive and take leadership roles within their communities. Addressing the unique challenges facing native youth, such as income, health and educational disparities, is a critical part of building healthy, sustainable tribal communities.

More information about the National Congress of Indians can be found at <http://www.ncai.org>.

Nearby Parking: Colonial Parking Inc, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue NW or two-hour meters on the street.

Nearest Metro: DuPont Circle (.5 mi), McPherson Square (.8 mi)

Some attendees may wish to carpool. If you would like to do so, please let us our office manager, Barbara Reieux, know when you RSVP to the office at office@aafsw.org or 703-820-5420. After the event you are welcome to join us for lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Sheila Switzer
AAFSW Program Chair
programs@aafsw.org



From the President's Desk

By the time you read this, we will have concluded our 51st annual Art&BookFair, which is currently underway as I write this message. I can already tell that it is a great success, thanks

to the untiring work of co-chairs Judy Felt and Anne Kauzlarich, volunteer coordinator B.J. Harrick, skilled docent June Carmichael, invaluable consultant Mette Beecroft, our employee Brian Neumann – who always goes above and beyond the call of his AAFSW duties – and many, many others, too numerous to name. Thank you to all who donated items, volunteered and/or shopped at the Fair!

AAFSW's Treasurer, Lucy Whitley, works hard year-round for Art&BookFair and has also carefully prepared the report and budget spreadsheet contained in this issue. Thanks to Lucy and the rest of the Finance Committee, AAFSW's finances are transparent and well-balanced. No budget deficits here!

The recipients of the Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) from each geographic bureau were recently selected by a panel, with many thanks to volunteer SOSA coordinator Kay DeKuiper. As an organization representing foreign affairs community family members, we are proud to note that five out of the six awardees are accompanying spouses/partners. Their incredible work ranged from the installation of a potable water system in Kenya to pro-democracy efforts in Tunisia. The winners are named in this issue, and full profiles will be published next month.

In October, AAFSW inaugurated a new series of social events aimed at welcoming new spouses and partners with the A-100 and specialist training classes. Our first event, a gathering at Oakwood Falls Church for wine and snacks, went extremely well, and we are all looking forward to more. Three representatives from the Family Liaison Office, including Director Leslie Teixeira, attended the event and spoke to the newcomers about the vital role played by AAFSW. Many thanks to First Vice President Jen Dinoia, Program Chair Sheila Switzer, and Membership Chair Debbi Miller for making this event possible.

Jen Dinoia has also inaugurated AAFSW's new Twitter account – please follow us if you are a “tweeter”!

As our Program Chair, Sheila has also been extremely active in organizing the September 20 event reviewed on page 6 of this issue, the Oct. 29 Halloween party, the upcoming visit to the Embassy of Tribal Nations on Nov. 17, and a special art gallery tour in December (details TBA). She has also assisted our new Foreign-Born Spouse Group chair, Ana Luisa Gallardo, in organizing the Lincoln-themed event on November 2. Please note that all AAFSW members are welcome as guests of the Foreign-Born Spouse Group at this event.

I have so many more people to thank for their hard work this month, and space is too short to list them all. Thank you to all of our AAFSW Board, our committee chairs and members, our essential liaisons who link us to other organizations, our overseas representatives, our volunteers who assist evacuees in the Washington area – and every one of you who contributes to making Foreign Service life easier and better for others in our community!

Patricia Linderman
AAFSW President
president@aaafsn.org

SOSA Winners Chosen

The winners of the Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) were selected on Oct. 12 by a panel of representatives from AAFSW, FLO and the Executive Director or representative from each State Dept. geographic bureau. Full profiles of these volunteers' extremely impressive activities will be published in our December issue and on our website. Mark your calendar for the SOSA presentation (along with other awards) scheduled for the morning of **Tuesday, December 6.**

And the winners are:

- EAP: Sean Meyers, Rangoon
- WHA: Maria Del Carmen Miller, Quito
- AF: Edward (Mick) Davis, Kisumu
- NEA: Matthew David Meredith, Tunis
- SCA: Nam A. Nguyen, Chennai
- EUR: Chong O. Farquhar, Yerevan

AAFSW Member Spotlight



There is so much talent to be found among AAFSW members! One of the members of our Foreign Born Spouses Group, Susan Burkhalter from Taiwan, is also a member of the American Balalaika Symphony. She plays a *prima dormra*, one of the distinctive instruments of the Balalaika Orchestra

The American Balalaika Symphony presented a wonderful concert, on Saturday, September 24, at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center in Alexandria, VA. The program was "An Evening of Movie Music," from the USA and USSR.

The *balalaika* is recognizable from its triangular body. While the *dormra* is round, it shares the same Russian traditions as the *balalaika*. Other instruments were: the *bayan*, a Russian equivalent of the Western "piano" accordion; and the *gusli*, a large horizontal table harp whose ancestors include the psaltery and dulcimer.

Susan's husband Ted just came back from Iraq, and they will be leaving for Japan next year. Before departure, she will be able to play in two more concerts on January 21, and May 12, 2012. More information can be found at <http://www.balalaika.biz/>.

Sheila Switzer
AAFSW Program Chair
programs@aafsw.org

Foreign Born Spouses November Program

Our FBS group will enjoy a musical program: "Abraham Lincoln's Life in Music" presented by Elizabeth Smith Brownstein. This event will take place on **Wednesday, November 2** at 11.30 a.m. at the residence of Sheila Switzer in Springfield, Virginia.

Abraham Lincoln's tastes were representative of his time. The Civil War era was rich in all kinds of music. With little formal education, Mr. Lincoln nevertheless enjoyed a broad range of music, from sentimental ballads and nonsense songs to opera.

Pianist Elizabeth Brownstein will play a selection of well-known songs of the period, and reveal the significance of each song in Lincoln's life and his presidency. This is a unique program offering insights into rarely considered aspects of Lincoln's temperament and leadership.

Please join us and meet our new FBS chair Ana Luisa Gallardo. She can be contacted at fbspouses@aafsw.org. We would appreciate it if you bring a luncheon dish to share.

All AAFSW members are welcome to attend this program. Please RSVP to office@aafsw.org as soon as possible. An address and phone number for the event will be provided to all attendees.

Sheila Switzer
AAFSW Program Chair
programs@aafsw.org

AAFSW's News Feed

There are now several ways to keep up with AAFSW news, events, and other items of interest to the Foreign Service community: *Global Link*, Facebook, Twitter, and our RSS feed.

To subscribe by RSS, visit www.aafsw.org and click the "Subscribe" button at the top right of the screen.

Or, add this URL to your preferred news reader or home page:

<http://www.aafsw.org/feed/>

AAFSW is on Twitter!



AAFSW will now be able to send short "tweets" with our news and events. You can also send us instant feedback! Visit <http://twitter.com/#!/AAFSW> and follow us today!

Treasurer's Report

The budget presented is for AAFSW's 2012 fiscal year which runs from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. The actual income and expense numbers for FY 2011 and FY 2010 are based on AAFSW's Profit and Loss Statement and on the financial statements prepared by Ribis, Jones and Maresca, P.A., certified public accountants. The Oral History Project monies, the AAFSW Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) funds, and the Spousal Professional Development Fellowships funds are accounted for separately and are not included in the budget. They are reported below.

Fiscal Year 2011

Income in FY 2011 decreased slightly from the previous fiscal year. A decrease in Art&BookFair income was offset by an increase in BookRoom sales and an increase in income from membership dues. Currently, 70% of AAFSW's income comes from Art&BookFair and BookPlace sales and 15% from membership dues.

Expenses were lower than income. Our scholarship contribution for FY 2011 appears lower than it actually was due to the check for \$2,100 for the Merit Award having been being written after the start of FY 2012.

Fiscal Year 2012

The budget for FY 2012 is based on the FY 2011 and FY 2010 income and expense numbers. Every effort will be made to reduce expenses while hoping for a successful Art&BookFair.

AAFWS's contribution to the AAFSW/AFSA scholarship program will be a total of \$9,608 (\$9,508 plus designated scholarship donations received between April 1 and December 31, 2010). This does not include the \$2,100 payment for FY 2011 made in FY 2012.

Summary of All Accounts

	6/30/10	Income	Expenses	6/30/11
AAFWS	\$204,470	\$154,891	\$124,552	\$234,809
SOSA	\$75,413	\$18,193	\$17,612	\$75,994
Spousal Development Fellowships	\$6,936	\$22	\$1,500	\$5,458
Oral History Project	\$3,469	\$315	\$243	\$3,541

Investments

As of June 30, 2011, AAFSW had investments of \$197,482. Our net capital gain for the year was \$22,995. Dividends and interest are re-invested in order to increase the total amount of our investments. We did, however, move \$8,000 from investments to checking.

In December 2010 five SOSA awards of \$2,500 each were given to recognize outstanding volunteers at posts abroad.

Five Spouse Professional Development Fellowships were awarded in 2009. The funds for one award were disbursed in FY 2011. So far in FY 2012 funds for one more award have been given out. The remaining amounts should be distributed this year.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met three times during the year. The current committee members are Carolyn Connell, Jennifer Dinoia, Judy Felt, Elaine Neumann, Patty Ryan, Terry Walsh, Anna Dworken, Gina Necula, and Lucy Whitley.

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns about the budget or would like a computer print-out of the Profit and Loss statement, please call Lucy Whitley at 703-536-2183. Also call if you would like to attend a Finance Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lucy M. Whitley,
AAFSWTreasurer
treasurer@aafsm.org*

AAFSW BUDGET 2012

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Budget 2012	Actual 7/1/10-6/30/11	Budget 2011	Actual 7/1/09-6/30/10
Income				
Amazon.com program	\$650	\$633	\$700	\$595
BookFair	\$71,000	\$60,458	\$71,800	\$71,991
BookRoom	\$28,000	\$31,130	\$21,700	\$20,366
Contributions to scholarships, headquarters,memorials	\$1,500	\$1,120	\$3,000	\$2,621
Dividends & interest	\$9,000	\$9,847	\$9,000	\$8,365
Membership dues	\$17,000	\$19,740	\$18,000	\$17,180
Program fees - 8th Floor	\$1,950	\$3,414	\$5,000	\$5,234
Realities of FS Life - sales and royalties	\$2,000	\$3,700	\$2,300	\$5,899
Miscellaneous (including 50th anniversary DVD)	\$200	\$1,854	\$200	\$193
Total Income	\$131,300	\$131,896	\$131,700	\$132,444
Expenses				
Audit	\$3,300	\$2,800	\$2,900	\$2,818
BookFair inc.sales tax,charge fees	\$24,000	\$19,872	\$22,100	\$22,217
BookRoom inc.sales tax,charge fees	\$4,200	\$3,741	\$3,300	\$2,892
Capital Improvements	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$420
Donations				
Scholarships	\$9,608	\$6,930	\$8,843	\$9,690
FS Community	\$2,400	\$2,724	\$2,900	\$3,367
Send a Kid to Camp	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$750
Employer's Payroll Expenses	\$3,650	\$3,638	\$4,000	\$3,550
General				
Annual Dues	\$70	\$0	\$400	\$465
Bank Fees	\$120	\$245	\$150	\$94
Board Allowance	\$500	\$137	\$350	\$452
Investment Advisory Fees	\$1,000	\$927	\$1,000	\$844
Public Relations	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$0
President's Allowance	\$200	\$0	\$100	\$123
Headquarter Allowance (Move)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Insurance - Health	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,823
Insurance-WorkComp, Liability, Director's	\$3,400	\$3,176	\$3,400	\$3,270
Membership				
Newsletter-editor,printing,mailing,etc.	\$5,600	\$6,243	\$6,200	\$7,407
Mailings,brochures,charge fees,etc.	\$900	\$700	\$400	\$673
Website-web tech,etc.	\$3,800	\$3,693	\$3,800	\$4,123
Media Director	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,250
Office Rent	\$9,422	\$9,055	\$9,060	\$8,708
Other Office Expenses - telephone,supplies,etc.	\$2,700	\$2,209	\$3,070	\$2,234
Programs - 8th Floor	\$3,225	\$3,595	\$5,000	\$6,715
Program Support - Housing office,playgroup,etc.	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$23
Realities of FS Life expenses	\$400	\$1,217	\$50	\$38
Salaries	\$46,200	\$44,815	\$50,300	\$44,292
Miscellaneous (Business License & 50th DVD)	\$300	\$2,101	\$300	\$0
Total Expenses	\$129,045	\$121,418	\$131,673	\$133,238
Net	\$2,255	\$10,478	\$27	-\$794

September Program Review

On September 20, AAFSW members and their guests heard presentations by two distinguished guests. Ambassador David Newton, former US Ambassador to Iraq, spoke on “The Arab Spring: Impact on US Middle East Policy,” and Dr. Rosa Rai Djalal, President of the Muslim Women’s Association in Washington, DC, spoke on “The Role of Women in Islam.” The program, which was held in the Benjamin Franklin Diplomatic Reception Room and attended by around 100 people, was enthusiastically received.

Ambassador Newton noted that when people at his Middle East lectures asked about Arab democracies, he would always reply, “There are none”—until this year. The Arab Spring has radically changed the Middle East, with popular protests sparking revolutions and forcing government reforms. Ambassador Newton presented a brief outline of Middle Eastern history up to the present, and discussed forces that led to the Arab Spring, as well as the opportunities and dilemmas this reform movement holds for United States policy.



Ambassador David Newton



Dr. Rosa Djalal

Dr. Rosa Djalal described the varied roles Muslim women played in politics and commerce, noting that Muslim women were on the front lines of the movement for change. Women have had prominent political roles in some Muslim countries, making up a large proportion of parliamentarians and serving in high government positions, including heads of state. Dr. Djalal spoke of the importance of women’s education as an antidote to terrorism, and discussed how microfinancing projects can empower poor women. She observed that Islam, like other religions, is “part of the heartbeat” of the U.S., and that our strong commitment to freedom of religion places us well to promote religious understanding.

*Barbara Reieux
AAFSW Member*

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 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. 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>.

CLO Alumni Luncheon Rescheduled

The CLO Alumni Association meeting previously scheduled for September 17 has been postponed until December: date to be announced. This association is open to former Community Liaison Office Coordinators and is a great social and networking opportunity. Membership in AAFSW is required. To determine your eligibility and apply for membership online, please visit www.aafsw.org

For more information about the CLO Alumni Association email clogroup@aafsw.org.

Mentors Wanted

AAFSW has begun a pilot 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 less than a dozen mentor/mentoree pairs at the moment, 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. Thanks!

Certificates for UT Kids

Children of employees experiencing an unaccompanied tour deserve to be recognized! If you work for the Department of State, USAID, Commerce, Agriculture or BBG, your children are eligible to receive a medal and certificate of recognition from the Family Liaison Office (FLO).

This year, FLO's Unaccompanied Tours recognition program already has reached more than 500 children with parents serving overseas on unaccompanied assignments. Isn't it time you nominate your child? You'll find FLO's online nomination form and directions here: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/124256.pdf>

Jewelry Show

Janine Bland hopes you can come to her annual private show on

Saturday, November 5, 2011
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

so she can show you her newest creations. These include uncut semi-precious stones from around the world which she has wrapped with silver or gold wire.

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November 2011

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