

Global Link

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 15:

Foreign Service Youth Foundation Picnic. All are welcome. See fsyf.org for more information.

Tuesday, September 17:

Musical Program with a Mexican Independence Day theme, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Main State

Friday, October 11 -

Sunday, October 20:

Annual AAFSW Art and Book Fair, Main State. (See details inside this issue.)

Tuesday, December 3:

AAFSW Awards Ceremony, featuring the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA), 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Main State

Dates to be determined:

- Repeat event with Tony and Jonna Mendez
- Panel discussion on growing up internationally
- Stress management workshop
- Unaccompanied tour support event
- Financial workshop for EFMs
- Lunch at DACOR-Bacon House with speaker
- Happy Hours to welcome new A-100 and Specialist classes

Please confirm all events on our website, our Facebook page, or via office@aaafsw.org before attending.

The Perks and Pitfalls of Teaching Abroad

Craving a portable, fulfilling career while a trailing spouse? Teaching in international schools might be just the job for you—but don't expect it to be a cakewalk.

First, allow me to describe the various types of “international schools.” I have never taught for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), which runs overseas schools with an American curriculum for the children of U.S. government employees. Neither have I been hired by an international school run by a large corporation, such as an oil company, for the children of expatriate workers. For one year I worked at a school with a U.S. curriculum, but with a student body composed almost entirely of host country nationals.

All the aforementioned schools may be fine places to work, but my experience has primarily been teaching in International Baccalaureate (IB) schools attended by students from all over the globe. For example, my previous school in Mongolia enrolled students from more than three dozen countries, with no one nationality allowed to exceed 40% of the student body. Earlier, I taught at a school in China with over 630 students representing around 50 different nationalities. The teaching staff at both schools was similarly diverse.

One of the biggest bonuses to working outside the mission has been that I spend the day with very different colleagues from my partner, which gives us both a wonderful chance to diversify our friendships. Besides the folks we get to know from the various agencies at post, we also spend time with teachers from Australia, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Canada, Mongolia, China, India, and New Zealand. This prevents cocktail parties from devolving into government acronyms and visa interview anecdotes—though if your spouse's embassy colleagues have children at your school, you may need to worm out of impromptu parent-teacher conferences.

Becoming an international educator provides fantastic professional development opportunities. Accredited schools are required to give in-service training, which means that teachers attend top-quality workshops and conferences, often in exotic locations. (Note to folks at hardship posts: this may be a way to squeeze in an extra escape without using a precious R&R plane ticket!)

Another benefit of working at a school is an enhanced experience of the host country. Sure, you might sign up for a Community Liaison Office (CLO) trip every now and then, but you'll get into your posting on a deeper level by going on field trips with your students, participating in weekend getaways or happy hours with colleagues, and getting to know local support staff. Like Foreign Service Nationals at an embassy, your teaching assistants will be your lifeline to getting things done, explaining local culture and customs and translating when necessary.

Continued on page 9.



From the President's Desk...

Patricia Linderman
president@aafsw.org

What Is Our Mission?

A generous and talented member recently offered to help create an official mission statement for AAFSW. The Board has a few ideas, of course, but I'd like to reach out to all of you as well.

What's special about AAFSW? What sets us apart? Other organizations provide information about Foreign Service life, organize interesting events, present volunteer awards and raise money for scholarships. And there are other online networks for Foreign Service community members besides AAFSW's Livelines, such as PROPS on LinkedIn and Trailing Houses on Facebook.

It seems that "belonging" is one theme that sets us apart. AAFSW aims to create an ongoing sense of belonging, especially among spouses and partners. Moving to a new country every few years, often without a job to provide colleagues and continuity, accompanying partners especially benefit from a sense that they belong to a larger "tribe" — people who understand the oddities of this mobile life of ours and who offer friendship, advice, and concrete help when needed.

AAFWSW seeks to bring this "tribe" together at all stages of a Foreign Service career, by providing:

- Information before a family even joins the Foreign Service, through the *Realities of Foreign Service Life* books and the AAFSW website, aafsw.org.
- Happy Hours and events to welcome newcomers in the DC area.
- Answers to any and all questions from more than 4500 participants on Livelines, our Yahoogroup.
- Also through Livelines, the opportunity to sell, rent and buy houses, cars, baby equipment, pet carriers and even 220V appliances.
- Groups offering in-person friendship and support, including the Foreign-Born Spouses Group, Washington DC-Area Playgroup and Evacuee Support Committee.

- Ongoing information and advocacy through our website, newsletters and working groups.
- Our new Foreign Service Companion book series, in which community members share in-depth information and experiences.
- A chance to get involved by volunteering with our BookStore, Art&BookFair and working groups, both in-person and online.
- Programs and information of interest to retirees.

This is only part of what we do, but you get the idea. It is important to us to know whether you agree -- is bringing the Foreign Service community together and creating a sense of belonging what AAFSW does best? Is this what we should be doing? I'd love to hear your opinions and ideas at patricia@aafsw.org.

After all, you are my tribe!

FSYF News

Welcome Back Picnic

Date: **Sunday September 15, 2013**

Time: 4 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Location: Nottoway Park, Vienna Virginia

Address: 9610 Courthouse Rd, Vienna VA 22181

Free (please bring a side dish or dessert to share).

All are welcome! Join the Foreign Service Youth Foundation and AAFSW for one of our most popular events of the year! Meet up with your FS friends or take the opportunity to make some new friends. We'll provide the burgers and hotdogs but please bring a side dish or dessert to share. You need not be a FSYF member to attend. Join us for a fun afternoon of games, face painting, good food and great company!

For more information and to RSVP, please visit fsyf.org.

Fitting in Fast: Re-Entry Workshop for Teens Saturday, August 24

Oakwood Falls Church, VA

11 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Moderated by AAFSW President Patricia Linderman, this program is for teens entering grades 8-12 and will feature a panel discussion with young people who have been through the re-entry process, a short film screening, helpful tips for "fitting in fast," and refreshments.

Contact FSYF for details: fsyf@fsyf.org.

Remembering Judy Felt



We are very sorry to share the news that Judy Felt, AAFSW's Art&BookFair chair, died unexpectedly on July 22. She had recently received a diagnosis of ovarian cancer, but her doctors were optimistic, and her sudden passing was a shock to all.

A longtime AAFSW member, Judy served the organization in many capacities, including as President (2005-2007). She was especially dedicated to the Art&BookFair, serving as Co-Chair and then as Chair since 2011. She received the Dorman Award in 2007 for her exceptional service to AAFSW.

Among her friends, colleagues and fellow volunteers, Judy was known not only for her warmth and generosity of spirit but for her supportiveness of others. She was always quick to acknowledge and express gratitude for others' contributions, no matter how small.

Originally from Columbia, Missouri, Judy earned master's degrees in Genetics and Demography. She worked for a variety of organizations, including the Population Reference Bureau and Decision Demographics.

With her husband, Jack Felt, and later with children Justin and Emily, she lived in Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, Mexico, Toronto and Greece, serving as Community Liaison Office coordinator in Lagos and Athens.

AAFSW has announced that the the Art&BookFair in October of this year will be officially dedicated to Judy, with a photo display allowing visitors to add memories and condolences. The Fair will go on, as Judy would have wished.

In addition, a scholarship has been created in Judy's name, to be awarded to a student with an exceptional record of community service, honoring Judy's generous and active spirit. To donate, visit our website at aafsw.org and follow the links under "Remembering Judy Felt," or visit AAFSW's Facebook page and click on the yellow "Give" button. Checks can also be mailed to the AAFSW office for the "Judy Felt Memorial Scholarship."

A memorial service was held on July 28 in Alexandria, Virginia, and interment services will take place on August 7 in Roseville, Illinois. An obituary and online guestbook for the family can be found here: <http://everlywheatley.tributes.com/our-obituaries/Judy-Clark-Felt-96163154>

She was a huge gift to me, personally; she gave me confidence and my first sense that the real world is kind and funny and warm and textured. As I became a supervisor over the years, I tried to be like her, to put people at ease, to tell the funny real stories, some at my own expense. I can think of specific things I did that were 100% based on how Judy made me feel. I am not ready to think that she is gone. There are not enough selfless people like her around.

Colleague Nancy Wemmerus



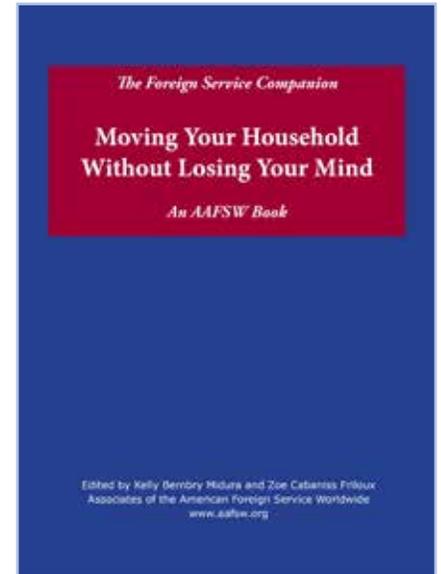
Judy Felt (front row, second from right) opens Art & BookFair 2011 with AAFSW colleagues and friends.

New AAFSW Book!

Every day, somewhere in the world, Foreign Service community members are in the midst of moving. Some have moved a dozen times or more, and lived to tell about it! They tell their tales in this book, a collection of advice, stories and entertaining anecdotes to serve as your “companion” along the way.

Whether you are a veteran of many Foreign Service moves or a brand-new officer or family member preparing for your first packout, there is surely something in this book that you can use--or at that will at least give you a laugh when you most need one!

**Available now in paperback or Kindle e-book format
from Amazon.com!**



Welcome to Our New Board Secretary

Laura Casey, originally from Richmond, Virginia, never imagined traveling the world until she met her husband in 2009. Five months later she picked up and moved to Northern Virginia to start Chinese language training as an EFM. Her first post in Beijing, China was initially a culture shock, but she thrived in the large Embassy, finding employment as a Family Member Employment Coordinator for Mission China. She was elected as the Secretary to the American

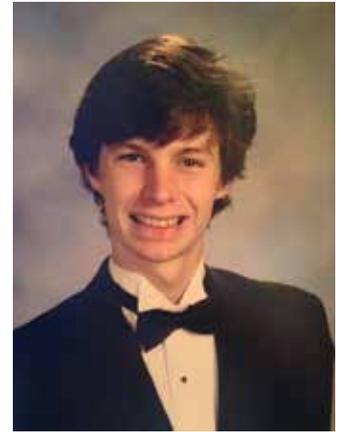


Employees Association board in 2011 and served until she left post. Returning to DC for their second tour in 2012, Laura decided to start her own art and photography business, Chameleon Photography and Design. She named the company "Chameleon" to describe our desire to continually adapt and blend with new cultures and surroundings as a Foreign Service family. She launched her Etsy site, CreativeChameleon, in 2013 and has been successful from the start. To fulfill her new love of cooking, she is also a Pampered Chef consultant holding bi-monthly shows at Oakwood Falls Church. Future posts for her family include an unaccompanied tour in Islamabad in 2014 and a family move to Kuala Lumpur in 2016.

Congratulations to Our Merit Scholarship Winner!

AAFSW has instituted a new Merit Award of \$2000, awarded to a high school senior or gap year student who stands out in academic performance, extracurricular activities and community service.

This year's winner is Geoffrey Odlum, chosen in an anonymous review process by our Scholarship Committee, chaired by Anne Cekuta.



Geoffrey Odlum, son of Geoff and Jennifer Odlum, is a recent graduate of Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia, where he excelled in both academics and extra-curricular activities. In addition to being class valedictorian, he also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, served as president of the Washington-Lee Model United Nations club, was active in the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Mentor Program, and ran for the Varsity Cross Country team.

Geoffrey's previous posts include Istanbul, Turkey, and Vienna, Austria. He will be attending Virginia Tech this fall to study Engineering, and hopes to keep travel a permanent part of his life.

Art & BookFair Update

AAFSW has never missed a year--since the "Book Mart" opened in 1961, there has been a book sale every year at the State Department. Every year we offer books and treasures from all over the world. Our donors from the Foreign Service community have lived everywhere, and our customers come to this sale knowing that they can find truly unique international items. This annual sale has raised funds ranging from \$60,000 to close to \$100,000. Over the years that has added up to millions of dollars.

AAFSW uses those funds to finance scholarships and many other activities in support of the Foreign Service community, from our website to informational programs and events of all types. Just as the family members of the Foreign Service depend on AAFSW to advocate for them and their interests, AAFSW itself depends on the income from the Art & BookFair to function. And we depend on our members to help make this event a success!

How can you help?

Donate items from your home, especially those acquired overseas. We take local art, textiles, jewelry, pottery, wooden carved creations, paintings, stamps, paper money, coins -- anything from the countries that you have visited or posts in which you have lived. Small items can be sent in the mail, but we pick up local donations in the Washington, DC area.

Remind your friends and co-workers to do the same, especially those who are retiring, downsizing or moving.

Volunteer your time during the year. If you have expertise in local art from a particular region of the world, such as South America, or knowledge of languages, we could really use help in pricing books and artifacts. You can get into the Dept. of State (DOS) with your diplomatic passport. Even if you are only here for a short time, we can use your help.

Volunteer for the Art & BookFair (A&BF), October 11-20! Use the volunteer form on page 13 of this issue of *Global Link*, or sign up online at www.aafsw.org. You can also email office@aafsw.org or call the AAFSW office (703-820-5420) to volunteer. Special A&BF badges are provided to the volunteers that will get you into the DOS for the entire duration of the A&BF.

The volunteers have a lot of fun! It is a unique experience with the interesting books and artifacts, the enthusiastic customers and the old friends or colleagues that we run into from a former post!

Pickups can be arranged by calling the BookRoom, 202-223-5796.

AAFSW Art & BookFair Committee
bookfair@aafsm.org

Art & BookFair Hours of Operation

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

October 12-13: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the general public.

October 15-18: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open to building pass holders and their guests.*

October 19-20: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the general public. On the 20th, the final day, most items are half price.



* Spouses/partners 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/partner or with a volunteer holding an escort badge. If you need to be escorted, please contact us in advance, if possible, at office@aafsm.org, 703-820-5420 or 202-223-5796, and we will be happy to help.

AAFSW Program Highlights

A Talk with Two Authors

On Tuesday, June 11, AAFSW members enjoyed a talk by two authors at the Oakwood Apartments in Falls Church, VA. Sara Mansfield Taber discussed her most recent memoir of life as the daughter of CIA operative, *Born Under an Assumed Name*. Cynthia Ratcliff Helms, widow of Richard M. Helms, former director of intelligence for the United States, discussed her memoir, *An Intriguing Life: A Memoir of War, Washington, and Marriage to an American Spymaster*.



Sara Mansfield Taber



Cynthia Ratcliff Helms



Photos courtesy of LMK Studios,
lmkstudios.wordpress.com.

AAFSW Program Highlights

EFM Artists and Entrepreneurs Display Talents

Jewelry designers, artists, authors, photographers, realtors, a speech pathologist, and a career coach were among the 16 exhibitors at AAFSW's second annual EFM Art, Craft and Small Business Fair on Saturday, June 22, at Oakwood Apartments in Falls Church.

Not as many customers attended as the organizers had hoped, perhaps because of the beautiful Saturday afternoon weather. The idea was raised to hold the Fair on a weekday evening next year.

Nevertheless, the Fair was a highly enjoyable gathering of visitors and exhibitors, who enjoyed wine, cheese and other refreshments while browsing the stands, buying unique items, and most importantly, networking about mobile businesses and creative outlets for Foreign Service family members.

From bottom left: Janine Bland's jewelry, Parvenah Limbert's artwork and note cards, and Maria Copher with her beautiful silk paintings. Photos courtesy of LMK Studios, lmkstudios.wordpress.com.



Telecommuting While Overseas: A Proposal

On our first overseas tour it only took six months for me to receive my security clearance and begin working as an Eligible Family Member. I was lucky. Yes, it's true that verifying fingerprints for visa applicants, a task I was able to pick up in about fifteen minutes required a bit less skill than my previous job as CEO of Speakeasy Theaters in California. But it was an improvement over sitting in my apartment and staring out the window. I had a purpose. I wasn't integral to Embassy operations, but I was essential.

At least, that's what I thought until the day I came to work and was informed that my position was no longer required. "What?" I thought. How could the consulate continue without me directing people to place their four fingers on the green screen? And more importantly what the heck was I going to do now? I asked. My supervisors pondered this question as if the thought of what I would be doing had never occurred to them, which of course it hadn't. They looked at each other and then at me and then at each other again and proceeded to brainstorm with me about what I might do with myself. In fairness, my supervisors have been generous allowing me to find ways to make myself useful and I've developed some interesting projects.

Every EFM I know has an "amusing" story like this to share. After all, it's not the primary or even secondary objective of the Foreign Service to manufacture satisfying careers for partners and spouses of Foreign Service Officers (FSOs). The State Department has made an effort to give EFMs something to do while at post in order to prevent a full scale revolt by FSOs but this is often not enough. The Department needs to step up and provide the means for EFMs to use their considerable skills and talents to map career paths that can coexist with their FSO partners.

The Department offers EFMs jobs rather than true careers. Tasks performed by EFMs are designed to be "one-offs." They are not designed to develop into a career from post to post. Verifying fingerprints at my present post is not intended to groom me for a position as a master fingerprint verifier at a future post. Even the coveted Expanded Professional Associates Program (EPAP) jobs which are professional in design are post specific. There is a growing pool of ambitious EFMs will not be content with just having a job. They want a career. They need a pool of career opportunities as vast and diverse as that available to domestic job seekers and they need a way

to remain connected to the domestic workplace.

Ideally EFMs can establish careers either by creating businesses or by otherwise being self-employed. Creating a business is a difficult and risky endeavor even in the United States. Financial resources must be expended in order to build the business and developing a clientele with no assurance of generating a return on the investment. Add to that the additional difficulty posed by being overseas and it is a more perilous path than most can endure.

Developing a career requires a continuity of purpose and effort which can prove challenging when you're never in the same country for more than a few years. Unless your goal is to be the best English as a Second Language teacher ever, each new country offers a unique bag of career opportunities. A good alternative to spreading the virtues of English fluency is to find a US employer who is open to allowing you to telecommute.

Unfortunately, very few EFMs have been able to transform their prior domestic employment into international telecommuting. There is little incentive for a domestic employer to retain a non-domestic employee when so many well suited candidates are available nationally and within the same area code. According to the Family Liaison Office, as of 2011, 129 EFMs were able to work telecommuting from overseas.

The situation is even more challenging for EFMs who are overseas and trying to establish a telecommuting relationship with a domestic employer from scratch. As a former employer I can see absolutely no upside to hiring someone who is not physically present over someone who is on site unless the non-present applicant possesses a skill or value that the employer cannot obtain otherwise. In short, the only way an employer would consider a telecommuting EFM is if that EFM had added value.

In 2010 President Obama signed the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) act. It was designed to encourage employers to hire the long term unemployed. New tax incentives for businesses to hire unemployed workers included:

- payroll tax exemption of the employers share of Social Security taxes on wages paid to these workers after March 18, 2010.
- employer tax credit of up to \$1,000 per worker

The Treasury Department claimed that 4.5 million long-term unemployed were hired in the months

following the creation of the HIRE Act. It cannot be proved that all new hires resulted from the employers taking advantage of the HIRE Act but it must have helped some job seekers to get work.

EFM's could similarly benefit from this kind of business incentive. Every employer looks for ways to improve the bottom line. If there is the potential to reduce employee costs employers will usually think more creatively and be more open to change. So a properly incentivized employer might reconfigure a position so that it accommodates a telecommuting employee. This incentive also makes an employer more willing to listen to a sales pitch from the EFM on the virtues of telecommuting. An EFM that is armed with a business tax incentive to add to her resume can level the playing field suddenly becoming more competitive with domestic applicants. This would remove some of the burden the State Department now carries to find jobs for EFMs.

There are certain jobs that don't lend themselves to telecommuting. A construction worker, a trial attorney, or a police officer cannot telecommute. But EFMs interested in these fields might find work that supports these jobs, thereby gaining indirect experience. All this is up to the initiative and imagination of the EFM who will now have access to a nationwide marketplace offering a world of possibilities.

Not every EFM would take advantage of this incentive just as not every EFM chooses to work for the State Department at post. But it would be another tool available to the EFM to make overseas life more rewarding which ultimately makes it easier for the FSO to be productive.

It is a well-established fact that unhappy EFMs make for unhappy FSOs. That is why EFM jobs were created in the first place. For many Foreign Service families the availability of rewarding jobs is a guiding factor in determining bids. Having more ready access to telecommuting work could make certain posts that were once unattractive to bidders, much more viable.

Realistically, the implementation of an EFM hiring tax incentive would not in and of itself immediately open up a new world of telecommuting opportunities. EFMs would need to learn how to market themselves to employers as viable telecommuters and potential employers would need help to navigate the intricacies of employing telecommuters. Employers would need to be taught how to manage telecommuting employees. A framework needs to be established for communication and for marking production milestones so that the employer feels secure that money is being well spent. A support group within the

State Department preferably staffed by EFMs could help smooth over the rough edges of developing a new employer/employee relationship and transitioning to a new reality. But the new reality could be a game changer for the Foreign Service.

After several professional careers and many accolades, author Kyle Fischer has found his greatest job yet: being a father to his children.

Updated Family Member Employment Report

The Family Liaison Office (FLO) has published its May 2013 Worldwide Family Member Employment Overview showing trends in adult family member population overseas and growth rates for family member employment both inside and outside the mission. The overview is based on FLO's full May 2013 Family Member Employment Report (FAMER), which provides a snapshot of the family employment situation for each post overseas.

Visit the FLO site at state.gov/documents/organization/182647.pdf to view and download the overview document.

Highlights:

- The surge in adult family member population overseas that began in 2010 has leveled off from 700 new family members per year to just 153 family members since last April.
- The population surge also increased the percentage of male spouses. This reporting cycle the percentage of males rose to 22%, a substantial change from the traditional 20-80 M/F ratio that was constant prior to 2010.
- The inside-mission employment rate has remained unchanged at 26% since November 2011.
- Over the past five years, the average growth rate of inside-mission employment has averaged 130 new positions per year. This growth rate has slowed only slightly this past year to 119 new positions.
- Worldwide, the outside-mission employment rate remained unchanged.
- Telework is now the third leading employment field.

To view an individual Family Member Employment Report (FAMER) for a specific post, check the Department's intranet site (Type in FAMER in OpenNet) or email FLOAskEmployment@state.gov to request an individual report.

Convinced yet? You can do it. My path to becoming an international educator began when I applied to George Mason University's FAST TRAIN graduate program in the spring of 2002. Established in 1990 as a partnership between the Virginia Department of Education, George Mason University and the U.S. Department of State, FAST TRAIN was originally an acronym for Foreign Affairs Spouses Teacher Training Program. The program is now open to everyone, though it still maintains a formal relationship with the State Department's Office of Overseas Schools. With the program's combination of full-time online learning (perfect if you're already posted abroad, as we were) and intensive, condensed summer school sessions on campus, I obtained a Master's in Multicultural Education plus a provisional Virginia license to teach PreK-12 ESOL in just 13 months.

So far, so good; but how do you make the leap from being a newly minted professional to landing a job? Here's where it gets tricky. The International Educator (www.tieonline.com), a nonprofit organization dedicated to international teaching, publishes a newspaper with job postings, but you need a paid subscription to post your resumé. Many agencies, such as International School Services (www.iss.edu), Search Associates (www.search-associates.com), and The University of Northern Iowa's Overseas Placement Services for Educators (www.uni.edu/placement/overseas), host huge job fairs in January with expensive registration fees.

Unfortunately, prospective teachers have to be willing to work in at least two major regions of the world, but your FSO partner should theoretically have his or her assignment finalized at least a year in advance. With persistence you may be able to negotiate with an agency. I convinced a Search Associates agent to take my application with caveats, and was allowed to attend a job fair as an outsider just to get some face time with schools. As a cheaper and more efficient alternative, a growing number of schools are conducting interviews via Skype (especially to pursue experienced educators). I've even had a phone interview across the Pacific with dubious cell reception.

But none of these methods has yet to actually get me a job. The key to getting my foot in the door was to find a brand-new school that couldn't be so picky about its hires. I started my introductory year of teaching in Mexico at a school still under construction when its doors opened for the first day of class. Lacking the credentials of the established competition

across town, this school was happy to offer me a job on the strength of my pre-service license, a Master's degree (albeit with the ink still wet), and—don't underestimate this one—my status as a native English speaker. In fact, I was the only homeroom teacher in the school that was actually from the United States.

After two years in Mexico, we returned to Arlington for a year of Mandarin language training. Though I did not work that year because I wanted to take Chinese at the Foreign Service Institute with my husband, I tried to get a jump on a teaching position in Beijing before arrival at post. Nothing panned out. Asia was an unexplored continent for us and we had no connections. Once we arrived in Beijing in June, 2005, I began networking in earnest. It was difficult at first, because without a bilateral work agreement between the United States and China, EFMs can't work officially outside the mission. Yet spouses have a way of getting information to each other through unofficial channels, and by July I had my "in." It was another international school still under construction; the principal realized enrollment for the upcoming year was much higher than anticipated and thus needed to open an additional homeroom. When asked what I knew about the IB during my informal interview, I cheerfully replied that I had no working knowledge of it but was eager to learn!

I did learn a lot and had a great time teaching in Beijing for two years, though the job was not trouble-free. Working unofficially caused my school great difficulty; during my last semester, host country officials made clear that the school was not allowed to hire anyone who refused to give up their diplomatic status. In tears, my principal told me she would not be able to rehire me for the following year. The State Department has engaged China over the years on the benefits of a bilateral work agreement, and I hope that one day they succeed in establishing one.

When my husband was assigned to Mongolia, just next door to China, I had a much easier time finding a teaching position. The principal of the Beijing school knew the head of the main international school in Ulaanbaatar, so when the Ulaanbaatar principal came to Beijing for a conference I had no trouble securing an informal interview. Hovering by her side at a reception, swirling my drink while she worked the room, I barely had to prove myself—she admired my current employer, so a glowing recommendation plus three years of experience was enough to get me on the short list.

Schools in hardship posts have to work to lure professionals, so having a teacher already planning to

move to their city makes their recruitment job easier. Plus, Foreign Service spouses are a bargain as local hires, since we don't need paid housing or airfare as part of our employment package. Even as a local hire, you may still get health insurance and a tax-free salary. Explore this and any other fringe benefits that are included—or excluded—from any draft contract before you sign.

If you are seriously considering becoming an overseas educator, I hope the tale of my journey will inspire you to try this highly satisfying, portable vocation. I am happy to discuss my experiences—just ask AAFSW to put you in touch with me (office@aafsw.org). Getting an international teaching position may not be a piece of cake, but it sure is sweet!

Liz Covington was born and raised in California. After completing a Liberal Studies degree from Sonoma State University, she moved to Washington, D.C. Thirteen years and three countries later, she is back in the States with her husband for their first domestic tour. Liz is currently teaching English as a Second Language in Arlington Public Schools.



Are You a Post Newsletter Editor?



The Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide is a non-profit organization advocating for Foreign Service spouses, partners, employees, and family members. Our newsletter, *Global Link*, packed with articles of interest to the Foreign Service community, is sent by email to Community Liaison Office Coordinators (CLOs) worldwide.

CLOs are encouraged to reprint *Global Link* content in post newsletters. We request that articles be attributed to the author (if listed) and to AAFSW with the following blurb, or something similar:

"From *Global Link*, a newsletter of the Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide. AAFSW advocates for the Foreign Service community. Visit AAFSW online at www.aafsw.org for more information."

AAFSW is updating its mailing list to include newsletter editors as well. If you are a post newsletter editor and would like to receive the *Global Link*, please email newsletter@aafsw.org with your name, post, and the email address at which you receive newsletter submissions.

If you are a CLO, and have not been receiving the *Global Link* for some reason, please email newsletter@aafsw.org to add or correct your email address on AAFSW's mailing list.

Kelly Bembry Midura
AAFSW Content Manager
newsletter@aafsw.org

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

Tragen Award Update

The new point of contact for Tragen Award nominations is DACOR Executive Director Susan Cimburek. Phone 202-682-0500, email secimburek@dacorbacon.org.

Real Post Reports/Real School Reports Relaunched

Tales from a Small Planet, a website run by Foreign Service spouses, is now more user-friendly and no longer requires registration. The site, at www.talesmag.com, features user-submitted reports about posts and schools all over the world, as well as essays, stories and humor about living abroad.

As part of our mission to connect the Foreign Service community at home and abroad, AAFSW regularly posts up-to-date



news about our own activities and events on Facebook. We also use the page to share photos, videos, and other items that we are not able to include in the *Global Link*, and to highlight interesting or outstanding blog posts by members of our community.

So, what's not to "Like?" Become a fan of AAFSW on Facebook today by clicking the Like button on the front page

Welcome To Our New And Returning Members

Douglas J. Apostol
Natalie M. Baker
Katrina M. Barnas
Cassie Brenn
Laura C. Casey
Jan Cote-Cartwright
Karl Deringer
Matthew J. Furbush
Denise Halls
Walker J. Hardy
Denise R. Hare
Byron C. Hartman
Paula Hawkins
Lauren R. Higgins
David John Jea
Nathan B. Johnson
Christopher Jurgens
Kerry Lane
Guy Michael Lawson

Ruth E. Leonard
Ruby V. Marcelo
Emily M. Rankin Nelson
John D. Nordlander
Vincent O'Brien
Olivia C. Ramos
Elizabeth Sachero-Perez
Aaron B. Sampson
Elizabeth Shaffer
Erik J. Streed
Nicole Tillman
Sarah M. Van Horne
Jason G. Vorderstrasse
Constance J. Warhol
Joseph C. Windham
Shawn A. Wistrom
Chuck Wright
William F. Zeman
Amy Zimmerman

Thank You to This Generous Donor

Cathy Salvaterra

New AAFSW EFM Employment Committee

A new Google Group has been formed to study Eligible Family Member (EFM) employment issues (inside the Mission, outside the Mission, and freelancing or telecommuting). The idea is to gather data and suggestions, share information about existing support and training options, and work for positive change. If you have ideas about improving the EFM employment situation or would like to join this online committee, please write to Nicole Schaefer-McDaniel at nicole@aafsw.org.

New Neighborhood Sponsor Database

Are you currently in the DC area? Are you willing to help others who are transitioning to Washington? If so, please add your name and contact information to the new "Neighborhood Sponsors" list in the Database section of Livelines!

Let's get a good list of people who are willing to answer questions by e-mail and/or phone, and to help newcomers who have just arrived. And, while you're in the Livelines Database area, don't forget to use the new "EFM Businesses" database as well!

Yes, I want to help at Art & BookFair 2013!

Please sign up no later than September 15 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: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Email: _____

Do you have a Department of State badge?

Yes No

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

Date of birth: _____

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

This information is required by Department of State Security.

If you volunteered last year, we should have your address and security information. Your name and days/times you are available are all we need.

Please circle the shifts that you are willing to work.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 X	7	8 SET-UP 9-12 12-3	9 SET-UP 9-12 12-3	10 SET-UP 9-12 12-3	11 BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 9:30-1 12:30-4:30	12 OPEN TO PUBLIC 9-1 12:30-4:30
13 OPEN TO PUBLIC 9-1 12:30-4:30	14 COLUMBUS DAY RESTOCK DAY 10-3	15 BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	16 BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	17 BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	18 BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	19 OPEN TO PUBLIC 9-1 12:30-4:30

20 OPEN TO PUBLIC HALF PRICE DAY! 9-1 12:30-4:30	21 CLEAN UP DAY 9-12
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I WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST:
 CASHIERING GENERAL DUTIES AS ASSIGNED
 NEED A SEATED JOB VAN DRIVER - PUBLIC DAYS

Please note: The times given are for periods when volunteer work is scheduled, not for hours when the Art & BookFair is open to customers.

Early morning volunteers are also needed to watch over A&BF from 6:00-9:00 a.m. (Oct 7-10 and 14-18) when the throughway must be open for employees. If you have a State Dept. badge, please consider volunteering for this early shift.

Please mail this form to AAFSW, 4001 North Ninth Street, Suite 214, Arlington, VA 22203. You may also email your name, volunteer days, and hours to office@aafsw.org. Thank you for volunteering; we appreciate

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