

Global Link

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 3:
AAFSW Awards Ceremony, featuring the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA), 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Main State.

Friday, December 6:
7-10 p.m., AAFSW Holiday Party organized by the Foreign-Born Spouse Group, Community Room, Randolph Towers, Ballston

Friday, February 7:
Luncheon with speaker at DACOR-Bacon House, co-sponsored by AAFSW and DACOR

Tuesday, February 18:
7-9 p.m., AAFSW Happy Hour, Oakwood Falls Church



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

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Meet the 2013 SOSA Winners

AAFSW congratulates the 2013 winners of the Secretary of State's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA). These six winners will be honored at a ceremony at the Department of State in Tuesday, December 3. (See the November issue of Global Link or aafsw.org for details.) Visit aafsw.org/sosa.htm or facebook.com/aafsw to view more photos of their projects.

Marilyn Kott Pristina, Kosovo (EUR)

Marilyn Kott, spouse of Colonel James Kott, Defense Attaché, and a retired US Air Force officer herself, has created and assisted organizations that serve the local and Mission communities in Pristina. Marilyn co-founded and manages "Clothes for Kosovo," a means for Embassy personnel to easily donate used

items. Since its creation in the spring of 2012, "Clothes for Kosovo" has donated over 1,200 pounds of clothes, along with furniture and food, to local charities.

Additionally, Marilyn established and taught three levels of English courses for the non-profit organization AYA Pjeter Bogdani. This provided low-cost English instruction for Kosovars and provided AYA with funds for its projects to promote cultural and ethnic diversity. Through her affiliation with The Ideas Partnership (TIP), Marilyn helped advance a sustainable enterprise for single women in rural villages to produce and sell handmade soap and cloth shopping bags. Marilyn also shared her time and energy with the Kosovo Shelter and Coaching Center for Stray Dogs, working on animal socialization and adoption.

Within the US Mission, Marilyn led a team of volunteers in an 80-hour effort to design and paint the new children's play area on the compound with cartoon characters. She also worked to expand Mission involvement in volunteer activities by creating a section in the Community Liaison Office newsletter called "Opportunities in Volunteerism," which contains information on organizations throughout Kosovo that are in need of volunteer assistance. *Continued on page 4.*



Marilyn with two students at a basic literacy and English class in Neighborhood 29 of Fushe Kosovo, a suburb of Pristina.



Letter from the President...

Patricia Linderman
president@aafsw.org

Nominate Exceptional Volunteers for Existing and New Awards in 2014!

The SOSA (Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad), Tragen and Dorman Award winners honored at the AAFSW Awards Ceremony on December 3 show us, once again, that our community contains world-class volunteers, full of dedication and determination.

You've seen them in action around the world: employees and family members who are quietly making life a better place for others.

Since this is a time when we think about New Year's resolutions, I'd like to ask all of you to make a resolution with me: look around you in 2014, identify outstanding volunteers, and take the time to nominate them for the many awards offered in our community.

I'll summarize the awards here -- please keep them in mind, and please share them with others, because many employees and family members are not aware that these programs exist! All include significant cash awards.

- AAFSW's **SOSA** awards recognize employees or family members who engage in outstanding volunteer work abroad, benefiting the host country, the post community or both.

- AAFSW's **Lesley Dorman Award** recognizes an AAFSW member who has made outstanding contributions to the organization.

I am very proud to announce that AAFSW is adding two new awards this year:

- In addition to our academic merit and need-based scholarships, AAFSW's new **Judy Felt Memorial Merit Scholarship** will be offered to a rising college freshman, sophomore, junior or senior with a record of exceptional community service.

- AAFSW will present a **new award** (exact details pending) to an individual or group, within or outside the government, making an outstanding contribution to promoting or expanding EFM employment.

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), DACOR and the Foreign Service Youth Foundation also present awards focusing specifically on volunteer contributions:

- AFSA's **Avis Bohlen Award** honors the accomplishments of a family member of a Foreign Service employee whose relations with the American and foreign communities at post have done the most to advance the interests of the United States.

- The **Eleanor Dodson Tragen Award**, presented by DACOR, recognizes a family member who has effectively advocated for family member rights and benefits.

- The Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF) **Community Service Award** honors Foreign Service young people who demonstrate outstanding volunteer efforts in service to their community or to their peers.

Please spread the word about these important awards and help identify outstanding nominees in 2014!

Patricia Linderman
AAFSW President
president@aafsw.org

Scholarships Available

Application forms are now available for FSYF's **Academic Merit scholarships** for Foreign Service youth. Two awards are offered, of \$4,000 award \$2,000, to Foreign Service high school seniors or gap-year dependents who are college-bound in Fall 2014. Applicants must be FSYF members by the time they apply.

The application deadline is February 10, 2014. More information on the FSYF website: fsyf.org/contestawards/contestsawards.html.

Dreyfus Scholarship & Fellowship Awards are offered by DACOR Bacon House Foundation. These awards are available to children and grandchildren of Foreign Service Officers to study at both The Hotchkiss School and Yale University.

The deadline for applications is May 1, 2014. For more information, contact Ms Brett Gold, Associate Director of Education at DACOR at bgold@dacorbacon.org.

AAFSW Holiday Party

AAFSW and the Foreign-Born Spouses Group cordially invite you to share your customs, traditions, and food at a fun holiday party on Friday, December 6, 2013.



Please bring a dish to share, and a small gift priced under \$10.00 to participate in a gift exchange with other guests. We will take the opportunity to say farewell to our foreign-born spouses and families who are departing to their next assignment overseas, and to welcome new arrivals, as well.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday, December 6, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Randolph Towers building (Community Room, Level G1), 4001 North Ninth Street, Arlington, VA 22203. As you enter Randolph Towers, the elevators are located at the right; take them down to Level G1.

Parking is available on the street, or parking in nearby Ballston Mall is inexpensive. The Ballston Metro station is just two blocks away.

Please RSVP by December 1st to Sheila Switzer at fbspouses@aafsw.org or to the AAFSW Office at office@aafsw.org or 703-820-5420. Let us know what holiday dish you are contributing to the party.

We look forward to seeing you!

Sheila Switzer
AAFSW Program Chair
programs@aafsm.org

Dorman Award Winner Announced

AAFSW congratulates Barbara Reioux, winner of the Lesley Dorman Award for 2013. The award recognizes an AAFSW member who has performed outstanding service in all aspects of the organization, and will be presented at the Annual Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, December 3, at the Department of State.



Barbara Reioux joined the Foreign Service as an Office Management Specialist (OMS) in 1980. After serving in La Paz, Rome and Jakarta, she transferred to Washington, where she worked in the African Bureau for five years. In 1992 she accepted a civil service position at the Foreign Service Institute, where she met her husband, John Naland. She accompanied John on his assignments to Managua, Peoria, Washington, and Matamoros.

While in Managua, Barbara served as Community Liaison Office Coordinator (CLO), re-wrote the Nicaragua chapter for the Lonely Planet Central American tour book, and earned a business degree at the University of Mobile's Nicaragua campus. Through the years, Barbara has taken on many volunteer roles, such as editor of her daughters' elementary and middle school newsletters.

Barbara joined AAFSW in 2002 after becoming involved with the AAFSW playgroup. She started working as the AAFSW office manager in January 2011, and was happy to find a job which utilized her skills and also kept her connected with the Foreign Service community. Besides running the office, enrolling new members, and handling the correspondence, Barbara plays an important role in many AAFSW programs and initiatives, and is always willing to take on new responsibilities. In addition, she is an enthusiastic volunteer at the Art and BookFair, Art and Small Business Fairs and other AAFSW events.

Elizabeth “Betsy” Orlando Abuja, Nigeria (AF)

Betsy Orlando, a Foreign Service Officer posted in Abuja, spearheaded numerous projects and fundraisers in aid of the African School of Excellence, which benefits 500 poor and disadvantaged children, Hope for Survival Orphanage and the Abuja Children’s Home, where financial donations contributed to the purchase of medicine and medical supplies.

Betsy served as vice president of the American Embassy Recreation Association and established two new Toastmasters chapters at post. She also partnered with other organizations to provide environmentally sustainable technologies to locals. She attracted the interest of Wishing Well Africa to provide clean water supplies and solar power to a school in Suleja; facilitated a partnership with Development Association for Renewable Energies (DARE) which recycled plastic bottles and constructed eco-friendly, low cost housing in Zaria; and provided recycled paper to a local organization to make “bricks” which are used as an inexpensive, alternative fuel source.

This year, Betsy, serving as the Mission’s “Green Queen,” worked with the Nigerian Ministry of Environment to host a large scale Earth Day event at which the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) donated land to plant trees, including a small grove named after her.



Embassy team walking together to raise money for a HIV/AIDS charity at the American International School of Abuja (AISA).

Jameson DeBose Bangkok, Thailand (EAP)

Jameson DeBose, a Foreign Service Officer, provided strong and effective support to the Ban Kru Noi Child Development Center in Bangkok which helps local, disadvantaged children attend school. The center provides much-needed meals and extracurricular activities. Working closely with the center, Jameson encouraged fellow Consular officers to “give back” by coordinating events involving the children in the Consular Section’s Leadership Day.

Later, Jameson spearheaded a project to renovate Ban Kru Noi. He was awarded a J. Kirby Simon grant for this expanded project at the center, which brought together the center’s staff and children with more than 40 volunteers from across the US Mission. Over the course of seven months, he developed a multi-day service event resulting in the improvement of the center’s building structure with a new roof, major clean-up and other repairs. In a city that receives nearly five feet of rainfall annually, the staff and children at Ban Kru Noi now have a safe, dry place to prepare food and conduct other activities.

Jameson has also been an active member of post’s Quality of Life Committee and has continued to work on a number of projects both at post and in the local community of Bangkok.



Volunteers take a break for a group photograph with Kru Noi in the courtyard at the Ban Kru Noi Child Development Center.

Gretel Patch **Kathmandu, Nepal (SCA)**

Gretel Patch, the spouse of an FSO, used her professional training in the field of educational technology to bring 21st century technology skills to underprivileged and at-risk youth in Nepal.

Gretel teamed up with the English Access Microscholarship Program (Access), which provides intensive English language instruction to students ages 14-18. Calling herself the “EdTech DiDi” (the Nepali word for older sister, pronounced dee-dee), Gretel saw a chance to broaden the curriculum to incorporate computer and technical skills that educate, engage and empower the students. She traveled around Nepal to various Access centers, sharing her time, expertise and equipment with students in the program. She designed lesson plans incorporating slideshows, movies, presentations and interactive quizzes.

Gretel also encouraged students to explore the world around them by using her personal digital camera; video camera; iPads; and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) manipulatives. She continues to encourage and interact with Access students and teachers via e-mail and social media. Gretel has posted class materials, lesson plans and resources online for future instructors and students, thus allowing for the sustainability of the work she started.

Gretel blogs about her project here: edtechdidi.com/outreach.html. A one-minute video about her work can be viewed here: youtube.com/watch?v=HlftsLNTRlc.



Gretel with students in the English Access Microscholarship Program in Kathmandu.

Megan Gallardo **La Paz, Bolivia (WHA)**

Megan Gallardo, an Office Management Specialist posted to La Paz, showed exceptional volunteer achievement under adverse conditions within her host country. Megan was initially approached by a Locally Employed Staff member for help collecting blankets to donate to a local cancer treatment clinic. After visiting the clinic, Megan decided to launch a project to improve the facility, applying for and receiving a J. Kirby Simon grant. After months of negotiating with the clinic’s director, in an environment hostile to U.S. volunteer efforts, Megan and a group of Americans and Bolivians made repairs to the building, including replacing the roof, repairing water damage, painting and cleaning.

Megan also focused her attention on a Trafficking in Person’s shelter, helping young women rescued from sex trafficking. She raised funds to build a security wall around the shelter, as well as developing personal connections to the young women, sponsoring a girls-only prom and setting up professional workshops and mentoring for the girls.

Megan has also raised money to provide and deliver lunches for disabled children at a local orphanage; purchased shrubbery and flowers to create a green space for Alzheimer’s patients at a local, low/no income nursing home facility; and taught a six-week English language course at the public university. She continues to aid a local animal shelter in La Paz.



Megan Gallardo with local employees at a cancer treatment clinic in La Paz.

Amber Boyd-Eiholzer Amman, Jordan (NEA)

Amber Boyd-Eiholzer, an Office Management Specialist at Embassy Amman, expanded that post's Black History Month celebrations to a much higher level. She coordinated an extremely successful series of events, culminating in the sold-out Black and White Ball. The Ball, which raised a record \$10,000, allowed the Embassy community to support local charities. Amber identified a local non-governmental organization (NGO) assisting Syrian refugees to receive a portion of the proceeds. The donation enabled the NGO to provide medical treatment for two young girls with hearing problems. Another donation went to a local orphanage for Jordanian children.

Amber has also been instrumental in the Embassy's participation in the annual diplomatic holiday bazaar, whose proceeds benefit the Al Hussein Society (AHS) for the Habilitation/Rehabilitation of the Physically Challenged. Furthermore, to promote cordial relations with counterparts in the Jordanian government, Amber organized a series of lunches for the two groups to get together and share ideas.



Amber Boyd-Eiholzer

Financial Security and the Foreign Service Spouse

Part II: Establishing Co-Ownership of Material Assets

The first article in this series (*Global Link*, October, 2013 issue) discussed several ways in which a Foreign Service spouse (or secondary earner) can establish an independent financial identity and ensure joint ownership of financial assets such as savings accounts. It is also important, however, that all spouses establish true joint ownership of all physical assets held by the couple.

Any physical asset of value should have both partners' names on the title. That's the major consideration. (Note that you do not have to have an income in order to hold an equal share in a property.) Exactly how this arrangement works depends on a lot of legalese and the laws of the state in which the property is held.

The following is a general overview: please consult with a real estate professional or attorney before making or changing your own arrangements.

The most important asset of this type that most of us will ever own is real estate. Normally, if you buy a house together with your spouse, you will be co-owners with "tenancy in entirety." This type of deed means that each partner has an equal share in the property, and if one partner dies, the other one inherits the entire property. For married owners, "joint tenancy" means essentially the same thing.

"Tenancy in common" is not the usual arrangement for married partners, but it means that each owner has a specific interest in the property, for example 50 percent. When one owner dies, his or her interest does not pass automatically to the surviving partner. It must be determined through the probate process, and can be inherited by anyone who is designated as heir to the property. So, a spouse could potentially run into real problems with this type of ownership; for example, if the deceased's interest in a property is inherited by an ex-spouse or another relative who may be uncooperative.

If you have any doubt as to the status of your real estate ownership, check the property deed to see if it employs the language appropriate to your situation, and consult with a professional to make any necessary changes.

A vehicle is another high-value item that couples often own together. In order for a vehicle to be shipped overseas by the State Department, the employee's name must be on the title. I discovered this myself during our last Permanent Change of State (PCS) when we decided to ship my car, instead of my husband's, to Vienna. We added his name to the title by paying a small fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Alternatively, I could have sold the car to him for a dollar and transferred the title that way. But why would I do that? It was my car, after all.

Aside from principle, there was another reason to keep my name on the title. Typically, embassies overseas will not allow a vehicle to be sold at post unless everyone listed on the title signs off on the sale. If a couple divorces overseas, for example, and the spouse leaves post, the employee cannot sell the car without first getting written permission from the spouse. If the spouse's name is not on the title, then there is no legal reason the employee cannot sell the vehicle and simply pocket the proceeds. (Ethical reasons are another subject altogether!)

So, if you are going to own a car at post, whether it is shipped from the States, purchased from a dealer such as Diplomatic Sales, or purchased from another individual at post, please ensure that both partners' names are listed on the title.

Finally, most Foreign Service couples have thousands of pounds of household goods in government storage facilities while they are posted overseas. These goods clearly have a great deal of practical value, and they may have significant sentimental or financial value as well. They are, however, stored only in the employee's name. A spouse has no legal right to access these goods unless—and this is very important—a signed Joint Property Statement is produced giving the spouse full access to the stored goods.

The Family Liaison Office has emphasized the importance of this document for many years, and recommends that it be a standard part of the packout process. While there are many instances in which such a document could be useful, from evacuations

to unaccompanied tours, a sample copy is included in the booklet "Divorce and the Foreign Service" (2001-2009.state.gov/documents/organization/2107.pdf). Every spouse should keep a signed copy of this statement just in case. The Travel and Transportation section at the Department of State is also willing to keep a copy on file for reference.

"Divorce and the Foreign Service" includes a lot of other nuts-and-bolts advice regarding property and related matters. It goes beyond the scope of this article, but is well worth a look by any Foreign Service spouse, even a happily married one. An informed spouse is a financially independent spouse, after all.

The next article in this series will cover retirement matters. From pensions to health insurance, long-term Foreign Service spouses are legally entitled to a number of benefits, but we must do our part to ensure that we get them!

Kelly Bembry Midura is Content Manager for AAFSW. Currently posted to Vienna, Austria, after tours in Latin America, Africa, and Europe, she blogs about the Foreign Service and other topics at wellthatwasdifferent.wordpress.com.



Calling All Post Newsletter Editors



The Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide is a non-profit organization advocating for Foreign Service spouses, partners, 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 Foreign Service families. 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.

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>.

Welcome To Our New And Returning Members

Jacqueline Birn	Rosemary Rausch Macray
Rachel Brown-Glazner	Ana G. Miller
Jessie A. Bryson	Jennifer Nehez
Stacy K. Densmore	Mims Placke
Eric C. Finkenbiner	Sayaka Rochman
Cathy Gardner	Geoffrey Siebengartner
Christa T. Gibson	Karen Smith
Susan J. Jorgensen	Maria Tincoff
Atshia Shereen Khan	Brian P. Williams
Sherry Lee	Melissa Briceno Zebley

Thank You to These Generous Donors

Margaret Bennett
Genevieve & Ted Mason

Employment Opportunity at AFSA

The American Foreign Service Association is hiring a new part-time Retiree Counselor. If you or someone you know might be interested, please click here for more information: afsa.org/jobs_at_afsa.aspx.

AFSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and offers a competitive salary and benefits package. AFSA offers a collegial working environment and flexible schedule with work to be conducted at our AFSA Headquarters building at 2101 E Street, NW, Washington DC.

To apply please send resume and cover letter to: Janet Hedrick, Director of Member Services, to jobs@afsa.org.

Career Coaching Services

Are you stuck trying to update your resume or CV? Whether you are returning to the workforce, changing careers, or retiring, Career Valet provides you with personalized service to establish a new career. We help people going through career transitions form dynamic resumes and CVs, cover letters, and develop interviewing skills. For more information, please visit our website at www.careervalet.com or contact us at info@careervalet.com. We look forward to working with you!



Attention Parents of Special Needs Children

I am a Foreign Service Officer developing a guide for Foreign Service families with kids with special education needs, including learning disabilities, ADHD, autism-spectrum disorders and other challenges. The guide, entitled "How to Balance a Mobile Foreign Service Lifestyle with Special Education Needs," will be shared with the FS community through organizations like AAFSW, Foreign Service listserves, and relevant offices at State such as the Family Liaison Office.

To make this project as useful as possible, I'd like to include observations, comments and advice from the many Foreign Service families coping with similar issues. Whether your child needs simple accommodations in the regular classroom to succeed, or has more extensive special needs, I'd like to hear from you. I want to gather success stories, creative solutions, and lessons learned that can help all of us help our children thrive. By compiling advice from experts, parents, and educators into one guide, I hope to make this often confusing journey a bit easier for all of us.

If you'd like to share your thoughts and experiences, please contact me at fskidsworldwide@yahoo.com. I'm fortunate to be working on this project as part of a one-year fellowship funded by the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, and would be happy to meet or talk by phone as well.

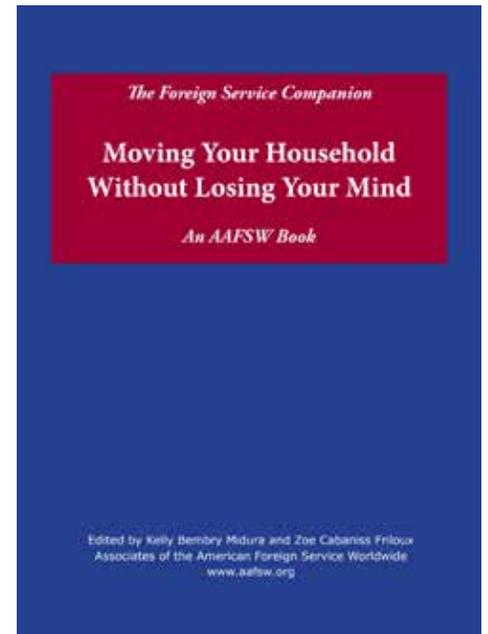
Maeve Dwyer, FSO

New AAFSW Book

Brought to you by Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide
Where the Foreign Service becomes a community!

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. Topics covered include:

- leaving the U.S. for an overseas post
- returning "home" to the Washington, D.C., area
- moving to other posts in the U.S.
- sorting and downsizing belongings before packout
- digitizing and backing up important household records
- creating a home inventory
- helping children of various ages deal with a move
- safely shipping pets
- packing for an ordered evacuation from an overseas post
- planning for an unaccompanied tour
- shopping for consumables for a hardship post
- special considerations for foreign-born spouses
- taking care of ourselves during a transfer
- and much more!



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!



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