

## Who Cares for our Children?

They are the closest glimpse most of us have of a miracle. They are our greatest treasure and our biggest responsibility. Yet who is there to help us when we need to leave our children to work or study a foreign language?

While we are overseas, there are some countries in which it is relatively simple to find a nanny or babysitter. Some families later travel with their nannies, who become almost part of the family. In other cases and other countries, this is impossible, for personal, financial or legal reasons.

While there are difficulties in finding childcare worldwide, members' comments seem to indicate that the situation is most critical in Washington. The amount of money available for childcare (if any) varies from agency to agency. Many find that it is insufficient to allow them to attend language classes. A newcomer or temporary resident in Washington may not be able to access services quickly enough to take advantage of training opportunities - or may not be able to work, because of the high cost of childcare. When a child is ill, one parent must miss classes, if both are studying - and it is very difficult to take time off for a family illness when starting a new job. Are there any solutions?

AAFSW has traditionally had a Child Care Referral service, which provides information to both temporary and temporarily permanent residents in the D.C. area. This position is unfilled at present, and there is a great need to expand both the available information and the help offered to parents.

The State Department is working on a childcare center, which will open in the spring of 1996. It will be nationally accredited, with excellent facilities and teachers. However, only 86 children will be able to attend, and the cost will range from \$90 to 170 per week. This is obviously not the solution for everyone, and

certainly not for those who are attending classes at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Arlington.

There are hopes for a childcare center at the NFATC - but your two-year-old may be Homecoming Queen before the plans come to fruition!

In the past, women could not work or study because of society's prejudices and expectations. Now, in theory, there are no such limitations. However, primary childcare providers (there are some men out there, too!) - especially those who live far from their extended families - are kept from working, studying or just having a weekly break by practical considerations. Isn't it just as important for us to try to resolve these as it was to change the laws and perceptions which held back women in decades past?

AAFSW is a means by which we help and support each other. What more could we do alleviate this problem? Are there AAFSW members who would be willing to care for children one morning or afternoon per week - or per month? Is there anyone who can invent an alternative for sick children? (Are there any nurses who would be willing to volunteer?) Could the new "Neighborhood Networks" (see page 3) organize local co-ops? What are the needs overseas?

Whether you have finished raising your children (if that is possible!), are only now considering the implications of offspring or are in the midst of diapers and feedings, it is important to get involved in what is possibly the biggest impediment to foreign service spouse activity and mental health.

If you are willing to work on a project, have some bright ideas or would like to be a Child Care Referral person (this can be done by telephone; you do not need transportation), please contact the AAFSW office (see page 2) or Felicia Holgate, (703) 276-1807.

## Hot Topics

### Scholarship Benefits Spouses

AAFSW is pleased to announce a new Continuing Education scholarship, to be awarded in April, 1996, in the amount of \$2,000. To be eligible, you must be the spouse (or former spouse) of an employee in the foreign affairs agencies and a member in good standing of AAFSW. Financial need, past educational record, and the nature of your continuing education project will all be considered.

Application forms may be picked up at the AAFSW office in person, or you may write or send a fax to request one. (See page 2 for information). All requirements must be completed and forms received by Feb. 10, 1996, in order for an application to be considered for the April award.

*Susan Quainton  
Community Relations*

*Ed. Note: If you know someone who is not yet a member of AAFSW, but who could benefit from this scholarship, why not encourage him or her to join? New members may also apply.*

### Meeting Dates Change

The next two General Meetings will take place a week later than usual, on **Oct. 24** and **Nov. 21**, because of State Department needs. Please note these changes on your personal calendars.

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# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

- 10-11 **BOOKFAIR Preparation**  
 13 **BOOKFAIR Family Night**  
 14-22 **AAFSW BOOKFAIR**  
 23-24 **BOOKFAIR Clean-up**  
 24 **AAFSW General Meeting**  
 16-21 OBC Reentry Week  
 17-19 OBC "Life after the Foreign Service"  
 18-20 OBC Regulations, Allowances and Finances  
 28 OBC *NEW!* Transition to Washington for Foreign Born Spouses  
 30 - Nov. 3 OBC Employment Planning Week  
 31 OBC Documenting Our Mobile Experience

## NOVEMBER

- 1 OBC Marketing Our Foreign Service Talents  
 1 OBC Raising Bilingual Children  
 2 OBC Post Options for Employment & Training  
 6-7 OBC Security Overseas Seminar  
 7-9 OBC English Teaching  
 13-17 OBC Introduction to Foreign Service Life  
 14 OBC Advanced Security Overseas Seminar  
 18 OBC The Value of Portable Careers  
 21 **AAFSW General Meeting**  
 28 **AAFSW Board Meeting**  
 27-Dec. 1 Training Skills for Foreign Service Spouses

## DECEMBER

- 4-5 OBC Security Overseas Seminar  
 6 OBC Protocol & U.S. Representation Abroad  
 7-8 OBC American Studies (Saturday!) OBC Maintaining Long-Distance Relationships  
 9 **AAFSW General Meeting**  
 12 OBC Advanced Security Overseas Seminar

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**  
 Nusrat Alam Gagne  
 Cory Jacobson Giacobbe  
 Allison Henry Potts  
 Piedad Gonzalez Scanlan

**WELCOME BACK**  
 Joan Hubbard  
 Nancy Longmyer  
 Allison Wagner

## ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE WOMEN BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS: 1995-1996

Honorary President Marie Christopher  
 Honorary Vice-President Brooke Shearer

### ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT**  
 Christine Zarr 301-229-7218  
**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**  
**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Felicia Holgate 703-276-1807  
**SECRETARY TO THE BOARD**  
 Susan Scott 703-759-0724  
**TREASURER**  
 Christine Shurtleff 202-244-7326  
**AAFSW DESK**  
 Doris Reddington 301-229-5238  
**BOOKFAIR**  
 Sadie Goodman 202-338-8932  
**BOOKFAIR/BOOKROOM TREASURER**  
 Joan Zerolis 703-204-4704

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**  
 Susan Quaintori 202-363-2382  
**FORUM CO-CHAIRS**  
 Ruth Wagner 703-569-6185  
 Petti Flood 202-298-7540  
**FUNDRAISING CHAIR**  
**LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**  
 Patricia Ryan 202-966-7696  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
 Olivia Brown 202-966-3238  
**PROGRAM**  
 Barbara Gordon 202-338-0176  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
 Lesley Dorman 202-484-3497

### APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**AFSA LIAISON**  
 Patricia Ryan 202-966-7696  
**ARCHIVIST**  
 Virginia Moore 301-530-5902  
**AUTHORS' ROUND TABLE**  
 Ingeborg Carsten Miller 301-572-6803  
**AWARDS/RECOGNITION**  
 Eleanor Ferguson 703-280-1074  
**EVACUEE SUPPORT NETWORK**  
 Ann La Porta 202-966-5129  
**FOREIGN-BORN SPOUSES**  
 Rosario Kramer 703-938-3794

**FRENCH GROUP**  
 Christel McDonald 703-525-9755  
**ITALIAN GROUP**  
 Jane Biltchik 202-363-2581  
**ORAL HISTORY**  
**OVERSEAS REP. LIAISON**  
 Olivia Brown 202-966-3238  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Judy Smith 202-291-0248  
**WRITERS' GROUP**  
 Jerri Bird 202-745-0701  
 Sylvia Zimmermann 202-966-1072

AAFSW Membership is open to all employees and family members of the U.S. Foreign Service Community. Annual Dues are \$25.00. Subscriptions to the NEWS are open to the public at \$25.00 per year.

**PLEASE ADDRESS  
 CORRESPONDENCE  
 WITH APPROPRIATE CHAIR  
 CLEARLY INDICATED,  
 AS FOLLOWS:**

**AAFSW (Name of Chair)**  
 5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW  
 Suite #36, Washington, D.C. 20016

### Important AAFSW Numbers

**AAFSW OFFICE**  
 Phone 202-362-6514  
 FAX 202-362-6599

**AAFSW BOOK ROOM**  
 Rm 1524 Dept. of State  
 Washington DC 20520  
 Phone 202-223-5796  
 MANAGER: Robin Jones

**AAFSW HOUSING DESK**  
 Rm 1254 Dept. of State  
 Washington DC 20520  
 Phone 202-647-3573/3086  
 CHAIR: Doris Reddington

### CHILD CARE REFERRAL

**SENIOR LIVING**  
 Marguerite Anderson 301-652-5433

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
 Jan Fischer Bachman  
 9951 Capperton Dr.  
 Oakton, VA 22124  
 Tel / Fax: 703-255-2798

### Other Useful Numbers

**AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE  
 ASSOCIATION**  
 2101 E Street NW  
 Washington, DC 20037  
 Phone 202-338-4046

**EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION**  
 Rm 3243 Dept. of State  
 Washington DC 20520  
 Phone 202-647-4929  
 DIRECTOR: Anne Weiss, ACSW

**FAMILY LIAISON OFFICE**  
 Rm 1212 Dept. of State  
 Washington DC 20520  
 Phone 202-647-1073  
 DIRECTOR: Kendall Montgomery

**FOREIGN SERVICE SPOUSE ORAL  
 HISTORY**  
 1824 18TH ST., N.W.  
 Washington DC 20036-3304  
 Phone 202-367-4024  
 DIRECTOR: Jewel Fenzl

**FOREIGN SERVICE YOUTH  
 FOUNDATION**  
 Sydnee Tyson, Liaison  
 Phone 202-647-1076  
 Karen Pugh, Administrator  
 Phone 703-255-2861

**OFFICE OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS**  
 RM 245, SA-29, Dept. of State  
 Washington DC 20520  
 Phone 703-875-7800  
 DIRECTOR: Ernest Manning

**OVERSEAS BRIEFING CENTER**  
 NFATC, 4000 Arlington Blvd.  
 Arlington, VA 22204  
 Phone 703-302-7274  
 DIRECTOR: Ray Leki

## Neighborhood Networks:

A new proposal for an informal, low-key telephone connection and neighborhood information service

By Christine Zarr, President

On becoming AAFSW president in July, I was impressed with the newness and completeness of our computer set-up. It was stimulating to know that, among other applications, we can print out our membership list sorted by ZIP code. I took advantage of this and was intrigued to find that there are 35 other members living quite close to me in 20816, even some right round the corner, totally unknown to me.

This ZIP code-arranged membership list confirms the very common observation that we are an aging organization and that we are completely unknown to a host of potential members. It is clear that we have few members in some Northern Virginia suburbs where we know many young families are living.

Making friends is something that the government cannot do for us, but we feel that helping to build a network of local friends and acquaintances is something that AAFSW can definitely do for you.

A telephone connection is what we are now going to try. We will find a person (or, better still, a pair of friends) who lives in each of your areas to be your neighborhood connection. If you would like to volunteer to do this, AAFSW would furnish you with:

- a) the list of those in your ZIP code
- b) information about Around the World in a Lifetime (AWAL)
- c) a list of suggested information you might gather yourself to have on hand in a folder at home. Examples of such information include summer pool locations, garbage pickup and recycling facts, libraries, dry cleaners, bargain shopping, second-hand furniture places, entertainment, articles collected from the *Washington Post's* Friday section and public transportation schedules.

Our neighborhood representative would act like a mini-CLO - by telephone only. We are NOT asking you to lay on any kind of events or parties.

This networking possibility - the telephone CLO who knows who's around in your immediate neighborhood - could be especially useful to: anyone at home with children (especially in one-car families); foreign service families returning

to old neighborhoods after many years away, who need a quick update; foreign-born spouses coming to live in the U.S. for the first time; parents of AWAL members; people who would like to set up a play group; and those who would like to arrange carpools to come to our monthly meeting in the splendiferous Benjamin Franklin room on the eighth floor of the main State building.

Be prepared for long conversations! AAFSW's childcare and foreign-born spouse reps report that they often have wide-ranging chats even when they haven't been able to give specific help.

We hope that this "neighborhood network" will enable the board to get in touch with members (and potential members) and find out anecdotally what's going on out there that we need to do something about.

Your boards in years past, aware of the absence of a real club feeling, have tried various experiments to forge personal links in localized get-togethers, but I am told that they have not met with great success. So let's try this idea!

Your board will be calling friends to get the names of those who might be interested in being a network-center. So, expect the phone to ring - or, better still, call us and ask us to mail you a copy of the list of those AAFSW members who share your ZIP code.

### Where We Live in Washington

#### North of the Potomac:

280 members live here. One big group is in Spring Valley/Wesley Heights/AU Park ZIP - 56 people. Spread out in all of Bethesda and Cabin John are 72 people. Rockville has 8, Gaithersburg and Germantown 7, and all the Wheaton and Silver Spring ZIPs have 19 members. Back in DC there are scatterings in many in-town areas, including 22 people in Foggy Bottom, 38 in Georgetown and 40 in ZIP 20008.

#### In Virginia:

In the 5 ZIPs of Arlington there are 78 people; McLean has 38, Falls Church (3 ZIPs) has 36. There are 40 members in the Alexandria area. Then comes the fall-off: only 16 in Fairfax and 17 in Vienna, Annandale 9, Springfield 9, Herndon 9, and Burke 4.



The new Neighborhood Network will put you in touch with friendly, knowledgeable members like President Chris Zarr.

### AAFSW Welcomes New Office Manager

The next time you call the AAFSW office, you will hear a different voice on the line: Katarina Hamilton, the new Office Manager.

Katarina was born in Sweden and, unlike many foreign service family members, came to Washington, D.C. by choice, in order to work at a travel agency.

"I was going to marry a millionaire," she says. Instead she married a Foreign Service Officer, and has spent the past 25 years in Kuwait, Bremen, Kinshasa (Zaire), Moscow, Warsaw, Luxembourg and Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire). She was the wife of the Deputy Chief of Mission at the last two posts, of which she comments, "If you want to take it as a job, it's a full-time job."

Her son just graduated from college and her daughter is an active Around the World in a Lifetime member. Katarina lives in Arlington, only minutes from our office, and she will be working 20 hours per week, from 10 to 2 each day.

Katarina will be happy to fill you in on what's happening, by phone or in person, although if you plan to stop by, it would be considerate to call first.

Welcome, Katarina!



## Things I wish I'd Known...

### Voting Can Save Money!

One of the great confusions in Foreign Service life can be simply put: Where do I live? We are seldom legal residents of the countries in which we dwell (although we are not illegal residents either). We may pay taxes in one state while owning a home in another.

In general, the most significant term is "domicile", which means a place where you have established residence and intend to return after "temporary" absences. Factors affected by domicile include state taxes, university education, voting, and the settlement of estates after death. Most foreign service families have discovered the effects of domicile on taxes (thus, the great proliferation of officers from areas with no state income taxes!). Not paying state taxes, however, makes it even more important that you consider maintaining your status as a registered voter.

The experience of AAFSW member Alison Hayes provides a perfect example. She and her family consider themselves residents of California. They do not own property in California, and Alison obtained a Maryland driver's license during a D.C. assignment. When the time came for Alison's daughter to choose a university, she was interested in applying to state schools in California. To the family's dismay, because they had not voted recently, there was no real way to prove that they were residents (or, to be more technical, had their "domicile" in California). Perhaps the case could have been proved eventually...but it would have been very simple if Alison and her husband had been registered California voters.

In case you are the curious type, Alison's daughter decided on a private college - which may or may not be a happy ending, depending on your point of view!

### Representational Voting

When I lived in Mexico City, people were fascinated by my absentee ballot. They watched as I laboriously marked, folded, signed, sealed, signed again.

"Do you mean that they really count your vote?" was the repeated question.

Voting is one of the best things we can do to promote democracy around the world: a ballot is worth a thousand words!

If you are overseas, there still may be time to send your absentee ballot application, which the Consulate should be able to help you to obtain. It must be received by your local General Registrar's office at least five days before the election on Nov. 7. Your completed ballot must be received by Election Day.

Here in Northern Virginia Oct. 10 is the last day to register. This year, for the first time in Virginia history, County School Board Members will be elected. The candidates have widely varying points of view, which could directly affect your child's education.

## The Right to Vote: Women Celebrate Determination



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave women in the United States the right to vote - after 27 other nations had already adopted such provisions.

It now seems obvious that women - that all adults - should have the right to cast their ballots. It is so much taken for granted that on August 26, the anniversary of Women's Suffrage, a parade through Washington, D.C. celebrating the event attracted tens of thousands fewer participants than expected. It is so much taken for granted that many women never bother to vote, or let years pass without going to the polls.

Two women who led the final effort, Carrie Chapman Catt and Nettie Rogers Schuler described the process:

"Hundreds of women gave the accumulated possibilities of an entire lifetime, thousands gave years of their lives, hundreds of thousands gave constant interest and such aid as they could. It was a continuous, seemingly endless, chain of activity. Young suffragists who helped forge the last links of that chain were not born when it began. Old suffragists who forged the first links were dead when it ended..." Susan B. Anthony, for whom the amendment was named, died 14 years before it was passed, having worked her entire life for a cause she never saw triumph.

In an age of instant mashed potatoes and oatmeal, microwave ovens and immediate access to news and entertainment, it is worth considering the efforts involved in the suffrage struggle, as calculated by Mrs. Catt:

"To get the word 'male' in effect out of the Constitution cost the women of the country fifty-two years of pauseless campaign...During that time they were forced to conduct 56 campaigns of referenda to male voters; 480 efforts to get (state) Legislatures to submit suffrage amendments to voters; 47 campaigns to get State constitutional conventions to write woman suffrage into state constitutions; 277 campaigns to get State party conventions to include woman suffrage planks; 30 campaigns to get presidential party conventions to adopt woman suffrage planks; and 19 successive campaigns to 19 successive Congresses."

This undeservedly obscure piece of history serves as an example of the results of determined effort to all those people fighting for what they see as worthy causes - as well as a reminder that today's "it's never been done before" becomes tomorrow's "taken for granted".

For our predecessors, determined hope had the power to fuel decades of action. What could it do for us?

# BOOKFAIR95

## *The People-watchers' Guide to Who Will Be There*

It's autumn, and BOOKFAIR is in the air! Take a look at the calendar on page two, if you haven't already managed to get organized and write down the dates. Here is a brief description of the kinds of people who should be sure not to miss this year's event:

**1. Bargain hunters.** If you love to carry home armloads of loot without breaking anything bigger than a ten dollar bill, BOOKFAIR is the place to go. Local aficionados say that the Bookroom - and BOOKFAIR - prices are the lowest in town. Don't forget the half-price sale on the last day.

**2. Art lovers.** BOOKFAIR is the place for interesting paintings, original arts and crafts or the perfect object for that empty corner of your living room. One AAFSW member alone donated over 30 pictures this year!

**3. Shopaholics looking for a guilt-free fix.** If you're into shopping, what could be more enjoyable than knowing that your purchases are benefitting local charities and contributing to numerous scholarships? Who could blame you for going wild?

**4. People with young children.** There will be a special Children's Corner, cozily fitted out with brand-new carpeting. If the weather is nice, the courtyard may be open for games. After facing overseas posts with white furniture and glass-topped tables, here's a place where your children are truly welcome! Let them select their own books to instill a love of reading which will last a lifetime.

**5. People with teen-aged children.** Members of Around the World in a Lifetime (AWAL) will be selling concessions and t-shirts outside of the exhibition area. Your child can connect with others who understand, get the scoop on Washington life or meet up with old friends.

College costs may be looming large in your mind. Would you rather slave away trying to pay for the entire tuition bill, or buy loads of books, artwork or stamps and benefit from an AAFSW scholarship? (Bring your friends! There is no need to tell them your true motivation!)

**6. Serious collectors.** There are always numerous beautiful and rare old books for the connoisseur - not to mention an entire stamp section.

**7. Intellectual people, sociable people, serious people-watchers...** BOOKFAIR is a great place to run into old friends and colleagues, to meet new friends with common interests or just to watch the world go by, reflected in black marble.



## FLO Presents Multi-Media Foreign Service Art Exhibition

Anne Martens, daughter of retired Foreign Service Officer Robert Martens, is an artist and writer who lives in the Rochester, New York area. Her recent work relates the experiences of growing up in a Foreign Service family and the difficulties and rewards of living abroad and moving frequently. Influences of her family's sojourns in Indonesia, Burma, Romania, and Sweden may be traced in her recent artwork which incorporates photography, film, video, computer art, and the book as an art form.

The Family Liaison Office is pleased to announce that there will be an exhibition of her work in conjunction with the opening of AAFSW's BOOKFAIR '95. The display will be on view starting on Family Night, Oct. 13, in the glass case opposite FLO at Room 1212 in the main

State Department Building. It will include scanned photo images which are part of a series titled *Home* and a book titled *Foreign Service Album*.

Ms. Martens has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography from the Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore, and a Master of Arts in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park. She worked as a photographer and graphic artist in the Washington, D.C. area, and has taught college-level journalism, photography and computer graphics. Currently, she is working on a Master of Fine Arts degree at the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester and is an assistant editor for *Afterimage*, a national arts publication.

Sydnee Tyson  
Education and Youth Officer  
Family Liaison Office

## Judy Ikels Joins FLO Staff

The Family Liaison Office is pleased that Judy Goodman Ikels will be succeeding David Ball as Employment Program Coordinator. Ms. Ikels has recently returned from Athens where her husband was posted with the United States Information Agency. In Athens, she was an independent training contractor coordinating and presenting workshops on a variety of topics related to the Foreign Service. She piloted the overseas edition of the Employment Planning Workshop for Foreign Service Family Members there. From 1988 to 1992, Ms. Ikels was a training instructor at the Overseas Briefing Center and Assistant Coordinator of the Security Overseas Seminar.

Gail Watson Knowles  
Deputy Director  
Family Liaison Office

## The Washington Connection

*This feature will appear from time to time in the AAFSW News - depending in part on the reactions we receive! We hope that our overseas members will be understanding, remembering that there is no Washington embassy newsletter to pass on local tidbits.*

### OBC: More Than Getting Ready to Go Overseas...

Are you new in town? Back in Washington for a tour? There are lots of ways that the Overseas Briefing Center, comfortably located in Arlington, can assist in making your landing more pleasant.

Just when the stress is reaching its height, the famous OBC Re-Entry week is there to give a hand in getting settled (Oct. 16-21). New this year, a special workshop has been created for the foreign-born spouse coming to Washington for the first time (Oct. 28).

Help is at hand for those looking for employment in the Employment Planning Workshop (Oct. 30 - Nov. 3). If November comes and you're still looking for a job, taking English Teaching or Introduction to Effective Training Skills can help you learn new skills.

There is even assistance for those who might be returning to Washington as a stop on the way to retirement in Life After the Foreign Service (Oct. 17-18).

Take another look at OBC offerings as a terrific way to get back into life in Washington!

### Smithsonian Offers Courses

If you can spare one night a week, the Smithsonian Institute offers a wide variety of courses beginning in October, open to both members and non-members (for an increased fee).

"Mothers and Daughters: Plots and Bonds", which begins Oct. 17, examines the ties which bind mothers and daughters, using letters, novels and stories.

"Crime Writers: Crossing the Line Between Fact and Fiction", beginning Oct. 18, features six well-known crime writers who will discuss the transformation of their real-life experiences into best-selling works.

Those concerned with security or current events may want to attend the "International Threats and Foreign Policy" series, which begins Oct. 17. Seventeen well-known speakers will discuss issues ranging from terrorism and drug trafficking to illegal immigration. Of particular relevance is "International Terrorism: A Rising Tide?", led by Barbara Bodine, former deputy ambassador in occupied Kuwait, Thomas Boyatt, security expert and former U.S. Ambassador to Colombia, and Bruce Laingen, former diplomat and hostage in Iran.

For more information about these or other courses, call (202) 357-3030.

### Symphony Seeks Hostesses

The Women's Committee for The National Symphony Orchestra is sponsoring the 1995 Decorators' Show House from October 1 to 29. Although the event has already started, there is still a need for hostesses to greet visitors. AAFSW member Katherine Bowie reports that this is a pleasant assignment.

This year's house, Boxwood, located in Chevy Chase, MD, was transformed by twenty-seven interior and landscape designers. Fine furnishings, gifts, accessories and gourmet refreshments will be on sale; all profits will benefit Women's Committee educational and musical projects.

For general information about the event, call (202) 416-8148. If you are interested in being a hostess, please contact Nancy Pittman (703) 802-1610. (Try again later if you get a fax tone). In addition to daytime hours, weekend and evening assignments are available for those who work.

### Help Wanted: Super Servers

Would you be willing, occasionally, to pour coffee or tea at AAFSW meetings? If so, please call Pearl Richardson at (202) 265-3301.

Signing up would not constitute a pledge of any kind. Pouring would be at your convenience. Thanks in advance. We need the help!

### AAFSW Pushes for Credit Union Modifications

AAFSW recently contacted the State Department Federal Credit Union (SDFCU) on behalf of a new member, the wife of a Foreign Service Officer, whose account was closed because she was not a U.S. "resident alien" or citizen. Through persistence, we learned that the SDFCU charter as approved by the National Credit Union Association (NCUA) specifies that only U.S. citizens and permanent residents may have their own accounts. Other foreigners may hold joint accounts, as long as they are sponsored by Credit Union members.

AAFSW requested that the SDFCU remind all employees of this policy, so there are not more frustrating occurrences of people opening accounts and then being forced to close them. The SDFCU agreed to write a memo to all staff. In addition, at the time this went to press, the AAFSW Board was planning to write to the SDFCU Board to request that they expand their field of membership to include foreign-born spouses of foreign service employees who are Credit Union members, regardless of their immigration status. This is a long process, as the NCUA must approve any changes - after the SDFCU is convinced!

The biggest objection from the SDFCU was: "How would we track down foreign people if they took out loans and then divorced their foreign service spouses and stopped making payments?" An organization which exists to serve foreign service employees stationed around the world should not find this an insurmountable problem. (For example, they could allow spouses of other nationalities to have their own accounts, but require a co-signer for loans.)

Anyone who would like to support this change (particularly if you are a Credit Union member) can write to: Board of Directors, State Department Federal Credit Union, 1630 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

*If you or your friends face difficulties which are related to life in the foreign service, please contact AAFSW. We can only help our members if they let us know what is happening!*



# PROGRAM

## Covering the News in Washington: Cokie Roberts Speaks Out

As one of the most solicited speakers from the media, Cokie Roberts will open our season by presenting some of the most interesting and challenging views of this year's rapidly changing political panorama.

Cokie has, in effect, become a household name in Washington and throughout the country with her incisive reporting for ABC on the White House, on Congress, as a regular member of the weekly roundtable discussions on "This Week with David Brinkley", and as a substitute for Ted Koppel on his "Nightline". The 14.7 million listeners of National Public Radio are also well acquainted with her through "Morning Edition" and other interviews and in-depth reports.

Cokie was greatly influenced by being the youngest of three children born into the well-known political Hale and Lindy Boggs family. Her father, Hale Boggs, was a Congressman from Louisiana for 32 years and held the post of Majority Leader in 1972 when he was lost in a plane crash over Alaska. Lindy Boggs, his popular and respected widow, was urged to run for his seat, which she successfully did in 1973; for 17 years thereafter, she played a major role in Congressional affairs.



Cokie, in the meantime, grew up between Washington and Louisiana, graduated from Wellesley, took a television job in the District, married Steven Roberts in 1966, then moved to New York, where Steven was a senior writer for *U.S. News and World Report*. She found it difficult, because of being a woman, to get a substantive job in New York in the television, radio or magazine worlds.

However, when her husband was later assigned to Athens, she landed a job as a reporter for CBS News.

In 1977, back in Washington, she was hired by National Public Radio through the encouragement of two other female reporters, Nina Totenberg and Linda Wertheimer, who became her fast friends and colleagues in opening up greater opportunities for women reporters.

Before joining ABC News in 1988, Cokie Roberts was a contributor to PBS TV's MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour. Her coverage of the Iran/Contra affair for that program won her the Weintal Award in 1987. She has received numerous other awards including the Edward R. Murrow award, which is the highest honor in public radio; the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award; and an Emmy for her contribution to the ABC special "Who is Ross Perot?" in 1991.

Cokie and her husband write a weekly column syndicated by United Media in major newspapers around the country. Her Op-Ed columns have appeared in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, and she has made contributions to *The Atlantic* and the *New York Times Magazine*.

Reservations Contact: Pearl Richardson Phone: 202-265-3301

### October Program Coupon - Return by October 17

Tuesday, October 24, 1995  
Benjamin Franklin Room  
8th Floor, State Department  
10.00 a.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New Member? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_  
(Name as you wish it on name tag)

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ OR Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Guest(s) (with DOB or SSN) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: BRING A VALID PHOTO I.D. (OR CURRENT BUILDING PASS) FOR ENTRY TO STATE DEPARTMENT. Reservations accepted in the order CHECKS are received. Please send form, with check made out to AAFSW (\$5 per member, \$5 per guest), to AAFSW reservations, 5125 MacArthur Blvd, NW, Suite #36 Washington, DC, 20016. REMINDER: Special permission granted members and guests to enter the Dept. of State building is limited to hours of meeting ONLY. No refunds after October 17.

## Bulletin Board

### Membership Drive Proceeds

Since the end of summer, we have been busy with our membership drive. Thanks to everyone who has renewed so promptly. The stacks of mail received in the office have been truly gratifying. If you haven't yet sent in your renewal application, we look forward to receiving it soon.

We welcome all adult family members and employees of the Foreign Affairs agencies who have served, or are subject to serve, at a U.S. diplomatic mission. If you have a friend who isn't a member, please ask her (or him) to join. AAFSW needs a large and engaged membership so that our voice will continue to be heard.

*Olivia Brown*  
Membership Chair

### Have You Successfully Raised Money for Charity?

Many foreign service family members are involved in volunteer projects, which often means that they participate in fundraising. The January issue of the *AAFSW News* will feature fundraising ideas and experiences. What have been your greatest successes? What were some of the hidden pitfalls? What advice would you like to provide? Information may be written up formally or scribbled down informally and sent to

the newsletter editor. Please indicate if you prefer that your name not be used. CLOs, it would be a great help if you could pass this article along to the relevant people at post, whether or not they are members of AAFSW. All materials must be received before Nov. 15 for inclusion.

### Wanted: Dynamic, Foreign-Born Spouses

The Foreign-born Spouses group could use four or five organizers, particularly in the Northern Virginia area. In the past, the group has planned trips and social events. Future activities depend greatly on the interests of the members. Overseas members are also welcome to get involved; you could plan local events or stay in touch by mail (fax, e-mail). Call Rosario Kramer at (703) 938-3794 or write c/o the AAFSW office to offer your ideas and assistance.

Some members have admitted confidentially that the best part about the group is being able to talk to people who agree that Americans can be pretty peculiar at times! Others have enjoyed the networking which introduces them to friends from their home countries. Sometimes you need to talk to someone who understands just what you're missing, whether it's *mofongo*, *mole* or Mom.

### FSI Tries New OBC Policy

As a pilot program, the Overseas Briefing Center has been asked by FSI to charge participants from agencies other than the State Department tuition for two of its courses. The courses, Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad, and Understanding Regulations, Allowances and Finances, will each carry a fee of \$160. The agency will be billed by FSI for participation, so individuals are not able to pay for the course directly. OBC is monitoring the change with a committee which will look at the impact the tuition rate has on participation.

*Will other agencies be willing to foot the bill for spouse training? Will they decide that there is no real need for these classes? Please note that if an agency decides not to pay, there is NO WAY for an individual to take the classes; you cannot "pick up the tab" yourself. Will this new plan hurt the advances made in training and preparation? Please send your reactions to the newsletter editor, or the AAFSW office. It is important that we speak up while changes are being made, not after it is too late!*

NOTE: Summer vacations and staff turnovers are still having an effect on the Spouse Oral History column. Never fear, it will soon reappear as part of the newsletter!



Association of American Foreign Service Women

News

October 1995

Association of American Foreign Service Women  
5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW  
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