

GLOBAL LINK

Association of American Foreign Service Women



AAFSW Oral History
Benefit Tea

From left, **Brooke Shearer** (Senior Adviser to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior and spouse of Strobe Talbott, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs), **Bette Bao Lord** (author and spouse of Winston Lord, Asst. Secretary of State for EAP) and **Christine Zarr**, AAFSW President, discuss last-minute details concerning the recent Oral History tea, held at DACOR-Bacon House. The tea celebrated the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Foreign Service Spouse Oral History Collection.

Brooke Shearer presented five spouses with their completed Oral History transcripts, while Bette Bao Lord regaled the audience with some fascinating experiences abroad when her spouse was Ambassador to China.

Congratulations to Pamela Stratton, the Oral History Collection Manager for organizing another extremely successful event! For more information about the Oral History program, contact her at the AAFSW office (page two).

The Good-Enough Member (Be One!)

We thank our long-time, faithful supporters: your continued membership, at post and into retirement, keeps us afloat financially.

We do need intermittent members also. A "good-enough" member is just fine. To join in youth, drop out when up to your eyeballs with job and children, rejoin in Washington, lose track of us on going out and getting wrapped up in post life - that's O.K.

But, check in with us once in a while! When in Port Moresby, Baku or Belen, we can help you keep in touch. Maybe you should join us for a year before coming back to Washington after seven years away. Maybe you have never lived in Washington or even in the States. We have vital information and connections for you. Maybe your children are grown and you are approaching retirement. Come and see what we have to offer. We certainly understand your changing circumstances.

Our membership year is September to September, and the Board thanks a host of you on yearly memberships who sent in renewals so promptly.

For those of you on convenient five-year memberships, don't forget on leaving a post to stress to the mailroom supervisor that *GLOBAL LINK* carries first-class postage. It should therefore be automatically forwarded to your new post.

—Chris Zarr, AAFSW President

AAFSW

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BOOKFAIR

is over for 1996 - although regular Bookroom operations will soon resume. Is all of the effort worth it? Perhaps the following letter best expresses the answer to that question:

Dear Wonderful AAFSW [Members]:

Our sons wrote separately through Ambassador Depree thanking your organization for providing funds for their

continuing education at the University of Utah.

We as their parents feel we also owe you a note of thanks.

Have you any idea how much your generous contribution has lessened the financial burden we bear in putting twins through college? We are so grateful!

Words just aren't adequate.

Most sincerely,
Mike and Katie Bowcutt

Special recognition is due to all of our dedicated BOOKFAIR volunteers!

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AAFSW membership is open to all U.S. Foreign
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available to the public at \$25 per year.

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AAFSW

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 1 OBC Post Employment Options
- 5-7 OBC Teaching English
- 12 **PROGRAM featuring Sid Davis, International Broad-casting Bureau**
- 13 OBC Overseas Health
- 18-22 OBC Introduction to Foreign Service Life
- 23 OBC Maintaining Long-Distance Relationships
- 26 **Board Meeting**

DECEMBER

- 2-6 OBC Training Skills
- 7-8 AWAL Getaway Weekend
- 10 **PROGRAM featuring Le Rowell, quilt expert**
- 12-13 OBC American Studies

JANUARY

- 8-10 OBC Regulations, Allowances and Finances
- 11 OBC Communicating Across Cultures
- 14 **PROGRAM**
- 22 OBC Managing Rental Property from Overseas
- 28 **Board Meeting**

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOC.

2101 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20037

Telephone 202-338-4046

EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION

Room 5914 Department of State

Room L 127, Columbia Plaza

Telephone 202-663-1815

DIRECTOR: Anne Weiss, ACSW

FAMILY LIAISON OFFICE

Room 1212, Department of State

Telephone 202-647-1076

DIRECTOR: Kendall Montgomery

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Room 245, Department of State

Telephone 703-875-7800

DIRECTOR: Ernest Mannino

OVERSEAS BRIEFING CENTER

4000 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22204

Telephone 703-302-7274

DIRECTOR: Ray Leki



Virginia Returnees Hold Coffee Morning

Barbara Ratigan, who lives in Arlington Zip code area 22205, returned from Korea recently, and in September she hosted a coffee on behalf of AAFSW. She invited friends of hers from Seoul and also some people living in her neighborhood whose names she got from our Zip-coded members' list. Katarina Hamilton, Office Manager, Janet Scott, Nominating Committee member, and Chris Zarr, President, also came. It was in total a group of around fifteen people. A presentation was made about all the things AAFSW does.

Almost none of the returnees had ever heard of our organization. The upshot? Six of them joined right there and then. We welcome you all as members.

Thank you, Barbara, for this enjoyable event. It was a "double whammy" because it got people together who had known each other well abroad and who hadn't seen each other for a while; and it helped AAFSW.

Should anyone else out there feel like emulating this idea, I and other members of the Board would be happy to come and meet your guests.

—Chris Zarr

Members Fill Vital Slot

Welcome again to **Sally Horn** (DEA) and **Dorothy Penner** (State), two experienced organizers who will act as OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVE COORDINATORS. (This space went empty last year, despite searches for a volunteer).

Last year we had twenty-five representatives abroad. Dorothy and Sally are preparing material to send to you and will

be on the lookout for new people to act for us at other posts.

What is an overseas representative supposed to do for us? Lots of things, according to the fine print in the material Sally and Dorothy send out, but really it is quite optional. Anything that you do to introduce people to our range of activities and to gently persuade them to join and get *GLOBAL LINK* directly would be welcome.

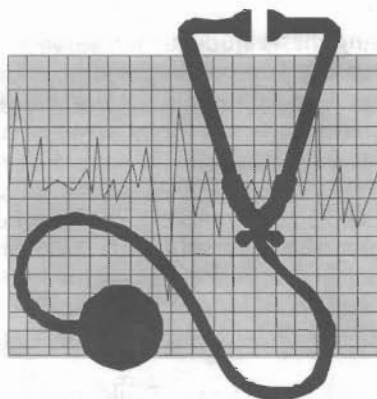
An overseas rep is not being asked to mastermind yet another club at post; however, here is an opportunity to salute **June Carmichael**, "our woman in K.L.," who has been very active all last year. Thank you very much, June.

—Chris Zarr

Back to Basics: Don't Neglect Your "OBCs"!

Check out the following special events at the Overseas Briefing Center this month:

"Overseas Health Concerns" will take place on Wednesday evening, Nov. 13 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. This is the only chance this year to get answers to your overseas medical questions!



Don't miss "Maintaining Long-Distance Relationships," also only offered once per year, conveniently scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23. Explore ways to keep relationships strong during separated tours or temporary duty travel.

The OBC will be open extra hours for post research during both of these seminars - perhaps this is your chance to "divide and conquer"!

Sign up now for the extremely valuable "Training Skills for the Foreign Service Spouse" course, offered Dec. 2 - 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is an outstanding opportunity to learn skills in basic training techniques including the design and delivery of a workshop.

If you have any doubt about how this could be useful to you, take a closer look at some of your junk mail - there are "experts" out there charging a pretty penny to run workshops and training sessions. Why not equip yourself to become one of them?

For more information or to register, please call 703-302-7268.

NEW! "Working Around the World"

A new feature, "Working Around the World," begins on page four of this month's edition of *GLOBAL LINK*. The idea for the series came from AAFSW member Lourana Thomas, who wrote: "It would be very interesting to have a short column occasionally about Foreign Service women/men who have been married to FSOs through the years, but have managed to do something very different themselves, i.e. pursue careers in far different field such as the arts, health, teaching. It, speaking for me personally, has been an extremely difficult 'row to hoe,' but worth it."

It is difficult to do justice to a foreign service spouse's experiences in a short column, so we will run occasional longer articles. Please contact the newsletter editor (information on page two) if you would like to suggest someone to interview for this series, if you would like to write a "Working Around the World" article or if you have other ideas for the newsletter.

—Jan Fischer Bachman, Editor

Working Around the World

Judith Livingston and a World of Academia

From the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* to the World Wide Web, AAFSW member Judith Livingston's academic career exemplifies the flexibility necessary to succeed as a foreign service spouse in the context of modern society.

The tale of earning her Ph.D. in English literature at the University of Wisconsin illustrates the realities of life as a foreign service spouse: it took 12 years and four countries for her to finish. First her studies were interrupted by two years in the Peace Corps in Liberia. She finished the required course work in 1970, after which she wrote over 100 articles on African literature and geography for the 1974 edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

The first 75 pages of her thesis, "The Impact of Africa upon Major British Literary Figures, 1787-1902" were written in Athens, Greece (where she also volunteered with the American Women's Association and had a baby), the next 125 in Sri Lanka (where she was Treasurer of the Board of the United States Educational Foundation and panelist for several Fulbright selection committees) and the final 225 pages while her husband Richard was undergoing Spanish language training at the Foreign Service Institute.

Having successfully defended her study of British literature, she ended up in Uruguay teaching... American literature and culture. While the change might have been disconcerting, Judy describes it as a "fortuitous move."

"Representing this country through my work has been very rewarding," she says. In a sense, her subsequent involvement in American studies complemented the work of her husband in promoting U.S. interests overseas.

In 1981, Judy moved back to the D.C. area, where she taught part-time at George Washington University and was active in AAFSW, chairing the Education Committee and serving as an instigator for the Family Liaison Office's original education handbook.

It was in these early Washington years that Judy began to feel angry about her career: "I was highly qualified and not able to find a teaching job that paid well." She is quick to praise the advantages of foreign service life, with its diversity of ex-

perience, but points out that she has never been able to work up the academic ladder to the position of full professor at a traditional university.

From 1985-87, Judy left the world of teaching literature to serve as the FLO Education Officer, a job she found very rewarding because of its outreach to foreign affairs families. Because she knew a year in advance of her next move to Indonesia, she had time to apply for and was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar lectureship in American studies at the University of Indonesia, Jakarta, which she held for 18 months following a semester-long contract with the American/Indonesia Exchange Foundation. She describes her two years teaching Indonesian graduate and undergraduates as "a fascinating experience."

"...just when you're well-known and professionally established, you pull up and leave."

Her final two years in Jakarta were spent as Director of Studies at the School for International Training, supervising fifty teachers - while still keeping her hand in at the University through advising thesis students and serving on the Board of Supervisors of the American Studies Association of Indonesia. During this period, she published some of her studies on American life, including diverse topics such as, "Democratic Pluralism 1960-1990: America's Changing Perception of Itself," "The Theme of Pastoral Longing in Writings about Twentieth Century Industrial Chicago," and "American Women and the Ongoing Struggle for Equality."

At her next post, New Delhi, Judy took six months off, then began work for a very Washington D.C. employer: the Library of Congress. There is a field office in New Delhi, involved in the acquisition of materials from the region. Judy served as Special Assistant to the Field Director, with a wide variety of responsibilities.

Meanwhile, she was chosen as a USIS Voluntary Speaker, and did four lecture

tours
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and uni-
Bombay,
bad, Hyderabad, Calcutta, Burdwan, Madras, Pondicherry, Madurai and Delhi.



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In India, as in Indonesia, Judy found that "just when you're well-known and professionally established, you pull up and leave." She returned to the U.S. in 1994 with her family and spent the year caring for her mother, who had also spent the past two and a half years living with them in India. After a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease, and a lot of caring, her mother passed away.

Judy was just beginning to do what she calls "heavy networking," when she saw a unique job advertised in the *Washington Post*. The Teaching Company, a group producing "superstar lectures" on video and audio tape, was seeking a first "contact faculty" member for a distance learning degree course.

When Judy drove to Springfield for an interview, she immediately felt at home.

"It's a new company, with characteristics of several companies where I've worked overseas," she says. "A relatively small group of skilled people doing their work at high speed."

As Mirus University's first professor, she had to design a course guide for "Great Authors of Western Literature I" - as well as face the challenges of teaching students around the country, developing curriculum and working on the Internet setting up various resources.

Judy describes her biggest challenge as "feeling like a classroom teacher when my students can't be seen, only heard," trying to find creative ways to interact, give attention to each student at a distance, and provide a feeling of academic community.

Mirus students mail in assignments based on reading assigned books and taking in video or audio lectures from professors from universities such as Harvard, Princeton, Rice, Texas, Johns Hopkins, and so on. They have conferences with Judy by telephone regarding their assignments, which lead to an MA in Liberal Studies. (For more on Mirus,

Looking at Employment from All Angles: Notes from the Employment Panel

see box below).

This is a transition time for Judy. Her husband will retire in two years' time, so they don't plan to go overseas (except for their son's wedding if it is held in Indonesia or the Philippines). While it seems as though it should be a relief (no more boxes!), not having to move again requires some re-thinking.

Looking back over her time as a foreign service spouse, Judy sees advantages and disadvantages.

"America is a society that values pay so much," Judy explains. "It is nearly impossible for a foreign service spouse to ever build a strong salary base - it's hard to keep your salary moving upward." This can reduce self-esteem or cause difficulties in meeting family expenses.

Then there is the problem of constantly relocating and having to take the initiative to find new employment.

"I don't feel aggressive sometimes," Judy says. The need to be constantly proactive in pursuing opportunities is not unique to foreign service spouses, but is certainly aggravated by changing location every two to four years.

On the other hand, as an academic, she has had the opportunity to write and publish, meet local scholars, encounter new stimuli, as well as riches in friends, art, artifacts, memories, and breadth of experience.

"I have a living context for the literature I study," Judy summarizes. "Who else has friends and colleagues in six countries around the world?"

The message at the Employment Panel sponsored by the Family Liaison Office and the Overseas Briefing Center on Oct. 4 was, "Sell yourself!" Here are a few notes that may rejuvenate your job search or help you get started:

- You have to have computer skills, so take a course to learn them if you don't have them.
- You have to be passionate about what you want to do.
- Put together a plan for your job search.
- Have a clear career objective for yourself.
- Be able to tell a potential employer what you do - what value you will add to the company's bottom line.
- Ask what you can do to help the company.
- Get over any shyness you might have and clearly say that you want to work for that company.
- Ask yourself what this employer is looking for, and do you have it?
- Emphasize flexibility and adaptability.
- Market your overseas experience.
- Definitions have changed. A temporary job lasts three to six months; a permanent job lasts two to three years. A returning Foreign Service spouse is looking for a permanent job.
- If you have an active clearance or had one recently, that may be a positive in your job search.

- Take a risk!
- Companies want people who are problem solvers.
- Companies want people who have good writing skills.
- Companies are looking for people who are multi-lingual and have cross-cultural skills.
- Networking is essential. Eighty percent of jobs are landed because of networking.
- Make a list of every person you know who is working and meet them for lunch (or coffee if you are on a budget).
- Single best resource is the list of contacts you have.
- Committed, honest, ethical people are still in demand.

If you want to start your own business:

- Know the substance of what you want to do.
- Deal with the business aspects.
- Make a business plan, a road map, for what you want to do.
- The **Small Business Association** has publications, videos and software to help you. Call their Answer Desk at 1-800-8-ASK-SBA or fax 202-205-7064.
- You need three professional relationships:
 1. **Accountant** to set up books and records.
 2. **Lawyer** to set up how to establish your business.
 3. **Banker** for short and long-term borrowing and to establish a line of credit.

Opportunities for distance learning are increasing all the time, which is a wonderful development for foreign service families!

The Teaching Company has produced more than 80 courses on video and audio tape since 1990. Lecture topics include fields such as archeology, anatomy, physics, music, history, psychology, literature, religion, philosophy and business, along with selected high school courses.

Some students wondered why they couldn't receive credit for studying with the country's best teachers. In response, **Mirus University** began enrolling students this year. ("Mirus" is Latin for "astonishing and wonderful"). At present, two degrees are offered: a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies. Final approval for Mirus to issue degrees is contingent upon at least two years of successful operation (initial approval to enroll students was granted by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia). The University aims to receive accreditation from the Distance Education and Training Council within two years.

Interested students may apply for admission at any time; there are four terms per year. Access to reasonable postal service is necessary to maintain the pace of the courses. (Students also communicate by phone, fax and e-mail.) For more information about Mirus University, call 1-800-562-4835. Bob Cosgriffe, the Associate Dean, may be reached at 703-912-6404. For courses offered by the Teaching Company, call 1-800-832-2412.

Thank you to the employment panelists whose suggestions are compiled above:
Libbie Mathes, Executive Housing Consultants, Inc.

Daniel Janssen, Director of Human Resource Management, Peace Corps

Julia Taft, President and CEO of Interaction

Linda Donath, Recruitment Manager, STG

Douglas Charnas, lawyer advising on individual, corporate, limited liability and partnership matters, Jackson & Campbell.

—Family Liaison Office



Thomas Lucas, M.D. Kathmandu

Dr. Thomas Lucas working faithfully week after week at a small local clinic ROKPA since 1992 has added immeasurably to the well-being of some of the most impoverished people in Nepal including Tibetan refugees, pilgrims and poor Nepalese.

He has been a major fundraiser for the clinic and has persuaded individuals, companies and hospitals to donate all of the medicines and equipment used in the clinic. He organizes and hosts monthly medical meetings at ROKPA which provides professional association as well as education on specific medical problems.

He has taken the lead in AIDS awareness education for medical doctors in Nepal. Health needs that were not being noticed by any other group were addressed by Tom.

Starting in a tent with outdated medicines and no electricity, Tom enlarged and updated the ROKPA clinic and improved the delivery of health care to a segment of the community that otherwise would not be served.

Thomas Lucas, M.D., is the State Department Medical Officer.

AAFSW would like to thank Claire Bogosian for coordinating the AAFSW/Secretary of State Volunteerism Awards this past year, as well as taking on the job for 1997. All of the excerpts about the 1996 winners appearing in GLOBAL LINK were compiled by Claire from application materials.

WELCOME!

Agnes Carroll
Diane M. Hughey
Mary Kartman
Sandra Merrigan
Mary Wynne

Community Link

Would you like to put the skills and experience you gained overseas to good use for the benefit of the community around us here at home? Do you miss the feeling of being involved in a worthwhile effort to help others? The following information is provided as a service to members seeking volunteer opportunities in the Washington area. If you are interested in more details, or want to "sign up," please contact the service organization directly.

The mission of THE WOMEN'S CENTER (TWC), located in Vienna, Virginia, is to provide affordable personal, professional, legal and financial assistance to area women and their families. Counseling, educational programs and workshops, and referrals provide women with the tools for positive change in their lives. Volunteers are needed in several of the Center's programs.

The Public Relations program would welcome volunteers to promote TWC's services and events by delivering community outreach materials, representing the Center at local fairs, and by updating the press database. Volunteers with organizational, marketing or writing skills assist the Development Department in producing fundraising events and projects, researching private sector funding sources and writing proposals.

The Information and Referral Department is one of the busiest sections at the Center. Volunteers in this department deal directly with the public: answering phones, greeting clients, making appointments, offering referrals. Saturday and Evening Workshop volunteers help set up workshop sites, transport and distribute materials, and may be asked to give a brief introduction to the Center at the start of a workshop.

TWC's Fairs and Special Events volunteers assist in setting up or dismantling exhibits and representing the Center at these events. Volunteers with an interest in career issues are needed in the Professional Development program to help with career workshops, conferences, and the Job Bank. The Business Office needs volunteers for a variety of accounting tasks, and the Information Systems Department needs volunteers with Word Perfect, data entry or systems analysis experience.

Each of the departments provides training and on-the-job support. The Center publishes a Volunteer Opportunities information sheet with complete details of duties, hours and any requirements for each of the program areas. Call The Women's Center at 703-281-2657.

—Barbara Leven, Community Relations Committee Member

Ed. Note: Even if you can't volunteer, you may want to call for the schedule of events at The Women's Center. There are branch offices around the Washington area and programs cover a wide variety of relevant, important topics.

Foreign Service Youth Invited to Getaway Weekend

The AWAL Getaway Weekend, a training workshop for foreign service teens, ages 13 and up, will be held at The Woods in West Virginia on Dec. 7-8, 1996. The teenagers will focus on transition issues and what it means to be a teenager in a foreign service family.

Teens who have attended past work-

shops have commented on the strong and lasting friendships that they made during the weekend.

For details and to reserve a place, call Sheri Mestin Bochantin at the Overseas Briefing Center after Nov. 1 at 703-302-7267.

—Family Liaison Office

PROGRAM

The News Media - What Impact and/or Influence Does it Have on Public Policy and our Elections?

Following the unique insights by top Voice of America veteran, Philomena Jurey, last month prior to our elections, Sid Davis will follow up with a post-election analysis on the role of the media.

Sid Davis is particularly qualified to do this from his vast experience in the field of communications. At present, he is Director of External Affairs for the International Broadcasting Bureau, the global radio and television service of the United States Government. Just before this assignment, Mr. Davis had been the program director for the Voice of America, directing its worldwide news, public affairs and other services.

From 1977 to 1987 Mr. Davis served as a senior Washington correspondent and as vice president and bureau chief of the NBC News Washington Bureau, supervising a staff of 200 correspondents, producers, and technicians in television and radio coverage of the nation's capital. Prior to joining NBC News, Mr. Davis had been chief of the Washington News Bureau of Group W, Westinghouse Broadcasting Company. From 1960 to 1968 he served as Group W's White House correspondent during the administrations of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

On assignment in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, Mr. Davis was one of the three reporters to witness the swearing-in of President Johnson aboard Air Force One after the assassination of President Kennedy.



WANTED: Program Associate

Arranging AAFSW's monthly programs is one of the organization's most interesting jobs. If you would like to help come up with creative program ideas, meet prominent people from a variety of fields or write publicity materials, please contact the Program Chair, Barbara Gordon, at 202-338-0176.



In this 1994 photo, Sid Davis (center) hosts "The Art of Ad Lib and Interviewing," featuring presentations by CBS Chief Washington Correspondent and moderator of "Face the Nation," Bob Schieffer, and CBS Washington Correspondent Eric Engberg. Photo courtesy of USIA International Broadcast Bureau.

His description of the solemn ceremony was the first news flashed to the world of the orderly transfer of power from the fallen president to Lyndon Johnson.

Mr. Davis has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles on assignments, covering or directing coverage of national and international news events, including summit conferences, political conventions and elections. He has made trips with presidents to Vietnam, the former Soviet Union, China, Japan, Europe, South and Central America, Australia,

New Zealand, other Pacific Basin countries and the Middle East.

Mr. Davis has been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution where he studied the latest developments in the communications business and lectured on the news media's impact on public policy. According to those who have had the privilege of hearing his lectures, he is not only informative, but interesting and entertaining.

The November program will be held on **Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m.**

—Barbara Gordon, Program Chair

Reservations Contact: Pearl Richardson, 202-265-3301

November Program Coupon - Return Immediately!

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1996, 10 a.m., 8th Floor, State Department

Name (as you wish it on name tag): _____

Date of Birth or Social Security Number: _____

Telephone: _____ New Member? yes _____ no _____

Name(s) of Guest(s) with DOB or SSN: _____

NOTE: BRING A VALID PHOTO I.D. 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 can be made nor reservations accepted after Nov. 5.

Modem Miscellany

E-Mail Information

Don't forget that AAFSW may be reached by e-mail at the following address: aafsw@erols.com. If you have an e-mail address and neglected to put it on your membership renewal form (surely you have sent that back before now?!), please do send it to the office. We have a small list of e-mail addresses, which we hope to put to better use in future. Meanwhile, be sure to send your questions, comments, difficulties and so on. The newsletter editor also welcomes comments, suggestions and so forth by e-mail at BPQM13A@Prodigy.com.

On-Line Airline Bargains

If you are able to make last minute plans, a number of U.S. airlines are offering special discount fares on the World Wide Web.

USAir has the "USAir E-Savers" program. Sign up your e-mail address and a list of available tickets will be sent each Wednesday. (<http://www.usair.com>).

American offers a similar type program (and Wednesday seems to be the magical day). (<http://www.amrcorp.com>).



Northwest offers the "Cybersaver" program. Fares are posted on Wednesdays (you may not find anything during the rest of the week). (<http://www.nwa.com>).

Continental has the "CO.O.L. Travel Special" program. (<http://www.flycontinental.com>).

There are numerous travel agencies on-line which claim to offer discount airline tickets, including international flights. Try "discount airline tickets" using Yahoo or another search engine (which will probably be found under something labeled "Search" at the top of your Web Browser program). Please pass on the information if you try an agency and would like to either recommend or blacklist it!

Web Basics: Speeding up Site Access

If you have a slow modem and are finding that it takes forever to pull up Web sites, look for an "Options" menu. There is probably an option related to loading graphics, which will allow you to see the site without any pictures, something which will be ugly, but quicker! The price of faster modems has dropped: a 28.8 modem now costs under \$100 (and you can probably persuade someone to install it for you, using your overseas bargaining skills). If you are buying a new computer (or a new modem for your old computer), don't get one with a modem slower than this (e.g. 14.4 or below).

Shareware... the Foreign Service Way

Are you a convinced computer user? Send your tips, strategies and information on your favorite computer features to Modem Miscellany c/o the newsletter editor, BPQM13A@Prodigy.com. We would all like to benefit from your experience!

It would be helpful for us to know how many "computer people" are out there in order to plan which services to offer. Stay tuned...

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