

## Budget Cuts Hurt Everywhere

The budget crunch. There is no escaping the fact that reduced finances will affect everyone associated with the Foreign Affairs agencies. Worries about job security, timely pay, sudden cuts in hardship differentials...in a myriad of ways, political battles higher up insinuate themselves into our daily lives (see the excellent article by AAFSW member Wesley Ann Godard in the March issue of the *Foreign Service Journal* for more on the effects of the recent furlough).

One area which has suffered from recent cuts is spouse language training. AAFSW received the following report by e-mail at the beginning of March:

"The director of FSI Yokohama announced yesterday that all spouse language classes were to be canceled effective tomorrow because of the tight budget situation. With one day's notice our teachers found themselves suddenly unemployed and all of the spouses have no language training. For me this was devastating...because we will be going to a branch post with not much of an English-speaking community and language training was, and is, extremely important to me."

AAFSW Legislative Liaison Patty Ryan immediately began to investigate and advocate for the people involved. Carol Stalker, the Dean of the Language School of Studies, said that a 35% cut had been requested for resources for overseas and domestic schools. The 1980 Foreign Service Act says that the Department "may provide" language training for spouses "if funding is available." This means that spouse language training is extremely vulnerable to cuts.

On the other hand, there is now more freedom at posts for the Chief of Mission to spend money where needed, so any post could choose to fund spouse

language training if it were a priority.

Part of one of Patty's letters states: "It is inarguably better for the [Foreign Affairs agencies] that [spouses] arrive at post ready to cope with the demands of settling their families and assisting in representational responsibilities. Otherwise, the employee will need to spend considerable time mediating between his family and a strange environment."

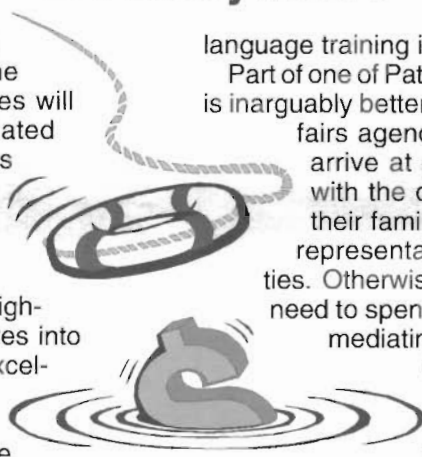
"Language ability, as you well know, often correlates with the amount of time a family is willing to spend at a post. If [the Foreign Affairs agencies] are prepared to make the considerable investment necessary to procure an officer with a hard-language capability, it would appear penny-wise and pound-foolish to fail to make the much lesser investment in spouse training."

"...We are well aware of the Draconian cuts being required by Congress, but hope means can continue to be found to help spouses financially with language as well as other training."

It is not just AAFSW's opinion that spouse language training makes a wise investment. The following quote comes from an MBA textbook, *International Dimensions of Management*, third edition by Arvind V. Phatak, published by the Wadsworth International Dimensions of Business Series, 1992:

"...no matter how gifted, competent, and suited a manager may be to work in a foreign country, that person's effectiveness as a manager will depend on the degree to which his or her family, and especially the spouse, adjusts to the foreign country's environment... Hence it is far more cost effective to prevent a bad transfer than it is to send family members abroad only to have them request a transfer back home again... Language training is a must for the entire family."

(See "Budget," page 6)



## Doctoral Student Wins AAFSW Members' Scholarship

Carol Phillips Hibler has been awarded the first AAFSW Members' Scholarship for Continuing Education.

Carol is at present pursuing a doctoral program in the school of Health and Human Performance at the University of Georgia. Her field is Health Education, and her research specifically deals with education on alcohol use and alcohol abuse. To complete her doctorate, she is drawing on her academic background in Education, her employment in an agency of state government, and her volunteer work as a Foreign Service spouse.

Carol, the former spouse of a State Department officer, most recently served in Caracas, Venezuela. There, one of her volunteer activities was to establish an Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) support group for the Embassy community and for the population at large. She has been teaching while studying and plans future work in education, working not only with school curricula, but also with parent groups, in the important endeavor to involve parents more actively in the health education of their own teenagers.

AAFSW congratulates Carol Hibler heartily and wishes her all success in the future.

—Susan Quainton  
Community Relations



### Inside This Issue

- Pg. 3 Four reasons to go online
- Pg. 4 Meet your nominees
- Pg. 6 Roosevelt and rights
- Pg. 7 Nancy Kassebaum speaks

# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE WOMEN 1995-96 BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Honorary President Marie Christopher - Honorary Vice President Brooke Shearer

## ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

Christine Zarr - 301-229-7218  
e-mail: JZarr@aol.com

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Rebecca Edwards - 703-931-0377

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Felicia Holgate - 703-276-1807

### SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

Susan Scott - 703-759-0724

### TREASURER

Joan Deason - 703-241-8914

### AAFSW HOUSING DESK

Doris Reddington - 301-229-5238

### BOOKFAIR

Sadie Goodman - 202-338-8932

### BOOKFAIR/BOOKROOM TREASURER

Joan Zerolis - 703-204-4704

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Susan Quainton - 202-363-2382

### FORUM

Petti Flood - 202-298-7540

### 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

Britt-Marie Forslund - 703-237-8673

Rosario Kramer - 703-938-3794

### FRENCH GROUP

Christel McDonald - 703-525-9755

### ITALIAN GROUP

Jane Biltchik - 202-363-2581

### ORAL HISTORY

Jewell Fenzi - 202-387-4024

e-mail: jfenzi@aol.com

### OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES LIAISON

Olivia Brown - 202-966-3238

### SCHOLARSHIP

Judy Smith - 202-291-0248

### WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Nancy Longmyer - 703-532-4694

### WRITERS' GROUP

Jerri Bird - 202-554-2751

Sylvia Zimmerman - 202-966-1072

## NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

### D.C.

20009 - Eva Groening, 202-234-4586

20012 - Judith Smith, 202-291-0248

20024 - Kay Branaman Eakin, 202-863-2317

20037 - Lucy Williams, 202-861-0650

### Maryland

20814 - Bethesda

Barbara Reese, 301-951-4328

20816 - Mass. Ave., Bethesda

Chris Zarr, 301-229-7218

20817 - Bethesda

Nancy Cylke, 301-365-1740

20854 - Potomac

Ofelia Santos, 301-294-9580

20902 - Wheaton

Martha Netherton, 301-681-0625

21114 - Crofton

Gerre Lee Craig, 301-858-0860

### Virginia

22003 - Annandale

Lynn Walker, 703-426-0454

22015 - Burke

Sandra Duncan, 703-455-5915

22031 - Fairfax

Amy Struble, 703-849-0709

22042 - Falls Church

Britt-Marie Forslund, 703-237-8673

22044 - Falls Church

Ann Lewis, 703-237-0277

22181 - Vienna

Joan Sitnik Walsh, 703-319-2110

22124 - Oakton

Jan Fischer Bachman, 703-255-2798

22205 - Arlington

Patricia Telkins, 703-534-6759

22207 - Arlington

Joan Deason, 703-241-8914

22303 - Alexandria

Maryagnes Kerr, 703-329-6217

22305 - Alexandria

Marie S. Taylor, 703-683-2427

## CALENDAR

### APRIL

- 1 Foreign-Born Spouses Immigration Seminar
- 3-5 OBC Understanding Regulations, Allowances & Finances
- 9 AAFSW General Meeting
- 9 OBC Advanced Security Overseas Seminar
- 9-10 OBC Life After the Foreign Service
- 13(Sat!) OBC Encouraging Resiliency in Foreign Service Kids
- 15-19 OBC Effective Training Skills for Foreign Service Spouses
- 22-23 OBC Security Overseas
- 23-30 AAFSW Board Meeting
- 23-25 OBC Teaching English
- 24 OBC Managing Your Rental Property from Overseas (eve.)

May 14<sup>th</sup> - Luncheon Mtg

### MAY

- 1 Brainstorming Session
- 7 OBC Advanced Security Overseas Seminar
- 18(Sat!) OBC Going Overseas for Singles, Couples and Children
- 20-24 OBC Introduction to the Foreign Service
- 20-21 OBC Security Overseas
- 22 OBC Legal Considerations in the Foreign Service (evening)
- 29 OBC Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad

Handover Fri June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting

### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOC.  
2101 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20037  
Telephone 202-338-4046

EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION  
Room 3243 Department of State  
Telephone 202-647-4929  
DIRECTOR: Anne Weiss, ACSW

FAMILY LIAISON OFFICE  
Room 1212, Department of State  
Telephone 202-647-1076  
DIRECTOR: Kendall Montgomery

FOREIGN SERVICE LOUNGE  
Telephone 202-647-3423

FOREIGN SERVICE YOUTH FOUNDATION  
Sydney Tyson (FLO Liaison) 202-647-1076  
Karen Pugh (Administrator) 703-255-2861

OFFICE OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS  
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

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE  
WITH APPROPRIATE CHAIR CLEARLY  
INDICATED, AS FOLLOWS:  
AAFSW (Name of Chair)  
5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW  
Suite # 36  
Washington, DC 20016

### IMPORTANT AAFSW NUMBERS

(All Department of State addresses are at:  
Washington, DC 20520)

#### AAFSW OFFICE

Telephone 202-362-6514

Fax 202-362-6589

MANAGER: Katarina Hamilton

ORAL HISTORY: Pamela Stratton

#### AAFSW BOOKROOM

Room 1524, Department of State

Telephone 202-223-5796

MANAGER: Robin Jones

#### AAFSW HOUSING DESK

Room 1254, Department of State

Telephone 202-647-3573 / 3086

CHAIR: Doris Reddington

#### CHILD CARE REFERRAL

Blanka Ruebensaal 301-365-7964

#### SENIOR LIVING

Marguerite Anderson 301-652-5433

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Jan Fischer Bachman

9951 Capperton Dr., Oakton VA 22124

Tel/Fax: 703-255-2798

e-mail: BPQM13A@Prodigy.Com

AAFSW membership is open to all U.S. Foreign Service employees and family members. Annual dues are \$25. Subscriptions to the News are open to the public at \$25 per year.

## Be Where It's @!

Do you still use a manual typewriter? Is the only "ware" you're interested in "sportswear"? Are you wondering how to pronounce the title of this article?

In the coming months, AAFSW will be working to encourage our members to learn more about modern technology. Here are four reasons why this is important for Foreign Service partners:

**1. Rapid communication.** When one of our members in Japan found out that her language classes were cancelled, AAFSW was able to respond within a day because of e-mail (see page 1). An AID spouse reported the joy of hearing from her TDY husband in Central Europe every other day - with no problem coordinating time zones.

**2. Low cost.** Once you have paid the monthly fee (around \$9.95 in the U.S.), you can send e-mails for the cost of a local call - no matter where they are destined. If you are associated with an educational institution, it may be free to connect. Say goodbye to phone bills in the hundreds of dollars!

**3. New opportunities.** There are now 75 universities and colleges which offer online degree programs: you could study for your masters in Myanmar or your doctorate in Dagestan. In addition, it may become possible to work "virtually." One acquaintance has moved to New Zealand, but continues to work as a professor in Pennsylvania: she sends videotapes of her lectures and talks to students by e-mail.

**4. Information.** In one evening, I "visited" Yugoslavia, Turkey and some tempting bed and breakfasts near here (wishful thinking). AAFSW Office Manager Katarina Hamilton reads the Swedish newspaper every day from her home in Arlington. No matter how isolated your post is, if your computer is connected, you can stay in touch.

Our AAFSW e-mail directory is gradually growing. Please contact the newsletter editor immediately at BPQM13A @ Prodigy.com if you are online. Note that the AAFSW president now has an e-mail address. If we are going to live around the globe, we need to take advantage of global communication!

If you are still wondering how to pronounce the title, the symbol @ reads, simply, "at."

—Jan Fischer Bachman



The Overseas Briefing Center and Foreign Service Youth Foundation announced the winners of their first Kid Video Contest. Eligible family members between the ages of 10 and 18 were invited to submit original video productions depicting life at post from their perspective. First place went to Beth and Meg Patterson in Malta, second place was won by Heather and Bobby Johnson in Lome, and Kyle Torpey placed third in Dublin. The program has proven to be a remarkable asset to the OBC's video collection, as well as being effective in raising the morale of youngsters (and their families) at post. Announcement of the 1996 KidVid Contest will be sent to posts this spring.

—Sheri Mestan Bochantin  
Overseas Briefing Center

## Regulations Made Easy

Have you ever had a question about your employment rights, home leave, a divorcing friend's situation or medical regulations to which the GSO or Admin Officer doesn't quite know the answer? Has anyone ever said, "You can look it up in the FAM if you want"? You sigh and don't bother!

Be aware that there is a condensed and simplified version of the FAM which you can keep at home. It gives the regulations governing family concerns, as well as a list of resources which the State Department puts at your disposal for emergencies and for everyday, sensible arrangements. There is a summary of advice, and a list of which section of the FAM contains the related fine print.

What is this document of which you have been unaware? It's something your eye has glanced over on CLOs' shelves all of these years: *What do I do now? A sourcebook on regulations, allowances and finances.*

The current edition was published in 1991 by the Family Liaison Office (FLO)

and the Overseas Briefing Center. You can order it through the Direct Communication Project at FLO. This is a good time to join the Skills Bank, too. FLO will be happy to send you a complete list of their publications plus the Skills Bank Enrollment Form. Or ask your CLO for a form and all of the information about the Skills Bank.

If this is old news to you, please be a mentor and pass the word on to a younger, greener spouse.

—Chris Zarr

## Get the Scoop on Schools!

Are you getting ready for an overseas assignment? Do you want to have the most up-to-date information on overseas schools for your children? The State Department's Office of Overseas Schools (A/OPR/OS) is ready to help you and encourages you to call or visit.

A/OPR/OS is staffed with six Regional Education Officers (REOs), each assigned oversight of a geographic region. The REOs are well informed about overseas schools attended by U.S. government school-age dependent children as they travel overseas visiting schools and consulting with Foreign Service families, and, when in Washington, are in frequent communication with the posts and the schools.

A/OPR/OS publishes a one-page "Fact Sheet" on each overseas American-sponsored school assisted by the Department. It also publishes on microfiche and hard copy the "summary School Information Form," giving detailed information on approximately 720 overseas schools - nursery, kindergarten, primary, secondary and boarding schools. The Form includes course offerings, special programs, programs for children with special needs, extra-curricular activities, graduation requirements, etc. The microfiche is distributed to all posts world-wide as well as to several offices in the Department.

A/OPR/OS maintains a resource center, staffed by a coordinator, with information on schools such as yearbooks, newsletters, school profiles and a few videotapes. It is located at SA-29, 3100 Clarendon Boulevard, Room 245, above the Clarendon Metro station, tel: 703-875-7800, fax: 703-875-7979.

—Carol Sutherland  
Office of Overseas Schools





President-elect Chris Zarr enjoys a sunny day.

### Legislative Liaison Patty Ryan

Patty has been a long-time supporter of AAFSW, having been President in 1981-82, serving twice as chair of the Forum Committee and several times as Legislative Liaison and AFSA Liaison. She is the spouse of a retired FS Information Officer, whose posts were Rio, Brasilia, Oslo and Canberra. Patty has taught English as a second language, was the CLO in Canberra and now sells real estate in the Washington area.

### Second Vice President Gerre Lee J. Craig

Gerre Lee J. Craig attended the American University in Washington, D.C., where she majored in Government at the School of Government. She subsequently taught pre-primary and primary grades during 16 years at International Schools in Jeddah, Tripoli, Cairo, Port-au-Prince, Riyadh and Damascus, while she was accompanying her Foreign Service Officer spouse on overseas assignments. She has served in various leadership capacities in American and international women's groups as well as American societies. She accompanied her spouse on eight overseas and two Washington assignments. She has one son currently attending university in the United States.

*graduated from University  
+ working in the U.S.*

*Previously served as AAFSW newsletter  
editor, ASST V.P.*

### President Christine Zarr

Chris was born in Liverpool, U.K. She is a history teacher by profession. She has served with her AID husband in six posts overseas, the last two of which were Haiti and Bulgaria. She served as the CLO in Bulgaria. Chris was very active in women's clubs overseas and has been a Girl Scout leader, PTA President and a licensed tour guide while in Washington. She has two grown children. She is currently President of AAFSW.

### First Vice President Rebecca Edwards

Rebecca is new to the Foreign Service and has not yet been posted abroad. She currently works with AT&T and is hoping to continue her career internationally. She has been a member of AAFSW for one and a half years, and has served as First Vice President since November of 1995.



Housing Desk nominee Doris Reddington answers a housing query.

### Housing Desk Doris Reddington

A former school teacher, Doris has spent the last 35 years as a volunteer for various organizations. She served on the Board of Directors of AAFSW for six years as Membership Chairwoman and was the editor of *Cooking with Diplomacy*. Doris has been a volunteer in the Housing Office for 12 years, the past year as its Chairwoman. Mrs. Reddington is often called upon by the Alzheimer's Association to appear in public as its spokeswoman.

## 1996-97 Elected Board



First Vice President-elect Rebecca Edwards looks for bargains in Prague.

### Secretary to the Board Lesley Arietti

At the time this newsletter went to press, Lesley was not available to provide "authorized" biographical notes. She is well-known, however, to many AAFSW members as the newsletter editor in the early '90s. She has been involved with AAFSW for many years.

### Treasurer Joan Deason

During 30 years as a Foreign Service spouse, Joan has alternated between two portable careers as a primary teacher and clinical technologist. Her State Department work experience was with FLO as Support Services officer where she designed the current Regulations, Finances and Allowances workshop with AAFSW and OBC and with the Bureau of Refugee Programs as Staff Development Officer. She has also been a CLO and Director of the mental health program in Beijing. She has been active in women's associations abroad and served on the AAFSW Board as Forum co-chair where she introduced a proposal to computerize the Association's business functions. Currently she is launching a newsletter on Child Development and assists in a new business venture, Deason Associates. She has raised two children and is the wife of retired FSO Robert Deason.

# Member Nominations

## Bookfair Chair

### Marti Doggett

Marti has served overseas in Frankfurt, where she was a volunteer with the Red Cross, Warsaw and Moscow, in both of which she served as CLO. Prior to becoming associated with the Foreign Service, she worked for the Smithsonian Institute for 12 years in a variety of different jobs. During the final five years, she coordinated the annual Smithsonian Craft Show, experience which should be useful as she plans this year's Bookfair. Marti has two teenage sons and works in a PIT position. When it ends, she will return to freelance work as a tour manager, contracting with companies packaging tours for educational non-profits.

## Membership Chair

### Olivia Brown

Olivia, who was born in London, has served with her husband in posts in the Middle East and Africa, as well as France. Overseas, she was the CLO in Tunis and has been active in women's affairs including helping establish a binational women's program in her last post, Mauritania. In the U.S., she has worked in the local schools, real estate, the Red Cross and is currently a volunteer with THIS and has been working with AAFSW as Membership Chair for the past year. She has three grown children and enjoys playing tennis.



Barbara Gordon, left, asks guest speaker Priscilla Roosevelt to sign a copy of her book.

## Program Chair

### Barbara Gordon

Barbara has been Program Chair for AAFSW since December 1991. She worked for the State Department from 1948-52 and from 1961-64 was on contract at FSI in charge of the Latin American Training Program. She has been a community activist in local politics, mostly in non-profit areas dealing with the arts, and has served on various boards and chaired various benefits. She founded the Women's Committee of the Washington Performing Arts Society and the Friends of the Capital Children's Museum.

## Community Relations

### Susan Quainton

Susan and her husband Anthony have served in Australia, Pakistan, India, France, Nepal, the Central African Republic, Nicaragua, Kuwait and Peru. Her career has been in teaching. She taught at the National Cathedral School in Washington, in U.S. and local schools abroad and taught English to adults at post. In Pakistan and Nepal, she was the Director of the English Language Institutes. Susan is now directing a program for after-school tutoring for Hispanic elementary school children in Adams-Morgan public schools. She is interested in private volunteer organizations and how they meet the needs in their communities. She has been the AAFSW Community Relations Chair for two years.

## Public Relations Chair

### Lesley Dorman

Lesley's early AAFSW positions were Corresponding Secretary, Membership and Program Chairs; as President (1976-81), her work was key in the effort which led to the establishment of the Family Liaison Office. During postings to London, Cairo, Tehran, Zambia, Khartoum, the National War College and Bangkok, Lesley was active in the community. She presently serves as AAFSW Public Relations Chair.

The present Second Vice President, Felicia Holgate, would like to thank Nominating Committee members Kay Eakin, Lesley Dorman, Pat Schofield, Janet Scott and Ann La Porta!

## 1996-97 BALLOT

TO VOTE: Please complete this ballot slip and mail it to the AAFSW office at 5125 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Suite 36, Washington, D.C. 20016. Be sure that your name appears on the envelope containing the ballot, as it will be verified against the AAFSW membership list before the envelope is opened.

☐

I endorse the slate as presented

☐

I would like to vote for the following write-in candidates: \_\_\_\_\_

While you are at it...Please use the space below to make comments or suggestions on the AAFSW newsletter and AAFSW activities in general. THANK YOU!



## AAFSW Oral History Collection

*Frances McStay Adams served in eight countries in her 30 years as a Foreign Service spouse. She was born in Minnesota and got her BA from the University of Minnesota before marrying J. Wesley Adams in 1939. Frances was Radio Director / Coordinator, Inter American Affairs at Centro USA Ecuatoriana in Quito from 1943-44. She later worked with the Fulbright program and as Director for International programs with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. She has also volunteered for many years in different countries.*

"I met Mrs. [Eleanor] Roosevelt in a very funny way. I did auditions in order to get these radio jobs, and I met her on the Brazil Coffee Hour. She was being interviewed on the program and, for the ad, I was playing an airline hostess going to South America with a silly voice. Mrs. Roosevelt thought I really was an airline hostess! But then I met her later through the organizing of ADA [Americans for Democratic Action].

"...Before we went [overseas, in 1943] and when we came back, I worked as a member of a committee coordinating these [civil rights] activities in Washington...We were working on recreation and swimming areas. Unemployment - you know they weren't hiring Blacks in the department stores. The newspapers were full of ads that separated people who were wanted by race. Negroes or white and all that sort of thing. And of course in public places it was very hard to get lunches arranged because so many restaurants wouldn't let you have a mixed group. Some of us just plowed in there.

"Some of it was through ADA and some of it just through other people I knew. There were a couple of church people who were very active on this, both in the Black and white churches.

"The National Theater attracted a lot of people to come and picket. There were Trade Union people. I was at the Stage Door Canteen and we got a lot of people working on it from there. And people who were with AFRA [American Federation of Radio Artists], the union, of which I was an early member....

"I wasn't really sent to Ecuador for a position. Washington wrote and recommended that they use me because they didn't have anybody for radio. One of the officers at the Embassy, the First

Secretary, thought it was terrible that an Embassy wife worked. I said, 'I've always worked, Mr. Bonnet, you know.' I mean I had worked at one thing or another all the time and I think that women need to work as well as men.

"I think that every woman who has worked professionally has run into some difficulties at some time. If there's a meeting and you're the only woman there, you're the one who brings the coffee. You know, that sort of thing. Occasionally I would run into it. But I would say not severely so. I did, as have other women, notice differences in salaries for the same level of work.

"When I came back [in 1971], ...she [Irene Tinker] asked me if I'd work on education in developing countries. So I did write material for the Women's Decade on that. I joined several of the women's groups like NOW and the Woman's Political Caucus, Women's Equity Action...That was good for me, at least, to have a chance to study all that material that's put out about literacy, about school attendance, about school-leaving age, about changes that happen in families when the woman is educated.

"We took part in several of the demonstrations on Lafayette Square. I think it was the early part of the '80s...We also went to the South African Embassy. We joined the picketing. The Women's Issues Group felt that there were a number of things in human rights that concerned women as much as men.

"...A lot of people would make these remarks about 'women's issues!' almost turning up their nose. 'I got where I am by myself and other people can do the same.' I mean there's some of that attitude you find. I think maybe some of that has changed."

## Evacuee Support Network Aids Conakry Families

The families are probably together again in Conakry, Guinea. In the middle of February, they were thrown into the turmoil of a sudden evacuation. The Ambassador determined that political unrest in the country meant it was temporarily unsafe for families, who were given two days to pack essentials and leave.

The trip from West Africa is always exhausting, and the anxiety of not knowing when and if they'd be able to go home, along with the worry about those left behind only added to the burden of the long journey. AAFSW Evacuee Support Network volunteers were there at Dulles to greet the families who came back to the Washington area and to support them through their stay here.

**Judy Gardner** and **Jane Owens**, along with **Linda Oleson**, Support Services Officer from the Family Liaison Office (FLO), escorted the families through customs (Linda had arranged for them to clear customs through the crew area, which avoided long lines), sorted luggage, fetched carts and held babies. They handed the evacuees safe into the care of friends and family on the other side of the International Arrivals door or put them in taxis to their hotel.

"It was a small thing for me to do," Jane said, "but everyone was so appreciative."

Each of the four families staying in the area had volunteer sponsors. **Lynn Walker** supported a mother with three elementary school age boys. Lynn was able to draw on her teaching experience in Fairfax County and overseas to help (see "Evacuees," page 7)

## Budget Cuts Affect Training

(continued from page 1)

As part of an ongoing effort to support the provision of spouse language training, AAFSW is requesting that as many Foreign Service Officers and family members as possible write one or two paragraphs about how language training has been important to them and served U.S. interests overseas. This will become supporting documentation in our efforts to keep spouse training from falling by the wayside. Please respond as soon as possible, by mail, fax or e-mail.

As our member in Japan wrote, "This I feel very strongly: we must not go quietly!"



## Volunteers Assist Evacuees

(continued from previous page)

the boys - who had never been in a class with more than seven students - get settled into Falls Church City schools. When one of the teachers called Lynn asking for more detailed school records, she responded, "You were lucky to get report cards!"

Lynn also helped the mother interpret the lease agreement at a furnished apartment, researched low cost car rental agreements and called often to see what else she could do.

**Khaki Berry, Ann Bushnell and Susan Donnelly** were on call to help their families as needed.

At a training workshop held in February, FLO Director Kendall Montgomery read a letter from George E. Moose, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. He expressed his appreciation

for "the personal service your office provides to weary and stressed travelers whose lives have just been disrupted." Kendall said the letter also applied to the members of the Evacuee Support network.

Anne Weiss, Employee Consultation Service Director, added that she really depended on Evacuee Support Network volunteers to give personal care and attention to those who had been evacuated for medical reasons during the time when her office had been cut to one full-time social worker.

Of special interest at the Feb. workshop, which was attended by 27 members, was a new 20-minute video, *Evacuation: Crisis in the Community*. This has been sent to all overseas posts, international schools and is available for private citizens working abroad, as well as at the FLO office. It features scenes from and interviews with persons involved in evacuations from Liberia, Rwanda, Karachi, Zagreb and Haiti.

The Evacuee Support Network began in 1985 and has 75 volunteers in the Washington area. For more information or to be part of the Network, contact: Ann La Porta (see page 2).

--Ann La Porta

*Evacuee Support Network Chair*

## Women in Congress:

A Personal Assessment

### Nancy Landon Kassebaum

Nancy Landon Kassebaum was introduced to the world of politics at an early age. Ms. Kassebaum, the daughter of Alfred M. Landon, 1936 Republican presidential nominee and Kansas governor, grew up listening to political discussions between her father and the many politicians and journalists who came to visit him. Her family background provided an environment that spurred an intense interest in politics.

Although her interest in politics never subsided, Ms. Kassebaum's involvement was limited during the time that she raised her four children on the farm in Maize, Kansas. She did, however, stay involved as a member of the Maize School Board, Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, and the Kansas Committee for the Humanities. In 1975, with her children nearly raised, Ms. Kassebaum accepted a position in Washington as an aide to Republican Senator James Pearson of Kansas. When Pearson decided to retire at the end of his term in 1978, Ms. Kassebaum joined eight other candidates in a bid for the empty Senate seat. Her forthright manner and her father's name helped propel her to victory.

Today, Nancy Kassebaum is serving her third term in the United States Senate and has risen to become the Chairman of Labor and Human Resources



Committee. She is known as a coalition builder in the Senate and has earned respect as an independent thinker.

Nancy Kassebaum has advocated fiscal responsibility and is viewed as a moderate on social issues. Foreign Policy has always been a keen interest for her. A member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations since 1980, she has focused much of her efforts on overhauling foreign aid programs and African issues. Ms. Kassebaum believes that the United States must continue to take a leadership role in world affairs.

A woman of integrity, of conscience, of independent thinking on all issues whether or not it conforms to the majority views of her party, the Honorable Nancy Kassebaum is an outstanding example of true success in what has been an area of government predominantly controlled by men.

—Barbara Gordon, Program Chair

Reservations Contact: Anne Hackl, 202-338-4785

#### April Program Coupon - PLEASE RETURN BY APRIL 3!

Tuesday, April 9, 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 after April 3.

## What's the Big Idea?



Here's your chance! The Overseas Briefing Center and AAFSW will be sponsoring a "Spouse Issues 2000" brainstorming session on Wednesday, May 1 at 12:30 p.m. for all Foreign Affairs employees and family members.

What are you worried about? What are your dreams? AAFSW, OBC and other organizations exist to help Foreign Service spouses, employees and retirees. What can we do for you?

The NFATC is easy to find on Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard), just west of Glebe Road, and there is ample parking for visitors. Make the most of the trip and check out the resources available at the new OBC!

If you can't take a lunch break from work (we do hope that language students will stop by after class) or have other commitments, please contribute your ideas anyhow, by contacting the AAFSW President, Newsletter Editor or the OBC.

What's the big idea? We're waiting to hear it from you!

### With Sympathy

Mrs. Dean Rusk, former Honorary President of AAFSW, recently passed away. Mrs. Rusk's cooperation, help and support facilitated the beginning of AAFSW. We express our sincere condolences to her family.

## AAFSW Happenings

### Foreign-Born Spouses Plan Legislation Seminar

New immigration could have a substantial impact on foreign-born spouses who are not American citizens (and possibly even on those who are!). For this reason, the Foreign-Born Spouses group and the Overseas Briefing Center will be sponsoring a seminar on legislative changes at 9 a.m. on April 1 at the NFATC.

Guest speaker John Ratigan is a Consular Officer detailed to the Subcommittee on Immigration on Capitol Hill. He has been the Chief Consular Officer at various posts, as well as Director of Consular Training at FSI. He will discuss new laws which could affect immigration and social services, with a focus on how these concern foreign-born residents. For more information or to reserve a place at the seminar, call one of the Foreign-Born Spouses organizers, listed on page 2.

### Elder Hostels Discuss Foreign Affairs Family Life

AFSA is organizing two week-long Elder Hostel seminars about the conduct of Foreign Affairs. AAFSW has been asked to provide panelists on the evenings of April 23 and 30 to discuss Foreign Service family life. If you have recent experience abroad with family at difficult posts, perhaps you would like to participate. If so, call Chris Zarr directly at 301-229-7218.



## MemberNotes

Congratulations to AAFSW's Second Vice President, **Felicia Holgate**, who was recently offered a job at the international school in Monterrey, Mexico as a fourth-grade teacher. Felicia is presently finishing her teacher training through the FAST-Train program at George Mason University - which she highly recommends!

**Christine Shurtleff**, AAFSW's stalwart treasurer and past president, holds the distinction of having sold her D.C. home in just 24 hours in preparation for a move to Gainesville, FL. Christine's knowledge and sense of humor will be sorely missed around the AAFSW office after her April 1 resignation, which sadly does not seem to be an April Fools prank. Best wishes and happy tennis playing, Christine!

*Please remember to send items of interest to the MemberNotes column!*

### Welcome New Members!

Eszter A. Baltimore  
Anne M. Cekuta  
Veronica J. Cooks  
Nongkran Daks  
Nanase Downing  
Pamela Farrand  
Toyin Martschenko  
Barbara Ratigan  
Erwin D. Rose  
Phylis Williams

### Welcome Back

Judith G. Benjamin

# AAFSW

NEWS

APRIL 1996

Association of American Foreign Service Women  
5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW  
Suite #36  
Washington, D.C. 20016

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

Permit # 579  
Greenville, SC