

GLOBAL LINK

Association of American Foreign Service Women

Giving Options Increase Gift Values

The end of the year is a time to celebrate—and to consider your tax situation. Many people make contributions in December to reduce their tax liability. If you fall into this group, consider the giving options listed below.

Endowments

If you faithfully give to the Scholarship or Headquarters Fund each year, you may want to consider "endowing" your gift so that it continues forever. "Endowing" a gift means contributing a sum of money that the organization can invest, spending only a certain percentage of the interest earned from it. For example, if AAFSW decided to spend 5% of its endowment each year, a one-time gift of \$2000 would result in a \$100 yearly contribution—without any further payments by the giver. If AAFSW continued to invest wisely, the yearly contribution from the initial gift would increase, without any further effort on the part of the giver.

If you are interested in creating an AAFSW endowment—perhaps in honor of a dedicated member, volunteer or Foreign Service employee—contact the AAFSW office (details on page 2).

Stock Donation

Donating appreciated stock (stock that has increased significantly in value) is a way of sharing income that may

(See "Giving," page 8)

Deadline Approaches for Spouse Scholarship

The AAFSW Continuing Education Scholarship will be awarded in March, 1998, in the amount of \$2000. 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. You may also write, fax or send an e-mail message to request an application (see page 2 for details). All requirements must be completed and forms received by January 31, 1998, in order for an application to be considered for the March award.

Volunteers May Claim Tax Deductions

Financial contributions are not the only contributions that can be deducted from your tax liability. Volunteers should keep good records of expenses such as the following: stationery and postage; items you regularly provide, including refreshments, posters, markers and so on; half of the cost of meals necessary to carry out the work; uniforms and their cleaning; travel costs going to and from meetings and events (mileage deductions will increase from 12¢ to 14¢ per mile in 1998). For more on taxes, see page 3.

Thanks to Treasurer Joan Deason for providing this information.

Trust Helps Fund Foreign Service Projects

The J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust invites the submission of proposals for support in 1998. The Trust is principally engaged in supporting projects that are initiated and carried out, not in an official capacity and not on official time, by Foreign Service personnel or members of their families. Proposals from other Foreign Service personnel and U.S. Government employees employed at American diplomatic posts abroad will be considered, regardless of nationality.

In 1997, grants ranged in amount from \$500 to \$4000; winners were listed in

(See "Trust," page 6)



Group Seeks Writers

The Authors' Round Table (ART) extends an invitation to all AAFSW writing enthusiasts. ART is a group of youthful, talented, vibrant women who are published and unpublished writers of fiction and non-fiction: poetry, plays, novels, newsletters, short stories, children's stories, articles, research papers, lyrics—the entire literary spectrum. We lend each other support, commentary and encouragement on all written endeavors. ART meets two Saturdays a month from 9:30 a.m. until noon in members' homes. If you would like to join, please contact **Ingeborg Carsten-Miller** at 301-572-6803 for the date and location of the next meeting. We look forward to seeing you then!

AAFSW

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******Please remember that the deadline for each issue is the first of the preceding month (e.g., January 1 for the February issue)******

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

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



New Laws May Prove Taxing

In a move to "simplify the tax code", Congress passed legislation in August creating 824 amendments to the existing code and adding 285 new sections. There are now nine capital-gains tax rates, and many exemptions will be changing each year from now until 2006.

Some provisions appear to be good news. Beginning in 1998 there will be a number of new educational tax credits. Educational loan interest will be allowed for taxpayers, spouses or dependents. First-time home buyers in the District of Columbia will be able to claim a \$5000 credit in the year they buy their property from now until the year 2000. Families will receive a credit of \$400 for each child under the age of 17.

There are now five types of IRAs: deductible, rollover, nondeductible, Roth and education, all with different requirements and consequences.

However, a provision called the alternative minimum tax may take away the gains you expect to receive from the new provisions. Families earning \$50,000 to \$70,000 per year are especially likely to be hit by the AMT. In brief, once you have calculated your taxes with all of the new credits, you need to recalculate them using the AMT and then pay whichever amount is higher.

Watch for AFSA's complete tax guide in the January *Foreign Service Journal*, and if you are in the Washington area, be sure to sign up for one of the OBC Tax Seminars, scheduled for March 11 and 31.

If you are seeking a job you can keep wherever you go, investigate training to become a tax advisor, something which could become an excellent portable career if Congress keeps "simplifying" tax laws at the current rate!

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE WOMEN STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 1997 AND 1996

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	1997	1996
Fundraising activities		
Bookroom sales	\$ 44,290	\$ 41,389
BOOKFAIR sales	79,717	97,578
Miscellaneous sales	181	806
Donated space	13,125	13,125
Contributions - headquarters	1,543	1,321
Contributions - scholarships	3,863	3,200
Membership	18,180	21,525
Contributions - other	75	3,025
Program activities	7,194	7,665
Interest and dividends	21,575	23,219
Unrealized gain on investments	4,233	-
Miscellaneous	248	439
Total Support and Revenue	<u>194,224</u>	<u>213,292</u>
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Scholarships	40,800	55,834
Foreign service and community	36,200	42,322
Program activities	7,362	9,943
Newsletter	12,834	17,999
General and Administrative Expenses		
Salaries and payroll taxes	8,823	9,729
Office supplies	1,001	1,171
Office furniture and equipment	339	1,463
Telephone	1,189	864
Insurance	278	868
Professional fees	3,138	2,900
Rent	8,266	8,640
Membership	602	1,737
Investment	720	960
Miscellaneous	3,091	2,414
Fundraising		
Salaries, payroll taxes and benefits	28,974	30,184
Rent	13,125	13,125
Other Bookroom expenses	5,893	4,135
BOOKFAIR expenses	19,387	24,957
Miscellaneous sales expense	48	866
Total Expenses	<u>192,070</u>	<u>230,111</u>
EXCESS OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES (EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUE)	<u>\$ 2,154</u>	<u>\$ (16,819)</u>

Note: Because the AAFSW financial year goes from July 1 to June 30, sales listed for the 1997 BOOKFAIR were from October 1996, and BOOKFAIR sales listed for 1996 were from October 1995.

Agencies Lend A Helping Hand



Part II in a Series by Ethel Perina

Family Liaison Office

State's Family Liaison Office is a clearinghouse of information and a powerhouse of programs that support families in the foreign affairs agencies. Any family member assigned overseas—from DIA, DEA, USIS, FCS, AID, and FAS, among others—may use FLO's resources and expertise from the time they go overseas until a year after they return.

FLO can answer very specific questions on complicated subjects such as "How to bring an employee from overseas?"—and has done so so many times that it established the Direct Communication Project. Over the years 32 extremely useful papers and books have been produced on topics ranging from home schooling and adoption to finances and divorce. The papers are available on request as is the semi-annual newsletter, *FS Direct*. For many people it was a Family Liaison Office staff member who made the connection, helped outline the problem-solving strategy, made the referral needed—whether to the Career Development Center, the Office of Overseas Schools, the Office of Allowances or the Employee Consultation Service.

At post, the Community Liaison Office is the direct line to FLO resources. While the CLO at post is the best place to begin a search for assistance and information, the CLO Coordinator may turn to the Family Liaison Office for information and guidance not available locally.

FLO staff members who are often called for individual consultation are **Education Officer Sydnee Tyson** and **Employment Program Coordinator Judy Ikels**. Families sorting out schooling and questions of boarding schools find FLO's firsthand experience and familiarity with boarding schools invaluable. It is crucial to match the child with the right school, and FLO has often come up with that extra option parents haven't known about. Those beginning a job search in the Washington area often start with an appointment with the

Employment Program Coordinator who has reams of information and savvy tips to share.

All discussions with FLO staff members are confidential, and if you come prepared to outline your own needs, interests and special considerations, the suggestions and calls on your behalf will be more specific and invaluable.

The Family Liaison Office is directed by **Kendall Montgomery**. It is located on the ground floor of Main State in Room 1212A. FLO's telephone number is 202-647-1076.

Letters, e-mail and telephone consultations are much-used avenues to FLO resources. Beginning on Sept. 1, FLO opened a Web page at <http://www.state.gov/www/flo/>. On the Web page, one sees a list of the FLO staff with brief descriptions of what each one

*FLO can answer
very specific questions
on complicated subjects*

does. A double click on the chosen name takes one directly into the corresponding e-mail address.

According to **Karen Hansen Lundahl, Publications Coordinator**, 15 of the 58 September requests for papers in the Direct Communications Project came in via the Web site. Nine of the 32 papers now available can be downloaded, with information on Washington area schools as a case in point.

USAID Services

USAID families and employees may turn to their own confidential, free counseling service within the Agency for International Development.

Statistically, 75 percent of employee placements which fail overseas do so because of something in the home life, according to **Martha Rees**, the licensed clinical social worker who has worked with AID families and management since 1991. Ms. Rees trained in mari-

tal counseling in England and lived overseas for 13 years before coming to Washington. In the Philippines she worked with Filipino and Japanese families and has researched and written about Western-Asian marriages.

Ms. Rees sees all members of the USAID community: young adults whose parents are overseas, retirees, spouses and employees. Children are normally referred to suitable therapists. Referrals are also made to other community resources. As with all members of the foreign affairs community, AID families returning to Washington often need information about which services are available in their area.

Ms. Rees is available for telephone consultation in Washington as well as overseas. While e-mail is not confidential, it may be used to set up appointments and organize referrals. Her e-mail address is: **MRees@USAID.gov**. No records are kept of sessions.

Ms. Rees is located in the new USAID offices in the Ronald Reagan Building at 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, in Room 2.07-016. Her telephone number is 202-712-0891.

Advisory, Referral and Counseling Service (ARCS)

United States Information Service and Voice of America employees and family members can take advantage of USIS's Advisory, Referral and Counseling Service (ARCS). **Carol Weiss** heads the service and has a degree in clinical social work and certification as an employee assistance practitioner. Ms. Weiss usually sees her client for several sessions before making referrals. If a client is in a severe crisis, she continues with her consultations. Information is not shared with Medical Services or with Diplomatic Security (also true of the other services discussed here). She can, with the client's permission, act as an advocate with the employee's superiors if time is needed for rehabilitation.

As with many mobile families, Ms. Weiss' clients often face readjustment issues that are distinctly related to their

own background and relocation to Washington: changes to a suburban lifestyle, without household help, with higher expenditures, bicultural marriages and families. Ms. Weiss may handle telephone consultations as regular office appointments for those with transportation difficulties or for those with small children at home. Children with learning disabilities and readjustment problems are referred to specialists in children's development.

Whenever clients are referred to other therapists and community service programs, Ms. Weiss makes sure it is a match with her client's insurance and financial capabilities. Ms. Weiss know all the resources to which she makes referrals and checks with her clients for feedback. She provides additional referrals as needed.

The USIS Advisory, Referral and Counseling Service is located at 301 W. 4th Street, SW, Room M14, Washing-

Statistically, 75 percent of employee placements which fail overseas do so because of something in the home life

ton, DC. The telephone number is 202-619-6694.

In speaking with these professional counselors, I learned that a licensed clinical social worker has a specialization in psychiatric counseling. At the beginning of any consultation, care is taken to unravel the various concerns, identify the problems, and help one formulate which steps should be taken and in what order. Anyone in a severe crisis can expect that the counselor will stay with him or her as long as necessary—and people will not leave in such “bad shape” as they may have felt themselves to be in at the beginning.

It is good to make appointments with the intention of taking advantage of the flexibility and long reach of these professionals. And if one feels from past experience that it can be tiresome to plumb a problem with yet new individuals, when the match is right, people agree that it is worth the effort.

AAFSW Spouse Oral History Program:

Talking to the World's Most Interesting People

Inger Sheinbaum

Inger Sheinbaum was born in Copenhagen, Denmark. At the young age of 15 she became an exchange student in the United States in Massachusetts. This helped her learn the language and culture of the U.S. and perhaps predestined the things to come. She became a nurse who married her patient: an American diplomat posted to Copenhagen.

Her postings included Madagascar, Malawi Philippines, Geneva and Sri Lanka.

Inger's profession as a nurse left her open to many volunteer opportunities. One notable experience in the Philippines occurred through Operation Handclasp, a system whereby American manufacturers donated surplus materials abroad using U.S. Navy ships. Read Inger's oral history if you want to know how to put ONE TON of potato salad to work or if you'd like to read how to use hundreds of crutches, enough to enable an entire village of lepers to become mobile.

Inger's life in the Foreign Service combined with her nursing, put her in life and death situations more than once, involved her with country politics, put her family in dangerous circumstances and put her in the company of such notables as C. Everett Koop, Ronald and Nancy Reagan, Barbara and George Bush and George Shultz.

And when it was all over...it wasn't over. Re-entry to the U.S. was perhaps the most difficult adjustment of all.

Martha Rau

Upon being asked about meeting her husband Martha said, "...he followed me home and I guess it was love at first sight." Martha and Donald are natives of Wisconsin and are now happily retired in Salinas, California. They have shared a rich cornucopia of postings

that included Madras, Colombo, Bern, Kathmandu, Hong Kong, and Canberra, covering some 26 years.

Martha's transcript is very interesting

...one feels uplifted by reading the transcript

because she describes so eloquently the “implied” duties and responsibilities of a Foreign Service wife in the pre-1972 Directive period. However, she finds all the pros and very few cons to being “married to the Foreign Service” and one feels uplifted by reading the transcript and admiration for tenacity in the Service despite the loss of an infant in a situation of inadequate birthing options overseas.

The most touching and unforgettable recollection was how Martha was asked, as a Registered Nurse, to volunteer for a mission of mercy to save 425 orphans from the advancing Viet Cong during the fall of Saigon in 1975. The terror of flying into Saigon, a period of one hour to load the children, a mother trying to lift her child (not an orphan) into the plane, are heart-wrenching descriptions. Most of the children were desperately ill on the trip, but were eventually received by loving families in Seattle. However, in her dreams, the heat and the children crying still reverberate to this day.

Foreign Service spouses are the most interesting people in the world! Contact AAFSW today to contribute your oral history.

Information about Inger Sheinbaum came from remarks made at the Oral History Tea. The article on Martha Rau was written by the Oral History Program Manager, Pam Stratton.

❖ 1997 AAFSW/Secretary of State ❖ Outstanding Volunteerism Awards

LYNN MCCARTNEY Bulgaria

Lynn McCartney, mother of Deputy Chief of Mission Rose Likins, plays a central and positive role in the life of the community in Sofia, Bulgaria. She is a warm and caring woman who gives generously of her time and energies. She has helped dozens of Americans feel at home in a post that can be strange, difficult, and tense at times, during political or economic crises. She also helped alleviate the suffering of Bulgarians during an exceptionally hard winter when many were without food.

Among Lynn McCartney's many activities, none has been more important than her role in organizing a soup kitchen in Sofia twice a week. This is a multination-

Lynn has been a pillar of the American community. She acts as an informal backup for the CLO and has frequently taken newly-arrived members of the community on guided tours of the markets, stores, and factories. She has assisted sponsors by suggesting which dishes and supplies to have ready for new arrivals. She often babysits for mothers of young children in their early days while they are finding their way around Sofia and supplies "loaner" toys and books until sea freight shipments arrive. She can be counted on to pitch in during any kind of emergency. For example, she ran the Commissary between the dismissal of the former manager (for

to raise money for the pediatric surgery department at a local hospital.

A description of Lynn McCartney's many and varied activities does not begin to capture the generosity and outreach that make her someone to whom people instinctively turn to for advice and help. For her outstanding contributions she has been awarded the 1997 AAFSW/Secretary of State Volunteerism Award.

Trust Supports Special Projects

(Continued from page 1)

A description of Lynn McCartney's many and varied activities does not begin to capture the generosity and outreach that make her someone to whom people instinctively turn to for advice and help.

al effort designed to feed 200 old-age pensioners without family members, who have virtually no money to live on because inflation has reduced their pensions to nothing. Many are also in poor health. The U.S. Embassy has been the largest single contributor to this effort. As coordinator for the U.S. contribution, Lynn has been the heart and soul of the enterprise, explaining the process to potential donors, soliciting contributions and coordinating volunteers for the immense task of shopping and cooking. Thanks to her efforts, the U.S. has provided a far greater number of meals than originally planned. When other providers were not available on a given date, Lynn often stepped in at the last minute and found volunteers to help organize the efforts. While the economic crisis in Bulgaria is far beyond the efforts of the Embassy to solve, thanks to Lynn's efforts we have contributed to materially lessen the suffering of individual Bulgarians.

embezzlement) and the hiring of the new one. In the process, she created a record-keeping system for each member's purchases which is still being used today. She routinely volunteers to help unload, inventory and price new shipments as they arrive.

At the local Anglo-American School, she served as the third-grade "Grandmother" last year and helped out in the lower school library. She has helped to raise money for the PTO through a successful plant booth. She also assisted in creating costumes for the local musical production. In short, she is always there to help.

As part of an English conversation group, she has served as native English speaker and discussion group guide for a group of 14 Bulgarian and non-native English speakers who work to perfect their command of English in weekly meetings. In the course of those conversations, the group also made hundreds of craft items to sell at the Christmas bazaar

last month's newsletter. Other possible projects could include studies of governmental policies affecting FSOs; measures to increase public awareness of the work of the Foreign Service and the lives of its members; or programs to stimulate thought on the part of government personnel about critical foreign affairs topics, including human rights and environmental issues.

Grants may be used to defray a wide range of expenses: the acquisition of equipment and materials, travel and data collection costs, fees to non-Foreign Service personnel for research or assistance, and so on. Funds may not be used to compensate U.S. Government employees or their family members.

Each proposals should include a description of the project, its objectives, the role to be played by the applicants; a preliminary plan for disseminating the products of or lessons learned from the project; a budget; and a brief biography of the applicant(s). Proposals should not be longer than five double-spaced pages (exclusive of the budget and biographical material).

(See "Trust," page 8)

PROGRAM

Remembering General George Catlett Marshall: Soldier, Patriot, Statesman

After a spectacular 44-year career as a military officer, culminating in his outstanding service as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army during the Second World War, for which he was described by Bernard Baruch as America's "First Global Strategist" and by President Truman as "the architect of victory", George C. Marshall's plans to retire to his quiet Leesburg home in Virginia were interrupted by President Truman who asked him to mediate between the Nationalists and the Communists in China and then convinced him to become Secretary of State—a position that he accepted on January 21, 1947.

This is a year that our speaker, Mr. Larry Bland, will highlight since it was the year which launched the European Recovery Program known as the Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, the formation of NATO and later the Berlin airlift.

In 1953 General Marshall was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in recognition of his role in launching and supporting the Marshall plan which, in fact, saved Europe from the devastation of World War II. He was the first career military officer to receive this honor.

Sir Winston Churchill wrote of him:

"In war he was as wise and understanding in counsel as he was resolute in action.

In peace he was the architect of restoration of our battered European economy and, at the same time, labored tirelessly to establish a system of Western Defense.

He has always fought victoriously against defeatism, discouragement, and disillusion. Succeeding generations must not be allowed to forget his achievements and his example."

It seemed important for our group to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan and the Secretary of State



On November 11, 1947, Secretary of State George Marshall, flanked by Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett, appeared before a U.S. congressional committee to explain the need for European aid. He said that nations in more fortunate circumstances should help those in need, provided that they are prepared to help themselves.

Photo by R. H. Brockhurst, courtesy of George C. Marshall Research Library.

who was instrumental in its creation by inviting a top authority, Mr. Larry Bland, to be our speaker. Mr. Bland is the Editor and Project Director of *The Papers of George Catlett Marshall* for the George C. Marshall Foundation located in Lexington, Virginia. He has edited a seven-volume edition of documents, of which four have been published by the

Johns Hopkins University Press. He also edited *George C. Marshall Interviews and Reminiscences for Forrest C. Pogue*.

Mr. Bland's in-depth knowledge of the Marshall years and his enthusiasm make him a speaker not to be missed at our Program on **January 13 at 10 a.m.**

Barbara Gordon, Program Chair

Reservations Contact: Pearl Richardson, 202-265-3301 or AAFSW office (page 2)

January Program Coupon - Immediate Reply Requested

Tuesday, January 13, 1998, 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 (\$6 per member, \$6 per guest), to AAFSW Reservations, 5125 MacArthur Blvd NW, Suite 36, Washington, DC 20016.

REMINDER: Special permission granted members and guests to enter the Department of State building is limited to hours of meeting only.

No refunds can be made nor reservations accepted after January 6.

OBC Announces KidVid Winners



Congratulations to the 1997 winners of the annual KIDVID Contest sponsored by the Overseas Briefing Center and the Foreign Service Youth Foundation. Contestants produce a video that portrays life at an overseas post from a teen's perspective. This year's winners are Miriam Sievers (age 13) in Ankara and Beren Lindenberg (age 15) in Zagreb. Miriam included typical scenes from an embassy celebration of the Fourth of July, favorite American fast food spots, and footage from an old Turkish market which is still thriving. Beren captured footage of daily life and typical embassy housing in Croatia along with footage of some important historical Croatian monuments.

Each winner will receive a certificate and a monetary prize donated by FSYF. Their videos will be added to the growing collection of KidVids in OBC's library. These can be viewed at the Information Center at NFATC or borrowed for home viewing.

Details concerning the upcoming 1998 KidVid Contest have been announced in a cable to all posts. The contest begins December 1 and the deadline for submissions this year is

March 15. All children ages 10 to 18 are eligible to enter. This contest gives the younger members of the overseas community a venue to express their perspective of post life. It also allows their counterparts who may be going to that post an opportunity to view these videos at the Overseas Briefing Center or to borrow them for home use before their arrival.

Maureen Johnston, OBC



Giving Options Multiply

(Continued from page 1)

cost practically nothing. Let's say that you own stock in Microsoft, which cost you \$200, but is now worth \$5000. If you gave this stock to AAFSW, you could deduct the full appreciated value from your federal, state and local taxes, even though it cost you only \$200. If you sold the stock, you would have to pay capital gains taxes in all of these jurisdictions, which could be as much as 40%. Giving AAFSW the stock would shelter \$5000 of your income from other sources, while funding scholarships, charitable donations in the Washington area and all of AAFSW's worthwhile activities. Again, to find out more, contact the AAFSW office.

Trust Offers Grants

(Continued from page 6)

Proposals must be received by January 20, 1998. They should be sent to the J. Kirby Simon Foreign Service Trust at 82 Edgehill Road, New Haven, CT 06511, USA; or by fax to 203-432-0063. Inquiries may be made via the above means or by e-mail to: simon@mail.law.yale.edu.

Tips to Avoid Tragedy

Kirby Simon died of carbon monoxide poisoning in 1995 in a post-leased apartment in Taipei. Please take steps to protect yourself and your family so that this tragedy will never be repeated.

■ Ask for information regarding the safe use of your appliances and make sure you know what all warning labels say, even if (or especially if) they are written in a language you can not read.

■ A carbon monoxide detector is available at low cost from numerous stores in the U.S., including discount stores such as K-Mart or Price Club. Make the effort to get one and use it.

■ Take responsibility for the safety of yourself and your loved ones; don't assume that your housing is safe just because the government has placed you there.

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

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JANUARY 1998

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