

GLOBAL LINK

Association of American Foreign Service Women

FLO Celebrates 20th Anniversary

All AAFSW members are cordially invited to a reception given by the Association of American Foreign Service Women and the Family Liaison Office in honor of FLO's 20th anniversary. The date and time of the reception had not been determined at press time; if you are interested in attending, please contact the FLO office directly at 202-647-1076 for more information.

Did you know that the AAFSW Forum Committee was responsible for the development of the Family Liaison Office? Every time you visit your local CLO you are benefiting from the efforts of AAFSW members. For more on this fascinating story, see pages 4 and 5. To get involved in creating tomorrow's history, contact the AAFSW office describing your area of interest (office details on page 2).

Support Network Trains Volunteers

The AAFSW Evacuee Support Network held a training workshop on February 2. The Family Liaison Office (FLO) assisted ESN co-chairs, **Cristin Springet** and **Susan Tyson**, with the program.

FLO Director **Kendall Montgomery** began the session with welcoming remarks and an overview of the evacuation process, and **Virginia Boncy**, the FLO Support Officer, described the FLO involvement in a political evacuation.

Discussion centered on the fact that the needs of the Service are great and getting greater, and that transportation from the airport is the least of what we can provide for evacuees. Information about schools, housing, doctors, etc. are just as important to help a newcomer adjust to the Washington area. Many of our ESN members can and do give help in these ways.

We also have a strong need to help foreign-born spouses who may have never lived in this area or whose English is not fluent. Translation and interpreting skills are always in demand for this group.

Steve Hartman, Chief of the Transportation Office, spoke briefly about the mechanics of evacuations, including

(See "Evacuees," page 3)

DACOR Offers Scholarships

DACOR Bacon House Foundation is offering several scholarships and fellowships to children of Foreign Service Officers for study at the Hotchkiss School or Yale University for academic year 1998-99. These awards are made possible by and named for the late Ambassador Louis G. Dreyfus, Jr., who left a generous bequest.

Hotchkiss will select one qualified enrolled student for a \$5,000 scholarship. Applicants should contact the Director of Admissions, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT 06039-0800, providing evidence of a parent's Foreign Service status.

The merit-based Dreyfus awards at Yale may be up to \$5,000 for undergraduates and \$10,000 for graduate and professional students. For graduate awards, preference will be given to students in fields related to foreign affairs and for study toward a master's degree; any second-year award will be at half stipend.

For more information and application information, contact William C. Hamilton of the Foundation's Education Committee: tel. 202-682-0500 or 800-344-9127; fax 202-842-3295; DACOR Bacon House Foundation, 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Applications must be received by **March 15** for consideration.

DACOR (Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired) is an organization of retired Foreign Service Officers based in Washington, DC.

AAFSW

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Foreign Service Day Approaches

Foreign Service Day will be held May 8, 1998. Foreign Service retirees are invited to participate in the celebration. To receive an official invitation, send your name, address and telephone number to:

**Foreign Service Day
PER/EX - Room 3811
Department of State**

Washington, DC 20520-2810

Call 202-647-8115 if you need more information.

AAFSW EVENTS

MARCH

- 6 OBC Spouse to Spouse
7 OBC Communicating Across Cultures
10 **PROGRAM**
11(eve) OBC Tax Seminar
21(Sat) OBC Going Overseas (Logistics for families, children, singles, and couples)
23-27 OBC Employment Planning for the Foreign Service Spouse
24 **Board Meeting**
31 OBC Tax Seminar (lunch)

APRIL

- 4 (Sat) OBC Encouraging Resilience in the Foreign Service Child
7-8 OBC Life After the Foreign Service
8 OBC Personal Finances and Investments
14 **PROGRAM**
14-16 OBC English Teaching
20 OBC American Studies
21 OBC Communicating Across Cultures
22 OBC Spouse to Spouse
28 **Board Meeting**
29 OBC Traveling with Pets

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOC.
2101 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20037
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EMPLOYEE CONSULTATION
Room 5914 Department of State
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Telephone 202-647-1076
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202-863-2317
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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.

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Schools Office Changes Staffing

During 1997, the Office of Overseas Schools (A/OPR/OS) underwent several changes. Dr. Keith Miller, formerly the regional education officer for Africa, assumed the directorship, replacing Dr. Ernest Mannino; Dr. Joseph Carney, a USAID expert on Africa, became the regional education officer for Africa; Dr. Robert Spillane, former superintendent of Fairfax County, took responsibility for Europe; Dr. William Scotti, a former director in several overseas schools, is

The office has...the responsibility of ensuring the best possible educational opportunities

now overseeing the schools in South America; Dr. Beatrice Cameron changed regions and is now handling Near East/South Asia; and Dr. Salvatore Rinaldi continues as regional education officer for Central America, Colombia, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

In case you are not familiar with A/OPR/OS, the office has been in existence since 1964 with the responsibility of ensuring the best possible educational opportunities for dependents of U.S.

government personnel stationed abroad. It is staffed with regional education officers, each assigned oversight of a geographic region, who are well-informed about schools in their region.

A/OPR/OS publishes a one-page "Fact Sheet" on each overseas American-sponsored school assisted by the Department (these are now on the web). It also publishes on CD-ROM and in hard copy the "Summary School Information Form," giving detailed information on approximately 650 overseas schools, including course offerings, special programs, programs for children with special needs, extracurricular activities, graduation requirements, etc. The CD-ROM is distributed to all posts worldwide as well as to several offices in the Department.

A/OPR/OS also maintains a resource center, staffed by a coordinator, with information on schools such as yearbooks, newsletters, school profiles, curriculums, and videotapes. The office is located in Arlington, but will be relocating to Columbia Plaza in early 1999.

You are encouraged to contact A/OPR/OS for information on educational opportunities overseas for your school-age dependent children. (All contact information may be found on page 2 under "Other Useful Numbers.")



In Search of Etiquette Expertise

A number of readers responded to the letter in last month's *Global Link* that requested more articles for overseas members. Questions of protocol and etiquette emerged as popular topics.

Since you, our members, have a wealth of information and experience in these areas, we will try publishing questions sent in by readers, asking those who have answers to respond. Experts, please indicate where and when you have applied your answers, since what worked in Japan in 1980 may not be as effective in Venezuela today.

Our first question is the following:

Since spouses are no longer officially part of the embassy, although we are invited to many official functions, when are thank you notes appropriate?

Please send your responses to the AAFSW office or *Global Link*: all the contact information you need is on page two.

Network Volunteers Train to Provide Help to Evacuees

(Continued from page 1)

how to get folks out after commercial aircraft are no longer servicing countries in turmoil. He gave the group a new perspective on the problems and solutions in evacuations.

A short film, prepared by the Family Liaison, Consular Affairs, and Regional Security Offices showed in graphic detail what evacuees can experience in a political evacuation. Comments by officers who were evacuated from difficult security situations in Africa and Asia and actual footage of families leaving posts helped the ESN get a better understanding of what our Foreign Service colleagues are going through during the turbulent periods during and after an evacuation.

Susan Smith, a nurse practitioner from the MED Office of Overseas Pro-

grams, joined the group to discuss medical evacuations. She noted that most evacuees who come to the United States choose to go where they have family support, and in most cases, that means locations other than the Washington area.

Maggy Morse of the Foreign Service Lounge stopped by to talk about the services of her office. Evacuees are handed a folder of information prepared by FLO when arriving, and included in that folder is a locator card to be filed in the Lounge. This will ensure that the new arrival receives mail and messages that may come to them.

Sydney Tyson of the FLO Office spoke about her work as the Education and Youth Officer. She is a tremendous resource for those with children who are school-age—not only does she have

school information for all local jurisdictions, but she has a group for foreign service teens to join who are new to the area. **Judy Ikels** joined in with information on employment for returning spouses and how FLO can assist them.

Doris Reddington of the AAFSW Housing Office attended the workshop and also spoke briefly about the Housing Office, and their efforts to assist evacuees. She mentioned that they have a newly updated list of temporary accommodations, including the only two places in the Washington area that accept animals over 25 pounds.

For more information on the Evacuee Support Network or to get involved, contact one of the co-chairs (see page 2 for details.)

*Susan Tyson
Evacuee Support Network Co-Chair*

The Founding of the Family Liaison Office:

The following excerpts from past AAFSW newsletters sketch the history behind the founding of the Family Liaison Office, one of AAFSW's crowning success stories.

September 1976

"AAFSW has embarked on an ambitious and challenging project: to make a careful and balanced study of the modern Foreign Service wife, and to explore in detail four aspects of Foreign Service life that present problems to families today."

October 1976

"Five study groups are meeting on the topics of Family Life, the Modern Foreign Service Wife, Orientation, Re-entry and Women in Transition...We are soliciting the opinions of every Foreign Service wife through a mailing to 7,420 wives from State, AID and USIA. You might remind your Foreign Service friends that they may never have another opportunity like this to make themselves heard."

December 1976

"AAFSW has submitted to the Director General of the Foreign Service a preliminary report on the findings of the Forum to date. Input from the hundreds of Foreign Service women who attended the November 7 open meeting, attended study group meetings or responded to AAFSW's mailing to 9,000 Foreign Service women formed the basis of this report. AAFSW intends to follow up with a detailed report early in 1977, including suggestions of ways the Department of State can make the life of Foreign Service women as rewarding as possible."

May 1977

"On Tuesday, April 19th, the Steering Committee of the Forum met with the Director General, Ambassador Carol Laise, to discuss the Forum report, 'The Concerns of Foreign Service Spouses and Families.'

"[...]Recommendation #2, the establishment of a Family Liaison Office (FLO) was discussed at length. The



Lesley Dorman, then President of AAFSW, addresses those gathered at the reception after the opening of FLO, March 1, 1978.

Steering Committee stressed that this is the principal recommendation without which little else can be accomplished. The value of FLO to the Department can be analyzed in dollar and cents, which would justify cutting a position in one area to establish a new centralized office.

"Ambassador Laise wondered if it were possible to establish a 'sense of community' in Washington or whether efforts should be concentrated on posts abroad. We replied that there are two concepts involved—community and mobility. The crises seem to occur during the mobile periods. A Family Liaison Office would be a centralized place where information and help would be readily available.

"[...] Action to be taken includes sending the complete Forum Report to every post with a cover letter from the Director General and the Forum, asking for input on its possible implementation."

September 1977

"The Forum Report continues to generate activity... Responses coming in from the field cite as major areas of concern the question of relationship; the need for employment opportunities for spouses abroad; and the need to reassess representation and the spouses' roles in it.

"In preparation for opening a Family Liaison Office (FLO) the Department has asked the Steering Committee to

make recommendations about the functions of such an office and the qualifications for its Director. After long discussions, the Committee proposed that the office should provide regular, dependable dissemination of information from the foreign affairs agencies to family members in Washington and abroad, and to communicate the views and needs of families to these agencies.

Family Liaison Offices opened in the Embassies in Dar es Salaam and Bang-

One of the most difficult issues raised...is the need to review and clarify representational responsibilities and explore ways to compensate spouses for their work.

kok are but the most dramatic results of the report by the Forum on Concerns of Foreign Service Spouses and Families presented to the Department of State last March. Word from other posts is still coming in. Plans for establishing a Family or Community Liaison Office in Washington and for implementing other Forum recommendations are underway."

October 1977

"Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, in

AAFSW Establishes Validity of Family Concerns

speaking to AAFSW members at their September meeting, underscored his belief that the issues raised by the Forum are of great importance. As a first step, the Secretary has authorized the establishing of a two person Family Liaison Office (FLO).

"[...]The Department, according to the Secretary, needs to clarify 1) whether it 'needs/wants family members to have training and if so, what kind of training; 2) whether the training currently offered is adequate and 3) if not, what changes need to be made.' Specific attention will need to be paid to the question of language training for spouses..."

"One of the most difficult issues raised in the Forum Report, according to the Secretary, is the need to review and clarify representational responsibilities and explore ways to compensate spouses for their work."

"I know that many women are adamant on the subject. Their husbands' salaries are not high enough to deal with inflation [...] and their own efforts on behalf of the U.S. missions abroad have not been adequately recognized or appreciated. I do not see any means available by which we could compensate spouses for representation abroad because of legal and financial constraints, **but I also do not believe we can continue to ignore this issue.**"[emphasis original]."

December 1977

"New positions are opening up in our Missions all around the world. They come with different titles: Family Liaison Officer, Community Service Coordinator, Post Family Liaison Officer or just plain Liaison Officer. Designed by various posts in response to the AAFSW's Forum Report, they will be the overseas counterparts of the Washington-based Family Liaison Office to be opened in February, 1978."

"Initial reports indicate that the responsibilities of the FLOs at each post will vary as much as their titles. Duties will range from briefing newcomers to providing a file on landlords to personally inspecting housing arrangements for new arrivals. Functions prescribed

by almost all posts include setting up a skills/talent bank for spouses and dependents and updating the post report."

February 1978

"The Department of State has extended a cordial invitation to all members of AAFSW to attend the formal opening of the Family Liaison Office (FLO) on Wednesday, March 1. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is expected to attend the ribbon cutting at the suite of three rooms (1216A) near the C Street Diplomatic Entrance. A reception on the Eighth Floor for departmental and other invited dignitaries as well as AAFSW members will follow."

March 1978

"The opening of the Family Liaison

Office (FLO) on March 1 was highlighted by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's remarks and ribbon-cutting, the presentation of certificates of appreciation to the members of the Forum Steering Committee which wrote the Report on the Concerns of the Foreign Service Spouses and Families, and the awarding of a plaque to the Association."

"Ambassador Barnes expressed the Department's appreciation for the 'contributions (the Association) has made, and particularly the attitude they have shown in addressing the problems to which the Forum Report spoke. It is the attitude of constructive, positive, thoughtful and realistic assessment of problems, a realization that there is indeed a community in the Foreign Service that needs to be preserved and needs to be strengthened.'"

A Personal Reflection

How Times Have Changed (?)

Some of our members find it hard to believe that 20 years have passed since they celebrated the triumph of getting the Foreign Service agencies to recognize the needs of families. Other AAFSW members were out skipping on playgrounds when this momentous breakthrough occurred.

I found it fascinating to go through piles of old newsletters and other documents to trace the history of FLO's development. Some comments sounded oddly familiar:

"Since you ask for input I feel that I may say, as the wife of a retired FSO, that I fail to comprehend the reason for so much dissatisfaction in the life of those whose husbands are pursuing a career in the Foreign Service—surely those who have special skills can find enrichment by voluntarily offering their services...Was there something wrong with me because I felt satisfied and, if I were a young wife of today, would I be full of irritations—these are imponderables."

Although this letter appeared in the

December 1976 AAFSW newsletter, I have heard the same comments, almost verbatim. Which generation has ever considered the ways of its successors to be acceptable or even comprehensible?

Issues regarding training, orientation, compensation for spouses hit with a heavy burden of representational entertaining (are there still spouses working 60 hours a week without being paid?), opportunities for satisfying employment (and, sorry, Mrs. 1976, enrichment just won't pay the mortgage or the kids' college), child care, elder care and so on still concern Foreign Service families.

The success of AAFSW's 1976-77 Forum Committee underscores the need for an independent organization to serve as a catalyst for change in situations where the bureaucracy has become mired in "it can't be done." It also underscores the need for those who have concerns both to refuse to be told that they are wrong for having them and to persevere in seeking workable solutions.

Jan Fischer Bachman, Editor



Kenya's Resource Network Association: Family Members Work Together on Employment

By Joanne Grady Husky

The Problem

Eligible family members accompanying spouses assigned to American embassies and consulates around the world have a very difficult time finding satisfying employment. In countries where the United States does not have a bilateral work agreement, it is almost impossible for family members to work on the local economy. If there is a reciprocal agreement, work permits are often costly, time consuming, and difficult to get. Most international agencies are required to

Eligible family members in Kenya have established themselves as a resource rather than a liability.

hire nationals, not expatriates. The positions available in the Mission are often uninteresting work at low pay, but even they may be scarce because they are not necessarily re-bid annually or they may be filled by Americans living in the host country.

The personnel process within the Mission is often not user-friendly for eligible family members. Job announcements issued in Administrative Notices might not get to family members at home because of employee travel or for other reasons. Many positions are not publicized at all or are filled informally.

Some USG agencies issue contracts to people known personally to the agencies without ever opening the positions to bidding. Consulting firms in the United States are notified of projects and invited to bid without any obligation to hire candidates in the contracting country first. Some agencies procure outside contractors with high overhead costs without ever bothering to announce the availability of the contracts at post. Ironically, eligible family members sometimes hear about job opportunities at post from contacts in the U.S. and have to apply to the U.S. company to work at the job at their post.

The consequence: low morale, underemployed and dissatisfied family members (sometimes resulting in expensive Separate Maintenance Allowances if they depart post), and a disjointed Mission.

The Solution

Eligible family members of the U.S. Mission in Kenya have formed the Resource Network Association (RNA), a group of people at post who have a wide range of professional skills. These skills include finance, management, training, health, security, computers, education, administration, logistics, media, design, organizational development, natural resource management, and much more. We have established a database that allows the Mission's managers to easily and quickly locate the professional expertise needed to get a job done.

All newly arrived family members are invited to join RNA. The database is coordinated through the CLO office. RNA acts as a network to match skilled professionals to job opportunities both inside the Embassy and on the local economy. RNA advocates for hiring eligible family members before looking at other sources and holds frequent meetings to provide eligible family members with support, information, and ideas.

The Benefits

RNA offers quick and easy access to skilled professionals who are culturally sensitive, already adjusted to living in the country, knowledgeable about how to get things done, and available immediately without the cost of international travel, per diem, and lodging. In short, the RNA approach makes sense in terms of time, money, and efficiency.

The Result

RNA has asked for a commitment from the leadership of the U.S. Mission in Kenya to provide RNA with information on all procurements, small or large. RNA asks to be informed of employment opportunities before or at least at the

same time they are advertised globally in order to compete on a level playing field for professional opportunities. Employees of the Kenya Mission are now looking here first.

The eligible family members in Kenya have established themselves as a resource rather than a liability. The RNA is serving as an advocate and employment agency as well as a support network. It has given family members a voice, and by organizing resources has given the Mission an asset. It is a win/win situation.

Thank you to the Family Liaison Office for providing this article to Global Link.

OBC Offers Employment Planning Course

Now is the time to register for the Employment Planning Workshop, scheduled for March 23-27. This five-day course teaches the skills you need to utilize your Foreign Service experience in an overall employment plan. It features the best current speakers and the latest information on new family member employment programs. It will help you unravel the mysteries of how to apply for a government job, and give you an instant network of other job seekers. The final day, which focuses on employment available to spouses who are posted abroad, may also be taken as a one-day course.

If you are looking for a job, frustrated with your current position, thinking of working in the future or wondering about employment overseas, call immediately to find out more and register for this course: 703-302-7268.

Employment Figures

The 1997 Family Member Employment Report compiled by the Family Liaison Office revealed that in 1996 39% of Eligible Family Members were working overseas and 8% were seeking employment.

Program

Brian Lamb—Host of C-SPAN's *Booknotes*—Discusses His New Book *Booknotes*

The understated but very popular Brian Lamb, who hosts a weekly Sunday night television program entitled *Booknotes*, in which he interviews a variety of authors of non-fiction and thought-provoking books, became so popular that he decided to compile highlights of 119 of these interviews in a book by the same name, deleting his questions and making the responses read as essays. The result is a collection that reveals in their

"C-SPAN's literary interviews are among the few surviving expressions of sheer intelligence that television has to offer."

own words the minds of some of our finest contemporary authors as well as world leaders, including the heads of all three branches of the U.S. government—Chief Justice, President, Speaker of the House. Among the many kudos for the television program is that of the *Christian Science Monitor*, which is quoted on the flyleaf of the book, "C-SPAN's literary interviews are among the few surviving expressions of sheer intelligence that television has to offer."

Besides being the host-interviewer of

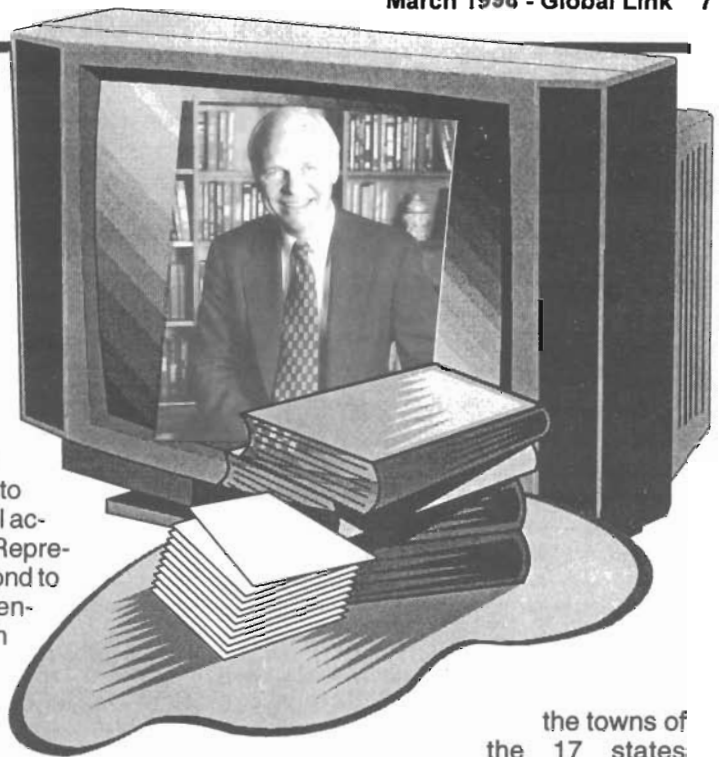
Booknotes, Brian Lamb is the creator and CEO of C-SPAN and C-SPAN 2, the first to cover the gavel-to-gavel activities of the House of Representatives, and the second to do the same for the Senate. Since their debut in 1979, these two non-profit television stations also include many other important aspects of American life which are considered important to the American public's understanding of the government and the society in which they live.

An example of the latter is the very educational and extremely interesting C-SPAN series retracing Alexis de Tocqueville's journeys in North America. De Tocqueville recorded his experiences in a two-volume work in which he analyzed American democracy. This series of broadcasts is being done from inside a yellow school bus that serves as C-SPAN's mobile studio. As it stops in

the towns of the 17 states visited by de Tocqueville, the citizenry and especially students of all ages are invited to visit and participate in learning more about democracy.

This busy CEO of the C-SPANs; this unique host of his television Sunday *Booknotes* has graciously agreed to be the host-speaker at our March Program. He might even autograph your book if you so desire.

This Program will be held on **March 10 at 10 a.m.** in the Benjamin Franklin room of the Main State Department building.
Barbara Gordon, Program Chair



Nominations are currently being sought for 1998-99 officers.

If you are interested in supporting Foreign Service families in a practical way, call the AAFSW office at 202-362-6514 and offer your services!

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

March Program Coupon - Immediate Reply Requested

Tuesday, March 10, 1998, 10 a.m., 8th Floor, State Department

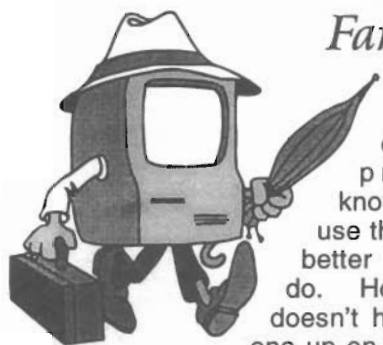
Name (as you wish it on name tag): _____
Date of Birth or Social Security Number: _____
Telephone: _____ New Member? yes _____ no _____
Name(s) of Guest(s) with DOB or SSN: _____

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, 15125 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 March 3.



Family Values: Good Web Sites

Your children probably know how to use the internet better than you do. However, it doesn't hurt to get one up on them with good inside information.

Nine top U.S. librarians sorted through 50,000 web sites to identify those that could be recommended for children. The results of the American Library Association's search committee may be found at <http://www.ala.org/parents/greatsites>.

The listing is very easy to use, even for an internet novice (just start clicking!). Hundreds of educational, interesting and fun sites appear. This is a good place to check if you would like to supplement your children's education or help them complete school projects.

A Directory of Dictionaries

Headed to a new country and loath to pack a new set of dictionaries? Check <http://www.bucknell.edu/~rbeard/diction.html>. This site lists more than 400 online dictionaries in over 130 different languages, Afrikaans to Xhosa. As an added perk, the list of related sites include information on thesauri, gram-

mar and "linguistic fun" (something which sounds all too familiar to Foreign Service families).

DC and Disney

AAFSW Play Group Coordinator Kelly Midura recently discovered a family site that includes lots of local information on the Washington, DC area. Check www.family.com. Once you're there, click on "local." You will then need to choose your state (or DC, which perversely falls under "W" for Washington). Two of the local parents' magazines, *Washington Parent* and *Washington Families* list lots of local activities and places to go for children of all ages. The Family.com page (which seems to be hosted, rather quietly, by Disney) allows you to send free online greeting cards, post questions to online bulletin boards (where discussions occur on everything from toddlers to teens) and access lots of other information.

Rainy Days and Recipes

Some commercial sites provide more service than sales. <http://www.whirlpoolcorp.com> has everything from kids' recipes and excerpts from cookbooks for adults to stain-removal tips and ways to teach your children how to do the laundry—not to mention, rainy-day activities which have nothing to do with appliances.

Journal Seeks Foreign Service Authors

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) welcomes submissions to the "Speak Out" and "Postcards from Abroad" sections of the *Foreign Service Journal*.

The "Speak Out" section is the place where writers express opinions on issues specific to the Foreign Service, its employees, and its work. Recent topics have included an insider's account of how to work with personnel and career development officers; and a comparison of the roles of corporate and Foreign Service spouses.

The FSJ encourages writers to take strong stands, but asks that all claims be documented. Anyone wishing to submit an idea can contact Managing Editor Kathleen Currie for guidance at 2101 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20037; telephone 202-338-4045, ext. 524; or by e-mail at journal@afsa.org. Articles should be 1500-2000 words.

"Postcards from Abroad" consists of short pieces (600 to 800 words) that convey a sense of place through anecdote, reporting, and keen observation. Recent "Postcards" have described a honeymoon in Turkey, a Laotian road with the remnants of several governments still clinging to it, and the bicycle commuters of Denmark.

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