



### Is your name “SOMEONE?”

We have been so blessed by the many people who keep AAFSW activities vibrant. I can't thank you all enough, for I know that you are the lifeblood of the organization. I would love to thank each of you by name, but I don't want to miss anyone - please just know how much you are appreciated.

AAFSW always needs more volunteers, and you may be wondering what you can do to help. I've got some ideas!

1. We have some interest in putting together some kind of *fundraiser gala* event in DC- would you like to join a committee to make this happen? Let us know. Several people have come forth - we'd like to help you get organized.
2. We've been looking into other locations for our AAFSW office as fears of rent increases creep around. We need a *move committee* to look into alternatives, help plan a timeline of action, help sort out the tasks that would be involved, collate the costs. This is a planning committee at this point, with some collection of information to use for deliberation.
3. Along the line of the possibility of making a move, every time we look around at our office, we know it's time to *clean house*! We can see a couple of days of energy devoted to this task. Would you like to help us unearth all the treasures that are beneath the clutter?
4. Now that we have a wonderful book to sell, “Realities of Foreign Service Life”, we sure could use someone willing to devote time and attention to *marketing the book*. This is turning into a wonderful monetary resource, and we want to be sure we are letting people know about it.
5. Our website could use someone to *sell advertising*. We have a list of companies and individuals who are interested in doing just that - we only have to have someone take charge of the process, promote it and monitor the contracts that are created. In the past, we have offered a percentage of the revenue to the person doing the work. Could that be you?
6. You all know about volunteering for the annual Bookfair, but have you thought how you can *help our book operations* during the rest of the year? We need someone to *coordinate the volunteer cashiers* who sell books in BookPlace in Foggy Bottom and some more volunteer cashiers who sell the books Monday through Friday from 12:00 - 2:00 in the State Department. We also need someone to *coordinate the book pickups* and drive around to various depot collection points and deliver the books to the State Department (coordinating with our Book Operations Manager).

-Terri Williams, AAFSW President

### Foreign Born Spouses Group

A sense of togetherness, belonging, and comfort is gained at the monthly luncheons of the Foreign Born Spouses. On Thursday, May 22nd, I had the chance to be a part of this large group; now peaking at 64 members originating from all areas of the world. The hostess on this particular date was Suzanne Madden originally from Vietnam. We were all in awe when guest speaker Lesley Dorman spoke of her adventures belonging to the AAFSW. One piece of advice she gave that will stick with many for all of time is “Go as high as you can in everything you do.” Luncheons will be held every third Wednesday of the month and volunteer hostesses are needed. If you would like to be a part of this group, contact Lisa Wilkinson at [alew217@aol.com](mailto:alew217@aol.com).

-Jennifer Niebels, Global Link Editor

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT!**



### Tell Us What You Think!

Contact AAFSW at:  
5125 MacArthur Blvd.,  
NW Suite 36  
Washington, DC  
20016  
Tel 202-362-6514  
Fax 202-362-6589  
[office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org)

**NEW  
OFFICE HOURS  
Monday-Friday  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

### Help Us Welcome.....

We are pleased to announce that Debbi Miller will be filling the very large (metaphorical) shoes of Margaret Teich, who was our capable and charming office manager for several years. Margaret has been posted with her husband to Madagascar, and we will miss her greatly.

We're happy to welcome Debbi, and are confident that she will prove as capable and as vital to us.

### Playgroup

For more info on locations and times, contact Anne Sullivan, Playgroup Coordinator, at: 703-359-6955

### French Group

Contact Christel McDonald at 703-525-9755 for more info.

## Welcome and Thank You!

### New Members

Shirley Ann Barth  
 Francesca Trivisani  
 Peter R. Barte  
 Ruby E. Carlino  
 Erin Golsen  
 Inga Heemink  
 Corby M. Keenan  
 Michael D. Lampel  
 Balena Lloyd  
 Jimmy Ray Mauldin  
 Janet McCallister  
 Clara Monceau  
 John C. Moor  
 Joseph Scheppman  
 Silje Urke  
 Natalie Yambrusic

### Charitable Donors

Ms. Anne L. Armstrong  
 Ms. Gerre L. Craig  
 Ms. Mary J. Jacques  
 Ms. Alice M. Lowenthal  
 Hon. Patricia Gates Lynch  
 David and Jean Newsom  
 Ms. Catherine Ostick  
 Ms. Susan L. Quainton  
 Ms. Lenora Rowell  
 Mr. Harold H. Saunders  
 Ms. Gladys Baker  
 Ms. Margaret Bender  
 Ms. Kay Dale-Foreman  
 Ms. Chung Hee George

### Charitable Donors

Ms. April Herbert  
 Ms. Mary Houdek  
 Ms. Betty Lou Hummel  
 Ms. Linda Lynch  
 Ms. Genevieve Mason  
 Ms. Claire Mueller  
 Ms. Vivian Norden  
 Ms. Estelle Rubenstein  
 Ms. Cristin Springet  
 Ms. Eleanor Tragen  
 Ms. Francesca Trivisani  
 Ms. Ruth Villalovos  
 Ms. Helen Gordon  
 Ms. Bonnie Hash



*IN MEMORY  
 OF  
 INGRID BODDE*

Ms. Sally H. Phelps

*AT THE REQUEST OF  
 MR. AND MRS.  
 WILLIAM C. HARROP*

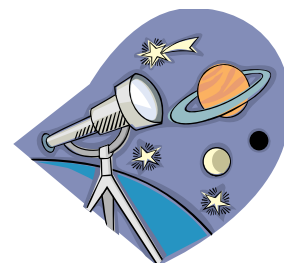
The Nelson B. Delavan Foundation

## Congratulations, *Tales From A Small Planet!*

Have you made a donation to *Tales From A Small Planet* yet? Now is the time! This organization, currently spearheaded by AAFSW members Francesca Kelly and Victoria Hess, has been awarded a challenge grant from the Una Chapman Cox Foundation. Every dollar *Tales From A Small Planet* now receives will be matched by a dollar from the Cox Foundation.

The AAFSW Board salutes *Tales From A Small Planet* and the many AAFSW members who contribute their time and talents to its success. The entire expatriate community benefits from its Real Post Reports and other important articles. AAFSW donated \$500 to *Tales From A Small Planet* this year to support its work.

To make a donation, visit [www.talesmag.com](http://www.talesmag.com), or contact the AAFSW office ([office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org)) for further information. *Tales From A Small Planet* is a 501 (3) (c) organization, as is AAFSW, so your donation is tax-deductible.





## FLO Trains CLOs and LEAs from Overseas Missions

The Family Liaison Office will train 60 Community Liaison Office Coordinators in Washington, DC during two separate training conferences in the fall. Training sessions in October 2002 and May 2003 brought 53 CLOs to Washington for a 7-working day immersion into developing CLO professional skills and the resources available to help Foreign Service employees and families living overseas. Course participants become familiar with FLO and other Washington-based offices including the FSI Transition Center, the Office of Overseas Schools, the Office of Medical Affairs and the Employee Consultation Service, the Office of Commissary and Recreation Affairs, and Crisis Management Training. In FY 2002, 72% of the CLO corps was trained.

Also this fall, SNAP Local Employment Advisors (LEA) will attend training in Washington, D.C. from September 22 - 26. The program is designed to introduce, educate, and prepare new LEAs to be successful in implementing and building the SNAP program overseas. The program will also provide training for existing LEAs.

---

## Upcoming Parenting Information Series Programs

### ABCs of LD/AD/HD and What You Need to Know for the College Search Process

Monday, September 29, 2003 in Rm. 1205 from 12 – 1 p.m.

### Funding Your Higher Education

Monday, October 20, 2003 from 12 – 1 p.m. Room to be announced.

These programs are sponsored by the Family Liaison Office as part of their annual Parenting Information Series. Those interested in attending should contact the Family Liaison Office at 202-647-1076.

---

## PIT RETIREMENT BUYBACK

**UPDATES**

The Family Liaison Office, AAFSW and AFSA were initially pleased with the passage of PIT Retirement Buyback legislation, making it possible for family members, as described below, to “buy back” their retirement benefits. The PIT retirement buyback language was incorporated into the State Authorization Bill which passed in September 2002. Language in the State authorization bill called for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to issue the implementing guidelines. Once these guidelines are issued and roles and responsibilities more clearly defined, the Department of State will send out a cable and release a Department Notice with instructions.

We encourage former PIT employees to gather together all personnel documentation for the period covered by the legislation, 1989-1998. Even though the legislation has passed, you should also be advised that the Department of State can not process any buyback requests for this timeframe until implementing guidelines are issued. If you are interested in receiving information updates about the PIT Retirement Buyback, please send an email to [FLOAskEmployment@state.gov](mailto:FLOAskEmployment@state.gov) in the following format:

SUBJECT: PIT BUYBACK - YOUR NAME

Please add my name to distribution list for information and updates on the PIT Buyback

NAME, CURRENT ADDRESS, PERMANENT ADDRESS, PERSONAL EMAIL, BUSINESS EMAIL, SERVICE DATES (i.e., 1989-90, 1992-95), POST or POSTS WHERE YOU WORKED ON A PIT APPOINTMENT.

Foreign Service family members who worked overseas on part-time, intermittent or temporary appointments (“PITs”) were excluded from retirement coverage when the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) law took effect in the beginning of 1989. This means that family members who worked as PITs could not buy back retirement credit for any PIT work performed between January 1, 1989 and May 24 1998. Almost 200 family members who worked as PITs between 1989 and 1998 returned surveys to the Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide (AAFSW) as an indication of their interest in this issue.





## Neighborhood Network and Overseas Representative Revival

Do you remember when we had the “Neighborhood Network” that people moving to DC could use as a way to find out more about their new location? With AAFSW’s database, you can still do that. Just contact the office by email and give Debbi Miller the zip codes in which you are interested in finding more information. Debbi can go to the database to find out if there are any of our members in that location and put you in touch (with the members’ prior permission, of course!). The office email is [office@aafsw.org](mailto:office@aafsw.org).

Ruby Carlino volunteered to put our latent Overseas Representative program into cyberspace after she gets to post, and we said “YES, and THANK YOU!” So, if you are overseas, you may be hearing from her on how you can be part of this important work. We know we need to connect more deliberately with our overseas communities, and see this as an important way to increase our membership, as well as to find out how we might be more responsive to post needs. Welcome, Ruby! Let’s see where this one can go with the help of email and the internet!

## Recapping a Day of Celebration and Freedom

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, AAFSW held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Independence Day Barbecue at Nottoway Park in Vienna, VA. Young and old alike enjoyed races, activities, crafts, a magic show, and numerous rounds of volleyball. The children were in awe of the magic performed by Pete Dinoia, part-time magician, full-time DS agent. Adults particularly enjoyed the opportunity to visit with others in the foreign affairs community. “AAFSW: Where the Foreign Service Becomes a Community” read the banner overhead. Many commented that this event really did help them feel they were a part of a community.



Gillian Sullivan enjoying watermelon while she and Avery Smith are entranced by Pete Dinoia’s magic show.



Children enjoying a “kangaroo hop” race while a game of volleyball entertains several adults.



Barbara Naland supervising daughters Lucy and Alice and friend Avery Smith at the crafts table.

# Member Link

5

**Yes I want to help  
at BookFair '03!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you have a DOS pass? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If No, please give date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**OCTOBER 17 - 26, 2003**

**Please circle the times that you wish to work:**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
13 Columbus Day (set-up)	14 9-12 (set- up) 12-3	15 9-12 (set-up) 12-3	16 X	17 12-5:30 Family Day	18 9:30-1 12:30-4:30	19 9:30-1 12:30-4:30 Open to Public
20 10:30-3:30 Open to Public	21 10:30-3:30	22 10:30-3:30	23 10:30-3:30	24 10:30-3:30	25 9:30-1 12:30-4:30	26 9:30-1 12:30-4:30 Open to Public
27 9-12 clean-up 12-3				<b>I would like to assist as a:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cashier</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reader</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Floor person</b>		

**Remove this form, fold and place stamp on designated spot.**

**Return by October 3rd! We need you!**

AAFSW  
5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW  
Suite 36  
Washington, DC 20016

Place  
stamp  
here

## THE AAFSW NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE ART CORNER

In inventorying donations, we find that we cannot accommodate more books because of storage limitations. However, we need donations for ART CORNER—“objets d’art,” collectibles and local handicraft from posts overseas. The latter is always extremely popular and virtually certain to sell at a good price. Most proceeds are used to provide various types of Foreign Service community support.



### IN THE DEPARTMENT:

Donations may be dropped off at the BOOKROOM (which is now located in B816), Monday through Friday, in the mornings, preferably, or call Robin Jones at 202-223-5796 to be sure that someone will be there to receive them. It helps enormously if you are able to bring donations to BOOKROOM.

### IN THE WASHINGTON AREA:

Pick-ups can be arranged by calling Dianne Bodeen at 703-536-2235.

### FROM OVERSEAS:

Donations may be pouched to AAFSW BOOKROOM, Room #B816 - Main State (HST).



## JOB SEEKERS NETWORK GROUP

The job seekers network group is for Foreign Service family members who are committed to a job search. Whether looking for Federal employment or employment outside of government, searching for a job is a challenge. Successful job searches require time, energy, information, skills, and the motivation to get started and keep going! The Network Group will serve to keep you informed of new job search information, keep you motivated, and put you in touch with colleagues also looking for work. The idea is to share information, contacts, tips, and offer support. A specific meeting schedule will be decided at the start-up meeting.

- FOR:** Foreign Service Family Members in the process of job search in the Washington D.C. area
- WHEN:** Start-up meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2003  
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- WHERE:** Family Liaison Office, Department of State, Room 1239  
(C-Street entrance)
- CONTACT:** Jenneke Fijn van Draat, Employment Program Specialist
- PHONE:** 202-647-1076
- EMAIL:** FLOAskEmployment@state.gov
- RSVP:** By Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Please call or email FLO to get your name on the list so that you will be able to enter the building.  
If you don't have a diplomatic passport, we will need your date of birth (DOB) and SS number.

---

### **Awarded for a Job Well-Done:** **Life-time Contributions to Foreign Service Family Members**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) held its annual awards ceremony in the Benjamin Franklin Room on the Eighth Floor of the Department of State.

Mette Beecroft, AAFSW President Emerita and former AAFSW President, received a one-time "Special Award of Recognition" for life-time contributions to Foreign Service family members.

In her brief remarks, Mette commented that 32 years ago when she, her husband and young son first joined the Foreign Service, it was considered suspect, weak and unacceptable to bring up "quality of life" issues. However, now the culture has changed considerably to the point where these same "quality of life" issues are considered important. In accepting the award, Mette also recognized the many individuals who have been and are now involved in improving the "quality of life" for us all—both through offices in the Department of State (e.g. the Family Liaison Office) and through volunteer groups (e.g. the AAFSW).

John Naland, AFSA President, concluded by thanking Mette "...for three decades of service to Foreign Service family members."



---

**ATTENTION**

The BOOKFAIR meeting scheduled for August 30th has been **changed** to September 6th in the AAFSW Office at 10:00 AM.

## Resource Center

### FSI

#### Transition Center

4000 Arlington Blvd.  
Rm. E2126  
Arlington, Virginia  
Mon.-Fri. 8:15 - 5:00  
Tel: (703) 302-7277  
Call for more hours,  
information, and  
access.

### Family Liaison Office

(M/DGHR/FLO)  
Harry S Truman  
Bldg. Rm. 1239  
Department of State  
Washington, DC  
20520  
Tel: (202) 647-1076,  
or (800) 440-0397  
Fax: (202) 647-1670

## Come One Come All to the Annual Welcome Back Potluck Picnic

The Foreign Service Youth Foundation cordially invites all Foreign Service parents and their families to its Annual Welcome Back Potluck Picnic. We hope returning and new families will join other FS families on Sunday, September 21, 2003 from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm.



At Lubber Run Park, North Columbus Street and Second Street North, Arlington, Virginia. FSYP will provide hotdogs and drinks. Please bring a dish to share with six people. Volunteers are needed to help and also to welcome our returnees—please let me know if you can help out—There are many different ways to help!!

Ms. Linda Harris Sittig, author of *New Kid in School: Using Literature to Help Children in Transition*, will answer: “Will Gilla Monsters meet me at the airport?” and will speak on transition strategies to schools in America. Ms. Sittig is an elementary school teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools and an adjunct professor at Shenandoah University. Mr. Brian Dickson, IB coordinator at George Mason High, will share information about the International Baccalaureate program.

AWAL Program Directors, Eileen Long-Farias and Libby Parker, and Globe Trotters’ Program Director, Sheri Mestan Bochantin, will offer activities for teens and pre-teens.

Please take this opportunity to connect with old and new Foreign Service friends and to tell returnees about the current Washington scene. Parents can learn about the re-entry adjustment process and what the FSYP youth development programs offer your family. If you know of any Newcomers or Foreign Service families in the area, please invite them to join in the fun.

Reservations are requested by Wednesday, September 17. Please RSVP to Melanie Newhouse at 301-404-6655 or e-mail [fsyf@fsyf.org](mailto:fsyf@fsyf.org)

5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW  
Suite #36  
Washington, DC 20016



**NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MERRIFIELD VA  
PERMIT NO. 2711**

**Address Service Requested**

**Don't let this be your last Global Link Issue!**  
**Renew your membership at [www.aafsw.org](http://www.aafsw.org)**