



8 April — AAFSW
Board Meeting

12 April (Sat.)—
**Foreign Born
Spouses Group**
(Christine Zarr:
301-229-7218)

4 and 18 April —
French Group
(Christel McDonald:
703-525-9755)

4, 11, 18, 25 April —
Playgroup
(Anne Sullivan:
703-359-6955)

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
The office is normally open
M-F, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Membership in AAFSW is
open to all members of
the U.S. foreign affairs
community for just \$40
per year. Join today!*

*Honorary President:
Alma Johnson Powell
President: Terri Williams*

*Global Link Editor:
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Pictured here enjoying traditional Taiwanese cooking are some of the nearly 30 members of AAFSW's Foreign Born Spouses Group who gathered in the home of Sandy Taylor for the group's February meeting. For more information about the Foreign Born Spouses Group, which meets monthly in a member's home, contact Chris Zarr at 301-229-7218.

Meet AAFSW's Proposed Slate of Officers for 2003-2004

It's election time again at AAFSW. Please remember to complete the ballot slip on page 2 to elect the following officer positions (AAFSW's Executive Board): President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and BOOKFAIR Treasurer. To streamline operations, the AAFSW Board recently voted to consider changing the bylaws so that elected officers would serve for two years. This change requires membership approval. Please use the same ballot slip to indicate your approval/disapproval.

Terri Williams
President

"It's rewarding to be part of the dynamics of AAFSW as it enters its next exciting phase. The role of service has been a principle of our association from the beginning and, keeping that in focus as we draw in the new generations, continues to be a core purpose. More than ever

before, we recognize that living in the Foreign Service affects each person involved: the employee, the spouse, the family members, singles, partners, parents, children and pets. I hope we can strive to be receptive to these changing concerns and continue to find ways to recognize the valuable wisdom of those who have followed this path before. What a wonderful organization!"

Judy Felt
First Vice-President

"AAFSW is poised to take off in so many directions. The Internet discussion group, Livelines, is a vital communication tool and the Website unites many of the information resources about Foreign Service life. I hope AAFSW can continue to evolve, perhaps initiate a new Forum discussing current Foreign Service

Continued on page 2

Welcome

New and Returning AAFSW Members:
 Sonia Alvarez-Oppus
 Barbara Conaty
 Bert S. Curtis
 Anne D. Gorenstein
 Kathryn Krubsack
 Mary Clare Penney

Thank You!

Generous Donations:
 Ms. Le Rowell

Generous Donations in Memory of Elizabeth Haselton:
 Ms. Joy V. Anderson
 Mr. Anthony Hathaway
 Ms. Nancy Horan
 Mr. and Mrs. James F. Mack
 Ms. Le Rowell

Mr. Norris Haselton, Jr. made a generous contribution in memory of his mother. Here's what he writes:

"Many thanks for the *Global Link* papers you've been forwarding to me. I am gratified about and inspired by Mother's friends' cash-contribution responses.

I really don't see why I shouldn't get in on the action, too: please find enclosed a gift to the BOOKFAIR in Mother's memory — she was totally dedicated to it and the AAFSW for such a long time. And my Father and I were dragged in by the ear lobes for many years and made contributions of sorts of our own back then.

Regards to all the hard working people in the BOOKFAIR!"

Continued from page 1

family member concerns. I hope we can increase membership levels and raise funds to support and expand our service. When my family was serving in overseas assignments, AAFSW was always here, fighting to make our life better and more secure. I hope to be a part of continuing that concern for the Foreign Service families serving us overseas."

Sandy Taylor Second Vice-President

Sandy brings years of experience working with special interest organizations. She currently heads the Opera International Guild, is on the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and is a member of Welcome to Washington International Club. In the past, she has been Taiwan Country Director of Pearl S. Buck International, Oregon State Representative in Taiwan, and Ways and Means Chairperson of the Taipei International Women's Club. She has also distinguished herself as a mortgage broker, real estate consultant, and retail manager.

Sandy lives in Montgomery Country. She has two daughters, one in Boston and one still in college and living at home. Her husband now works for the Boeing Company. Her primary interests are community service and international communications.

Barbara Ratigan Treasurer

"I have been the AAFSW Treasurer for the last three years and am enjoying the experience very much. I recommend this job to anyone who is interested in getting involved with AAFSW and welcome hearing from you during the coming year. I want to thank our office manager Margaret Teich (who is off to Madagascar) for all her help and support! We have been lucky to have you, Margaret. And you certainly have made my job much easier!"

Mary Houdek Secretary

"I'd like to see more new faces joining AAFSW and actively participating on the Board and committees. I also would hope that more people would volunteer to share some of the responsibilities currently resting on the shoulders of just a few people. I think this organization is at its best when it focuses its energies on identifying priorities and then commits resources to tackling them."

Vacant BOOKFAIR Treasurer

Please consider volunteering for this important job. BOOKFAIR needs you! Contact Judy Felt at 703-379-1414 or at JaJuFelt@aol.com.



BALLOT Vote Now!

Please complete this ballot and mail or fax it to the AAFSW office at 5125 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Suite 36, Washington, D.C. 20016 —Fax: 202-362-6589. Be sure your name is on the envelope, as it will be verified against the AAFSW membership list. You also may email us at office@aafsw.org.

DEADLINE: May 1st.

- ☐ *I endorse the slate of officers as presented*
- ☐ *I would like to vote for the following write-in candidate(s):*

BYLAWS CHANGE: To streamline operations, the AAFSW Board wishes to change the current bylaw regulation **from:**

"4b. The elected officers shall serve for **one** year; they may be re-elected" **to**

"4b The elected officers shall serve **two** years; they may be re-elected."

- ☐ Change approved
- ☐ Change disapproved

The Immediate Benefit Plan: A Unique Insurance Program for State Employees

The death of a loved one can cause a significant financial hardship for families, particularly when that loved one is the family's principal breadwinner. Bills for travel, hotels, car rentals, funeral and burial may all come due after the employee's salary stops and before any pension or insurance kicks in.

The Immediate Benefit Plan will provide for a \$15,000 payment to be sent to the designated beneficiary(ies) of an enrollee within just two work days of the employee's death to provide much needed cash. All U.S. Citizen Department of State employees (Foreign Service and Civil Service) and their family members should review their personal contingency plans to determine if this new benefit, offered by the American Foreign Service Protective Association, should be part of their personal preparations.

The cost of coverage is just \$2.00 a pay period which must be paid by payroll deduction – EXCEPT for employees on Leave Without Pay. Those on LWOP may continue coverage by making quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments to AFSPA. For more information, please go to AFSPA's website: www.afspa.org.

Transition Center Schedule of Courses

April-May

Annuities & Social Security Benefits Seminar (RV 104)
April 30

Communicating Across Cultures (MQ 802)
May 30

Emergency Medical Care and Trauma Workshop (MQ 915)
April 26 (Sat.)
May 28

Explaining America (MQ 115)
May 10

Financial Management & Estate Planning Service (RV 103)
May 1

Going Overseas for Families (MQ 210)
May 17 (Sat.)

Going Overseas for Singles & Couples without Children (MQ 200)
May 17 (Sat.)

Going Overseas — Logistics for Adults (MQ 220)
May 17 (Sat.)

Going Overseas — Logistics for Children (MQ 230)
May 17 (Sat.)

Personal Finances and Investments in the FS (MQ 852)
April 9 (Wed. p.m.)

Protocol and U.S. Representation Abroad (MQ 116)
April 12 (Sat.)

Realities of Foreign Service Life (MQ 803)
April 25

Regulations, Allowances and Finances in the Foreign Service Context (MQ 104)
April 22-24

Retirement Planning Seminar (RV 101)
April 29 - May 2

Security Overseas Seminars
Call for schedule

Traveling with Pets (MQ 855)
April 23 (Wed. eve.)

The OBC Information Center will be open during regular work hours (8:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) and certain Wednesday evenings and Saturdays. Families are welcome in the Center. Tel: 703- 302-7276.

FSI Transition Center courses are open to USG employees and eligible family members going to or returning from overseas postings. Classes are held at FSI, 4000 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA. (NFATC) Non-State employees/family members submit an SF 182 (with fiscal data) through their training officer to the Registrar at FSI; State employees submit a DS-755 through their CDO, while family members register for all courses through FSI/TC. For all **non-tuition** workshops, regardless of agency, register through FSI/TC at 703-302-7268; FSITCTraining@state.gov.

FSYF Calendar

Children living in the U.S. or who have recently returned from overseas should check out the Foreign Service Youth Foundation's programs: AWAL (ages 13-18) and Globe Trotters (ages 9-12).

FSYF supports and promotes these two clubs to assist young people through reentry and provides training and social programs for FS youth going overseas. The programs enable youth to share their experiences and concerns and to have fun with their peers without having to explain their "foreign" background.

April 4— Nomination deadline for the 2003 Foreign Service Youth Awards. Check www.fsyf.org for details.

April 4— Evening of Scottish Country Dancing (7:30-11:00 p.m. at the Meridian International). Contact the sponsor, The Hospitality Information Service at 202-232-3002.

April 15 — The 8th Annual KidVid Contest deadline

April 26—(AWAL Activity): IMAX movie and Dinner

For more information or to register for specific programs/events, contact Melanie Newhouse, FSYF Director, at 301-404-6655, email fsyf@fsyf.org or check the Foundation's website www.fsyf.org.

Foreign Service Link

Medical Clearances: Don't Leave Home Without Them!

It's been nearly six years since our family of five has had to pack up and move. That's a LONG stretch by Foreign Service standards—so long that I had nearly forgotten how to prepare for departure. I had all but forgotten about the medical clearance process until some interesting postings on *Livelines* jogged my memory and motivated me to learn more and to share what I found.

A few weeks ago, I ventured down to Columbia Plaza (a.k.a. SA-1) to the Office of Medical Services, where I met with Anne Saloom, Director of Medical Clearances. Prior to the interview, Ms. Saloom sent me two excellent new fact sheets developed by Medical Clearances: "The Clearance Process," which gives an excellent overview, and "Medical Clearance In-Service Update," which provides a snapshot of how to update medical clearances before going to the next assignment.

Since most of our readers already are part of the Foreign Service family, they've gone through the process at least once. With the transfer season fast approaching, I posed a number of questions that are relevant for employees and family members needing medical clearance updates. My sincere thanks to Ms. Saloom for her time and assistance.

Q: *What exactly does the term "in-service update" mean? Is the medical exam different than the physical exam new employees and new family members initially undergo?*

A: When an employee is first hired, the traditional physical exam is used to determine his/her medical clearance. Medical clearances are also required for family members going overseas and any

new family members. It is this pre-employment physical examination that both establishes a baseline and determines the initial type of medical clearance granted to employees and their family members. Thereafter, medical clearance updates (MCU) may be used instead of taking a full clearance exam. Employees and their family members can still opt for full physical exams but the MCUs, in conjunction with following health maintenance recommendations, have been working well for most people. (The medical clearance status may be changed whenever there is a change in medical condition – either at the time of medical clearance update or other.)

Q: *Isn't it possible that a number of medical conditions might be missed by relying on the medical clearance update rather than a full physical? How thorough are these exams?*

A: The MCU is tailored to the age and medical condition of each employee and family member. MED has developed a health maintenance "flow sheet" indicating recommended exams and tests. When the MCU is done at overseas posts or through MED's Exam Clinic, it is attached to each completed MCU. If a patient's medical history changes, the post medical provider or Medical Clearances may request additional tests or a full physical exam. Posts are pleased with how the MCU process is working.

Q: How often must medical clearances be updated?

A: For those serving overseas, an in-service medical clearance must be

updated every two years or tour of duty—whichever is longer. A medical clearance update is *not* required for anyone posted or returning to the U.S.; however, MED allows an end-of-tour exam.

Q: *For whom can MCUs be used?*

A: MCUs can be used for those holding Class 1 or Class 2 medical clearances. It may not be used for those undergoing pre-employment nor separation physical exams nor for those determined by the Foreign Service Medical Provider who should have a complete physical. For those holding class 2 clearances, the MCU should address the medical condition for which the class 2 was issued. During the bidding process, post approval will be required for those with Class 2 clearances and an update of the medical condition (current status and plan of treatment and follow-up) will be needed by Medical Clearances in order to evaluate post approvals. This latter process is generally separate from updating the medical clearance – for post approvals only the update for the specific medical condition is needed. Those holding a class 1 medical clearance may go on a direct transfer to their next assignment.

Q: *When is the best time to start the clearance process? Can employees and families obtain a physical or MCU before official orders have been written?*

A: In-service medical clearances, either through the MCU or a full physi-

Continued on page 6

Member Link

AAFSW Membership Drive: April 15th-May15th

A AFSW wants new members! From April 15th to May 15th, we will be holding a membership drive with special incentives for people to join, and for current members to make a long-term commitment to AAFSW.

Why hold a membership drive?
We have 635 members, not enough

members to support all the services AAFSW currently provides—and wants to continue to provide—to the FS community. AAFSW supports FS families through scholarships, volunteer awards, the Housing Office, Livelines, www.aafsw.org, *Global Link*, Washington-area interest groups,

fascinating speaker programs, and so much more.

Please help support AAFSW by encouraging the rest of our FS family to become members. Membership renewal and application forms can be downloaded from www.aafsw.org.

AAFSW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

New members will receive a **terrific AAFSW tote bag** as our thanks, and so will current members who renew for two (or more) years. Just mail the enclosed renewal form with your check to the AAFSW office. **Invite a friend to join today!**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please complete this form and send it with your check (payable to AAFSW) to AAFSW Membership, 5125 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Suite 36, Washington, DC 20016.

Name: _____

Membership:

One year membership	\$ 40.00 _____
Two year membership	\$ 80.00 _____
Three year membership	\$ 110.00 _____
Four year membership	\$ 135.00 _____
5 year membership	\$ 160.00 _____

Contributions: (these are tax deductible)

Scholarships	\$ _____
Headquarters	\$ _____
Volunteerism :	\$ _____
Other gifts/ bequests:	\$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

Are there changes in your life to report?

Address/phone/email changes: _____

New children names and DOB: _____

Been evacuated recently? _____ Where and when?: _____

Been on SMA recently?: _____

Changed jobs?: _____

Been involved in AAFSW activities?: _____

Apply Now for 2003 Foreign Service Youth Awards

The Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF), in conjunction with the Family Liaison Office, is requesting nominations for the 2003 Foreign Service Youth Awards. The awards honor teenagers who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer efforts either in community service or in service to their peers while facing the chal-

lenges of growing up in an internationally mobile lifestyle. Two awards, each consisting of a certificate of recognition and \$2,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds, will be awarded.

FS students in grades 7-12 living either overseas or in the U.S. are eligible. Nomination forms are available at www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo (click on Educa-

tion and Youth, followed by Youth. Key on the Foreign Service Youth Foundation Awards. For additional information, contact Becky Grappo in the Family Liaison Office at 202-647-1670 or at grappoRN@state.gov.

Application deadline is April 4, 2003.

Medical Clearances, continued from page 4

cal exam can be started six months prior to departure, but should be initiated at least 90 days in advance. We encourage people to start the process well before the busy summer season, when there is the highest volume of transfers. Having official orders is not required.

Q: *How lengthy is the medical clearance process?*

A: That depends on if there is a full physical examination or a medical clearance update and where the exam and tests are conducted. Clearances can take as little as three days (for example, when the MCU is completed at the MED Exam Clinic) or as long as a few months (such as when additional tests are required).

Q: *Where should people go to update their medical clearances? If posted in the U.S., are employees and eligible family members required to use the MED Exam Clinic?*

A: Those posted overseas should get their medical clearance updates or full physicals in our overseas health units or at a local facility if recommended by the Regional Medical Officers or in the U.S. For anyone six years of age or older

living in the U.S. within a 50-mile radius of Washington, D.C., the exam must be completed at the MED Exam Clinic. Children under six years may use a private healthcare provider at any location. Sometimes, MED will send people to other providers/specialists for additional tests that cannot be performed at the Exam Clinic.

Q: *When FS personnel are bidding on overseas assignments, is there any way to determine the posts that are suitable for those holding Class 2 clearances?*

A: It's not that simple. A medical clearance is based on the current medical status (as reported from a private specialist or overseas Health Unit medical staff monitoring a medical condition for which a class 2 medical condition was issued). We must look at each case and base our evaluation of post approval on whether there are suitable medical capabilities at post to treat the specific conditions for which the Class 2 clearance was issued. Those holding Class 2 clearances have individual treatment plans and follow-up care requirements. That's why we rely heavily on the information provided by post Health Units for individual post medical capabilities. Employees concerned about their medical clearances should contact their Career Development Officers to discuss their medi-

cal suitability at potential posts before submitting bids. Employees also may wish to contact Medical Clearances directly to discuss any specific concerns, but official bids will be evaluated in Clearances only when submitted by CDOs.

Q: *Do employees and family members have any recourse if they disagree with the class of clearance granted or if post won't approve medical clearance?*

A: Yes. In both instances, the employee can send a letter to the Director of Medical Services requesting an appeal. A panel of three physicians will review the case and make a final determination.

Editor's Note: *More detailed information about medical clearances is available in 3 FAM, section 1900 and may be accessed online at: <http://foia.state.gov/FAMDIR/fam/fam.asp>. For specific questions, contact Medical Clearances at 202-663-1668 or medclearances@state.gov.*

—Gabrielle Hampson
Global Link Editor

Program Link

Invitation for AAFSW Members

The DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association, in cooperation with the Phi Beta Kappa Alpha Chapter at George Washington University (GWU), is inviting all AAFSW members to participate in a "Dialogue on the Social Value of Liberal Arts Education." The panel discussion will take place on Saturday, April 5 from 2 -4 p.m. in the Jack Morton Auditorium at GWU's Media and Public Affairs Building, 805 21st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Panelists include historian and professor Philip L. Cantelon, journalist Traci L. Hughes, columnist and political commentator Gail M. Leftwich, GWU professor Maurice East. The session will be moderated by AAFSW's very own Christel G. McDonald, who serves as President of the DC Area Phi Beta Kappa Association, and will include a Q&A with the audience. Dr. John Churchill, Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, will give concluding remarks.

For additional information or to RSVP, please contact Christel McDonald at 703-535-9755 or at ChrisJohnMcDon@aol.com.

Housing Request

Do you have a spare bed in your house? Can you help accommodate a winner of AAFSW's annual Secretary of State Award for Volunteerism when he/she comes to DC to receive the award at Foreign Affairs Day on May 9th?

We're proud to announce that this year for the first time, each geographical bureau at the State Department has authorized the funds for the region's winner to travel to Washington to receive this award. When the winners come to Washington, they may appreciate housing arrangements rather than having to pay for hotels. Can you help? If you would like to make your home available, please contact the AAFSW office (202-362-6514 or at office@aafsw.org) as soon as possible to add your name to the list of available hosts.

The Bicentenary of the Louisiana Purchase: "Why Did Bonaparte Agree to Sell?"

On April 30, 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte, First Consul of France, transferred the sovereignty of what was then called Louisiana to the United States. The treaty negotiations were carried out in the same spirit of friendship that had prevailed when Louis XVI's forces ensured the American victory at Yorktown, thus ending the sovereignty of Britain over its colonies.

Thomas Jefferson represented our young country as Minister to France during the waning days of the French monarchy and the beginning of the Revolution. Robert Livingston represented Jefferson's administration in France as Bonaparte rose to power after the French Revolution.

In honor of this historic event, the Board of the AAFSW has invited the members of the "French Heritage Society" to collaborate in presenting a slide lecture by Ambassador Andre Baeyens, a retired career diplomat in the French Foreign Service. The Ambassador is now well known as a serious historian and authority on the Louisiana Purchase, a deal between First Consul Napoleon

and Thomas Jefferson, that probably holds the world's record for a return on investment.

Ambassador Baeyens is the son of an American mother and French father and was educated in both the United States and France. He entered the French Foreign Service in 1957 after graduating from the Ecole National d'Administration, Paris. He served in posts in London, Bonn, Washington, Rome and Vienna. In 1982 he was appointed Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, and in 1986 he served as Ambassador and Permanent representative to the United Nations Organization in Vienna. In 1993 he was Consul General in New York. He is an "Officer" of the Legion d'Honneur.

This is a "first" for our group to collaborate with an outside organization in presenting a program, which promises to be of great interest. In addition, as we had in December meeting, there will be a tour of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms on the eighth floor beginning at 9:30 am.

— Barbara Gordon,
AAFSW Program Chair

Due to increased security, all names must be submitted at least three (3) business days ahead.

Reservations: Contact Pearl Richardson at 202-265-3301 or the AAFSW Office at 202-362-6514.

April 15th Program

(9:00 a.m. - 12 noon)

Please reply by April 10th

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

Social Security Number: _____

Telephone: _____ New Member? yes _____ no _____

Name(s) of Guest(s) and SSN(s): _____

Please send form with check made out to AAFSW (\$10 per person) to:
AAFSW Reservations, 5125 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Suite 36,
Washington, DC 20016.

No refunds can be made or reservations accepted after April 10th

Playgroup/ Parents' Night Out

At home with small children? Come join AAFSW's Playgroup Friday mornings. FS children get to play while parents get to chat and share helpful insights.

Looking for a break from children? Want to spend a pleasant evening with good food and wonderful conversation with other FS parents in the Washington area? Come join us for our monthly Parents' Night Out. Contact Anne Sullivan at playgroup@aafsw.org.

Officers

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Manager: Robin Jones

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Employee Service Center
(Main State, Room #1252)
Tel/Fax: 202-647-3573
HousingAAFSW@state.gov

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AAFSW
APRIL 2003

Please remember to complete the ballot form on page 2 and return it to AAFSW by May 1st.

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