

Art & BookFair News

•AAFSW'S 52ND ANNUAL ART & BOOKFAIR•OCTOBER 12-21 2012

Our Grand Tradition

Long ago, a group of women met informally for luncheons at least once a month. They called themselves the Foreign Service Wives Group. In March 1960, this group of women decided to establish a formal organization called the Foreign Service Women's Association, with by-laws, aims and purposes, and a slate of officers. The new organization quickly acquired over 500 members.

In 1960, a fundraising Christmas Bazaar was held which included crafts made by members and "white elephant" items from all over the world. The bazaar raised close to \$1,500 for scholarships to FS children and it was considered a success. But the organizers decided that the fundraiser should be held earlier in the year, and that they should offer more donated items, especially books.

So, in October, 1961 a "Book Mart" was organized. It was a one-day event in which the new Secretary of State Dean Rusk and "Mrs. Dean Rusk" volunteered their time, personally donating and moving books into the North Court of the DOS. The AAFSW BookFair was born.

The Art & BookFair is vital to the goals of AAFSW. In the past few years we have grossed between \$60-70,000 at the A&BF and another \$25-30,000 during the year in the BookStore, a room where books are priced, sorted and sold daily to a very enthusiastic customer base. On the first Saturday of A&BF, when the public is invited, people stand in line in order to be the first to see our unique blend of items. Our foreign language books, the history and diplomacy books and our Collector's Corner books cannot be found in other book sales or in our public libraries.

In 1960 and in the years before, family members came together for the same reasons that FS family members gather today. Our unique lifestyle affects us and our children in ways that are not easily shared with those who have not lived it. We need each other to give voice to the challenges we face and to laugh and share our experiences.

Through the years, spouses have faithfully volunteered in the BookRoom and at the Annual A&BF whenever they are posted in Washington, DC. In recent years it has become harder to volunteer - parking is difficult and we and our children can no longer wander around unescorted as we did for many years. But the DOS continues to be incredibly supportive, offering us space, help with the parking, badges and many other services that make it possible to function all year long. During the A&BF week we have even greater support, with special badges made just for our A&BF volunteers, good for the entire event, so you can volunteer as many times as you like!

I hope that each and every AAFSW member who lives or happens to be in the Metro DC area will join us for the Art & BookFair from Oct. 12 to 21. The A&BF is not only a grand tradition of AAFSW, but it is also a visible public service event for the State Department, and it serves to fund the AAFSW scholarships and activities for another year. It also provides a place to gather with other FS family members, to connect with old FS friends, to share stories about posts and to make new friends.

The volunteer form is on the back of this page and I hope that you will fill it out and send it in. Or you can fill out the form on the website. If you have questions, please feel free to call the AAFSW office, at 703-820-5420 or email bookfair@aaafsw.org.

*Judy Felt
Chair, Art & BookFair*

ART & BOOKFAIR HOURS OF OPERATION

- October 12: 11-4 p.m. Art & BookFair open to building pass holders and their guests.
- October 13-14: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the general public.
- October 15-19: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open to building pass holders and their guests.
- October 20-21: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to the general public.

Yes, I want to help at Art & BookFair 2012!

October 12-21, 2012

Please sign up no later than September 15 in order to allow time to have special Diplomatic Security badges prepared and to schedule volunteer shifts. *Thanks in advance for any support you can provide! We can't do it without you!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number(s): _____

Email: _____

Do you have a Department of State badge?

Yes No

If you do not have a Department of State badge, please provide the following information:

Date of birth: _____

Driver's License (with state) or Passport #: _____

This information is required by Department of State Security.

If you volunteered last year, we should have your address and security information. Your name and days/times you are available are all we need.

Please circle the shifts that you are willing to work.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<div style="font-size: 4em; opacity: 0.5;">X</div>	COLUMBUS DAY	SET-UP 9-12 12-3	SET-UP 9-12 12-3	SET-UP 9-12 12-3	BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 9:30-1 12:30-4:30	OPEN TO PUBLIC 9-1 12:30-4:30
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
OPEN TO PUBLIC 9-1 12:30-4:30	BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	BUILDING PASS HOLDERS AND GUESTS 10-3:30	OPEN TO PUBLIC 9-1 12:30-4:30
21	22	I WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST: <input type="checkbox"/> CASHIERING <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL DUTIES AS ASSIGNED <input type="checkbox"/> NEED A SEATED JOB <input type="checkbox"/> VAN DRIVER - PUBLIC DAYS Please note: The times given are for periods when volunteer work is scheduled, not for hours when the Art & BookFair is open to customers. Early morning volunteers are also needed to watch over A&BF from 6:00-9:00 a.m. (Oct 9-12 and 15-19) when the thruway must be open for employees. If you have a State Dept. badge, please consider volunteering for this early shift.				
OPEN TO PUBLIC HALF PRICE DAY! 9-1 12:30-4:30	CLEAN UP DAY 9-12					

Please mail this form to AAFSW, 4001 North Ninth Street, Suite 214, Arlington, VA 22203. You may also email your name, volunteer days, and hours to office@aaafsw.org. Thank you for volunteering, we appreciate your commitment to AAFSW and look forward to seeing you in October.