

GLOBAL LINK

Association of American Foreign Service Women



Are You Concerned About Caring for Elderly Parents?

Concerns about elder care loom ever larger on the horizon. Parents are living longer, and children can now expect to care for their parents an average of eighteen years. This responsibility, like many other undertakings in the Foreign Service, is vastly complicated by great distances.

On **Nov. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, AAFSW's FORUM will convene an Elder Care Forum at the Department of State. The Elder Care Forum is designed:

- ▶ to increase awareness of the realities of providing elder care—either overseas or from overseas
- ▶ to ascertain what interested groups within the Department and beyond are doing to deal with elder care concerns
- ▶ to form a cooperative network and
- ▶ to produce a report with recommendations including regulatory or legislative changes.

1. What are your concerns regarding caring for parents who are at post? OR
2. What are your concerns regarding caring for parents who are in the U.S.?
3. What changes in State Department/other agency policy would assist you?

Please respond by September 15.

A panel of experts representing offices in the Department of State and other agencies will consider a list of topics that we are in the process of formulating. To draw up this list, we need input, particularly from people who are caring for parents at post and those who are trying to provide elder care for parents who are in the United States. Please ask anyone belonging to these categories to send their responses to the questions at left to the AAFSW office (see page 2).



FMA Explained

Part II of an article by Robert Regelman, Office of Overseas Employment, and Judy Ikels, Family Liaison Office

The new "Family Member Appointment" mechanism represents the culmination of a ten-year effort to help family members get recognition for their important role in staffing our diplomatic missions abroad.

By the time Foreign Service employees retire, many spouses have put in enough years of their own in jobs overseas to constitute a virtual career in their own right. But because those jobs have, up until now, been structured as "temporary," the spouses did not qualify for the same Federal employee benefits as other Federal employees doing similar work back in the U.S. This has been true even though the jobs these spouses worked in were anything but temporary in nature.

The concept and implementation for the FMA was a collaborative effort of the Family Liaison Office and the Office of Overseas Employment, working in close cooperation with the regional and functional PIT Coordinators. The goal

(See "FMA," page 3)

BOOKFAIR '98

OCTOBER 16-25

PLEASE VOLUNTEER to help make our 37th BOOKFAIR a success. It is our one fundraising activity, providing scholarships for Foreign Service children, as well as contributions to other charitable projects in the Washington, D.C. area.

BOOKFAIR is a year-long project with volunteers collecting, sorting, pricing, and boxing over 40,000 books and merchandise for the Art Corner. These volunteers cannot shoulder the burden of running the fair alone.

There are many ways to help. On the form on page five, you will find the days and shifts available.

For BOOKFAIR setup, Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 13 and 14, we need people to put out the books and arrange things in general. The duties are varied, but not strenuous.

From Family Day, Friday, Oct. 16, to the final day, Oct. 25, we need cashiers and readers on all shifts. Cashiers add up the purchases and take the money. (Adding machine experience is helpful but not essential. We will train you!) Readers sit by the cashiers and read the prices. Other volunteers help restock shelves and table as well as answer customer questions.

(See "BOOKFAIR," page 4)

Inside This Issue

Don't miss the magic of this year's Oral History Benefit Tea (See page 7 for details)