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AAFSW BRIEFED ON TRANSFORMATIONAL DIPLOMACY

AFSW attended a briefing for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the Department of State on January 26, 2006 to explain Transformational Diplomacy (TD), a policy recently announced by Secretary Condoleezza Rice. Ambassador Rudolf Perina, Deputy Director of Policy Planning, presented and about 54 people attended from various organizations, including AAFSW, which was represented by Judy Felt, President; Ann La Porta, Representative to AFSA; and Mette Beecroft, President Emerita.

Amb. Perina explained the three priorities of State in the world today: 1) the Middle East and the nonproliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction; 2) regional concerns such as the situations in the Balkans, Haiti, and the Sudan; and 3) Transformational Diplomacy, which aims to change Cold War era policies to fit post 9/11 realities. TD is being institutionalized by:

- •Global repositioning of Embassy staff from developed to developing countries
- •Moving the USAID Director's office to State; the first step in reforming the USAID structure
- •Developing the Office of Coordination and Reconstruction in post-conflict countries and the MCC/MCA (Millennium Challenge Corporation/Account)
- •Improving Public Diplomacy
- •Reforming the UN
- •Pursuing democratization, which includes changes in U.S. Foreign Policy

Amb. Perina answered questions about citizen involvement in TD by pointing out the successes of educational exchanges and sister city projects. When asked what their ole might be in TD, Amb. Perina told NGOs that State welcomes any positive interaction and cooperation. Others, including AAFSW, asked about funding for the TD initiative. Amb. Perina conceded it is still an issue. Ann La Porta also raised AAFSW's concerns about security issues for employees and families, as well as Separate Maintenance Allowance (SMA), since there will presumably be more unaccompanied posts. Amb. Perina responded that State is aware of the security issues.

It seems the broader concepts of TD have been established. However, funding and the practical ramifications of TD have not yet been considered in detail. To learn more about TD, visit http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/ 59339.htm.

PIT BUYBACK UPDATE

n a recent letter to PIT Buyback applicants, David B. Dlouhy, Administrator, Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund Director, Office of Retirement HR/RET, offered an update on the administrative process. His office has already received more than 150 PIT Buyback applications, and it is their goal to send them all to the Retirement Accounts Division (RAD) by the end of the first quarter. The update states, "HR/RET hopes to start forwarding applications to RAD later this month and will notify individual applicants as soon as that happens. We will give

priority to applicants who are retired or retiring. Thereafter, we will process applications in the order in which they were received."

In addition to completing the SF3108, individuals seeking credit for their service in a PIT position abroad between January 1, 1989 and May 23, 1998 need to prepare a cover letter indicating whether they are an employee, a former employee, or an annuitant. Sample cover letters, as well as the entire PIT Buyback update and detailed instructions, can be found online at http://www.state.gov/m/ dghr/flo/ in the "Highlights" section. To learn more about the history of PIT Buyback and how AAFSW helped initiate it, visit http://www.aafsw.org/articles/working/ pit_buyback.htm.



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News to Use

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Kelly Adams-Smith Kathy Hommowun Stephanie Scarritt-Dempsey

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Anonymous

FRENCH CONNECTION

AAFSW's French Group will be meeting on March 3 and 17 from 10:00am to 12:00noon. If you would like to practice your French and make some friends, please join us! Please contact Christel McDonald, French Group Chair, at frenchgroup@aafsw.org or 703-525-9755.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARDS

April 18 is the deadline for FSYF's Una Chapman Cox Award and Harry M. Jannette International Award, which recognize the volunteer efforts of FS kids (grades 7 to 12) at home and abroad. Kids nominate themselves. Go to http://www.fsyf.org/ award/awards.html for nomination forms or contact fsyf@fsyf.org or 301-404-6655.

THE FS SPOUSE: STILL IN TRANSITION

Jewell Fenzi, Oral History Chair

n AAFSW symposium to explore "The Foreign Service Spouse: Still in Transition" will be presented on Thursday, March 23, from 10:30am to 12 noon at the Woman's National Democratic Club and Museum (WNDC), 1526 New Hampshire Ave., NW. Judy Felt, President; Terri Williams, President Emerita; and Jeff Porter, Website Advertising Manager will be among the participants from AAFSW. The discussion precedes a luncheon talk by Ann Wright who, as charge d'affaires in Sierra Leone in 1997, received State's Award for Heroism for leading the evacuation of a large part of the international community during the country's civil war. Anne Wright's topic will be "Breaking through Diplomacy's Glass Ceiling."

There is no charge for the symposium and AAFSW members are urged to attend. Luncheon, served at 12:30pm, is \$25. Please call 202-232-7363, ext. 3003 for reservations.



Refunds are available if cancellations

are received at least two working days before March 23. The program is sponsored by WNDC's Educational Foundation. Make checks payable to WNDC-EF and mail to:

Patricia Fitzgerald Reservations WNDC 1526 New Hampshire Ave., NW Washington, DC 20036

The Club's current museum exhibit is "Donkey Tracks: Political Memorabilia from the WNDC Collections." A brief tour of the exhibit and the house will begin at 9:45am. WNDC is located in a historic 19th Century mansion a short walk from the Q Street exit of the Dupont Circle Metro station on the Red Line.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL NEEDED

ound organizations have bylaws that outline their structure; AAFSW's bylaws have been in effect since 1960! Over the years we have tweaked them here and there, but AAFSW's overall organization and goals have remained the same. The Board recently proposed the following minor change to Article II, Principal Office. To pass it, the membership must approve the change.

Please take a moment to fill out this ballot and mail or fax it to the AAFSW office (see page 8). You can also simply email your vote to office@aafsw.org. Thank you for fulfilling your membership duties so AAFSW can continue to fulfill its mission. Proposed change to AAFSW Bylaws, Article II, Principal Office from:

"The location and principal office of this corporation shall be in the **City of Washington, District of Columbia**."

to

"The location and principal office of this corporation shall be in the **greater Washington, D.C. area**."

Name of Member

I Approve

I Disapprove

Book Corner

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN OCTOBER? VOLUNTEERING AT BOOKFAIR!

ost of us barely know what we will be doing tomorrow much less seven months from now. Nonetheless, it is never too early to start thinking about how you can help make the 46th annual BookFair this October a success. There are many rewarding and fun volunteer positions to be filled during the BookFair event. Picture yourself in one of AAFSW's stylish BookFair aprons doing:

Setup A few days prior to BookFair, a team of energetic volunteers ensures we are ready to open on the first Friday of the sale. If seeing Main State's exhibit hall transformed from a quasi-museum into a book and art-mart would give you warm feelings, sign up for one of the set-up days. Bring your muscles and wear your work clothes!

Cashiering During BookFair, manning the cash register is an important job. It can be exceedingly busy on opening day and the two weekends, but a bit calmer during the week. Cashiering requires a brief training period and a cool head. If you like to see the very concrete results of BookFair—and prefer to spend your time seated—this is the job for you.

Stocking A team of stockers makes sure the supply of books is continuous and the tables are orderly and always full of temptations for our customers. The stockers also have a familiarity with the floor plan and can help guide customers to the books they seek.

Art Corner sales If you ever wanted to be in retail or share your love of arts and crafts, this is your chance. Art Corner sales people help customers find the perfect item, raise awareness and enthusiasm for items that might otherwise be overlooked, and offer background information on the more exotic pieces. Working in Art Corner is guaranteed fun; camaraderie runs high in this group. The jewelry sellers seem to find a special joy in what they do.

Art Corner also welcomes two more volunteers to come in from time to time during the year to help price donated items as they are received. Days are not frequent and are chosen at the convenience of those involved.

Shuttling During BookFair 2005, we offered customers shuttle service to help transport larger, heavier purchases. It was such a success that we would like to offer it again to encourage customers to buy more books without worry of how they will carry it all. During the weekends, shuttlers are available near the front door with their own cars to help customers reach the Foggy Bottom metro station with their purchases. This is a great job for the men to take on, but there's nothing that says a woman can't also do it.

Takedown Of course, all good things come to an end, and BookFair is no different. On the Monday after the event, items worth keeping are packed away while the rest is readied for Goodwill and other thrift shops. There are many, many odd jobs to be done on takedown day; flexibility is a big requirement for this task!

Volunteer coordination Almost as unsatisfactory as having too few volunteers on a BookFair day is having too many. The key to ensuring the right number of people each day and engaging them effectively is the Volunteer Coordinator. Two volunteers can share the responsibilities of this job which entails working with AAFSW's office manager to schedule and contact volunteers prior to BookFair. During the event, the Coordinator(s) goes early each morning to assign volunteers their tasks as they arrive. When we have not had a Volunteer Coordinator, sales have suffered.

We hope all able-bodied (and not-so-able bodied) AAFSW members and their friends and family will begin envisioning themselves helping out at BookFair. For more information on any of these volunteer opportunities, contact Bookroom Manager, Robin Jones at bookroom@aafsw.org or 202-536-2235 or BookFair Chair, Mette Beecroft, at bookfair@aafsw.org or 301-320-7698.

DONATE YOUR "TREASURES" TO AAFSW

Whether you are preparing to move to your next assignment or simply to spring clean, AAFSW's Art Corner invites you to donate those art and craft "gems" you might otherwise toss for this year's BookFair sale. While we will not say that we accept just about anything, it is pretty much true. Art Corner has received some pretty exotic things over the yearswe have even sold items that we were never able to identify! Our clientele is looking for just about anything, and many are able to find it. Look for some of these stories in future issues of the Global Link.

To donate art and craft objects now and any time of year from the D.C. area, contact Robin Jones at bookroom@aafsw.org or 202-536-2235 to arrange pick-up. From overseas, send packages via the pouch to:

Robin Jones AAFSW BOOKROOM B816 Main State (HST)

Please place on the front of the package: **VIA UNCLASSIFIED POUCH**

Observations

UNICYCLES, RUBBER CHICKENS, AND KILNS: THE MAKINGS OF A FOREIGN SERVICE HOME

Leslie Ashby, Media Director

hoever thought to tell a man by his shoes never checked out his Household Effects (HHE) or Unaccompanied Air Baggage (UAB). Foreign Service families like us are on the move every few years, and with us, most of our stuff. What we chose to bring with us, or not, says a lot about who we are.

We all ship the basic necessities to post: clothing, cookware, linens, ice cube trays, and funnels as instructed by the State Department's ubiquitous publication, It's Your Move. The Division of Travel and Transportation, which issues the book, is the first to admit their UAB shipment suggestions are just that-suggestions. "Depending upon individuals, ages of children, the presence of pets, etc., what people wish to send varies enormously," says Transportation representative and longtime FS spouse, Mette Beecroft. UAB has stricter size and weight restrictions than HHE, but basically, if you can get it packed up and it is not hazardous material or otherwise prohibited, ship it! And ship we do. When AAFSW's Livelines email discussion group was asked what outof-the-ordinary, unique, or (dare I say) weird things they bring to post, members responded with interesting items that are definitely not listed in It's Your Move.

Hobbies and recreation

Foreign Service legend tells of a FSO traveling the globe with a potter's kiln in tow. Whence this tale began, nobody seems to know, but Kathi Yu, who is off to Guangzhou, may be the one to perpetuate it. "I always wondered about the kiln thing, and now I have a friend who is trying to convince me to buy one. I use her baby kiln to do fused glass jewelry," she admits. For her, voltage is the issue, not size or weight. "The weirder thing is that I'm thinking of taking stained glass supplies with me," says Kathi. "But transporting glass?! A 220V soldering iron?!" Well, why not?

Creativity can be a heavy and bulky burden, but one many of us are willing to bear. Janet Smith* says, "I bet we are among the few at post who chose to have an art room and not a live-in maid." She and her children make good use of the drawing table, easels, specialty papers, paints, and other art supplies they bring with them to post. Diplomats cum knitters, weavers, scrapbookers, photographers, quilters, and carpenters also keep their assorted equipment and materials close at hand. Musical instruments, including pianos, are popular among FS adults and children. Over her 30 years as a FS spouse, Debbi Miller has shipped not only a piano but "two violins, two trumpets, a French horn, a crumhorn, a clarinet, a massive harmonica, and a flute, with no ill effects other than the sounds of beginners playing them."

Many people ship exercise and sporting equipment to keep in shape, or at least to try. In our tiny apartment, the elliptical trainer doubles nicely as a towel rack for guests, so we feel it earns its keep. More diligent athletes can be found wielding their tennis rackets, golf clubs, free weights, and bowling balls at posts worldwide. Janet's family would not go anywhere without their bicycles and her daughter's unicycle. "I have met a lot of people who don't bring their bikes to post," she says. "It depends on the post, I suppose, but our philosophy is that we'll find a place to ride them."

Still others spend time enjoying their various collections. "Among the strange and favorite items that come everywhere with us: my husband's snow globe collection, my antique eye cup collection, and my daughter's Pez collection," says FS spouse Andrea Cohen who has lived in Sana'a, Abidjan, and Pretoria. "A really good rule-of-thumb is if your collection can fit in a shoe box, by all means, don't leave home without it!"

Books, computers, and entertainment

Books and computers are commonplace, but there is nothing common about the quantity found in many FS homes. "...Almost half our shipment is books," says Janet. "I'm not sure how I could live without them, and we still have tons of books in storage. The worst part of packout for me is weeding through the books. It ends up being a very long negotiation with my kids as well." Michele Hopper, FS spouse who has lived in Manila and Lome agrees. "Without books we'd be lost. We have bookshelves full in the den, living room, and both kids' rooms. Amazon.com isn't being at all helpful with our HHE weight issues!"

Specifically, cookbooks from different regions of the world tend to be very popular and mouth-watering souvenirs of hometowns left behind, tours gone by, and interesting places yet to be visited. Retired FS spouse, Terri Williams, always regretted not departing post with a local

Observations



In Chennai, India, AAFSW member Lisa Feldmann gets set to serve dinner while son Ian calls the family to the table with a squeeze of their so-called "dinner chicken."

phone book to use at the next location. "Now with the Internet, it may not be such a precious commodity," says Terri, "but back then it was a great way to remember and find resources and help make the Christmas list."

Rare is the FS household that does not have at least one computer and its various peripherals: printer, scanner, webcam, etc. "We're not technology crazy," asserts Janet, who owns four computers, "but fighting over computer time is just too much for me. If it's what my teenagers need to feel 'in touch' around the world with their friends...then life is much easier all around [if they have their own computers]."

Other forms of entertainment include board and video games, DVDs, music, and toys of all kinds. "This time we...brought a trampoline (in the box, of course), a foosball table (also in the box), and a gumball machine (would have been better in a box) to make the move exciting for the kids," says FS spouse Lisa Feldmann who lives in Chennai.

Handy household items

"Always come prepared" seems to be the motto of many FS households overseas. "I carry lots of items for entertaining such as big serving spoons, pewter platters, large serving bowls, and chafing dishes," says FS spouse Susan Scott-Vargas, who is ready for buffets of at least 50 people. This "extreme" entertainer also brings to post good corkscrews, numerous tablecloths, napkins, vanity toothpicks, cheese slicers, and good knives. Others say plastic products, such as Ziploc bags, storage containers, and plastic wrap are critical components of their shipments.

FS parents also ship mass quantities of school supplies, birthday presents, party supplies, as well as clothing and shoes in current and soon-to-be sizes. "We ship hoards of clothes and shoes to grow into for two years," says Michele, mother of four. Pet supplies for dogs, cats, fish, birds, turtles, hamsters, and even a beloved horse, also figure heavily into many a HHE and UAB shipment. So how many 40pound containers of kitty litter will keep two cats (and their owners) happy for two years in Central Asia? Turns out, about 16. You do the math.

Other items FS folks find useful nay, essential—include: a sewing machine, a foldable grocery cart, a handcrank radio, a Dustbuster, a king-size bed, and in Lisa Feldman's case, "a rubber chicken [squeak toy] instead of a dinner bell, a label maker, head lamps for when the power goes out, a tape gun and a staple gun, and a manual ice cream machine." Echoing a familiar sentiment heard throughout the Foreign Service, Lisa says, "It just wouldn't be home without these things!"

Love it, need it, gotta have it

Shipped or stored, everyone in the Foreign Service is allotted a grand total of 18,000 pounds of stuff; what we choose to do with it is up to us. "I am not quite sure anything can be categorized as 'odd' in the Foreign Service," believes Michele. "We're moving from one drastically different country to the next, so who knows what we'll need next time if not here? And with every person or family comes different needs." Janet agrees, "I guess it comes down to what makes you feel 'at home' wherever you are. It is different for everyone."

"I don't think anything is weird if it serves a purpose," says Mette. "Obviously, different things are important for different people. In the final analysis, reading about what people take along makes me proud of us all. People end up in the most unusual of circumstances and yet they also manage to take things with them which are important to them and which help to keep them and their families on even keel in one way or another." No matter where we live in this wide world, it is reassuring to know that our kayak, loom, Beanie Baby collection, or fish forks will be there to welcome us home.

*Real name withheld by request.

AAFSW's very own Mette Beecroft is the keeper of It's Your Move. She works in the Division of Travel and Transportation and may be contacted at BeecroftMO@state.gov or 202-647-4028 for more information on the publication or questions about your move.

More News to Use

THE MORE YOU KNOW

The George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center (or FSI) offers training for all foreign affairs employees and adult family members. These courses are offered in March and April 2006: March 11 Maintaining Long Distance Relationships March 13–14 Security **Overseas Seminar (SOS)** March 15-16 English **Teaching Seminar** March 16 Going Overseas Series: Going Overseas for Singles, Going Overseas for Families. Logistics for Adults, Logistics for Kids March 21 Advanced SOS March 23 Post Options for Employment & Training

March 27–28 SOS March 29 Emergency Medical Trauma April 3–4 SOS April 4 & 11 Targeting the Job Market April 5 A Safe Overseas Home April 7 Realities of Foreign Service Life April 12 Personal Finance Seminar April 18 Advanced SOS April 19 Traveling with Pets

April 22 Protocol April 24–25 SOS April 25–27 Regulations, Allowances, and Finance April 26 Encouraging Resilience in FS Children

For more information and to register, contact the Transition Center at 703-302-7268 or FSITCTraining@state.gov. For a full listing of classes, visit http://www.state.gov/m/ fsi/tc/c6950.htm.

JOURNALIST TO DISCUSS ARAB CULTURE AND ISLAM

he speaker for AAFSW's April 18 program will be Ms. Barbara Ferguson. She is currently the Washington, D.C. bureau chief for Arab News, an Englishlanguage daily newspaper headquartered in London. She is also the co-chair of the International Correspondents Committee of the National Press Club and the winner of numerous journalism awards. She will speak on the topic "Arab Culture and Islam from an Embedded Journalist's Perspective."

In spring 2003, Barbara Ferguson took leave from her job to be embedded with the U.S. Marine Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1st Marines Expeditionary Force. After her return to Washington, and at the request of Lt. Gen. James Amos, with whom she served, Ms. Ferguson began training hundreds of Marines (including intelligence officers) who were being deployed or re-deployed to Iraq. She taught them what they needed to know about the culture and religion. In spring 2005, she expanded her training program to include Middle East-bound civilian Americans to help them become culturally competent on Middle Eastern issues. She now regularly trains U.S. Corrections Officers and police and intelligence officers on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice. All this is in addition to her "regular" job as a journalist and Arab News bureau chief!

We are extremely fortunate to have Barbara Ferguson share with us her unique experiences and perspectives of this complicated and important part of the world. Save the date of **April 18**! You won't want to miss it! RSVP form is online now at www.aafsw.org and will also be in the next Global Link.

SHARE THE FS EXPERIENCE

AFSW is looking for members to participate in a panel discussion on FS life as part of AFSA's biannual Elderhostel program, which educates the general public about the various aspects of the Foreign Service. Every year, Elderhostel participants are engrossed by the discussion of how the Foreign Service affects all members of the family. Issues like spousal employment, culture shock, challenges of being a Third Culture Kid, and many more keep the conversation lively and the Q&A session engaging. AAFSW members continually make this event a highlight of the Elderhostel program series.

Anyone can volunteer, but AAFSW is especially interested in enlisting the support of FS spouses and teenagers who have recently returned to the metro D.C. area from abroad. If you would like to participate and are available March 14 and March 28, please contact Anne Kauzlarich at 202-682-0500 ext. 10 or Kauzlarich@dacorbacon.org.

FS YOUTH CYBER-NEWSLETTERS

SYF publishes two quarterly newsletters by and for FS youth: *Here, There and Everywhere* by the Globe Trotters, FSYF middle school program, and *Wings of AWAL* by high school students. All FSYF members and newsletter contributors still get a hard copy mailed to them, but all members of the FS community can now get the electronic version for FREE. To request your newsletter—and inquire about contributing your own writing email Executive Director, Melanie Newhouse, at fsyf@fsyf.org.

Program Bulletin

MY FATHERS' HOUSES: A MEMOIR OF AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

Barbara Gordon, Programs Chair

teven Roberts, a well-known syndicated columnist and guest host on NPR and ABC, has written a book about an immigrant family—his own. <u>My Fathers'</u> <u>Houses: A Memoir of an Immigrant Family</u> tugs at the heartstrings and reveals our country at its best. Join us on **Tuesday, March 21, 2006** at 10:00am in the 8th floor Diplomatic Reception Room of Main State to hear Steve share his thoughts on family, country, and home.

Steve will tell the story, as only he can, of his grandparents living in Russia, where a great-uncle became the editor of Pravda and two great-aunts were original members of the Bolshevik Party. His other grandfather, Harry Schandam, stole money to become a Zionist pioneer in Palestine. He worked there for several years before coming to the U.S. and settling in Bayonne, New Jersey where he hand-built his house-the very one in which Steve was raised-just across the Hudson River from New York City. Both of Steve's parents grew up in Bayonne. They lived a block apart, fell in love, but had to marry in secret and live apart with their own parents during the Great Depression until they were finally able to afford their own home.

In Steve's own words: "Bayonne prepared me well for a larger life and a larger world. I

MARCH 21 PROGRAM

<u>My Fathers' Houses: A Memoir of an</u> <u>Immigrant Family</u>

PLEASE REPLY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006.

Coffee & tea at 10:00am, program begins 10:30am on the 8th floor Diplomatic Reception Rooms, Main State (Please use the C Street entrance of the State Department.)

Please send form and check made out to AAFSW for **\$15** per person to:

AAFSW Reservations, 5555 Columbia Pike, Suite 208, Arlington, VA 22204-3117 knew who I was and where I was from. I was connected by innumerable little cords to people and places that gave me strength and identity. On "The Block" I was safe, secure, and loved.

I even had a number, 174, the address of our house. But the number wasn't a badge of anonymity. To the contrary, it marked my place, where I belonged."

<u>My Fathers' Houses</u> relates Steve's own experiences in his evolving immigrant community until he left home for Harvard. There he met a charming Catholic girl from New Orleans, Cokie Boggs, whom he later married. He started his career in journalism at the *New York Times*, where he worked for 25 years.

Be sure to RSVP early for this program that celebrates the "melting pot" where Bolshevism, Zionism, Catholicism, Journalism, family bonds, and personal excellence meet in one unforgettable speaker. Steve will sign autographs, so bring your copy of <u>My Fathers'</u> Houses with you.



HELP WANTED: FSYF PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF) seeks a parttime Program Director. Responsibilities include publishing youth newsletters; organizing outdoor adventure retreats. community service activities, and family picnics; and working with program directors, volunteers, and staff on FSYF's high school, middle school, and elementary programs.

Flexible hours, but must be available on some weekends and afternoons/evenings. \$18-25 hr/3 to 7 hours per week. An ideal job for a FS spouse or former FS youth living in or returning to NoVA this spring or summer. **Contact Melanie** Newhouse, FSYF Executive Director, for more information at fsyf@fsyf.org or 301-404-6655.

MARCH	21	PROGRAM

Name (as you wish it to appear on the name tag)

Social Security Number

Telephone

Name of guest(s) and SSN(s)

Contact AAFSW

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at Home and Abroad

MARCH 2006

ATTEND MARCH 21ST GUEST-SPEAKER PROGRAM AND MARCH 23RD SYMPOSIUM ON THE FS SPOUSE

Arlington, VA 22204-3117

5555 Columbia Pike

Suite 208