



FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

FSRA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

<http://www.FSRA-FL.org>

FROM MICHAEL BOORSTEIN, FSRA CHAIR

Greetings Members:

I wish I could have started out this message with better news about Covid-19, both in Florida and nationally, but, regrettably and tragically, that is far from the case. Our focus continues to be on taking measures to stay well and stay healthy. It is particularly hard this time of year as we look forward to Thanksgiving and the holidays. Our age group remains vulnerable as we weigh decisions to travel, and see grand kids and children.

Our Board continues to meet virtually and believes this is the way it will be until sometime in 2021 when we can get vaccinated and resume more normal lives.

We are planning for a [Virtual Annual General Meeting](#) (AGM) on January 15, 2021. Please click on the link to register or use our website. Additional separate email communications will also be forthcoming. The AGM will be asked to vote on a number of FSRA Constitutional Amendments and details on those will be on the website as well as in separate communications soon.

Our Nominating Committee, chaired by Alan Van Egmond, will present a slate of 14 FSRA Directors, for approval by the AGM. Following the AGM, the newly-constituted Board will select its officers: Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Alan and his committee members have successfully recruited new Directors so that we will propose a full slate of 14 for the AGM's approval.

In the absence of regular luncheons, the Board is looking for events to attract and involve our membership. We had Professor Mormino in October speak in a webinar that was well attended. For our January meeting Lynne Platt, retired FSO, will give a talk entitled "21st Century and the Final Frontier - U.S. Space Policy a Half Century after Apollo." We are interested in having our members give us ideas for future speakers and topics. We welcome your input. Please write to Larry Farris for your thoughts and suggestions regarding speakers and topics (farrisrl@hotmail.com).

I'll end here with wishes that you had a Happy Thanksgiving in these trying times.

Michael Boorstein

Chair, FSRA-FL

FSRA Board of Directors

2020-2021

Chair:

Michael Boorstein

Vice-Chair:

Ellen Connor Engels

Treasurer:

Sue Boorstein

Secretary:

Joyce Fitzpatrick

Board of Advisors

Rebecca Armand

Alan Van Egmond

Larry Farris

Jeffrey Olesen

Linda Olesen

Chris Swenson

Frank Young

The Foreign Service

Retirees Association is a non-profit organization, formalized in 1982, designed to enhance the camaraderie and friend-ship of members and guests. Anyone who has served overseas as a representative of a U.S. government agency, including a branch of the Armed Services or Peace Corps, is welcome to join.

AFSA - AFSA encourages retired FS personnel to let your Congressional Representatives know what you think about the proposed cuts to the State Department, USAID Commerce and Ag budgets, and to thank them for the things they do support. <http://afsa.org/>

FROM Sue Boorstein, FSRA Treasurer

If you find any errors/omissions in the your FSRA 2020 Directory, please contact Sue Boorstein at 703-606-9136, or boorsteins@aol.com. We will be adding the FSRA-FL membership list to a password-protected area of the website soon for ease of updates.

FROM Rebecca Armand – FSRA Newsletter Editor/Website Manager

Hello everyone, and I sincerely hope that you are all healthy, as happy as possible, and looking forward to the holiday season. I apologize sincerely for recently being late with email responses and keeping the new website, www.FSRA-FL.org (the address is much shorter now!) fresh with content - my father passed away unexpectedly in August, and it has hit me hard, both emotionally and with the myriad responsibilities (nearly all made harder by covid-19). Please remember that our website is a living thing, and I can make changes, additions and so forth at any time - I welcome any and all feedback and suggestions from everyone! If I don't seem to be answering please try again, and know that I am refocusing back toward business as usual.

So, we had our **first webinar with Prof. Gary Mormino**, (click here for the link to view it if you missed it: Topic: [Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams](#) and I am really looking forward to more. The next one will be equally awesome, and with a focus near and dear to my heart (my father was an engineer who helped put a man on th moon using a slide rule and rudimentary calculator!!). So please stay tuned for the Annual General Meeting on Friday, January 15, as it will feature Lynne Platt, a retired career Senior Foreign Service Officer on the topic: **The 21st Century and the Final Frontier: U.S. Space Policy a Half Century After Apollo 11**. Please keep your input and articles for the newsletter, along with suggestions and ideas to keep our website relevant and informative for all of us, flowing!

For those **adventurers** among you, my old colleague John Fogarasi (based in Michigan) is setting up a **bike tour in Europe** for late 2021. It will be 10 days of moderate biking, delicious food and drink and nice accommodations paired with historical context along the Danube. So, stay warm or cool (you pick) during this 'winter' season, stay safe and healthy, and my husband Fred (now-retired State SFSO) and I (retired Commerce Officer) hope to see/meet you all at a virtual or in-person event very soon! *Rebecca Armand*

FSRA ANNUAL DUES

Be an Early Bird and Pay your 2021 Dues Now!

\$20 for singles/\$30 for couples

2021 FSRA RENEWAL PAYABLE BY JANUARY 31!

For new member applications, member dues, member address/email changes, contact: Sue Boorstein at email: boorsteins@aol.com or at 703-606-9136. [New Member & Renewal Form](#), along with the newsletter, is available on the FSRA website at: www.FSRA-FL.org.

FSRA NEWSLETTER/ WEBSITE

Please send any comments or suggestions for the FSRA newsletter or website to:
Rebecca Armand
202-247-1294 or
armandrk17@gmail.com.

NEW FSRA MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members:

ADAMS, David Russell
USAID: Dhaka, Port-au-Prince (2 tours), Guatemala City, Brussels, DOS: on secumndment

BARNES, Douglas M.
USIA/State: Warsaw, Palermo, Rangoon, Havana, Lima, San José

BOARDMAN, John S. & Chat N.
State: Kabul, Lahore, Seoul, Vientiane, Bangkok, Managua, Bamako, USUN, Colombo, Havana, Hanoi

BRAYSHAW, Charles H. & Walder Marin
State: Asunción, Bridgetown, Guatamala City, Tunis, Managua, Manama, Algiers, Beirut, Lima, Mexico City, Southcom-Miami, Riyadh, Pristina (UN)

CASON, Amb. James C. & Carmen
State: Portugal, Italy, El Salvador, Panama, Uruguay, Bolivia, Venezuela, Ambassador-Paraguay, DCM-Honduras, Jamaica

CHAUDHRY, Iqbal M.
State/USAID: N'Djamena, Nairobi, Moscow, Cairo, Regional Officer

CHESHES, Martin L. & Marilyn
State: Guinea, Cameroon, Benin, Paris, Durban, Nassau, Martinique, Djibouti, Brussels, CENTCOM (POLAD)

CHIANIS, Dianna
State: Sudan, Germany, Iraq(2 tours), Tampa, Washington DC

COMRAS, Victor D. & Sara V.
State: Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Ibadan, Durban, Paris, Strasbourg, Ottawa, Skopje

ELAM-THOMAS, The Hon. Harriet L. & Wilfred J.
USIA/State: Senegal, Mali, Cote D'Ivoire, Greece, Turkey, Washington DC, Belgium, COM, Dakar

HAHN, Helen (Hallie) Hamilton
State: El Salvador, Bahrain (2 tours), Venezuela, Oman, Suriname, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Wash. DC

HILL, Jeffrey R. & Chuanjit
State: Geneva, Bangkok, Brussels, Singapore, Berlin, Cairo, Caracas

HOLLERAN, Marilyn J.
State: Ankara, FSI, Chennai, St. Petersburg, Lahore, Ankara, Astana

HOEY, John J. & Tess
State: Vietnam

HUSKEY, Dr. James L.
State: Beijing, Madras (Chennai), Nairobi, Taipei

KADUNC, Edward L. & Helena L.
USAID & Peace Corps: Nicaragua, Bolivia, Peru, Jamaica, Colombia, Dom. Rep., Brazil, Bosnia Herzegovina, Mexico

MOODY, Larry A.
USIA/State

MOORE, Naida H. & William H.
State (Tandem): Bangui, Lagos, Mexico City, Bridgetown, Georgetown, Frankfurt, FRC, Manila, Washington DC

MUENCH, Sandra M.
State: Amman, Pretoria, Karachi, Vienna, Washington DC, Bonn, Tel Aviv, Caracas, Baghdad, Riyadh, Islamabad, Abuja

NELSON, Richard B.
USAID: Bangkok, Laos, Philippines, Burma, Paraguay

NICKLES, Julie A.
State: Dhaka, N'Djamena, Bucharest, Tegucigalpa, New Delhi, Abuja, Lagos, Kampala, Washington DC

OLIVER, Natalie R.H. & Richard
State: Panama City, Bridgetown, Abidjan, Bonn, Rome

IN MEMORIAM

Nivea Ribera, 86, died July 24, in The Villages, FL. Ribera entered the Foreign Service in 1993 and served in Panama, Nairobi, Ft. Lauderdale, and in Washington. She accompanied her Foreign Service husband, Robert “Bob” on assignments to Copenhagen, Bonn and Santo Domingo. She retired in 1992. Ribera is survived by her husband, and many grandchildren.



Elizabeth "Betty" Brook, 101, died Nov. 13 in Sarasota, Fl. During WWII she joined the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), part of the US Naval Reserve, and attained the rank Lieutenant Junior Grade, serving in

Washington, DC. After the war ended she joined the U.S. State Department Foreign Service serving all over the world, including in many of the hotspots of the day, including Nigeria, Venezuela, Turkey, Morocco, Kenya and Germany. [Link to her full obituary.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT WEBINAR (during the January 15 AGM: The 21st Century and the Final Frontier: U.S. Space Policy a Half Century After Apollo 11



On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to walk on the moon. Ten other astronauts walked the lunar surface before NASA ended the Apollo program in December 1972.

The Trump Administration has updated U.S. space policy and called for a resumption of human travel to the moon and beyond.

With a new U.S. Space Force, the emergence of “space barons,” successful SpaceX flights, and plans for space tourism, what’s happening on the final frontier?

Lynne Platt, a career Senior Foreign Service Officer (Minister Counselor rank), left the State Department after 31 years of U.S. Government service. From 2014-2017, she was U.S. Consul General in Vancouver, Canada. Her previous overseas assignments were at U.S. Embassies in London, Port-au-Prince, Baghdad, Paris, Brussels (at the U.S. Mission to NATO), and Cairo, and the U. S. Consulate in Casablanca. She also worked in the Near East Asia Bureau of the State Department.

NEW FSRA MEMBERS, cont.

PERGROSSI, Charles E. & Sarah B.

State: Gaborone, Kinshasa, Dakar, New Delhi, Washington DC

PHIPPS, Bryan Hawthorne & Jill Nicola

State: Mogadishu, Merida, London, Lahore, Kuala Lumpur, Riga, Nairobi, Pretoria

RANDOLPH, Alise & Paul

USAID: The Philippines, Belgrade, Kosovo, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Burma

WEBSTER, Graham L. & Ana Laura

State: Georgetown, San José, Mexico City, Washington DC, Asunción, Manila, The Hague, Oslo, Paramaribo

USAID ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UAA) PARTNERSHIP

FSRA is pleased to announce a partnership with the USAID Alumni Association (UAA) which is based in Washington, D.C. The UAA fosters social and collegial networks of former USAID employees while promoting exchange of knowledge among alumni who wish to use their public service experience to advance global development. UAA facilitates access to alumni expertise for professional counsel and public education in support of sound U.S. foreign assistance. A link to the FSRA homepage is now on the [UAA website Alumni Groups page.](#)

Frank Young, a FSRA Board member, is the point of contact for USAID retirees in Florida who want to learn more about FSRA and join. A UAA link can be found on the FSRA website [Web Links page.](#)

AFSA RETIREE OUTREACH

Christine Miele is the AFSA Retiree Outreach Coordinator. She engages with Foreign Service Retiree Associations and supports the work FSRA does locally to share the story of the Foreign Service. You can reach her at miele@afsa.org, or by visiting www.afsa.org/outreach.

Biking the Danube!

During these challenging times, it's important to have aspirations - a foreign adventure, healthy exercise while delving into fascinating history and culture. I'm developing plans for a 10-day program of moderate biking along the Danube River from Central Austria, dipping down to Burgenland, and then across Western Hungary to conclude in Budapest. Making this manageable and 'gemutlich' we're looking at no more than a dozen adventurous-minded folks biking about 30 miles a day, with an escort vehicle assist. We will also focus on history and culture, including sites of the region from early settlers, Turkish assaults, dramatic WWII sites, escape to freedom during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, and more recently the first break in the Iron Curtain leading rapidly to the Fall of the Wall in 1989. Mixed into our tour days, we'll look forward to remarkable cuisine, picturesque vineyards, as well as a dip into one of the largest hot springs in Europe. Covid-19 allowing, my timeframe is late September or early October 2021. I'm working out the cost details over the next few months, with unique accommodations and professional support - yet with budgets in mind. Please contact John Fogarasi at john.fogarasi@gmail.com for more information.

LOOKING FOR NEW READING MATERIAL? YOU MAY WANT TO CHECK THESE OUT...

These books have been published by retired FSO's (and FSRA-FL members) residing in Florida.



1. HEROES OF WORLD WAR II: RICHARD E. NUGENT, THE 1st BRAZILIAN FIGHTER SQUADRON, AND 209 OTHERS

by Dennis Reece, FSO, Retired. Available for purchase from the publisher: hellgatepress.com, or amazon.com/.

Richard E. Nugent commanded the XXIX Tactical Air Command as it gave air support to the Ninth Army from the Siegfried Line to within 53 miles of Berlin. The 1st Brazilian Fighter Squadron, part of the U.S. 350th Fighter Group in Italy, received the Presidential (formerly Distinguished) Unit Citation. All the other 209 individuals, serving in various land or air units, won at least one award for heroism, ranging from the Distinguished Service Cross to the Soldier's Medal.

2. THE AMBASSADOR IS MISSING (AN ALEX BOYD THRILLER)

by Mel Harrison, FSO, Retired. Available for purchase at amazon.com/.

In the sequel to Death in Pakistan, Regional Security Officer Alex Boyd arrives in Rome expecting a comfortable assignment after the terrorist violence in Pakistan where he almost lost his life. On his first day in Italy he's caught in the crossfire during a bank robbery where he saves the life of a grateful Italian VIP. Alex's new Embassy boss despises him for an old grievance, and his girlfriend, Rachel, is running hot and cold. When terrorists kidnap the Ambassador and his wife, Alex swings into full-on action.

3. THE MAN WITH MANY LIVES

by Robert Day, FSO, Retired. Available directly from the author at 850-510-4989, email: WWhiteeagle@comcast.net.

Also available from the publisher: <https://www.xlibris.com/bookstore>.

Born in 1919, Robert W. (Bob) Day looks back on ten decades of his lifetime. From warding off machine-gun-wielding revolutionaries to a Prince intent on buying his daughter, he recalls all this and more as he celebrate 100 years of an adventurous life.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Polo shirts with the FSRA-FL seal are available through FSRA member Bob Kegley at: RAWombat@msn.com (prices range from \$24 - \$27 with seal embroidery plus shipping; XL sizes add \$6). Search for "Port Authority Polo Shirt" for product info [here](#).

HOW and/or WHERE WILL THE NEXT FSRA EVENT BE HELD?

Are you thinking it would be fun to have a virtual FSRA event? We need members to suggest ideas and speakers. Maybe a virtual wine tasting or Happy Hour? Perhaps a Zoom'ed presentation on WWII? Use your imagination!

With the continuing spread of covid-19, we are seeking input for virtual events. The board will be happy to help with setting up a Zoom or other meeting modality. Please contact Ellen Connor Engels, FSRA Vice-Chair at engelsec@hotmail.com or by phone 703-785-0614 or Larry Farris at farrisrl@hotmail.com or 727-307-2866 for more info or support.