



# FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREES ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

FSRA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

<http://www.foreignserviceretireeassociation.org>

## **FRI. MARCH 8, 2019—UNIVERSITY CENTER CLUB—TALLAHASSEE**

Please join us for the March 2019 FSRA lunch on Friday, March 8 at 12pm (social hour at 11am) in the Stadium Room on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the University Center Club (UCC). The University Center Club is located in Building B of the University Center at Doak Campbell Stadium, Florida State University.

The entrance to Building B is located on Champions Way between gates G and F of the stadium. You can turn onto Champions Way via Pensacola Street or Hendry Street. Complimentary parking is available in the visitor's lot in front of Building B – bring your parking ticket to lunch for a stamp. We would like to extend special thanks to **Ruth Godfrey-Sigler** for organizing this event.



**OUR SPEAKER** is Carol S. Weissert, Director of the LeRoy Collins Institute, LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar and Professor of Political Science at Florida State University. Dr. Weissert's topic is "Florida Politics" including insights on the recent elections, the new governor and the upcoming legislative season. She also offers perspective on trends in Florida politics and the relationship to national politics, changing Florida demographics and how they have affected the political landscape.



Prior to taking her current position in August 2003, she was Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on federalism and intergovernmental issues and state policy, particularly health policy. She has published over four dozen articles in political science and public policy journals and is the author or co-author of four recent books including *Governing Health: The Politics of Health Policy*, the fourth edition of which was published in 2011 by Johns Hopkins University Press. She is the former editor of *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, an international journal on federalism and intergovernmental relations published by Oxford University Press. She was 2016 Fulbright Distinguished Chair of American Government in Australia and is a fellow of The National Academy of Public Administration. Her doctorate in political science is from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS** Special rates have been confirmed for FSRA members for Thursday, March 7 at the **COURTYARD by MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN/CAPITOL** at 1018 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, a 10 min. drive to UCC. We have 10 rooms available for FSRA members at the discount rate of \$139/night (single/double occupancy) plus 12.5% state/local

## **FSRA Board of Directors 2018-2019**

### ***Chair:***

Michael Boorstein

### ***Vice-Chair:***

Ellen Connor Engels

### ***Treasurer:***

Christopher Swenson

### ***Secretary:***

Linda Olesen

## **Board of Advisors**

Warrington (Pete) Brown

Sue Boorstein

Robert McAnneny

Jeffrey Olesen

Sue Ford Patrick

Addison Richmond

Frank Young

## **The Foreign Service**

**Retirees Association** is a non-profit organization, formalized in 1982, designed to enhance the camaraderie and friendship 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.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

Our thoughts are with the family of **Susan Schayes** who passed away on Jan 20, 2019. Susan was with the Foreign Agricultural Service.

tax. The hotel has free parking and an onsite bistro serving breakfast and drinks/dinner. Reservations must be made by **THURS. FEBRUARY 14**. Reservations 1-800-321-2211 (hotel direct 850-222-8822). The online link is:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1548182945095&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Request the “Foreign Service Retirees Association” room block. Reservations may be cancelled at least 24 hours prior without penalty. (NOTE: Gather for drinks on Thursday evening in the lobby bistro bar at the Marriott Courtyard).

**OTHER LODGING OPTIONS WITHIN 15 MINUTES OF UCC** Due to the Florida legislative session, lodging in Tallahassee may be difficult to come by at reasonable rates, particularly during the week. The following hotels are options; numerous other hotels are located near I-10, within a half-hour drive of UCC. Check the hotel websites as rates and availability change frequently:

- Doubletree by Hilton (101 S. Adams St 32301)
- Four Points by Sheraton (316 W. Tennessee St. 32301)
- Hampton Inn & Suites – University (824 Railroad Ave. 32310)
- Hotel Duval (415 N. Monroe St. 32301)
- Marriott Residence Inn Universities (600 W. Gaines St. 32304)
- Hilton Garden Inn (1330 S. Blairstone Rd. 32301)
- Aloft Tallahassee (200 N. Monroe St. 32301)
- Comfort Suites (1026 Apalachee Pkwy. 32301)

**WELCOME RECEPTION** Please join us on Thursday, March 7 from 5:30-7:00PM for a no-host social hour in the lobby lounge/bar of the Marriott Courtyard (at 1018 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee).

**FSRA BOARD MEETING** The FSRA Officers and Board of Advisors will meet on Friday, March 8 from 10:00am to 11:00am in the University Room on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the University Center Club (UCC).

**SOCIAL HOUR** Join us on Friday, March 8 from 11:00am to 12:00pm for the social hour adjacent to the Stadium Room. There will be a cash bar.

**LUNCH MENU OPTIONS** UCC’s menu offers a choice of three entrees, and includes freshly baked breads/butter, salad, key lime pie for dessert and coffee/tea.

1. Oven Roasted Chicken – served with roasted potatoes, onions and lemon pepper butter.
2. Mediterranean Tilapia – baked white fish, sun-dried tomatoes, basil, olives, capers on orzo pilaf w/ lemon white wine butter sauce.
3. Vegetarian Fettuccini – with grilled portabella mushrooms, grape tomatoes, broccoli, squash, garlic and parmesan cheese.

**TO MAKE LUNCH RESERVATIONS** Please see the reservation form on page 6 of this newsletter to select lunch options and for payment and mail-in information. The price is \$33.50 pp. Please indicate food allergies. The deadline for lunch reservations is **FEBRUARY 22**.

### **FSRA ANNUAL DUES**

**\$20 for singles**

**\$30 for couples**

**FSRA RENEWALS ARE PAYABLE JANUARY 31!**

**\*PLEASE NOTE THESE FSRA Renewal Changes\***

The Board has voted to have a new dues policy in effect starting January 2020 – dues are to be paid annually by January 31 in order for members to be included in the Directory and to continue their membership. For those currently in arrears, dues are now owed (by January 31, 2019) for 2019 and one prior year in order to be included in the Directory and not dropped from membership.

New member applications, member dues, member address and/or email changes, please contact: **Chris Swenson**. *Email:* chswenson@embarqmail.com or *cell* 239-495-6739.

For your convenience, the New Member & Renewal Form is attached and it is available on the home page of the FSRA website.

### **FSRA Website**

<http://www.foreignserviceretireeassociation.org/index.html>

Please send any comments or suggestions for the FSRA newsletter or website to **Marian Walsh**. *Email:* mvanwalsh@gmail.com or *cell* 941-483-0803.

**THINGS TO DO IN TALLAHASSEE** North Florida is known as “the other Florida,” culturally and geographically different from the southern part of the state. Two state universities, Florida State University and Florida A&M University, call Tallahassee home and offer sports, lectures, and cultural events. Nearby UCC is the National High Magnetic Laboratory; group tours are offered free for a minimum of eight people (must be scheduled three weeks in advance).

You may enjoy a visit to the museum at the old Capitol, as well as the towering structure of the new Capitol, the Florida History Museum, or the



PHOTO COURTESY OF URBANTALLAHASSEE

Tallahassee Museum. See Mission San Luis, a reconstructed Spanish mission designated as a National Historic Landmark, with its exhibit gallery and living history of an Apalachee/ Spanish village. Visit Maclay Gardens State Park, the winter home of New York financier Alfred B. Maclay, offering more than 200 floral varieties, a secret garden, reflection pool and Lake Hall. Also nearby is Wakulla

Springs State Park, with a river boat cruise on the St. Mark’s River and the world’s largest and deepest freshwater spring, and an historic lodge. Another favorite for nature lovers and birdwatchers is the St. Mark’s National Wildlife Refuge. The Tallahassee area offers many bike & trails, kayaking & boating. See [www.visittallahassee.com](http://www.visittallahassee.com) and [www.tallahasseearts.org](http://www.tallahasseearts.org) for more info.

**PHOTOS FROM SARASOTA LUNCH** The Sarasota lunch in January had a great turnout and thanks to Adelet Kegley ([Adelet\\_kegley@msn.com](mailto:Adelet_kegley@msn.com)), we have a number of photos to share from that event. Adelet stored the photos on her OneDrive and will leave the photos in place until March. Click on the link below to view and save the photos. Thanks so much Adelet!  
<https://1drv.ms/f/s!As5pP26bVgypgq0t5ZO5O2T80VtMHQ>

**NOTES FROM THE SPEAKER** For those not able to attend the FSRA lunches in November or January, below are the speaker summaries.

**PUNTA GORDA, NOVEMBER: Professor Brendan Goff, New College of Florida,** presented: “From PT Barnum to Donald Trump.”

Throughout American history, the following “isms” have been present in our political culture: Nativism, Authoritarianism, Populism, Nationalism, and Anti-Intellectualism.

**Nativism** is defined as a policy of favoring native inhabitants as opposed to immigrants—began in 1790 with the Free White Persons’ Immigration Laws; 1882 – the Chinese Exclusion Act; 1924 – the Immigration Act, the KKK and tribal treaties; and in the 1940s – the Japanese American internment camps.

**Authoritarianism** is defined as leaders who claim to embody the will of the nation’s people. In reality, it is characterized by the use of force, such as violence against the Bonus Army in 1932, Kent State in 1970, and most recently, using the National Guard at the border.

### **NEW FSRA MEMBERS!**

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Fred & Rebecca **ARMAND** of Pinellas Park (STATE) served in Mali (PCV), Bangkok, Berlin, Santa Domingo, Nairobi, Lima, Brasilia, Lagos and Mexico City.

Margot & William **CARRINGTON** of Fort Lauderdale (STATE) served in Tokyo, Fukuoka and Kuala Lumpur.

James & Jeannine **DOANE** of Ft. Myers (STATE) served in Jerusalem, Nicosia, Brussels, Naples, Tehran, Bucharest, Moscow, Bogota, Beirut and Baghdad.

Paul **FOLMSBEE** & Angie **CHIN** of Sarasota (STATE). Paul served in Switzerland, Kenya, Gabon, Sri Lanka, Bolivia, Haiti, Pakistan, Iraq, India and Mali. Angie served in Austria, Italy, Turkey, Spain, Malta, Haiti, Colombia, Barbados, Egypt, Liberia, Mali, Pakistan, Japan and Thailand.

Douglas & Pocha Munante **HORTON** of University Park served in UN-affiliated agricultural organizations.

James & Samira **HRADSKY** of Naples (USAID) served in Abidjan, Bangkok, Jakarta, Rabat and Bamako.

William & Pamela Francis **KIEHL** of Sarasota (STATE & USIA) served in Belgrade, Vienna, Zagreb, Colombo, Moscow, Prague, Helsinki, London and Bangkok.

**Populism** is a mode of persuasion pitting the people against the elite. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the people were the producers and the elite the non-producers and constituted the privileged few.

**Nationalism** is when a nation becomes transcendent, persuasive, militarized and unquestionable. It uses stagecraft to persuade audiences.

**Anti-Intellectualism** is defined by plain speech, tradition, common sense, and distrust of science and religious fundamentalism.

How does PT Barnum fit in? He practiced the art of deception during the time of a market revolution, an emerging middle class and rise in print media, all powerful means of persuasion. According to Prof. Goff, these trends that have ebbed and flowed throughout American history, and the current transcendence of many of these “isms,” coupled with Donald Trump as the consummate showman, is the dynamic that led to his election and his belief that favoring one segment of our populace against the other is how he holds onto and builds power and popularity.

His presentation was followed by Qs and As, in which FSRA members exchanged views with Prof. Goff on the meaning of the mid-term elections and what the future might hold as we look to 2020.

*Thank you to Sue Boorstein for the summary of Professor Brendan Goff.*

**SARASOTA, JANUARY: Raymond C Offenheiser**, former President of OXFAM/USA and currently Director and Keough School Distinguished Professor of Practice at Notre Dame University presented “Foreign Aid in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Reform in a Time of Uncertainty.”

His points referenced the status of the recommendations of the Help Commission Report on Foreign Assistance of 2007.

- Integrating all U.S. assistance programs – all three recent administrations have taken action but compromised and/or reversed by successor administrations.
- Align Aid and Trade policies – often in conflict and a net drain on recipients. Not much progress under Obama. Transactional nature of Trump policies favors short-term initiatives with no longer term alignment.
- Re-write the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 – Obama administration did not act; preferred to work on the Quadrennial Development and Diplomacy Review (QDDR).
- Increase hiring/training of AID’s workforce – undermined by budget cuts.
- Create a new business model where “plans” are owned by recipient country; requires commitment and capability. AID can assume different roles in different countries (see USAID website for details).
- Build vibrant private sectors – strong consensus resulted in the Build Act of 2018 creating the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (USIDFC). It will merge OPIC (Overseas Private Investment Corporation) with key private capital functions of USAID. Key development but now working on merger issues.

### **NEW FSRA MEMBERS!**

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Russell & Anita **LeCLAIR** of Naples (STATE) served in Paris, Ibadan, Dublin, Lubumbashi, Vientiane, New Delhi, Vienna, Stockholm, Nairobi, Pretoria and Frankfurt.

Rachel Gray **McCLURE** of Sarasota (STATE) served in Paris, Santo Domingo, Nassau, Sarajevo and Athens.

David & Mercedita **PETERSON** of Altamonte Springs (STATE) served in Beirut, Tehran, Hong Kong, Beijing, Kampala, Port Louis, Maseru, Bonn, Rangoon and Tel-Aviv.

Gwynne **STRADER-OCANA** of Sarasota (STATE) served in Madrid, Kingston, London, Bridgetown, Trinidad, Santo Domingo and Nassau.

### **NEW GIFT IDEAS**

Polo shirts with the FSRA 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). Men's shirts are available with or without a pocket; ladies are without pockets. Search for "Port Authority Polo Shirt" for product information and colors at this website:

<http://www.unameitapparel.com/shop/>

He added that Foreign Aid is only as effective as the Foreign Policy it aligns with and there are many challenges.

- Withdrawal from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.
- Adjusting to the rise of China - we have no strategy to compete with its Belt and Road initiative.
- Acknowledging the reality of climate change.
- Dealing with mass migration.
- Rise of Nationalism and Authoritarianism
- Rising number of conflicts.

He closed by crediting our defense leaders with recognizing the need for development to reduce the need for military action. However, he believes that President Trump is taking the country back to a Hobbesian world of mercantilism defined as the good guys vs. the bad guys.

Also at the Sarasota lunch, **Paula Jakob, Executive VP and CEO of AFSPA** provided an update on its insurance programs in five areas. See websites for latest updates: RNET.State.Gov; OPM.Gov.Policy; and AFSPA.com.

1. Effect of furlough – FS annuities payments are not at risk. Deductions for FEHB, FEGLI, Fed Long Term Care and Dental/Vision plans will continue. Only uncertainty is whether any changes made in Open Season have been effected before Furlough.
2. FEHB in 2019 – focusing on cost transparency before filling prescription; wellness initiatives; chronic conditions such as diabetes management; telehealth program; discounts on hearing aids and non-FEHB programs such as dental and vision plans.
3. Medicare Part A – deductibles increased but covered by FEHB. Part B – non participating provider can charge 15% more than participating provider. If no Part B, must consider cost of participating vs. non participating provider.
4. Senior Living Foundation – Thanks to contributors was able to provide a quarter million in grants which funded seminars on mental health, pain management and the new tax law, inter alia.
5. Migration last year from CIGNA to AETNA: complicated. Thanks to all for patience. 85% of claims now paid in 15 days.

*Thanks to Jeff Olesen for the summary of our speakers at the Sarasota lunch.*

## **WONDERING WHERE FUTURE FSRA EVENTS WILL BE?**



The locations will depend on YOU! Are you thinking it would be great to have a FSRA lunch in your Florida hometown? We need members to suggest venues and speakers. As a local, you are the best person to suggest a location. The FSRA board will be happy to help with the details. A “Guide for Hosting” is available upon request. Please contact Ellen Connor Engels, FSRA Vice-Chair, at 703-785-0614 or engelsec@hotmail.com.

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

### **Death of an Annuitant:**

*Submitted by Judy Carson*

The following link to the AFSA website offers valuable information that all retirees should have in their estate/trust documents (and send onto the executors and successive trustees).

<http://www.afsa.org/death-annuitant>

**AFSA Retiree Outreach Coordinator** – Christine Miele is the AFSA Retiree Outreach Coordinator. This is a newly created position at AFSA dedicated to engaging with Foreign Service Retiree Associations throughout the country & supporting the work FSRA does locally to share the story of the Foreign Service. Christine Miele’s contact info is available at:  
<http://www.afsa.org/outreach>

### **USEFUL WEB LINKS**

Haven’t read the latest Foreign Service Journal?  
<http://afsa.org/afsa-publications-resources>

How about State Magazine?  
<https://www.state.gov/m/dgh/r/statemag/>

Ellen Connor Engels  
230 24th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33704

**Mail-back Coupon for Lunch on Friday, March 8, 2019 at the University Center Club**

Complete this form and send it **PRIOR TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019** with a check payable to:  
FSRA of Florida to Ellen Connor Engels, 230 24th Avenue North, St. Petersburg FL 33704  
(Ellen's email is engelsec@hotmail.com)

**\*\*YOUR ORDER & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRI. FEBRUARY 22, 2019\*\***

**MEMBER or GUEST**

**LUNCHEON CHOICE (CIRCLE ONE)**

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Chicken – Seafood – Veg. Pasta**

FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_

2. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Chicken – Seafood – Veg. Pasta**

FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_

3. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **Chicken – Seafood – Veg. Pasta**

FLORIDA HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_

**Check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Luncheons @ \$33.50 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Thank You!**

I/We plan to gather at 5:30pm for the Welcome Reception in the ground floor lounge/bar of **The Courtyard by Marriott** (1018 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee on **Thursday, March 7th.** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_