



# *aoshs* Quarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society  
704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

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## **AOSHS General Meeting Highlights DoDDS Reunion XXI by...Donovan R. Walling**

Many *Quarterly* readers will already have read Joe Condrill's excellent emailed account of the DoDDS Reunion XXI. Suffice to say, the Las Vegas event was grand, drawing more than a thousand participants for fun, food, and fellowship. An AOSHS highlight was the well attended general membership meeting.

At that meeting outgoing AOSHS president Jan Mohr presided and introduced the other members of the AOSHS board, past presidents, and then the keynote speaker, Dr. Shirley Miles, DoDEA director. Miles, a product of the overseas schools, focused her comments on the Japanese concept of *kaizen*, or constant renewal, which Miles characterized as harkening to W. Edwards Deming's philosophy that undergirded the rebuilding of postwar Japan. Translating the concept into education, Miles talked of needing two key components: caring, competent teachers, and leadership, not just management.

Other items of business included remarks by various board members. Joy Bryant appealed to the group to bring in other brats to swell the AOSHS ranks, and Gary Westhusin spoke about the archive program — still accepting materials — and the need for volunteers to assist in archive activities. Joan Oak reminded participants to view the AOSHS history albums in the exhibit room.

For her final address as the outgoing president of AOSHS, Jan Mohr focused on the bricks, blocks, and pavers program, assuring listeners of the integrity of the program. The question, said Jan, comes down to where to place them. Under consideration are sites in Wichita, such as the public library, as well as military museums, military bases, and university campuses. Meanwhile, the program is maintained through a virtual presence on the AOSHS website.

Finally, incoming AOSHS president Tina Calo presented Jim Onoprienko with the AOSHS Most Valuable Volunteer of the Year Award. Thanks also went to Les Burch for his service on the AOSHS board

of directors and to Jan for her efforts as president. Rita Wells, the AOSHS treasurer, gave thanks to the host committee.

## **Next Summer: Indianapolis by...Donovan R. Walling**

DoDDS Reunion XXII will be in Indianapolis, Indiana, from July 31 to August 3, 2010. Mark your calendars now.

For those unfamiliar with "Indy," as we Hoosiers call it, it's more than the Indy 500 and the home of the Colts football team. The downtown is vibrant, boasting resident theater and dance companies and a first-rate symphony. The city's museums are first rate, too, including the newly expanded Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Eiteljorg, with its extensive collection of art from the West and Native Americans, and the Indiana State Museum, which is only a few years old.

Restaurants, jazz clubs, bookstores — you name it — are all within walking distance of the reunion hotel in downtown Indy. Better yet, take a romantic carriage ride and see it all. Plan now not only to enjoy reconnecting with other DoDDS/AOSHS participants but also to enjoy this great Midwestern city.

## **New Officers Installed**

Newly installed officers on the AOSHS board of directors are Tina Calo, president; Gary Westhusin, vice president; and Kay Galloway, secretary. Rita Wells continues as treasurer. Former president Jan Mohr will continue to advise and assist. The board of directors meets quarterly each year, three times by teleconference and once, usually in May, at the AOSHS Office and Archive in Wichita, Kansas. The board also meets informally in conjunction with the DoDDS reunion each summer.

Kay Galloway and Sunny Swentner have joined the board as new members replacing two whose terms have ended. The board bade official farewell not only to Jan Mohr but also to Les Burch. Both were thanked for their long and faithful service.

*(l to r) Tina Calo, AOSHS president; Jim Onoprienko, volunteer of the year; and Jan Mohr, AOSHS immediate past president.*



*AOSHS board members Joan Oak (l) and Donovan Walling share information during a quiet moment.*



*Outgoing AOSHS president Jan Mohr (l) and board member Joy Bryant sorted AOSHS pins at the sales and exhibit booth. Items on the table at right, including the beer stein and the handsome framed print, were awarded in the popular annual lottery.*



*Past presidents and AOSHS volunteers Ann Bamberger (l) and Scarlett Rehrig kept busy selling AOSHS tee-shirts at the reunion. An unidentified participant eyes one of the bright pink shirts.*

### ***Commemorative Coin Medallions Still Available***

Bronze-tone coin medallions commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the DoDDS reunions were available at the reunions in Louisville and Las Vegas and can still be purchased by mail. Each coin is approx. 1½" in diameter. The obverse features a high-relief rendering of the AOSHS logo, while the reverse is a raised-letter commemorative message.



The coins are available for \$6 each for a single coin or the first of several, with additional coins for \$5 each, which includes postage. Send a check or money order made out to AOSHS along with your order to Lee Davis, 2224 South Periwinkle, Mesa, AZ 85209-5128.

These commemorative coin medallions are great as presents or for trading. Don't miss out on this opportunity to have a piece of history.



**"Brats" Film Making Rounds**  
by...Donovan R. Walling

Filmmaker Donna Musili, who oversees the Brats Without Borders project, reports news on a couple of activities. First, the film, "BRATS: Our Journey Home," is "on tour" across the United States. The tour venues include a screening of the film, which is narrated by Kris Kristofferson, followed by a discussion. For the latest tour information, readers can go to the website: [www.bratsourjourneyhome.com](http://www.bratsourjourneyhome.com). (A personal copy of the film on DVD also can be ordered on the website.)

Another activity is Operation Military Brat. The Sprint Foundation recently announced that Brats Without Borders will receive a \$20,000 grant to help fund Operation Military Brat's educational outreach program. Musili notes, incidentally, that Sprint CEO Dan Hesse is a military brat who went to Frankfurt American High School.

Operation Military Brat donates one-of-a-kind collections of books, films, and an exclusive resource binder that celebrates and explores our brat heritage to selected public libraries that serve large populations of brats. Says Musili, "We cannot do this without your help! If you'd like to donate a Military Brat Library, we will include your or your company's name and information in the library's books, films, and binder." Each Military Brat Library costs \$500 and will benefit thousands of military brats and their families for years to come. Donations can be made on the website.

Here's another tidbit from Musili. According to her research, the word *brat* comes from "British Regimental Attached Traveler" and originally referred to British military brats. Given the vagaries of etymology, however, there might be other plausible origins. Any ideas?

By the way, Brats Without Borders, Inc., is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) nonprofit production company. Donations are tax deductible.

### Correction

Seems in the last issue we still managed to misspell Gary Westhusin's name.

This time we'd better be right, because he's our new AOSHS vice president!

We apologize and hope that others also will help us catch any errors.

## Surfin' Our Websites

Bahrain School is uniquely situated in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which is an Arab country



located on a small island in the Persian Gulf. It is connected to the Saudi Arabia mainland by the King Fahd Causeway, which opened

in 1986. With school colors of maroon and gold and the falcon as its mascot, Bahrain School follows an American K-12 curriculum and is part of DoDEA. Students are required to study Arabic as the host nation language, and a number of Bahraini students also are enrolled (traditionally about half the student body).

This constitutional monarchy has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. military and has provided a U.S. base in Juffair, since the early 1990s. This is headquarters for Commander, United States Naval Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT) / United States Fifth Fleet (COMFIFTHFLT), and about 1,500 United States and coalition military personnel. However, the American presence in Bahrain long predates this recent agreement.

Bahrain School does not list an alumni association on the AOSHS website, but curious readers can find more information about the school at its official website: [www.bahr-ehs.eu.dodea.edu](http://www.bahr-ehs.eu.dodea.edu)



eagerly look forward to her visits every summer to hear about her escapades (and did she have stories!).

Deciding she had had it with teaching, she moved to San Diego, where she worked for years as a travel agent and then later as an administrative assistant in a law office.

She will be truly missed by all who knew her, who have been enriched by her unwavering optimism, friendship, and love.

## SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sam Menniti

.....July 27, 1952 - May 31, 2009

Sam, a native of Ridgeway, Pennsylvania, received his Bachelor of Science in Education in 1974 from Youngstown State in Youngstown, Ohio. He held a master's degree in Curriculum Development from Georgia State University in Atlanta and certification in Gifted Education from the University of Florida, in Tampa. Sam also conducted postgraduate study at the University of Pittsburgh in Educational Leadership.

Sam began his career with the Department of Defense Schools in 1979 as a reading specialist at the Izmir Dependent School in Turkey. He went on to teach reading in Vicenza, Italy, and later held principal positions in Italy at Rimini, Aviano, Comiso, and La Maddalena. In 1990 he became the principal of Robert D. Edgren High School at Misawa Air Base in Japan. He went on to several additional assignments in the Pacific and returned to Turkey in 1996 as the principal of Incirlik High School and later became the principal of London Central High School.

In addition to his experience as a teacher and principal, Sam was Associate Superintendent in the Isles and Mediterranean District. He was promoted as Superintendent to the Korea District in January 2008. Sam died on Sunday, May 31, 2009, in Florida after a prolonged illness.

## RECENTLY CLOSED FUNDS

Colette Brinkman.....Ceramic Block

## AOSHS Office Montage

Photos by Tina Calo and Lee Davis

These photos from the AOSHS Office/Archive offer a glimpse behind the scenes. The archive is located at 704 West Douglas Avenue, in the historic Delano District of Wichita, Kansas. AOSHS also owns the building next door at 708, which was a Ceramic Art Studio but is in the process of changing tenants. Rent from this building adds income, but the building also will allow for expansion of the archive as our need for space grows.



⇨ Scarlett Rehrig, past AOSHS president, pauses at the archive door with a welcoming smile.

Les Burch hangs the banner from Würzburg University. ⇨  
(See the summer 2009 Quarterly for a related story.)

The archive is at 704 on the right hand side. Next door, at 708, is the Ceramic Art Studio, soon to be rented by a new tenant. Partly obscured by the tree at left is a popular barbecue restaurant. ⇨



Vice President Gary Westhusin helps load the minivan. ⇨





## The Way We Were: Memories from ?????

### Memories...Selected by Joan Oak

*In this excerpt, Barbara Willey recalls travel and impressions of Japan. This is part one of two. In this first part you will read about going to Japan and Barbara's impressions of the local scene and the Tokyo American School. Her account is well stated and deserves to be enjoyed in full, so we will provide part two in the next issue of the Quarterly.*

In July of 1954, 150 American schoolteachers left Seattle on board the Navy transport, General William E. Mitchell, destination and assignment unknown. The teachers knew only that they had been assigned to the Far East Command, which included the four main islands of Japan and the island of Okinawa. Previous to their departure, these teachers had been interviewed at leading universities throughout the country, screened, and selected as representatives of the American Government to a foreign land.

Their departure followed three days of indoctrination in Seattle, during which time they were given opportunity to turn back as they were reminded that they were going to a land of former enemies where human life is very cheap and nature often chaotic.

Two weeks and two typhoons later, the ship anchored in the breakwaters of Yokohama, the port of entry for Tokyo eighteen miles away. Assignments were handed out by schools officials, and all teachers were transported to Tokyo for further indoctrination. Teachers assigned to Tokyo found themselves in a city of strange contrasts.

Tokyo is not only the capital, but also one of the most important commercial cities of Japan. Tokyo has so hastened from the 14th century to the 20th that it has become one of the oddest cities in the world. Here East meets West in all manner of living. Telephone booths line the streets; rickshaws, streetcars, and autos rush down both broad and narrow ways. Coolies carry burdens on bamboo poles. Modern department stores, banks, and hotels squeeze in beside Japanese homes with their ceremonial gardens and quaint teahouses.

Tokyo is a big egg-shaped city. A little river, the Sumida, runs along one side to empty into Tokyo Bay. In the heart of the city is the Imperial Palace and its surrounding moat. Beyond are the government buildings, foreign embassies, businesses and hotels; all fringed by parks, residential districts, and factories. The

suburbs of the city are charming, for here antiquity holds sway. One finds Japanese inns, homes, and landscaped gardens. One of these suburbs, or precincts, Yoyogi, serves as the background for this unit.

Yoyogi Tokyo American School is a bright, cheerful structure of pale yellow stucco. It shows the Japanese influence with its sliding doors and built-in Tokonoma. The school, wonderfully equipped and well run, stood in the center of a typical Japanese village on the site of the former Yoyogi Imperial Parade Grounds, not far from the Emperor Maiji Shrine. The school playground had formerly been the scene of the mass suicides of the Japanese warlords at the close of World War II.

Looking out the classroom windows, one could see all the activities of a Japanese community: the Shiembashi, or story telling man, making his rounds to call the children of the neighborhood together for his pictures and folk tales; the Noodle or Soba man with his eerie horn; the Goldfish man, and the Sweet Potato man, each eager to sell his wares.

The Yoyogi School is the first and foremost school in the Far East and is so mentioned in the book, *Windows for the Crown Prince*, by Elizabeth Gray Vining. The Yoyogi School, with an enrollment of 1,700 pupils is the largest school in Japan; and until 1949 it was the only school of its kind in the Far East. The school is used as a demonstration school for the Japanese, and as such it is an effective instrument in showing democracy at work.

The children, with various scholastic backgrounds, came from all parts of the United States and from many parts of the world in which there are armed forces of occupation. The children constantly came and went throughout the school year. Rare was the instance in which a child enrolled in a class in September was among those present in June. The children did not have a stable community life such as is found in most localities in the States. Lacking were some of the traditional American institutions which are such a common part of American school life, i.e. the corner drug store for an after school snack and the five and ten cent store for pencils and paper.

The sixty-five teachers of Yoyogi School had been recruited from all sections of the United States and Hawaii and brought with them different philosophies of education. There, those philosophies merged and blended into one cooperative whole.

Effective August 1, 2009, the Individual Life Membership Program was discontinued. With the cost of operations continually on the rise, this seemed to be one of the economic moves to help us stay operational. Once we became life members, many of us (myself included) forgot that donations were still needed to help keep us afloat. Those of us who are life members are, of course, grandfathered in so please do not forget to send in a donation — use your birthday as a reminder, for example. For those of you who have an annual membership, please renew on time. Your renewal date is listed on the address label of the *Quarterly*. You also may pay ahead. Just be sure to indicate that on the form. Dues may be paid by check, money order, or credit card. Use the form as well to update your information. It's important to keep us informed about address changes, as the newsletter is not usually forwarded.

AOSHS welcomes new members to join using this form.  
Please feel free to pass it along to friends and colleagues.

*The American Overseas Schools Historical Society, Inc.*

### Nonprofit Membership Program

704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

PLEASE NOTE: This address is for **tax-exempt MEMBERSHIP DUES, ILMP, AND DONATIONS ONLY.**

Printed full name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member ☐ -or- Renewal ☐

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or Box No.      City (APO/FPO)      State      ZIP)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a Former ☐ -or- Current ☐: Educator ☐ -or- Student ☐ -or- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enc. ☐ -or- VISA / Mastercard |\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_| Exp. Date:\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code: \_\_\_\_\_ (from signature strip on back of card)  
(as it appears on your Credit Card)

\$25 for annual dues and 4 issues of the newsletter \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for the AOSHS Endowment/Building Fund. \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donation for the Drysdale Archive Endowment Fund. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for the AOSHS Operating Fund. \$\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you!*

*I have included AOSHS in my estate planning* ☐

Referred for membership by (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

*For all current and past educators and support personnel,  
American and foreign, of DoDDS, DDESS, and DoS*

# THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS ARCHIVE ALUMNI REGISTRATION FORM

For all alumni, American and foreign, of overseas American schools at any grade level.

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: M ☐ F ☐ Date of Birth: M \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship (include both if dual): \_\_\_\_\_

(This address may be shared with other

City and Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

AOSHS members: Yes ☐ No ☐

After graduation from high school, I:  
Entered the work force ☐ or military ☐

Graduated: Yes ☐ No ☐

Attended a:

Highest Diploma/Degree Attained:

Trade/Technical School ☐

HS Diploma ☐

College: 2-yr ☐ 4-yr ☐

AA ☐

Army ☐

Degree

List Type

Military

Navy ☐

Bachelors ☐

Academy

Air Force ☐

Masters ☐

Coast Guard ☐

Doctorate ☐

## Department of Defense Overseas Schools and Private Overseas Schools Attended

Year or Years Attended	Grade Level (e.g. K,3-6, etc.)	Name of School(s)	Military Base/City	Country

## Names Of Siblings Who Attended Overseas Schools, With Their Grade Levels And Schools

Siblings	Year or Years Attended	Grade Level (e.g. K,3-6, etc.)	Name of School(s)	Military Base/City	Country

I understand the information I provide will be available for research in the AOS archives.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: AOSHS Archive Registration, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104



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## The American Overseas Schools Historical Society

A Kansas Nonprofit Corporation

This AOSHS *Quarterly* is published four times a year by the Society to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating our American children and youth abroad.

AOSHS MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00 annually and includes four issues of the newsletter. To join, send dues to AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104. A membership application form is provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.

DONATIONS to help preserve the *American Overseas Schools Archives* (AOSA) for posterity and historical research are appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Donations may be sent to the above address.

READERS are ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT short, factual ARTICLES of human interest regarding their experiences overseas. Articles printed may or may not reflect the opinions of AOSHS. Please submit articles preferably by e-mail to [overseasschools@aoshs.org](mailto:overseasschools@aoshs.org), or by snail mail to: AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104.

### AOSHS Policy

The Directors realize that to obtain all AOSHS objectives:

- 1) the strong support of the membership is absolutely essential and must be recognized;
- 2) that although the Society greatly appreciates and recognizes all donations and gifts, it will neither recommend nor encourage its members to obtain the services or products of any company; and,
- 3) the Society will not discriminate on the basis of lifestyle, race, sex, religion, or political affiliation.

## Mary Muehring Circle Honors AOSHS Members' Philanthropy

The Mary Muehring Circle was established in 2002 to recognize philanthropists large and small who have included AOSHS in their estate planning. It is important to provide for the Society's future in a variety of ways. AOSHS honors all those who have made bequests through a will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. If you wish to include AOSHS in your estate planning, please contact:

President, AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104



### *Take a Look at What's Inside – and Learn about...*

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