aoshs uarterly

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

Excitement Builds for Orlando Reunion by... Donovan R. Walling

It may be winter now, but summer is just around the corner. And that means it's time to think about the next DoDDS Reunion.



Mark your calendar now, and get your registration and hotel reservation in soon if you haven't already done so.

For more information, check out:

The reunion website at...

www.doddsworldreunion.com

or contact the organizers at...

doddsreunion@suddenlink.net



Vol. XVI, No. 1 Winter 2011 www.aoshs.org overseasschools@aoshs.org

The reunion hotel is the Rosen Plaza, a name with a slightly German ring to it. The Rosen Plaza is an award-winning accommodation with fourteen stories and 800 guest rooms. It is located on International



Drive near the Orange County Convention Center and in the heart of Orlando's famous theme parks, only fifteen minutes from downtown Orlando, across the street from the Pointe Orlando shopping, dining, and entertainment complex, and only fifteen minutes from Orlando International Airport.

AOSHS will be on hand to welcome members, friends, and prospective members. Plan to attend the annual member meeting that will take place during the reunion. Tina Calo, AOSHS president, comments, "Our attendance has increased every year thanks to the efforts of the AOSHS board members and the reunion committee. Exciting things are happening. I hope you will join us in Orlando to hear what's in store for our DoDDS educators and alumni."

If the reunion doesn't keep you busy enough, there's always more to do in Orlando. Dare I mention Disney? There's the big park, Disney World, of course, but don't forget about the companion attractions to the Magic Kingdom, such as Epcot and Downtown Disney. Other not-to-be-missed destinations are Sea World and Universal Studios. If science is more exciting to you than cartoon characters, consider an excursion to the Kennedy Space Center. Tours are available from Orlando to Cape Canaveral.

Best of all, come and see old friends, make new connections, and enjoy good times. ∠

Surfin' Our Websites

Grafenwöhr Elementary School in Germany has been serving K-5 DoDDS students in northern Bavaria for many years. GES, home of the Grizzlies, is fully accredited by the North Central Association.

The town of Grafenwöhr was founded in the ninth century on an island between the river Creussen and the Thum stream. The name means "count's island" from count (Graf) and island (Wöhr). It is located in a scenic rural setting about sixty miles northeast of Nürnberg, a historic medieval crossroads and home to the German Renaissance master Albrecht Dürer. The area surrounding Grafenwöhr is called the Upper Palatinate, or Oberpfalz.

Grafenwöhr Training Area, located south and west of the town, has served as a military preparation locale for more than a hundred years, long predating U.S. military use, which has predominated since the end of World War II.

The Grafenwöhr water tower, built between 1909 and 1911 (see photo), is a local landmark. The tower was a primary source of drinking water for nearly one hundred years.



The elementary school maintains a lively, colorful website:

http://www.graf-es.eu.dodea.edu/.

Check out the slide shows of numerous school activities. \varkappa

More...
from the Archives

Numerous artifacts are part of the AOSHS archive, among them this handsome ceramic vase, which was donated by Emily Gritsavage. This ceramic work, inscribed "Sumida Kensetsu," was created to commemorate the construction of family housing on Okinawa. Special—unique or rare—items with clear historical and artistic significance help to enliven and illuminate the story of overseas education that resonates with the mission and purpose of AOSHS. \varkappa



Overseas Coordinator and Representative Needed

On page 11 readers will note the AOSHS Directory. A number of overseas volunteers have been confirmed, or reconfirmed. However, a couple of slots remain vacant:

- A regional representative for England/UK, and a
- · Pacific Area coordinator.

If you are appropriately located and could help out by volunteering to fill either of these positions, please contact AOSHS President Tina Calo or the AOSHS office.



Message from The Board

by... Winanne Murray

As I write this, 2010 will soon be referred to as "last year" and we'll all be talking about the New Year. In fact, by the time you read this we'll be well into 2011. As I look on the past year, I can definitely call it a "banner year" for me. After 38 years of full-time teaching, I decided to take my district's early retirement incentive. I joined more than a hundred other teachers to enter into a world of not having to adhere to a strict schedule. I wondered how I would adjust as my life had been filled with alarm clocks, as well as clock watching, to make sure I was always on schedule. Retirement, so far, has been almost as busy as when I taught full time. I now remember what many of my retired friends so often said, "We don't know how we ever worked!"

Part of my retired life now includes serving on the AOSHS board of directors. When I was asked to consider joining the board. I thought about it for a few days and decided to accept the position. The questions came later when I suddenly realized what I had done! I asked myself. "What can I contribute as a new board member?" I had that question answered when I attended my first formal board meeting at the DoDDS reunion in Indianapolis, Outgoing board members, current board members, and the three new members all sat around a table at the hotel and mapped out the board's goals, scheduled telephonic meeting dates, and discussed current and future board business. That was part of the process that would help me better understand the goals of AOSHS and its exact purpose.

My introduction to AOSHS came when I attended the San Diego reunion a few years ago. At that point I hadn't heard much about it, but knew that it was somehow connected to preserving the history of DoDDS. I thought that since I was a military brat and both my sister and brother had attended DoD schools in Germany, I definitely had a connection and needed to learn more about AOSHS. As a new board member I have seen how AOSHS came to be and what makes it work. Serving on the board has given me a renewed appreciation of the hard work that so many have contributed. One of the board's goals is to continue to

brainstorm ways of recruiting new members. As we have heard often at our DoDDS reunions, we can't do it alone—it will take a strong supportive membership to keep AOSHS going.

Now for my own plug to join: If you have ever been interested in learning more about the history of DoDDS and how to preserve its heritage, AOSHS has something to offer! Joining this worthwhile organization will help support the efforts of all who truly are dedicated to preserving DoDDS history.



Anthology Contributors Wanted

Trisha Lindsey '82 and Yoshika (Loftin) Lowe '83 are compiling two anthologies of stories about the experiences of students and faculty who attended DoDDS schools. They will compile the stories in two collections, one of Berlin alumni/faculty and another of overseas alumni/faculty more broadly. According to Trisha and Yoshika, "We need narratives describing your time teaching in U.S. schools overseas. This includes school trips/outings, classroom experiences, and anything relevant to your time at your assigned school(s). Please contact us at either...

www.bratsoverseas.com

or...

bratsoverseas@yahoo.com &

AOSHS Archive Collections Wide-Ranging by... Lee Davis

The majority of the memorabilia in the archives are contributions made by educators, as a result of school closures, and by professional organizations. Students have made very few contributions. The archives are specifically void of memorabilia related to the lives of overseas students beyond the realm of school-sponsored activities.



A great number of non-school activities were designed for student participation after school hours and on weekends. It is easy to recall programs, such as OVA, NYA, AYA, MYA, KYA, MCCS, and many more acronyms. These organizations provided activities such as athletic leagues, music lessons, dance classes, and summer activities. Many programs were directed or sponsored under the auspices of Recreation Services, the chapel, NCO and Officers Clubs, and other on-base organizations. The overseas setting made Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers a unique



experience. Ordinary weekend campouts became international experiences with Scouts from other countries. All of these organizations took the opportunity to travel, giving American students the chance to experience their respective activities in settings and environments not normally afforded the average stateside student.

The number of activities varied from base to base depending on enrollment, facilities, and locations. However, there is one common denominator at all bases in all countries—volunteers. They included parents, educators, and military personnel who gave hours of their time to make these programs successful and to promote stateside equivalent activities to the youth living abroad.



These activities, students, and volunteers normally were never mentioned in the local school yearbooks. In most cases, records of these programs and activities are non-existent. Many students and parents have individual or group pictures and trophies, patches, and pins earned from various locations around the world. Many of these bases where these activities occurred are now closed.

We recently received from Gail Davis-Drake her collection of Girl Scout pins, patches, and awards representing nine foreign countries that she acquired while attending schools overseas. Hopefully, as children become adults and parents downsize, all will remember that memorabilia from non-school programs and activities are an important part of life overseas. The AOSHS Archive will serve as a repository to record and display non-school memorabilia as well as those materials related to school and educational programs.

[Artwork: from the many that adorn the walls at the AOSHS archive in Wichita.]

Make a New Year's Resolution: Make a Gift By... Kay Galloway

By now you probably have made (and discarded) several New Year's resolutions, but here's one to consider.

Decades before he received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Albert Schweitzer wrote, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have found how to serve others."

How does one serve others? Most would say by giving of our time, our talent, and our treasure for the good of others, for the betterment of society, or to benefit a cause in which we believe.

Members of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) have been exceedingly generous in serving others by dedicating a significant portion of their lives to educate the children of the U.S. military and civilian populations living abroad and on military bases at home.

Most members also serve others by giving annually in support of AOSHS and its goals to collect, preserve, make accessible, and communicate documents and other materials relating to the overseas schools; and to inspire and empower AOSHS members to make the past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives.

For more 20 years, AOSHS members have responded to appeals like this with gifts that have been invested in the preservation of historic documents and artifacts relating to the establishment of our schools and the life we enjoyed living and working overseas.

Making a gift to honor the work of AOSHS is easy:

- Cash: Cash gifts are the most common and may be given all at once or pledged and paid over time.
- Securities: Gifts of stock may be transferred directly to AOSHS and sold in order to avoid creating a taxable event. The AOSHS Treasurer can assist in any stock transfer.
- Individual Retirement Accounts: IRAs currently have a special charitable benefit. Donors are able to transfer up to \$100,000 to AOSHS without being taxed.
- Insurance Policies: Ownership of a paid life insurance policy with a cash value can be transferred to AOSHS.
- *Bequests:* Making a gift through a will or living trust of cash, securities, personal property, real estate, retirement funds, or life insurance is a simple matter of stating your wishes in writing.

Donations to help continue the work of AOSHS and to preserve the archives for posterity and historical research are highly valued and appreciated. They also are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS.

Editor Needed

Donovan Walling is wrapping up his tenure on the AOSHS board of directors and also will soon wind down his time as editor of this AOSHS Quarterly. If you thrive on writing and editing and working with dedicated, interested individuals, then please consider indicating your interest in this volunteer position by contacting AOSHS President Tina Calo or the AOSHS office (see page 11). The editor does not need to be a board member.

Have a Story to Tell? ... a Photo to Share?

The AOSHS Quarterly is always looking for interesting stories from folks who were DoDDS students or educators or were otherwise connected to schools overseas. And if you have a photo to share with your story, so much the better. Space is limited, so no promises. But we'd really enjoy hearing from you. Contact information can be found on page 11. \varkappa

The AOSHS Memorial Program

Memorial Program

You may purchase a brick or paver in your own name, as a gift, in memory of a friend or loved one, or a school. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below for the correct order card(s). You may include a 300-word biography and a photo along with the check when you submit your order. The selection of bricks/pavers appears below.

Memorial Fund

You may organize a fund for a deceased friend or loved one. The fund will be announced in two issues of the Quarterly so that others may contribute. When the fund closes in six months, you will receive an accounting and determine which item the fund will purchase. Write to the Memorial Program address or the e-mail address below to request a Memorial Fund Form, or print the form at www.aoshs.org/kiosk; just click on Memorial Program.

Donate

You may also donate to an already established fund by sending a check payable to the AOSHS Memorial Fund at the address below. Please note the honoree's name on the check's memo line.

AOSHS Memorial Program,
PO Box 4312 Scottsdale AZ 85261-4312
[Don't forget to indicate the honoree's name
on the check's memo line.]

Memorial Program for Alumnae/Alumni

We have had many names added to our <u>Those No Longer</u> with <u>Us</u> paver, where friends or loved ones have sent a donation to remember a special person in their lives, but did not wish to purchase a brick or start a memorial fund.

Though this began as an educator remembrance, several of those recognized are alumni. Because of the increase in donations for this fund, we feel it appropriate to create a second paver specifically to recognize alumni. If friends wish to remember a deceased former student, send the honoree's name, school, and year of graduation (if appropriate), and it will be included in alphabetical order on the kiosk page, which can be viewed by going to www.aoshs.org/kiosk, then clicking on the Interactive Kiosk link, and following directions.

To remember an alumna/alumnus in this way, send a check payable to the AOSHS Memorial Fund at the address below.

Please note the honoree's name on the check's memo line and include a note requesting that this person be honored on the Alumni Memorial Paver. \varkappa

e-mail: memorialprog@aoshs.org

[Note: e-mails must include AOSHS in the subject area, to pass through our spam filters.]

| Type Of Bricks And Pavers Offered In The Program | Size (in inches) | Characters/Line (includes spaces) | Maximum Lines | Total Characters (includes spaces) | Cost |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Ceramic Brick | 4 x 8 | 15 | 2 | 30 | \$100 |
| Ceramic Paver | 8 x 8 | 15 | 5 | 75 | \$250 |
| Medium Granite Paver | 8 x 8 | 15 | 5 | 75 | \$500 |
| Large Granite Paver | 16 x 16 | 25 | 11 | 275 | \$1000 |
| Premium Granite Paver | 24 x 24 | 35 | 17 | 595 | \$2500 |

MEMORIAL FUNDS

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENTS (MAX. 400 WORDS PLEASE)

Dr. Francis Smith

Dr. Francis Prichard Smith passed away on August 4, 2010, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, at the age of 83. Fran was a DoDDS administrator in Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern, Hanau, and Babenhausen.

He received his B.A. and M.A. from Syracuse University and, in 1977, his Ed. D. from the University of Southern California. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy, serving during W.W.II. Fran was a member of many educational associations and several musical choral groups.

Fran is survived by his wife Joan, five children, and many grandchildren.

Betty Jean Nicholas

......November 5, 1929 - August 13, 2010

Betty received her B.A. degree in English from the University of Montevallo in Alabama, a master's degree in Education from Peabody College in Tennessee, and a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from Ball State University in Indiana.

She loved traveling and had opportunities to visit many exciting places on four continents during her 43 years abroad as an educator with DoDDS. While stationed in Tokyo, Japan, and several cities in Germany, she served as a high school English teacher, assistant principal, and language arts curriculum coordinator. She made major contributions to the implementation and support of an innovative writing program and a carefully designed teacher curriculum development program.

After retiring in December 1999 she coordinated a high school student foreign exchange program in the Sarasota, Florida, area.

She was a lifetime member of the National Council of Teachers of English, Phi Delta Kappa International, and the American Overseas Schools Historical Society.

Lois Shook

.....June 20, 1921 - June 28, 2010

Kubasaki High School lost a "legend" on June 28, 2010. Lois Buckingham Shook was a business teacher at Kubasaki starting in 1949, until she retired in 1979. In addition to her teaching duties, she served as custodian of the school's activity funds.

Lois was born in Fairfield, Iowa, the oldest in a family of twelve children. She graduated from Fairfield High School and later from Parsons College in 1943. Before moving to Okinawa she taught in Iowa.

While at Kubasaki High School, Lois also taught evening business classes for the military. She met her future husband Jim when he was assigned (in addition to teaching classes) the task of driving the Jeep for the women. Jim and Lois were married in 1952. Lois hosted many new teacher gettogethers at their home on Okinawa and was a true mentor for many first-year overseas business teachers.

In 1979 Jim and Lois retired to Sun City West in Arizona and were active in the Desert Palms Church. They traveled extensively in their early retirement years and enjoyed attending the Kubasaki High School and DoDDS teachers' reunions.

Special Memorial Fund:......Ramstein Educators

This paver is dedicated to the memory of the Department of Defense teachers, administrators, and host nation teachers at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany. We honor all those who served the military community at Ramstein Elementary North, Ramstein Elementary South, Ramstein Elementary, Ramstein Middle, Ramstein Junior High, and Ramstein High Schools. The educators were dedicated to the students and their families and were proud to serve.

Donations to this fund may be made in remembrance of any deceased educator who served at Ramstein AFB. If there is a specific educator you'd like to honor, please include his or her name on your check. Once this fund is closed, a list of honorees will appear on the fund in the Interactive Kiosk.

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no second announcements for this newsletter.

RECENTLY CLOSED FUNDS

| Paula Morlock | Brick |
|----------------|---------------|
| Irma Updegraft | Ceramic Paver |
| Dale Kverno | Brick |
| Gwen Ross | Brick |
| Pat Mattina | Ceramic Paver |
| Betty Heater | Brick ≥ |



Recently Moved or Moving?

We don't want to lose touch.



If you move, don't forget to send us your new contact information. ∡

Nonprofit Membership Program

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

[NOTE: 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 become life members, many of us forget that donations are still needed to help keep us afloat. {Those of us who are life members are, of course, grandfathered in – ALL existing life memberships are still in place. The program simply has been closed to future, new life memberships.}

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.]

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 C | or- Rene | ewal 🔲 |
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| Address: | | | | |
| (Street or Box No. | City (APO/FPO) | State ZIP) | | |
| Telephone: | E-mail: | | | |
| I am a Former -or- Curren | t 🗆: Educator 🗖-or- St | rudent 🗆 -or- Other: | in the City | |
| Check Encor- VISA / Mas | stercard _ _ _ | _ _ _ | Exp. Date: | _/_ |
| Name: | | (as it appears on your Credit Card) | | |
| \$25 for annual dues and 4 issu | ues of the newsletter | | \$ | |
| Donation for the AOSHS Endo | wment/Building Fund. | | \$ | |
| Donation for the Drysdale Arc | hive Endowment Fund. | | \$ | |
| Donation for the AOSHS Opera | ating Fund. | | \$ | |
| Signature | Date | Total: | \$ | |
| | | | | Thank you! |
| I have included AOSHS in my es | state planning | | | |
| Referred for membership by (| if applicable): | The model of sector deposits brown, | | |

THE AOSHS ARCHIVE DATABASE INFORMATION FORM

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

Name: First _____ MI ___ Last _____ Maiden name ____

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THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS ARCHIVE ALUMNI REGISTRATION FORM

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

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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.

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- 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.

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