

AFSA Meets George Shultz and Northern California Retirees

BY TOM SWITZER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

AFSA President Susan R. Johnson and Executive Director Ian Houston met with former Secretary of State George Shultz on Friday, Feb. 3, in Palo Alto, Calif.

Secretary Shultz shared his perspectives on how to strengthen the Foreign Service and ways to promote better governance within AFSA.

Sec. Shultz, who contributed the lead article to the *Foreign Service Journal's* December commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the USSR's dissolution, reiterated his long-held view of the importance of empowering constitutionally mandated officials within State and the Foreign Service, rather than appointing policy "czars" who are not accountable to Congress and the American people.

In response to a question from Pres. Johnson about ways to further strength-

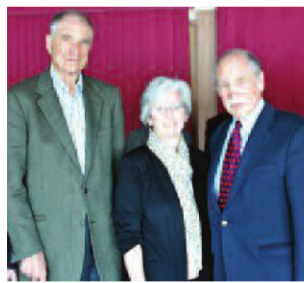


IAN HOUSTON

On Feb. 3, former Secretary of State George Shultz and Susan Johnson, AFSA president, meet at his home in Palo Alto to discuss ways to strengthen the Foreign Service.

en the Foreign Service Institute, Sec. Shultz drew on his experience teaching at the U.S. Naval Academy to enhance diplomatic training and education.

Johnson and Houston conveyed the deep appreciation of the Foreign Service for Sec. Shultz's many contributions to diplomacy and for his support for AFSA.



GEORGE WU

Left to right: Former Ambassador Ted Elliot, AFSA President Susan Johnson and former Ambassador James Rosenthal, president of the Foreign Service Association of Northern California, at a luncheon for FS retirees in Berkeley on Feb. 4.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, Johnson spoke to more than 40 members of the Foreign Service Association of Northern California and their guests at a luncheon in Berkeley. She presented an overview of AFSA's efforts in a variety of areas, including governance, professionalism, core advocacy, image and outreach, and membership and development.

Johnson emphasized AFSA's support for the international affairs budget request, detailed its hard work to protect Foreign Service pensions and benefits, and

explained where the State Department and USAID are in terms of implementing recommendations of the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review.

A lively Q&A session followed, after which FSANC President James Rosenthal thanked Johnson for the comprehensive discussion. □

Helping Those Who Help Animals

BY ELIZABETH HASKETT

While working as a contractor in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, and later living in Africa and Jamaica with her husband, Ron Stryker, a USAID Foreign Service officer, Karen Menczer noticed that animal welfare organizations in poor countries have the drive and knowledge to help animals, but lack resources. Consequently, time spent on fundraising activities equates to less time actually helping the animals.

Acting on that realization, in July 2007 Menczer created Animal-Kind International, a nonprofit organization whose goal is to link donors in wealthier countries with needy animal welfare organizations worldwide. AKI raises money and collects supplies for partner organizations; tracks the



KATIA RUIZ ALLARD

With funding from Animal Kind International, the Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals provided sterilization for the dogs living at Sister Gemma's orphanage in Entebbe.

use of donor funds; and when donors are interested, connects them directly with partner organizations so they can find out firsthand how their support is helping animals.

AKI follows a due diligence process to ensure partner organizations have adequate

and transparent accounting measures, and are able to track AKI funds and report back to AKI on their use. The organization sends 100 percent of donations to partner organizations.

AKI's core support comes from individuals and student groups who have visited countries where it has partner organizations or from those who just want to help "the neediest of the needy." For example, support has come from a group of kids at Camp Doglando in Orlando, Fla.; the Stop Injustice and Cruelty Club at Ward Melville High School in Long Island, N.Y.; and a tourist group that contacted AKI after witnessing the torturous journey of livestock

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More Europe Is the Answer

BY CLINT LOHSE, AFSA LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS ASSISTANT



PATRICK BRAUDLEY

Left to right: Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Europe and Eurasia Jeffrey K. Baker, Danish Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen, AFSA Executive Director Ian Houston and retired Ambassador Edward M. Rowell after a lively panel discussion on the state of the European Union and the euro on Feb. 16 at AFSA headquarters.

On Thursday, Feb. 16, AFSA hosted a panel discussion on the state of the European Union and the current euro crisis. Retired Ambassador Edward M. Rowell moderated the panel, which featured Danish Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Europe and Eurasia Jeffrey K. Baker.

Baker and Amb. Rowell, both experts on European fiscal and economic issues, have been deeply involved in the most severe fiscal crisis to hit Europe in the 20 years since the signing of the Maastricht Treaty, and a decade after the introduction of the euro.

Amb. Taksøe-Jensen shared the perspective of E.U. nations as they grapple with the ongoing crisis. Noting that Denmark currently holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union, he described the process, and complications, of getting 17 member-states to agree on how to respond. Despite some opposition to various proposals, all concur that failure to address the problem would harm the entire E.U., he said.

“Look at Germany. They benefit every day from the euro because they have a much lower interest rate, which has a very positive impact on their exports and so forth. And so it’s not so difficult to explain to the German worker that it’s also in his interest that Germany takes steps to solve the crisis,” he remarked.

While acknowledging that solutions to the crisis must come from E.U. members, Mr. Baker emphasized how critical the success of the euro is to the rest of the world. “Our first, best strategy is to have Europe do what it needs to preserve its own currency union,” he said. The euro zone has the capacity and resources to succeed, he continued, but “the politics are difficult.”

The event was inspired by a pair of focus articles in the February edition of the *Foreign Service Journal* on the euro debt crisis. In his commentary, Alan Larson, a retired career ambassador who has served as under secretary for economic affairs and assistant secretary for economic and business affairs, makes a case for a greater focus on economic issues in American diplomacy. And Bruce Stokes, a senior trans-Atlantic fellow

at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, warns that the euro crisis threatens the strength and stability of the U.S.-E.U. strategic partnership.

More than 80 people attended the event, which concluded with a lively Q&A session that made clear the great interest in this timely subject. Both Amb. Taksøe-Jensen and Mr. Baker expressed optimism that the difficult choices to preserve the European Union’s common currency could be made.

“More Europe is the answer,” said Mr. Baker. Amb. Taksøe-Jensen agreed, telling the audience, “There is support to go down this road to more Europe, and we will have the strength to bring ourselves out of this crisis.” □

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on their way to slaughter in Kampala.

FSOs and other U.S. government employees overseas have also contributed to AKI’s efforts. Some help by ensuring donated funds and supplies, such as tick and flea medicines and sutures, reach in-country partner organizations.

Sometimes the most valued support isn’t financial but emotional. Pilar Thorn, founder of Helping Hands for Hounds of Honduras, had this to say: “For me, it is a great help and lifts my spirits to know I can count on AKI to help in my efforts to educate people about the humane treatment of domestic animals. Just knowing there is someone out there who understands the kinds of problems one encounters in less developed countries makes my work a lot easier.”

AKI also supports a network of small but determined animal welfare groups whose work spans the globe, with partner organizations in Uganda, Namibia, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, South Sudan, Jamaica, Honduras, Bosnia and Armenia. To learn more about AKI and its partner organizations, please visit www.animal-kind.org. To contact AKI, please e-mail karen@animal-kind.org. □

Elizabeth Haskett serves on the board of AKI. She is an animal welfare advocate living in Anchorage, Alaska, with her husband, Geoff, and their dog, Stella.