



## Editorial



The scope for today's diplomatic work is far broader (and a lot more rewarding, one could add) than it used to be. In today's world diplomats no longer have to work in heavily furnished rooms – they can serve their country within the walls of some presidential pal-

ace, on a soccer field, a kindergarten classroom or amidst a group of rappers. Diplomacy is as large, colorful and challenging as life itself.

U.S. Embassy Lisbon has been embracing such community projects like A Pink Ribboned Affair or Habitat for Humanity. Jointly organized with local associations, and sponsored by the First Lady, the former is a gala dinner aimed at gathering support for the fight against breast cancer, making mammograms available for more Por-

tuguese women all across the country. The latter involves volunteering from Embassy personnel to help build a house for families in need. These are just two perfect examples of initiatives that, though seemingly not related to foreign policy, certainly build bridges and good will between nations.

Browse through this edition and, hopefully, you will discover more stories highlighting good ideas and perfect excuses for a continued good relationship. ☪

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## Food for Thought

When the U.N. first declared October 17 the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the aim was for NGOs and States to devote the day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities on the eradication of poverty and destitution. The fact is that truth hurts. As you read this article, half the world — nearly three billion people — live on less than two dollars a day.

According to UNICEF, 26,500-30,000 children die each day due to poverty. And they “die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world.”

The U.S. is the world's largest food aid donor and is on track to provide nearly \$5 billion — far more than any other country — to fight global hunger in 2008 and 2009. From 2001-2006 approximately 50

percent of total world food aid came from the United States. Food security is an international issue requiring an international response. While investments in science and technology are key to increase food supply, the US is coordinating closely with the United Nations, the G8, the World Bank, and other international partners.

Because, on this issue, no effort should be spared. ☪



**Half the world — nearly three billion people — live on less than two dollars a day.**

Photo by Mike Wells, World Press Photo 1980.



### *Did you know that...?*



To date, Ramalho Eanes remains the only Portuguese official on a State visit to Washington.

According to the Office of the Historian, the first visit ever to the U.S. by a foreign Head of State and Government was made by King Kalakaua of Hawaii and

took place in 1874. Stops included New York City, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis (Missouri), and Omaha (Nebraska).

It was not until March 31<sup>st</sup> of 1969 that a Portuguese official visited the United States. Then Prime Minister Marcelo Caetano traveled to the U.S. to attend the funeral of former President Eisenhower and later met with President Nixon on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

After the revolution, President Costa Gomes was the first to head to Washington,

but on a private visit. Mário Soares and Aníbal Cavaco Silva hold the record for visits to D.C, with five each, whereas Durão Barroso made two, Guterres and Sócrates only one. Most of the visits were either private or working level, only President Ramalho Eanes made a State visit in 1983. State visits are the highest ranking and only four of them are organized per year, in tight coordination among the White House, Blair House and State Protocol. ☞

### *STATE of mind: MAINE*

REMEMBER  
“MURDER, SHE  
WROTE“?  
THE TV SERIES  
LEFT EVERYONE  
ACHING TO GO TO  
MAINE.  
NO WONDER!

“I owe a personal debt to Maine because of my association with certain staunch friends in Aroostook County; an association that helped and benefited me throughout my life in more ways than one.“ Thus wrote President Theodore Roosevelt, who became a conservationist thanks to this American state. But fascination over Maine continues and is worldwide.

From early spring through the lazy days of summer, Maine is for outdoor lovers. A wealth of its own in marine life, rare birds and unique flowers, this state invites you to explore the coast, but also its mountains, woods, rivers, and lakes by kayak, bike, whitewater rafting, or windjammer cruise. Sandy beaches are one of its hallmarks, but the one thing that gourmets cannot miss is seafood and Maine cuisine. Top chefs and stellar restaurants will pamper you and make you forget any possible diet. From lobster rolls to clam chowder or blueberry pie, there is no escaping!

Relax around its 6,000 lakes and ponds; let your children get a close look at the moose (after all, it is the state animal!) and you may even bump into famous Mainers such as actors Liv Tyler or Patrick Dempsey...You have every ingredient for a memorable stay. ☞



For more information, visit [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov)



## Interview with Barbara Stephenson

*In Portugal since December 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2007, Barbara Stephenson is the wife to the U.S. Ambassador Thomas Stephenson. Forming a cooperative tandem, they have been married for 21 years and were first in Portugal at the beginning of their relationship. Not only that, they have a 16-yr. old son, Alexander, who plays basketball at Benfica. How much more in synch with Portugal could these U.S. Ambassadors to Portugal be?!*



**Atlantic Notes (AN):**  
**What has it been like so far?**

**Barbara Stephenson (BS):**  
This has been the biggest surprise in my life. Portugal is, I have to say, a jewel of many facets that every day take me by surprise. The Portuguese are the warmest people I have ever met -- they are genuine, warm, giving, generous... We are really enjoying ourselves.

**AN: How did you end up in Portugal?**

**BS:** We got the call and we had two days to decide and it was an easy decision for us. I will tell you a little story. Twenty years ago, my husband and I were dating and we took a business trip

to London, and decided to do a side trip. When you have full lives it is hard to pick a country to which neither one of the two has been. So we chose Portugal and stayed in Estoril. We went to the beach, had a lovely time, saw a little bit of Lisbon, went to Évora, it was a really romantic stay! But little did I know that we would be back in this role...

Plus being from California, from the San Francisco area, when we flew in, we came over the 25th of April Bridge and it was so beautiful. Our Goldengate Bridge is not illuminated, but yours has this little diamond necklace -- what a greeting for us that was! And the hills, the cable cars... We were embraced right away!

**AN: What is a typical week for you?**

**BS:** It ranges from hosting dignitaries to the normal day-to-day of a family. In the States, I am President of the Stephenson Foundation. Since I do a lot of philanthropy, I now continue that work from here despite the time difference. We are trying to reach out to some organizations and help them achieve their goals and involve as much public awareness around those organizations as we can. In the seven months we have been here, we have helped organizations such as *Sol*, *Laço*, *Banco do Bebê*, *Habitat for Humanity* or the *Almeida Garret Library* in Porto.

We believe they are very worthwhile. It takes a while to get to know those organizations and understand their efforts. For instance, in partnership with some of those organizations, several U.S. Ambassadors have organized a gala against breast cancer, under the patronage of Portugal's First Lady.

**AN: Do you have any hobbies?**

**BS:** Well, I hardly have the time for that. What I do enjoy the most is architecture and gardens; I love the beauty of things. In Portugal, I have been trying so hard to take it all in for the past six months, but there is always something more to be seen!

**AN: Do you have time for the family?**

**BS:** We carve that out, especially in the evening. We have dinner together, no television, share each other's day, just like a typical family. One of the things that I really, really admire about the Portuguese is that you save time for family. When asked if they would rather be paid more money or have the day off, they would rather have the day off to be with family or friends. In the states, we are big marketeers so people use the holiday to make extra cash. We really wish to take that home with us as something you would look up to, because you really know how to care for each other and I that is very important in this fast-paced, Internet world. 

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Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Embassy Lisbon  
Av. das Forças Armadas a Sete Rios  
1600 -085 LIsboa  
Portugal

Phone: 21 770 2443  
Fax: 21 727 1409  
E-mail: *CarmoAC@state.gov*

**WE ARE ON THE WEB!**

<http://portugal.usembassy.gov>

## *Coming up*

*☞ Oct. 15– 17: Embassy volunteers in Braga to finish house for Habitat for Humanity*

*☞ Oct. 17: Prize-winning journalist Jerry Hagstrom speaks on U.S. elections at Universidade Nova*

*☞ Nov. 4 - U.S. Election Night Watch*

## *@ a Glance : State's Art Collection*



THE ARTS, TOO, ARE PERMANENT AMBASSADORS OF THE UNITED STATES, ENHANCING EMBASSIES AND OFFICIAL RESIDENCES ABROAD.

From atop the stairs, a serene George Washington greets the visitor entering the official residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Portugal. But George is neither alone, nor a mere “piece of furniture.” He is part of State Department’s program ART In Embassies, that annually places paintings, sculptures, quilts, fans or even weather-vanes in the public rooms of approximately 180 American diplomatic residences worldwide. Established by the United States Department of State in 1964, the ART In Embassies Program is car-

ried out through loans in partnership with galleries, museums, individual artists, and corporate and private collections.

ART's curatorial team develops thematic exhibitions in collaboration with each ambassador, taking into account the host country's artistic traditions and cultural mores. They recommend artists and works of art, negotiate all loans, and propose placement of the art within the embassy residences.

After all loans are secured and the art insured, ART's registrars coordinate with professional art handlers for the assembly, packing, crating and safe shipment of each exhibition to post. The length of a loan is approximately two and one-half to three years, which coincides with the average length of an ambassador's tenure. A wall

label accompanies each work of art and identifies both the artist and lender.

Finally, living American artists can travel to countries where their work is exhibited and engage in a series of public cultural programming activities, such as lectures, workshops, and studio visits.

Maybe George had envisaged retirement differently, but so far his new life looks as promising as the previous one.



**Water Witch, 1893, Courtesy of Mystic Seaport, Mystic, Connecticut**