

MAGDA H. COOPER

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Mrs. Cooper married Foreign Service Officer James Ford Cooper in 1963 and accompanied him on his assignments in Washington and abroad.

Background

- Born in Santiago, Chile
- Chatham College and American University
- Married Foreign Service Officer James Ford Cooper in 1963 in Lima, Peru

Association of America Foreign Service Women (AAFSW) Forum

- Foreign Born Spouse Group
- Child care
- Speakers
- Wives of Retirees: (Pensions, etc)
- Employee Consultation Service
- Family Liaison Office
- Rockefeller Amendment

Overseas Briefing Center

- Function
- Discussion topics
- Career-oriented US wives

Working positions

- Language teacher and interpreter
- Volunteering
- Manager of Foreign Service Day

US born and foreign born wives

- Cultural differences
- Monthly workshops

Foreign Born Spouse Group

- Composition
- Activities
- Latin American born spouses
- Finnish members
- Problems addressed
 - Spouse conduct in native country
 - Language training
 - Schooling abroad
 - Adjusting to Washington

- Lack of family support
- Cultural differences
- Raising a family
- Language differences
- Working abroad
- Contemplating second career

Personal Family Issues

Marriage and husband's resignation (and restoration)

Citizenship

Spouse employment abroad

Legal help for divorce in Washington area

Personal observations re spouse service abroad

- Comfort level

- Avoidance of political discussions

- Importance of knowledge of American ways and culture

- Continuous learning process

- Need for dignity in conduct

- Working at post

Family reaction to marrying an American diplomat

Contact with Peruvian nationals