



# LAFF

THE LAFF SOCIETY Promoting Social and Professional Contacts Among Former Staff Members of the Ford Foundation

Summer 2016, No. 83

## CELEBRATING LAFF's First 25 Years



Nearly 200 people—members of The LAFF Society, some family members, friends of LAFF and Ford Foundation staff—gathered in New York City on May 17 to celebrate an organization that **Darren Walker**, the Ford Foundation's president, marveled at how, from *Continued on next page.*



**1.** Darren Walker, Ford Foundation president, welcomed "this remarkable thing called LAFF"; **2.** Jennifer Powell greeted an old friend, Sheila Nelson; **3.** Richard Magat, co-founder of LAFF, provided a history of its founding; **4.** Michael Seltzer, LAFF executive committee member and chair of the New York chapter and of the planning committee for the event, explained the day's events; **5.** Shepard Forman, LAFF's president, extolled the "new phase" in LAFF's and Ford's relationship; **6.** Mitty Owens and Iris DeJesus and **8.** Anthony Romero and Natalia Kanem.



9



10



11



12



13



14



## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

a small beginning 25 years ago, has come to “inspire such loyalty, compassion and commitment.”

“This remarkable thing called LAFF,” he said in opening remarks at the day-long fête, “has become for many of us a signature of what makes the Ford Foundation such an extraordinary institution.”

In starting a day that included panel discussions on the Foundation’s history, its current work and issues confronting it in a changing world, he encapsulated what was to come by noting “The stories that you will share, the communities that you will continue to build and extend, and your understanding today how the heritage, the legacy that you all have created continues to live on.”

It was a day that brought into

focus a growing sense of continuity between the work of LAFF’s members and the Foundation’s work today.

“We thank you,” Darren Walker said, “we honor you, for all the things you did to advance the cause of justice in the world. We will continue to honor you by continuing to build on the great work that you did.”

**Shepard Forman**, LAFF’s president, observed that “Today initiates a new phase in the relationship between the Foundation and LAFF, based on respect and reciprocity, and based largely on” the Foundation’s “deep commitment to history and the understanding that it brings to the current work of the Foundation.”

The history of LAFF and its gradual growth toward that “respect and reciprocity” was described by **Richard Magat**, a co-founder of LAFF, as an effort to “fill the gap of memory.” His remarks are in a separate story on page 5.

During the morning, representatives of the Rockefeller Archives Center, where the Ford’s growing archival collection is housed, gave an overview of the efforts to preserve the Foundation’s history, and foundation staff members discussed new strategies and thematic areas of work.

**9.** The morning panel discussing the Foundation’s archives in A Walk Through History, from left, Patricia Rosenfield and Rachel Wimpee of the Rockefeller Archives, and Barry Gaberman, moderator and retired senior vice president of the Foundation; **10.** All That’s New, a panel on the Foundation’s current work, with, from left, Martin Abregu, vice president for Democracy, Rights and Justice; Betsy Campbell, moderator, vice president of LAFF and vice president for programs at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Monica Aleman Cunningham, senior program officer for BUILD; and Bess Rothenberg, Director of Strategy and Learning; **11.** Kerwin Tesdell poses a question; **12.** Described as “indefatigable,” Nellie Toma, treasurer and secretary of LAFF, was honored and presented a crystal bowl by Darren Walker and Shepard Forman; **13-14.** Natalia Kanem asks a question of Timothy Geithner, son of a former LAFF president, the late Peter Geithner, and a former Secretary of the Treasury, who was joined by Darren Walker and Shepard Forman in a lunchtime give-and-take panel.



“We thank you,” Darren Walker said, “we honor you, for all the things you did to advance the cause of justice in the world. We will continue to honor you by continuing to build on the great work that you did.”



Lunch included a question-and-answer session with Darren Walker, Shepard Forman and Timothy Geithner, former Secretary of the Treasury in the Barack Obama administration and a son of **Peter Geithner**, a former president of LAFF.

There were three simultaneous panel discussions in the afternoon, each considering a different aspect of the difficulties facing philanthropy in a changing and challenging world, followed by a description of the changes planned in a two-year renovation of the headquarters building that

will begin later this year.

And then there was time set aside just to spend with old friends, a mingling and reunion that began early and never stopped, as the accompanying pictures attest.

These pictures are just a sampling of what were taken during the day. All the pictures are available at <http://tinyurl.com/zuxmmz> or go to the LAFF website to find the link. Some photos taken by members also are available on LAFF's Facebook page. ■



**15.** Panel members, from the left, moderator Emmett Carson, president and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Christopher Harris, senior Consultant to the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Center, and Chris Cardona, Ford program officer for philanthropy, discussed The Changing Face of Philanthropy at an afternoon discussion; **16.** Mark Sidel, professor of law and public affairs at the University of Wisconsin, was on a panel discussing Working Internationally in a challenging Era for Civil Society, with, from his left, Mora McLean, the moderator and director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Rutgers University, and Natalia Kanem, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); **17.** Mora McClean asks a question while, from the left, Rebecca Nichols, Margaret Black and Michelle Sylvain listen raptly; **18.** Joan Kaufman asks a question; **19.** The third afternoon panel, on Grantmaking in a Charged U.S. Political Environment, included, from left, Jee Kim, program officer at Ford in Civic Engagement and Government, the moderator, Michael Lipsky, distinguished senior fellow at Demos, Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and Mary McClymont, president of the Public Welfare Foundation.



## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

And then there was time set aside just to spend with old friends,  
a mingling and reunion that began early and never stopped,  
as the accompanying pictures attest.



**20.** Janet Maughan, president of Passport Foundation, asks a question during a presentation on the two-year renovation of the Foundation headquarters building, scheduled to begin later this year; **21.** Darren Walker chats with Bud Harkavy, one of the first members of LAFF and an early president of the group, Bud's wife, Fran, on his right, and Dianne DeMaria; **22.** Janice Petrovich, Mary McClymont and Margaret Hempel; **23.** Janice Petrovich and Irina Yurna; **24.** Bill Carmichael, Michael Seltzer and James Himes; **25.** Andrew Lee, Marian Krauskopf and Michael Lipsky.

**Photos: 8SP Simon Luethi**



# LAFF, THE EARLY YEARS

*Richard Magat and the late Edward Meade, Jr., came up with an idea 25 years ago to create a way for former Ford Foundation staff to stay in touch. Thus began what now is The LAFF Society, an organization with nearly 500 members and branches in nine cities worldwide.*

*This article is adapted from remarks Dick made at the 25th anniversary celebration in New York. In introducing him, LAFF's current president, **Shepard Forman**, paid tribute to the founders, who "had the vision to recognize that a remarkable group of people who had passed through this institution would like to have the capacity to stay in touch, to maintain contact, to develop our relationships, to rely on each other as friends and colleagues".*

Ed and I decided to fill the gap of memory....because we remembered not only our close friends but also a remarkable event that has gone down in history as the Mother's Day Massacre, in which 20 senior staff were cut, ostensibly because, believe it or not, the Ford Foundation could face a financial crisis.

But we first thought it would be smart to get help from above, and so we wrote to the president at the time. In due course we received a letter. First of all, it said, we cannot give you the mailing list because that would be an invasion of privacy. Second, because we had asked if the president might contribute something to the newsletter, he replied that would not be appropriate. And finally, he said, I would like your assurance that in your activities you give no open hint that you have anything to do with the Foundation.

Well, with that encouragement we forged ahead. Of course, the first thing, we had a lawyer draw up articles of incorporation. There are two signatures to that. One of course is me and the other is **Bud Harkavy**, who was a program officer, mainly in the population field.

Next thing is that **Will Hertz** (former secretary of the Foundation and program officer in Pakistan) came up with the name of the organization. He said the name was intended to reflect a sense of camaraderie and esprit de corps. He said working at the Foundation was an extremely enjoyable way to make a living, and he wanted something to reflect that and contrast sharply with the painful experience many of us had in leaving. The idea that we could laugh it off appealed to Will and so the name is a pun, not an acronym.

We started a newsletter, but we also needed a place to meet. The first meeting was held at the National Arts Club at Gramercy Park South.

The next place of meeting was the Seventh

Regiment Armory on Park Avenue. It had been made famous when the financier Stephen Schwarzman spent \$7 million on his 60th birthday party there. The armory had several floors that were available for rent for dinner gatherings, such as the Civil War Roundtable.

Other places we went were Marymount Manhattan College, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Public Theater and the Institute for International Education.

Our first full-time president was **Peter Geithner**, and because of his experience in the international field the LAFF Society began opening branches, from Delhi to Cairo, Jakarta to Washington. The branches solidi-

fied the organization.

The next historic event was the election of Luis Ubiñas as president of the Ford Foundation. He broke ground by welcoming LAFF to the Foundation's headquarters for the first time in its then seventeen-year history. The idea of inviting the Society to the building, remarked one member, showed a welcome indication of openness, which augured well for the future of LAFF.

As he became our latest president, Shepard Forman observed of that historic event: "a magnificent day, a gathering of extraordinary people." He said he noticed when he came in an inter-action of people: "There really was a great deal of emotion in the room." ■

---

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I began writing these messages, I made a silent promise that this would be a politics-free zone. Having watched the Republican and Democratic national conventions, however, and listened to the political surround sound that now penetrates our daily lives, I find it hard to contain my dismay and—yes—my sadness.

I think about the values that oriented my, and many of your, career choices. I worry about the dissolution of civil discourse, the disrespect that overtakes and nullifies serious dialogue, the disparagement of individuals and social groups, the media distortions and our compromised party system and its stalwarts. And I try to refrain from wondering whether in this parched season of our souls, reason can possibly prevail.

I reflect on the Foundation programs I had the privilege to oversee in governance and public policy, human rights and social justice, and international affairs. Humility always imposed a degree of restraint on the hopeful ambition that drove our work. We did the best that we could to apply the resources at hand to the social, political and economic issues that defined the times, encouraged by post-Cold War hope of a better world.

Did we make some progress? Clearly, yes. But looking back from the place we find ourselves in today, I ask myself whether we made sufficient and sustainable progress; whether we addressed the issues in a systemic, transformational way; whether we enlarged the community of like-minded or, in the end, were dialoguing largely among ourselves.

When I left the Foundation 20 years ago, I made two suggestions: First, that the Foundation undertake an in-depth study of the unintended and long-term consequences of its work. In particular, I had in mind the project on the Future of the Welfare State that

culminated in the Clinton era welfare reforms, after oscillating between progressive and conservative worldviews of what constituted the common good.

Second, concerned with the polarized and misinforming media debates on public policy (mild when compared to current TV and radio coverage), I suggested a regularly-scheduled, simultaneous TV, radio and internet broadcast hosted by a respected interlocutor who would interview national and community leaders in a reasoned way about critical current issues. Both, I thought, might help break the mold in which we were then cast. I raise this not to promote my own old ideas, but to initiate a forum for our collective reflections.

In closing, I need to confess: In this primary season I felt—and I still feel—the Bern. I believe we need a small "r" revolution to revamp our politics, limit the corrupting influence of money and encourage a tide of restless young people to engage at all levels of our political system.

We need to protect our democracy from the immediate threat that years of divisive and interest politics have created, and we have a consequential need to reform the way in which we govern ourselves going forward. So, I am going to spend the next 100 days knocking on doors and making calls and periodically donating \$27 for progressive candidates—and for Hillary—up and down the ballot box. That's the next essential step in the political revolution.

You see, despite the momentary despair, some ambitious hope remains. It's part of the DNA.

It's also a way to honor the colleagues whose deaths I too often acknowledge here, this time **Alison Bernstein** and **Peter Geithner**, two wonderfully unique people who shared a commitment to peace and social justice. **Shep Forman**

# U.S. IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND LESSONS FOR TODAY

A new book by **William Rust**, published in June, has been receiving considerable attention and positive reviews for its “significant contribution” to understanding the origins of American political and military involvement in Southeast Asia in the mid-twentieth century.

*Eisenhower and Cambodia: Diplomacy, Covert Action, and the Origins of the Second Indochinese War* adds to the author’s comprehensive study of America’s immersion in the affairs of that region explored in two earlier books: *Before the Quagmire: American Intervention in Laos, 1954-1961*, published in 2012, and *So Much to Lose: John Kennedy and American Policy in Laos*, published in 2014. All the books are issued by the University Press of Kentucky.

A review of the three books for the History News Network draws lessons from them for current American foreign policy, particularly “the disturbing tendency to disregard regional history and culture in favor of larger ideo-



**Dwight D. Eisenhower and Prince Norodom Sihanouk**

logical constructs such as the Cold War or the global war on terror....

“The current quagmire in which the United States finds itself in the Middle East and Afghanistan,” writes the reviewer, Ron Briley, “encourages one to draw unfortunate parallels with the American experience in Indochina, leading to the conclusion that it is far easier to make diplomatic and military commitments than it is to withdraw from an ill-conceived intervention.”

The review praises Rust’s adherence to the “historian’s craft” that led him to credible analysis and conclusions through a “careful reading of primary documents and diplomatic communications available in the National Archives, Library of Congress, and Presidential libraries.”

Rust’s primary argument, notes the review, “is that both Eisenhower and Kennedy based their Southeast Asia policies upon ‘the cold war stereotype of a monolithic conspiracy, efficiently directed by Moscow and obediently executed by its wholly owned subsidiaries in Beijing and Hanoi’.”

*Eisenhower and Cambodia* focuses on U.S. policy toward Cambodia and its “mercurial leader”, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who, the review states, “was able to take advantage of the First Indochinese War to gain independence from France”. But the prince then “drew the ire of the Eisenhower administration by pursuing a policy of neutrality amid the ideological conflict of the Cold War”.

Believing the prince was “secretly a com-

munist”, America pursued a policy of regime change in Cambodia, including “employment of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and covert operations”, focusing on support for opposition groups.

Primary among these efforts was an unsuccessful military coup led by Dap Chhuon, a misguided adventure that is the focal point of a review of the book in the Cambodian newspaper *The Phnom Penh Post*, which says the affair “reeked of foreign subterfuge”.

The newspaper quotes Rust that the United States was considering “getting rid of Sihanouk” from as early as 1956, and that his book has “produced the most compelling case to date that the U.S. colluded in the 1959 conspiracy”.

The review cites praise from several historians in support of Rust’s work, including that

he “has done the most thorough research on the topic to date” and that “he certainly removes any lingering doubts that too often the United States considered Sihanouk fair game in its pursuit of victory in Vietnam.”

That decades-long “pursuit” is recounted in detail in a review of

the Eisenhower book in *The Cambodia Daily*, which emphasizes Rust’s “zeal...born of a ‘desire to understand and analyze the thinking that seemed reasonable in the 1950s and early 1960s...and that seems catastrophic today’.”

Nor is Rust convinced, it concludes, that the United States “gleaned foreign policy savvy during the era”, citing the remarks of General Stanley McChrystal, former commander of American forces in Afghanistan, made ten years after the invasion began in 2001, that “We didn’t know enough and we still don’t know enough. Most of us, me included, had a very superficial understanding of the situation and history, and we had a frighteningly simplistic view of recent history, the last 50 years.” ■

*Rust, who has had a long career as a writer and editor, was director of the Office of Communications at the Foundation from 1985 to 1991.*

## **The LAFF Society**

c/o Nellie Toma  
PO Box 701107, East Elmhurst, NY 11370

E-Mail: [treasurer@laffsociety.org](mailto:treasurer@laffsociety.org)  
[www.laffsociety.org](http://www.laffsociety.org)

**Shepard Forman**, *President*  
**Betsy Campbell and Suzanne Siskel**, *Vice Presidents*  
**Nellie Toma**, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
**Dorothy Nixon**, *Administrative Secretary*  
**Michele Cole**, *Administrative Secretary*

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>Judy Barsalou</b>	<b>John LaHoud</b>
<b>Peter Geithner</b>	<b>Janet Maughan</b>
<b>Sheila Gordon</b>	<b>Michael Seltzer</b>

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

<b>David Arnold</b>	<b>Ruth Mayleas</b>
<b>William Carmichael</b>	<b>Mary McClymont</b>
<b>Peter Cleaves</b>	<b>Mora McLean</b>
<b>Joan Dassin</b>	<b>Janice Molnar</b>
<b>Mahnaz Ispahani</b>	<b>Sheila Nelson</b>
<b>Lance Lindblom</b>	<b>Raymond Offenheiser</b>
<b>Michael Lipsky</b>	<b>S. Gowher Rizvi</b>
<b>Theodora Lurie</b>	<b>Anthony Romero</b>
	<b>Kerwin Tesdell</b>

**John LaHoud**, *Editor*  
**Nellie Toma**, *Assistant Editor*  
**Susan Huyser**, *Graphic Designer*

# STORIES OF PHILANTHROPY AS AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE

**"G**iving money away is easy," writes Christopher Harris in a foreword to *Effective philanthropy: Another Take*, "but giving money away to effect real social change can be hard."

"It is easy to give money for blankets or scholarships," states Harris, who worked in the Governance and Civil Society unit at Ford from 1999 to 2009, "but while that money helps individuals, it does little to change the social (or economic or political) conditions that created the need in the first place. It doesn't 'change the rules' that support injustice or violence. How does a funder do that?"

"How" is what this new book demonstrates through 11 "stories" of successful efforts that illustrate "a philanthropic intervention against some form of injustice...at a local, national or global scale," writes Chandrika Sahai, Coordinator of the Working Group on Philanthropy for Social Justice and Peace, a network of practitioners that has published the book.

"These stories," she writes, "are told through the lens of a grantmaker illuminating the sorts of considerations, dilemmas and uncertainties a grantmaker might wrestle with when making a grant to effect positive social change. They delve deep into the analysis of the problem, the solution, the strategy and tactics used to address it, the risks and challenges involved, and the impact of the philanthropic support."

The book, which has been edited by Caroline Hartnell and Andrew Milner and was published in April, includes three stories written by former staff members of the Ford Foundation.

**Suzanne E. Siskel**, executive vice president and chief operating officer of The Asia Foundation, and a vice president of LAFF, describes the work of the Ford Foundation "in supporting 27 local education reform programs throughout The Philippines, and the subsequent establishment of Synergeia, in an effort to improve the country's failing education system."

Siskel says that she consulted widely with "education specialists, government and private sector leaders, and experts on many different aspects of the education system. I was new to The Philippines, I was not an expert in education."

While at Ford from 1990 to 2011, she worked in the Jakarta and Manila offices and in the Community and Resource Development, Peace and Social Justice Philanthropy and Gender, Rights and Equality units.

**Manuel F. Montes** describes how, in the early 2000s, the Foundation's International Economic Policy portfolio "fostered a number of large networks of analysts and activists to develop an alternative economic narrative that could engage critically with the prevailing liberalization and deregulation policies associated with globalization."

**"These stories...are told through the lens of a grantmaker illuminating the sorts of considerations, dilemmas and uncertainties a grantmaker might wrestle with when making a grant to effect positive social change..."**

He says Ford staff spent a year "surveying the field, talking to academics and activists, and attending key events where discussions on development policies would take place" before developing strategies for its portfolio.

Montes, who worked at Ford in Human Rights and Governance and Human Rights and International Cooperation from 1999 to 2005, now is a senior advisor for finance

and development with the Switzerland-based South Centre, an intergovernmental organization of developing nations.

**Lisa Jordan**, who was executive director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation in The Hague, The Netherlands, until 2014, writes of that foundation's program to "reduce violence in children's lives, the first step being to shift social norms to make violence less acceptable."

Baseline studies and research across seven countries, she writes, followed by "further investigation...helped the foundation conclude that of all the factors that determine a child's potential to learn and grow up healthy there was one that was not effectively addressed through the markets, through governments or by foundations—violence".

Jordan was deputy director of Ford's Governance and Civil Society unit before leaving to join van Leer. She left that foundation to become senior director of Strategy and Learning at Porticus Global, which is also in The Hague and is devoted to improving opportunities for children growing up in circumstances of social and economic disadvantage.

The book is shared under a Creative Commons license for affinity groups, associations and networks of grantmakers, and foundations. ■

## NELLIE'S CORNER

*Nellie Toma, secretary-treasurer of LAFF and assistant editor of the newsletter, has written this as the first of an occasional column.*

I'm writing to tell you about a wonderful outing I had recently. I visited the Rockefeller Archives Center, where the Ford Foundation archives are housed. I was there to donate the early records of The LAFF Society, which now will be archived permanently and accessible to all members.

They are most gracious hosts. I was given a tour of the beautiful building and the archives, which are buried deep in the bedrock under the building in Sleepy Hollow in New York's Westchester County. Very impressive. I saw many names on the boxes that I recognized from my years at the Foundation.

The Rockefeller Archives Center is a repository of historical materials and a research center dedicated to the study of philanthropy and the many domains touched by American foundations, individual donors and the civil society organizations they support. If

you'd like to read more about the RAC and see photographs, please go to [www.rockarch.org](http://www.rockarch.org).

They asked me to extend an invitation to the members of LAFF to visit the records or do research there. They would be more than happy to work with you.

## MISSING ISSUES

Most of the past issues of the LAFF newsletter were donated to the RAC and will be archived there. However, two issues are missing. If any of you happen to have these issues and are willing to donate them, please contact me at [treasurer@laffsociety.org](mailto:treasurer@laffsociety.org).

They are issues number 21 (Summer 1999) and 27 (Summer 2001). It would be most appreciated.

Will Hertz was kind enough to forward one of these two to me but I have no way of knowing which one it is because there's no number on it. It's the one that has a column on the right hand side of the front page titled "No More Evaluations".

It would be great if we could get the one missing issue to complete the collection.



# PHILANTHROPY MUST STEP UP FOR FAIRNESS IN CIVIL JUSTICE

**By Mary McClymont**

*This article was published originally in The Chronicle of Philanthropy on April 8 and is reprinted here with permission. Mary McClymont is president of the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington, D.C., and worked at the Ford Foundation in the Peace and Social Justice program from 1988 to 2000 and again from 2006 to 2008.*

For foundations that have been making grants for years to press for an overhaul of America's criminal-justice system, it's heartening to see that the nation is finally getting serious about pushing solutions to address a devastating challenge. Across the political spectrum, people seem to have reached a consensus that mass incarceration is untenable and has caused dramatic, negative long-term effects on American society.

At my organization, the Public Welfare Foundation, which has long supported reforms to the criminal-justice system, we hope that meaningful change might be close for the more than two million people who are behind bars, the majority of them in state prisons. We see more and more policy makers recognizing that locking up so many people — disproportionately people of color — has damaging consequences for our families, our economy and our democracy.

But there is another crisis in our justice system that has been overlooked for too long by philanthropy and the rest of society—the part of the system that deals with domestic violence, unlawful evictions, loss of veterans' health benefits, and a range of other important civil matters.

Unlike in criminal matters, the Constitution does not guarantee legal assistance in critical civil cases, and millions of Americans cannot afford the help they need when facing potentially life-changing situations. They are forced to navigate these complex legal situations on their own. Without help, many lose their families, homes, and livelihoods.

They can also wind up facing incarceration, which is yet another reason why the civil-justice system needs to be on the agenda for change. Just as philanthropy is putting more into efforts to overhaul the criminal-justice system, more foundations should support civil legal aid, which encompasses a combination of services and resources that help the most vulnerable navigate the system.

Take the case of Geneva M., a 32-year-old mother of three in South Carolina who was unrepresented in a civil child-support matter. She ended up spending several months in jail for failure to pay. While she was incarcerated, her driver's license was revoked. Without a license, she could not get to and from work reliably, and she fell further behind on her child-support obligations.

She faced more jail time early last year, but this time the outcome was different because South Carolina Legal Services was involved. A legal-aid lawyer helped Geneva obtain a limited-driving license so she could get to work. The lawyer also persuaded a judge to

**“...there is another crisis in our justice system that has been overlooked for too long by philanthropy and the rest of society—the part of the system that deals with domestic violence, unlawful evictions, loss of veterans' health benefits, and a range of other important civil matters.”**

accept a payment plan rather than perpetuate the cycle by returning Geneva to jail. She paid off her debt in two months, is still employed and is able to meet her child-support obligations on time.

Or consider the case of Dave P., a Navy veteran and single father of three living in upstate New York. Dave sustained a serious back injury during his military service, and as the symptoms grew worse he was limited in how much and how often he could work. Ultimately, he dipped into his savings to continue paying his mortgage. When his savings were gone and he could no longer make his payments on time, his lender filed a foreclosure action against him.

Dave and his children might have been out on the streets, yet another example of our growing and disturbing crisis of veterans, to whom our nation owes a debt, struggling to find a place to live. Instead, Dave found a life-

line through the Empire Justice Center, a civil legal-aid organization, which went to court nearly a dozen times to win a loan modification that Dave could afford and that allowed his family to stay put.

Dave and Geneva were fortunate to have gotten help. There are 65 million people in poverty in the United States, and studies show that 80 percent of their legal needs go unmet, in large part due to inadequate financial support for legal-aid organizations and related programs and services. In addition, overburdened courts are often unable to accommodate or deal fairly with the 16 million people a year who, by conservative estimates, are forced to handle civil cases in state courts without legal representation. A recent study by the National Center for State Courts found that in 75 percent of civil cases, one or both parties were there without legal help to navigate complicated proceedings.

The good news is that the resource crisis in civil legal aid has led to an array of innovations to help serve more people, including new approaches like licensed legal technicians (people who have legal training but are not lawyers), self-help services, automated standardized forms and technology tools. The Public Welfare Foundation has tried to do its part to foster such innovations. And while these creative new approaches have drawn some welcome attention, they need greater and more sustained financial backing.

The Kresge Foundation, the California Endowment and the New York Community Trust, among others, are also key supporters of various grant-making efforts for civil legal aid across the country. But the programs and services that are making a difference for people like Geneva and Dave in every community in America need additional investment to continue and expand this vital work. Philanthropy is uniquely suited to help meet this need by catalyzing innovations and supporting proven efforts to offer more and better service.

At the same time, philanthropy can also benefit by embracing civil legal aid as part of its tool kit to advance housing, education, economic security and other causes central to fairness and prosperity in our nation. Foundations have started to hear the call to action on criminal justice and have stepped up.

Now, we must do the same to advance needed reforms in civil justice. ■



## LAFFing Parade

A new organization designed to “foster understanding and appreciation of Southeast Asia in all its realities and socio-cultural dimensions” opened in June in Bangkok.

SEA Junction, or the Southeast Asia Junction, was founded by **Rosalia Sciortino** with several founding partners to promote all aspects of the region, from arts and crafts to the economy and development, “by enhancing public access to knowledge resources and by promoting exchanges among students, specialists and Southeast Asia lovers”.

The initiative, based at the Bangkok Arts and Culture Centre, expects to provide an “informal place of exchange” where people with interest in the region’s “arts, cultures and societies can meet, share information, consult available resources and read related literature at their leisure”.

Among the planned activities are meetings, seminars, lectures, exhibitions and workshops through which “visiting regional specialists and practitioners share experiences, dialogue and give speeches, and small encounters are held for diverse constituencies”.

Sciortino, executive director of SEA Junction, is associate professor at the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University in Bangkok, and visiting professor at the Master in International Development Studies at Chulalongkorn University. She worked at the Foundation in the Jakarta and Manila offices from 1993 to 2000.

One of the organization’s founding partners is **Alan Feinstein**, executive director of the American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF), which manages the Fulbright program and other educational exchange programs in Indonesia. He worked at Ford from 1987 to 1994 in the Education and Culture Program and in the Jakarta office.

**Bonnie Jenkins**, an official of the State Department whose education and career have provided the background and experience that has made her a leading expert on arms control and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, led the United States delegation to the annual meeting in March of the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centers (NSS Network).

The network, of which Ambassador Jenkins is chair, met in Pakistan, the first time it has convened outside its headquarters in Vienna.

The network was established by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) “to encourage states to share lessons learned in their own (countries) with the international community”.

Among her varied duties, Jenkins serves as the Department of State’s Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation and is this country’s representative to the G7 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (WMD).

She coordinates the department’s Co-operative Threat Reduction program and regularly briefs United States Combatant Commands about WMD programs in their area of responsibility, and works closely with relevant international organizations and multilateral initiatives.

Before joining the State Department she was program officer at Ford for foreign and security policy, working to strengthen public engagement in United States foreign and security policy debates and formulation. Through her grantmaking initiatives she promoted support for multiculturalism, the peaceful resolution of disputes and the international rule of law.

Before joining Ford she was counsel to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks, known informally as the “9/11 Commission”, and was the lead commission staff member consulting on counter-terrorism policy in the office of the Secretary of Defense.

She received her bachelor’s degree from Amherst College, has a master’s degree in international and comparative law from Georgetown University, earned a doctorate from the University of Virginia and has a law degree from the Albany Law School.

She has taught at Georgetown University’s Law School and Stanford University’s Center for International and Security Cooperation, and was a fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Roland V. Anglin** has been appointed dean of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University.

*Continued page 12*

## PERSONALS



**Nellie Toma**, LAFF’s secretary/treasurer, celebrated her birthday in June with two friends and former colleagues. Nellie’s in the center, with **Radhika Balakrishnan** on her left and **Natalia Kanem**.

Radhika is the faculty director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University and worked at the Foundation from 1992 to 1995 in the Asia and Pacific program. Natalia, who is the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), worked at Ford from 1992 to 2005 in Nigeria and New York, in both management services and the Peace and Social Justice unit.

Nellie worked with both during her time at Ford from 1992 to 2007, in the Africa and Middle East and Asia and Pacific programs, and in management services and program management.

**Fran and David Korten** recently received the Repairing the World Award from the Bainbridge Island/



North Kitsap Interfaith Council in recognition of “extraordinary contributions to the community.”

The award is based on the Jewish principle of Tikkun Olam, or “repairing the world”, an understanding that “each of us has a responsibility to help rebuild the broken parts of our world”. The council honors local businesses for their dedication to “dignity and justice, speaking for the voiceless, responding to human needs, nurturing peace, caring for the earth, dialoging with people of all faiths, working for the common good”.

Fran is executive director and publisher of Yes! Magazine, which is based in Bainbridge Island, Wash., and David is president of the Living Economies Forum. She worked with the Foundation from 1978 to 1997 in the Jakarta, Manila and New York offices, and he worked in the Manila office from 1978 to 1981.

And they just celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary.

## IN MEMORIAM

# THOMAS MILLER, INNOVATOR FOR SOCIAL CHANGE AND NOVELIST

**F**riends and colleagues of the late **Thomas Miller** gathered in New York City last May 10 to celebrate as much the “spirit” of the man as his innovative and influential work with the Ford Foundation and other ventures.

Mr. Miller, who worked for the Foundation for 14 years as director of Program Related Investments (PRI) and then as assistant representative in the Nairobi office, died March 19 at his home in Berea, Kentucky.

But he was also, as many remembered during the gathering in New York, a man with a light, folksy touch, his professional achievements leavened by a fondness for what was referred to as “Tomisms”.

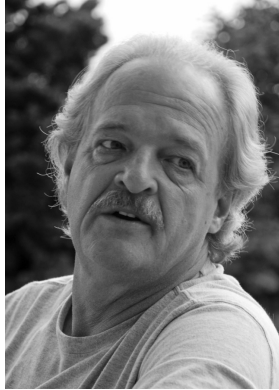
**Raymond Offenheiser**, now president of OXFAM America, remembered in an email “Tom’s ability to find a country lyric appropriate for any occasion. They tended to roll out most liberally over a beer and a good dinner. One I remember went something like this: ‘I been waiting on the soup so long, baby, I’ve lost my hunger for your love.’”

**Ellen Lumpkin Brown** shared two “Tomisms” in particular in an email: “I’m just rolling around like a BB in a boxcar.” Translation, she said: “It’s lonely over here.” The second was, “I’m standing with a penny, waitin’ on change.” Again, she translated: “That’s it, there’s nothing more.”

**Judith Samuelson**, who succeeded Mr. Miller as director of the PRI office in New York and now is Executive Director of the Business and Society program of the Aspen Institute, spoke to his mastery of Country Western lyrics and his ability to embed them in Trustee reports “to great effect”.

That ability, and whimsical approach, was recalled by **Barron Tenny** in a story of one particular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

He recalled in an email message that as “Tom was at the table about to make a PRI presentation he began by saying that prior to the meeting **Frank Thomas** (then the president of the Foundation) had admonished all the presenters not to read their remarks. He then took the script he was holding and



dramatically ripped it up.

“After a few seconds elapsed, he pulled out another version of the script from his inside jacket pocket and said something along the lines of, if you think I would make this presentation without the security of having a written script you’re crazy. Laughter and applause followed.”

Mr. Miller started work at Ford in 1983 in the PRI office after having been president

of the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (KHIC). He became director of the office in 1987.

He went to the East Africa office in 1992, became the assistant representative there in 1993 and left the Foundation in 1997. An indication of his commitment was provided by **Ghebre Mehreteab**, who worked at Ford in the Urban Poverty program in the 1980s and once visited Mr. Miller in Nairobi. “He told me,” he said, “I want to be demoted from a program officer in charge to program officer so I can do real work.”

His early work on “innovative PRI investments put some of these global innovators in microfinance and credit as a catalyst for private investment on the map and made it safe for others to follow,” said Judith Samuelson.

She said that while he was one of many who supported such work, “he had a keen eye for what our role could be in building these institutions without losing perspective on the limits of investment capital and the very real risks involved. Tom would challenge orthodoxy about economics while respecting the power of markets to create wealth and opportunity for people the Ford Foundation hoped to help.

“He lived life to the fullest,” she said, “and had a rare mix of compassion and intellect, optimism and pragmatism.”

His background as a certified public accountant and earlier work with KHIC provided the knowledge and experience instrumental for his work in East Africa and South Asia.

“He came up with the idea of investing KHIC’s federal grants in local businesses

rather than spending them on programs,” said Kerwin Tesdell, a former PRI program officer at the Foundation and now president of the Community Development Venture Capital Alliance.

“KHIC has served as a model for impact investment funds throughout the nation and around the world,” Tesdell said.

In recent years Mr. Miller turned the insights gained during his multi-faceted career into a new venture, writing, and earned a master of fine arts degree in writing from Eastern Kentucky University in 2015 while he continued to work on a novel he had begun years before.

Then, just weeks before his death, he learned that he had been chosen one of ten finalists for PEN America’s Bellwether Prize, created and funded by the novelist Barbara Kingsolver and given every two years for an “unpublished novel of high literary caliber that promotes fiction that addresses issues of social justice and the impact of culture and politics on human relationships”.

He did not win the award, which was announced after his death. But being chosen to compete confirmed his efforts. “I am not expecting to win,” he said when notified of his selection as a finalist, “but consider this to be validation of the sixteen years of work I have put in, including going to back to school...and learn something about writing. It looks like I did”.

The novel, *Nightrunner*, and a sequel he was working on, are set in East Africa. He described them as focusing on “the lives of ordinary people and how they cope with the many injustices they face in daily life. Parallels are drawn to similar challenges faced by the people of Appalachian Kentucky. They are also a love story between two people different in every way—race, economic class, education level and age”. ■

**IDA BOYCE**, an information retrieval specialist at the Foundation, died in early May. She started work at Ford in 1987 and was promoted to senior IR specialist in 1995, working in that position until her retirement in September 2008.



# ALISON BERNSTEIN, "A POWERFUL VOICE FOR JUSTICE"

**A**lison Bernstein, director of the Institute for Women's Leadership Consortium (IWL) at Rutgers University and a former vice president of the Ford Foundation, died from cancer June 30. She was 69.

Ms. Bernstein was "a national and international leader in higher education and culture," said Darren Walker, president of the Foundation, and "a powerful voice for justice. She cultivated the talents of others, encouraged bold programming, encouraged original thinking and was a vibrant presence.... She gave with real generosity to everyone around her."

While at Ford, he said, she played a critical role in some of the Foundation's "most enduring and successful programs", including the International Fellows Program, Difficult Dialogues, Pathways to Higher Education and the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women.

A statement from the IWL said, "Those of us who worked with Alison will cherish our time together and recall with a smile her larger than life presence, her keen intelligence, her love of the arts and her laughter. We are so grateful for her leadership and her contribution to women's education here and throughout the world."

Ms. Bernstein began working at Ford in 1982 as a program officer and, in 1992, was named director of the Education and Culture Program, a position she held for four years. She then was appointed vice president for Knowledge, Creativity and Freedom and of its successor program, Education, Creativity and Free Expression.

She left Ford in 2010 to teach at Spelman College in Atlanta, where she held the William H. and Camille Cosby Endowed Chair and was a professor of humanities and women's studies.

She became director of the IWL at Rutgers in 2011, where she initiated two areas of focus, Women and Health and Women and Media, and created the Gloria Steinem Endowed Chair in Media, Culture and Feminist Studies.

At the time the Steinem endowment was announced, Ms. Bernstein said, "It was an idea I had after noticing Gloria Steinem won the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I realized there had never been a chair anywhere in the U.S. dedicated to the legacy of this extraordinary feminist icon...."

She was also editing an eight-volume book series, *Junctures: Case Studies in Women's*

*Leadership*, which will be published by the Rutgers University Press.

Ms. Bernstein's education and professional work fueled her continuing interest in twentieth century American political, social and cultural history, focusing on American Indians and women's and gender history. She was a graduate of Vassar College and earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Columbia University, writing her dissertation on *Walking in Two Worlds: American Indians and Impact of World War II* while working at Ford.

She wrote two books, *Funding the Future: Philanthropy's Influence on American Higher Education* and *American Indians and World War II: Toward a New Era in Indian Affairs* and co-wrote two others, *The Impersonal Campus* and *Melting Pots and Rainbow Nations: Conversations About Difference in the United States and South Africa*. She was also the author of many articles in scholarly journals that drew

on her primary interests of higher education, philanthropy, American Indian history and culture, and women's issues.

She began her teaching career in 1970 as a history instructor at Staten Island Community College, and became the assistant to the college's president. She was then an associate professor of history and dean for innovative and experimental studies at Sangamon State University in Springfield, Ill. She also was

associate dean of the faculty at Princeton University and, while at Ford, an honorary adjunct professor of higher education at Columbia University's Teachers College and an adjunct teacher in the Bryn Mawr College Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration.

Her skills and expertise were recognized nationally as a member of the President's Standing Committee on the Status of Women, the Presidential Advisory Board on Tribal Colleges and Universities, and the Board of Advisors to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

She also was a member of the board of the News Literacy Project (NLP), whose president, Alan Miller, said, "We are heartbroken. Alison was an early champion of news literacy, an invaluable board member and a smart, gracious and thoughtful friend."

National honors include receiving the Women of Distinction award in 1989 from the National Conference for National College Women Student Leaders, being named Outstanding Leader in Higher Education by Change magazine in 2000, being honored by the National Council for Research on Women with its Women Who Make a Difference award in 2007, and receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010 from the Office of Women in Higher Education of the American Council on Education.

She also was a member of the board of directors of the International Fellowship Fund, a member of the board of the Samuel Rubin Foundation and a trustee of Bates College. ■



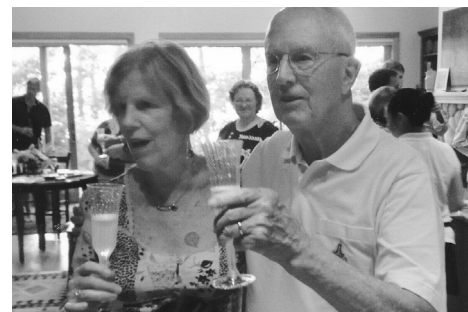
## PETER F. GEITHNER, AUTHORITY ON ASIA

**P**eter F. Geithner, who worked for the Ford Foundation for 28 years and was a former president of The LAFF Society, died July 29 at his home in Orleans, Mass. He was 84.

He was Ford's first representative in China and helped develop programs in support of education, public health and economic development there and in his positions as deputy representative in India, representative for Southeast Asia and program officer in charge of Developing Country Programs.

A full article on his life and achievements will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Broad Reach Hospice



**Peter Geithner and his wife, Deborah, during Peter's 80th birthday celebration.**

and Palliative Care at [libertycommons.org/hospice-palliative-care/](http://libertycommons.org/hospice-palliative-care/) and to the Thai Red Cross Children's Home at [english.redcross.or.th/content/page/958](http://english.redcross.or.th/content/page/958).

The LAFF Society  
c/o Nellie Toma  
PO Box 701107  
East Elmhurst, NY 11370

## LAFF Parade

"Dr. Anglin is a leading national figure in public policy and urban affairs and a proven administrator who will continue to enhance the academic, research and community outreach excellence that have been hallmarks of the Levin College," said Jianping Zhu, interim provost at Cleveland State and senior vice president for academic affairs, in announcing the appointment.

Said Anglin when he was named to the post, "I hope to assist CSU's leadership in continuing to advance the university's position as a leading urban, public research institution."

He is especially qualified to provide such leadership after more than 25 years in academic, nonprofit and philanthropic work, including nine years at Ford starting in 1991 in the Urban Poverty program and then as deputy director of the Foundation's Community and Resource Development Unit.

He was the founding executive director of the Initiative for Regional and Community Transformation in the Edward J. Bloustein

School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University's New Brunswick, N.J., campus, and most recently was senior advisor to the chancellor and director of the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies at the Rutgers campus in Newark.

He has a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College, a master's from Northwestern University and a doctorate from the University of Chicago.

**Marta L. Tellado**, the president and chief executive officer of Consumer Reports, has been appointed to the new Digital Economy Board of Advisors, an agency of the Department of Commerce that is intended to "help businesses and consumers realize the potential of the digital economy to advance growth and opportunity".

The advisors are expected to help the department "focus on ensuring that the Internet continues to thrive as an engine of growth, innovation and free expression".

To that end, the advisors will analyze challenges related to the global free flow of information on the Internet; advise the department on such issues as expanding broadband capacity, enhancing cybersecurity, protecting

### Correction

The newsletter printed an incorrect affiliation for **Rosalia Sciortino** in the "Personals" section of the Spring 2016 issue. She is an associate professor at the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand; visiting professor in Master and PhD International Development Studies at Chulalongkorn University; and founder and executive director of the newly created SEA Junction, a public venue and library for conversations on Southeast Asia.

She is no longer with the Southeast and East Asia International Development Research Center.

privacy and examining the role of intermediaries; promote the development of new digital technologies, and analyze the impact of the Internet on job growth and the economy as a whole.

Before being appointed head of Consumer Reports, Tellado was vice president for communications at the Foundation. ■