



LAFF

THE LAFF SOCIETY Promoting social and professional contacts among former staff members of the Ford Foundation

Winter 2021, No. 100

“LIVING INTO MY LIFE”

PRESIDENTS’ UPDATE: THE FUTURE OF LAFF

As we get close to marking one year of our global struggle with the coronavirus pandemic, we are ever grateful for our far-flung LAFF network of colleagues and friends. We have heard from many of you informally and through the grapevine, and serendipitously encountered others on Zoom screens together. We hope you are all staying safe and well and that we will meet in person again soon.

We want to use this newsletter to share with you some thinking we have been doing with the Executive Committee and with Foundation staff about the future of LAFF.

The LAFF Society has come to a moment in its evolution when we need to be more vigorous in attracting new members, more efficient in meeting their needs and more effective in communicating with each other.

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Joy Carol

By Joy Carol

How refreshing it is to read Noorain Khan’s and Catherine Townsend’s article “Turning the Tide, Together: Disability Inclusion at Ford”, published on the Ford Foundation’s website last spring, “a perfect time,” wrote the authors, “to pause and share some updates on our disability inclusion journey.”

They write that Ford has set two important goals for the next five years: to make the Foundation’s grantmaking and operations positively inclusive of disabled people and to help ensure that the larger philanthropic field includes the rights of disabled people. Khan and Townsend state: “We know these are ambitious goals, but given the tremendous inequalities faced by people with disabilities, our only option is to be ambitious.”

Why has this decision had an impact on me, personally? I have lived a deeply

meaningful and exciting life. I’ve worked for humanitarian agencies in some of the most difficult regions around the world and appreciated every step of that journey. I have grasped life’s opportunities and tackled challenges with courage and enthusiasm.

More recently, though, I have embarked upon a different journey, one that I never expected to travel. I am faced with a personal health issue: the rare, usually fatal Paraneoplastic Syndrome. I am challenged—as a disabled person. However, I know I’m more than a diagnosis. I’m a person of worth who chooses to live life to the fullest in spite of my hardships. As Helen Keller once said, “Life is a daring adventure, or nothing at all.”

Disabilities (physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, developmental or a combination of these) are the result of an impairment that may be present at birth or
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The Future of LAFF

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As an informal network, LAFF has demonstrated remarkable durability. Over the last 30 years, LAFF has evolved from an association of retirees based in the U.S. to a multigenerational and increasingly global network of individuals actively engaged in their professions. With about 400 members and a variety of well-attended events, LAFF is a testament to the indelible imprint that Ford Foundation service has had on the lives and careers of its alumni.

While enthusiasm for maintaining LAFF is high among members, it has proven challenging to sustain LAFF in its current structure. It is led by a volunteer executive committee and has a widely dispersed set of members, very few of whom have the time to devote to planning and leading LAFF events and maintaining communications platforms.

In order to ensure the long-term viability of an alumni network, we are in discussions with the Ford Foundation's leadership about the creation of a new relationship with the Foundation to support LAFF. We believe having a full partner at the Foundation to help recruit new members, sponsor events and support communications will help ensure that LAFF remains a lively network, including programs and annual holiday parties at the Foundation's headquarters in New York, reunions in various corners of the globe and contacts through social media groups.

One important and often unsung value of LAFF is our global alumni network's willingness to provide mentoring, share contacts and offer advice to Ford Foundation colleagues and other alumni. Who among us has not benefitted from this treasure trove of colleagues?

To ground our discussions in the interests and energies of the people that make LAFF what it is, you will shortly be receiving a brief survey. **It is really important that we hear from you!** Please take a moment to complete the survey.

We will present the findings to the Executive Committee and then to the Ford Foundation's People and Culture group (formerly Human Resources), we hope before the end of March. We will keep LAFF members informed of our progress as we explore the possibilities and work to maintain LAFF's founding purpose and the culture that has evolved over the last 30 years.

With all our best wishes,

Betsy Campbell and Suzanne Siskel
Co-Presidents, LAFF Society

"Living Into My Life"

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occur during a person's lifetime. They usually compromise a person's quality of life and cause numerous disadvantages. Disabled people are assaulted, often live in poverty and are unemployed and under employed at higher rates than non-disabled people. People with disabilities face widespread exclusion, discrimination and human rights violations.

Nearly 650 million people in the world live with the challenges of a disability. And as the population ages, this figure is increasing. According to the United Nations Development Programme, 8 percent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries. The World Bank estimates that 20 percent of the world's poorest people have some kind of disability and are perceived in their communities as being the most disadvantaged.

It is expected there will be more disabled people because of the increasing numbers of elderly persons who suffer a physical or cognitive challenge as they age, and of children in developing countries facing malnutrition, diseases and child labor as well as armed conflict and violence. For every child killed in warfare, three are injured and acquire a permanent form of disability, according to the World Health Organization.

I admit that, before I became disabled, I pitied people I met who had a disability. At times I felt guilty because I went out of my

way to avoid people I knew who had special needs. I felt uncomfortable because I didn't know how to respond appropriately.

As we get older, disabilities have a way of creeping up on us, preventing us from doing things we once did with ease. Even if we are an "able-bodied" person, a disability will likely be part of our lives at some time in our future.

Sometimes when we are unable to function well, many of us see little purpose in living and in our frustration feel sorry for ourselves. When we aren't living what we perceive as a productive life, questions arise: "Why has this happened?" "What did I do to deserve this?"

What does it mean to be a disabled person? Here are some of my thoughts and personal experiences.

For 35 years, I developed programs for such organizations as the Ford Foundation, the United Nations, Save the Children and Child Fund. After those meaningful and exciting years, I attended seminary. Then, for 15 years, I traveled across the United States and Europe as an author, inspirational speaker, and retreat and workshop leader. I thrived in this work.

Then my world changed. In 2013, I started falling on the New York City streets, on subway stairs, everywhere. With my body stiffening, I couldn't stop falling. Finally, one foot wouldn't move in front of the other. I went to the emergency room at Roosevelt Hospital, where I was admitted and given numerous tests. As weeks passed, I lost 30 pounds and was like a skeleton in a wheelchair, unable to get out of bed, walk or even dress myself. My life was completely out of kilter.

My doctors worked hard to keep me alive, yet I was slipping away without a diagnosis. My neurologist said, "I don't want you to die. You appreciate life so much." She sent my spinal fluid and blood to top United States research laboratories.

Finally, the diagnosis came from the Mayo Clinic: I had the rare, usually fatal Paraneoplastic Syndrome, or PPS, triggered by my own immune system's response to cancer, a doubly devastating discovery because I didn't know I had the disease. PPS develops as the body's immune system responds to cancer, usually of the breast or lungs, but I had been very faithful about getting mammograms and ultrasounds and all of that. I had my last mammogram only two months before PPS was discovered and it was completely clean, a "come back in a year" type of report.

So the situation was clear: My overactive antibodies were trying to kill the cancer cells, and they were also destroying my central nervous system, preventing me from walking. Although my body was trying to do the right

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The LAFF Society

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Joy Carol and Prescilla Manuel, one of her 24/7 caregivers, after her diagnosis. Without her two Filipino caregivers, she “could not have survived”.

thing, it was killing me.

I’ve been fortunate so far. The cancer has been in remission for seven years, and I am probably the only person who has survived longer than three years with PPS. I’m the Mayo Clinic’s poster child because I’m in my eighth year with the condition, the longest length of time people live after being diagnosed with PPS.

But I still remember vividly the horrible shock and distress I felt as the doctor told me the diagnosis. I would be disabled and I might die. I was devastated. In a few minutes, how I viewed the world, how I felt about myself, how I would live my life in the future were totally changed. I felt overwhelmed with despair.

Most people hope they won’t be disabled or won’t have a child, partner or parent with a disability. Research has shown that when people are asked what they fear most, loss of health and debilitating disabilities rank high on their list. We want children to progress at a normal rate of development. We expect parents to age gracefully. We hope that when we get old we will enjoy the golden years. So, when Multiple Sclerosis begins to wither muscles, or Alzheimer robs the mind, or macular degeneration leaves one visually impaired, or one can’t hear, or one is unable to walk—none of that is expected. Unconsciously we think of that as not normal, and thus see a person who is disabled as “abnormal”. We focus on negative features rather than see the person as valuable. Sadly, the way we view people is the way we usually treat them.

Unanticipated disabilities can easily cause anger, self-pity and depression. When I couldn’t walk, care for myself, drive a car,

work, travel or live in my home, it was terrifying and often a humiliating experience.

It wasn’t long before I learned firsthand that people with disabilities are repeatedly discriminated against, stigmatized and shunned. It was a difficult lesson to learn. I’ve experienced people trying to avoid me, flooding me with extreme kindness and helpfulness to the extent that I truly felt helpless, and unintentionally hurting me by how they spoke to me. People have said, “You can’t go. You couldn’t get up the stairs.” They were wrong! I refused to be limited by their perceptions of me. It is never good to tell a disabled person what they can or cannot do.

One of my extremely brilliant friends, who looks “normal”, has a severe learning disability. He talks about the nightmare it was for him as he grew up. He was called stupid and a dummy, and that he wasn’t trying. It took years of therapy for him to feel like a worthwhile human being.

We all know about incredible people with severe disabilities who are doing some amazing things: A woman who was attacked by a shark and has only one arm is a champion surfer. A man who has no arms is a top archer. A blind man who rides a bike in mountain races is a winner.

How should we treat people who are disabled? I believe we are to respect all people regardless of their physical or their mental ability. We need to see disabled people as having the right and capability of fully engaging in life. And we must not prejudge or treat them as though something is wrong with them.

Although the complications of being disabled can make people afraid, skeptical, enraged or miserable, I know it is possible to choose to change that picture. It’s not an easy task when facing anguish and despair. Nevertheless, even in terrible times, we may dis-

cover there are some surprising gifts buried somewhere in our lives: the desire to serve, wisdom, courage, hope.

I now understand that significant growth can come from being disabled. What I found surprising was that my disability helped me learn much more about myself. I was forced to face my fears and losses, discover my strengths and capabilities, and appreciate other people’s kindness and help. I began to pay attention to what was important and valuable. Being disabled helped me come to a deeper understanding of life itself. I could no longer escape into the future or try to live in the past. Certainly, my disability taught me to be grateful for the gift of life.

And I have discovered one simple truth: *We might not be able to be cured or healed, but we can choose how we respond to our challenges, no matter how difficult they may be.*

Yes, the Paraneoplastic Syndrome has limited my ability to walk. Still, after grieving my losses, I have learned what my skills and strengths are. Hope has interrupted my despair. So, I shall continue to work at living fully into my new life. I now know I am not a diagnosis nor an illness. I am a strong woman who has much to contribute to the world. ■

Joy Carol has written eight books, most recently Nine Lives of Joy: The Journey of a Life, and writes more fully of the experiences she discusses in this article on her website, www.joycarol.com. She has earned master’s degrees in counseling psychology from the University of Maryland and theology and spiritual direction from the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Wesleyan University. She worked at the Ford Foundation from 1980 to 1984 in the Education and Culture and Urban Poverty programs.



The LAFF Society

For the women and men engaged in Life After the Ford Foundation

Fall 1991 No. 1

The First LAFF

As stated in circulars that have gone out to so many Ford Foundation alumni as we have been able to locate to date, the new LAFF (Life After the Ford Foundation) Society is dedicated to the circulation of information about ongoing staff news here. The principle vehicle thereafter will be a newsletter, and we are pleased at least to present the maiden issue.

Unlike the American Procrastination Society, which apologizes because each issue of its newsletter has not come out later we will try to publish those with regularity, perhaps two a year, or more, depending on the volume of information received. That volume in turn depends on our receiving news, names and addresses of FF alumni, about which more later.

We hope that by circulating some of the professional and/or personal events in the lives of FF alumni, we will remember old bonds, possibly reacquaintances, perhaps even help one another professionally, and satisfy sheer curiosity.

This enterprise is topped with a dollop of nostalgia, for which we make no apology.

The LAFF Society is neither endorsed or encouraged by the Foundation, but high officials there have complimented us on our efforts to keep in touch with friends and wish us well.

Write us, send us names and addresses of former colleagues. Send a couple of sentences or so about yourselves.

Cordially,

The Organizing Committee
Whitton Basow
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Naail Whiting

The LAFFing Parade

Most of the following information comes from respondents. We apologize to people whose letters were received after this issue went to press, but we are sure to note them in the next issue.

Dates in parentheses indicate when alumni left the Foundation.

Frankie G. Frank (1983) spent part of the first two years of retirement writing a history of the Foundation's international activities. He wrote to the LAFF Society from Bellagio, Italy, where he was writing director of the Rockefeller Foundation's Study and Conference Center at the Villa Serbelloni. Now at 89 Bellagio Dr., Bobo Ferry, NY 10522.

Spending one another domicile for what FF alumni David Meade once called "the leisure of theory class" in (Peace and Environment), Peter became vice president of the Russell Sage Foundation after leaving Ford and a year signed on for a three-year stint as director of IATA, the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis, located in one of the impressive "Theresia" overflow palace-crowns" throw from Vienna. 42501.

With "A Dollop of Nostalgia"

This is the 100th issue of The LAFF Society's newsletter, the first coming out in the Fall of 1991, not long after LAFF's founding. The look has changed, but its guiding aim has not as each issue has tried as best as possible to reach out to the "men and women engaged in Life After the Ford Foundation".

The first issue waggishly proclaimed that "Unlike the American Procrastination Society, which apologizes because each issue of its newsletter has not come out later, we will try to publish these with regularity.

"...we will remember old bonds, possibly renew acquaintances, perhaps even help one another professionally, and satisfy sheer curiosity.

"This enterprise is topped with a dollop of nostalgia, for which we make no apology."

MUSIC IN THE TIME OF COVID: STELLAR PERFORMANCES ONLINE

By George Gelles

For many years, I have looked forward to starting the New Year with the Vienna Philharmonic and music by members of the family Strauss. Mid-19th century, the dynasty owned dance music: polkas, galops, marches, quadrilles and, especially, the waltz. Johann, Sr., Eduard, Josef and Johann, Jr.—contemporaries crowned him “The Waltz King”—created a repertory that is synonymous with Vienna, and the Philharmonic has lent each year a festive start with the fizziest concert of the season.

After long-term tenures by conductors who were members of the Philharmonic family (Clemens Krauss, Josef Krips and Willy Boskovsky), for more than three decades now the podium has been occupied by a panoply of the international elite, including Carlos Kleiber, Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim and Gustavo Dudamel.

The most recent New Year’s Day concert saw the return to the podium of Riccardo Muti, a six-time veteran who last led the orchestra on New Year’s Day in 2018. But this performance was different: In Vienna’s Musikverein, the Philharmonic’s gilt and gorgeous home—it is surely the most resplendent of Europe’s great 19th century concert halls—the performances were played to an audience of 1,744 vacant seats. The coronavirus had emptied the hall.

This, perhaps predictably, diminished the concert’s luster. The musicians played note-perfect if a bit pro forma—musicians need a “live” audience for whom they can perform, whose appreciation they can sense—and Muti was, as always, professional, but the champagne had gone flat.

In our distressed and stressful time, it is perhaps not surprising that confections such as Strauss waltzes, even perfectly televised, seem somehow anachronistic. Orchestras and other performing arts organizations affected by the coronavirus, which is to say the entire cultural enterprise, will have to imagine and implement new ways to reach audiences that are as vivid and vibrant as being at a concert itself.

Since last Spring, when the pandemic’s dangers were widely acknowledged and “live” performances were suspended, musicians and dancers have begun to show great imagination in rethinking their art, its creation and



Covid Fan Tutti...after soprano Karita Mattila pops out of a pallet of bathroom tissue.

dissemination. With performance venues closed and traditional performances unavailable, I’ve watched dozens—no, hundreds—of videos, and would like to share an exceptional few, both of music and dance.

Many fine operas old and new can be found online, but among the most interesting is a production from the Finnish National Opera called *Covid Fan Tutti*. Here’s the backstory:

The opera, based on Mozart’s *Così fan Tutti*, was conceived by conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen and soprano Karita Mattila, both of whom were in their native Finland when international borders closed. The Finnish Opera at the time was preparing performances of Wagner’s *Die Walküre*. On the video performance of *Covid* a Wagner rehearsal is interrupted by the “Audience Interface Manager”, who stops the rehearsal and announces that a different opera would be performed.

Covid Fan Tutti is purely heuristic. Set to Mozart’s irresistible music—from *Così*, and also from *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*—it is a vehicle that informs the audience about the virus and its dangers, and ways in which to protect oneself. The piece received 12 “live” performances last Fall and was videotaped for wider dissemination.

Salonen’s conducting and Mattila’s singing are both exemplary, as you would expect from world-class artists. But their performances are

not really the point: *Covid Fan Tutti* is essential education masquerading as art (<https://oopperabaletti.fi/en/stage24/covid-fan-tutte-recording/>).

On a smaller scale, though no less serious, is the remarkable initiative undertaken by virtuoso violinist Jennifer Koh. Best known as a soloist and chamber musician in constant demand, Ms. Koh, in 2014, founded the ARCO Collaboration. To cite its aims, it “commissions, develops, and produces new musical works that highlight artists of color and women composers in collaborations that bring forth stories previously unheard in western art forms.”

In response to the pandemic, Ms. Koh conceived *Alone Together*, which, she has explained, is “an online commissioned project that brings composers together in support of the many freelancers among them. Twenty composers, most of whom have salaried positions or other forms of institutional support to carry them through this challenging time, agreed to donate a new 30-second micro-work for solo violin, while also recommending a fellow freelance composer to write a 30-second solo violin work on paid commission from the ARCO Collaborative.”

Ms. Koh premiered these donated and commissioned works and you can hear them on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2HrKy6CIU4>).

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“Nigra Sum, Sed Formosa” (“I Am Black, But Beautiful”), based on the Biblical text found in the Old Testament’s Song of Songs (1:5), was set by many composers of the Renaissance and Baroque (most notably by Monteverdi in his Vespers of 1610), and now has been set anew by Black composer Jonathan Woody to a text by countertenor Reginald Mobley that relates indignities that he himself suffered as a Black man.

“Nigra Sum, Sed Formosa: A Fantasia on Microaggressions” is composed for five singers, keyboard and viola, and was recently given an impressive premiere by the Handel & Haydn Society at Castle of our Skins, a center for Black performing arts, in the Roxbury section of Boston (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IflTms_JTLg&feature=emb_logo).

As important as the videos just mentioned might be, the two I find most thrilling are in a class by themselves, yet they couldn’t be more different. The first, for dancers, is brilliantly extrovert, while the second, for solo clarinet, deeply introvert. The first speaks of communal celebration, the second of personal communion. The first makes its case with large gestures for all the world to see, the second shows masterful restraint.

When I first heard and watched “Jerusalem”, the gospel-inspired song composed by Kgaogelo Moagi and sung by Nocembo Zikode, I must have been among the few on the planet who hadn’t succumbed to the mania the song induced. Published in 2019 and sung in Isizulu, one of South Africa’s 11 national languages, “Jerusalem” is a prayer to God to take the singer to the holy city of Jerusalem. It became an international craze among people trying to combat the coronavirus malaise.

First in Angola, then in Portugal, its steps were danced and its words were sung by groups of all sizes and backgrounds: by friends in Angola (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=613A9d6Doac&feature=emb_logo); by priests and nuns in Italy (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp7aVYPa6QM>); by kids in Transylvania (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DRic-sjBo8>); by personnel and passengers at Stuttgart Airport (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJikiUCgA>); and, not to be outdone, I imagine, by flight personnel and their presumptive passengers, dressed in dirndls and lederhosen, on a tarmac of Austrian Airlines (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vH-zGql7YA>).

It’s every place, as you’ll see with a quick search of YouTube. I imagine that Antarctic penguins are doing it too.

The single video I find most compelling, called “TakeTwoKnees”, comes from Anthony

Since last Spring, when the pandemic’s dangers were widely acknowledged and “live” performances were suspended, musicians and dancers have begun to show great imagination in rethinking their art, its creation and dissemination.

McGill. At age 35, he won the post of principal clarinetist with the New York Philharmonic, becoming the first Black principal musician since the orchestra’s founding in 1842. As such, he is royalty among Black musicians, and among non-Black musicians too.

Last Spring, feeling a need to respond to repeated acts of violence against Blacks (Black Lives Matter had given voice to wide-spread dismay since its founding in 2013), McGill, at his wife’s suggestion, took his clarinet and played “America the Beautiful”, a patriotic song lodged in our national consciousness since its publication in 1910.

But McGill’s is no conventional rendition. His tempo is measured, his mood is reflective, and when the words “America! America!” first are heard, McGill shifts the music from the major mode to the minor, tingeing his performance with uncommon emotional depth.

As if to emphasize his intent, when his performance is finished—tellingly, the final note never sounds because his version remains a work in progress—McGill puts his clarinet behind his back and slowly drops to his

knees, as if in submission. In a time of racial polarization, it’s a gesture we’ve seen far too often, but McGill’s extraordinary performance gives the gesture a different meaning. He might be dropping to his knees as if in church, as if in prayer (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM1G-Iti7Ns&feature=emb_logo).

With its understated virtuosity, McGill’s is the most searing performance I’ve thus far encountered online, but whatever your predilections in music or dance, you’ll likely find them satisfied, either streamed in-the-moment or pre-recorded, as we await truly “live” performance to return. ■

George Gelles is a frequent contributor to the newsletter, writing primarily on music and dance. His most recent article, a book review on collected papers and reports of the late W. McNeil Lowry, titled “A Collection of Pieces by a Singular Patron of the Arts”, appeared in the Fall 2020 issue of the newsletter. George worked in the Foundation’s Office of the Arts from 1977 to 1981.



“Jerusalem” featuring personnel at Stuttgart Airport, Germany, and Fenomenos do Semba in Angola.

LAFFing Parade

Bonnie Jenkins, an expert on arms control, and a group she co-founded, Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security (WCAPS), have been selected as the 2020 Arms Control Persons of the Year by the Arms Control Association, an independent non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C.

She and her organization were cited for “catalyzing support and action from leaders and practitioners in the national security and foreign policy communities to increase diversity into their ranks and boards of directors and pursue concrete steps to ‘root out institutional racism’ in the governmental and non-governmental sectors in the field.”

In particular, the association noted that WCAPS, following protests last year against the killing of George Floyd “and other Black people...organized a solidarity statement endorsed by leaders and individuals from 150 organizations and launched working groups to develop concrete strategies and tools to attack the problem.”

Jenkins has been the Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation in the U.S. State Department. Before joining the government, in 2009, she had been a program officer at the Ford Foundation for United States foreign and security policy.

Don Chen, president of the Surdna Foundation, has been appointed co-chair of the Presidents’ Council on Impact Investing, a philanthropic leadership group that advocates “policies and standards that would help drive increased investment in communities and other areas of need”.

The Council, an arm of the U.S. Impact Investing Alliance, is comprised of the heads of 19 leading United States foundations “with a shared commitment to practicing and promoting impact investing.” Together, the foundations have more than \$80 billion in assets.

Chen shares the leadership position with **Darren Walker**, president of the Ford Foundation, who has been serving as the group’s other co-chair.

Prior to becoming head of Surdna, Chen worked at the Ford Foundation from 2008 to 2018 as director of Community and Resource Development and in the Metropolitan Opportunity, Equitable Opportunity and Cities and States programs.

Before Ford, he was the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Smart Growth America, where he led efforts to create the National

Vacant Properties Campaign, since renamed the Center for Community Progress, and Transportation for America.

Cristobal J. Alex, who has been president of the Latino Victory Fund, is President Joseph Biden’s deputy cabinet secretary, coordinating White House strategies with the executive branch agencies.

He was one of the first people hired by the president for his campaign, serving since 2019 as a senior advisor. Previously he was deputy director of voter outreach for Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign, managing efforts to register, persuade and mobilize African Americans, Latinos, women, millennials and members of labor unions.

Alex had worked for the Ford Foundation and Open Society Foundations for five years before entering politics. At both foundations he led efforts to increase political participation in communities “historically excluded from the democratic process”.

Before entering the world of philanthropy, he had been a civil rights lawyer, serving most notably as director of the National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights, a coalition of more than 100 organizations that worked to “raise awareness of the civil rights rollback and develop strategies to win in the federal courts and the United Nations”.

Bird Runningwater is a co-executive producer of a proposed television series that has been given a put pilot commitment from NBC, which means the network has agreed to air it when it is ready to be shown. No date has been set for its completion.

The drama, titled *Sovereign*, has been developed by Bird and the film and television director Ava DuVernay, who as a director and writer has won several awards for her work in film and television, including being the first Black woman to direct a film, *Selma*, nominated for an Academy Award.

The drama, being made by DuVernay’s production company, ARRAY Filmworks, in association with Warner Bros. Television, is based on a story by DuVernay and is the first Native American family drama developed for network television.

The show, as described by its creators, “chronicles the lives, loves and loyalties of a sprawling indigenous family struggling to control the future of their tribe against outside forces and themselves.”

Runningwater, one of three co-executive producers of the show, has been a program director at the Sundance Institute where, since he left the Ford Foundation’s Media, Arts and Culture program in 1998, he has provided support and guidance for more than

140 Indigenous filmmakers. (An article he wrote for this newsletter, “Nurturing Native American Filmmakers”, appeared in the Winter 2018 issue.)

He is a member of the Cheyenne and Mescalero Apache Tribal Nations, and grew up on the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico.

Jon Funabiki has received the Distinguished Service to Journalism award from the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Funabiki, who worked in the Media, Arts and Culture and Human Rights and Social Justice programs at the Ford Foundation, was cited for his “dedication to collaboration, diversity, inclusion and equity in the media”. He was a reporter for 17 years at The San Diego Union-Tribune before joining Ford and then taught at San Francisco State University, where he founded the Center for Integration and Improvement in Journalism.

He also founded and directed Renaissance Journalism before his recent retirement.

Mark Baumgartner has been hired as the chief investment officer by the Carnegie Corporation of New York “to lead the foundation’s expansive portfolio and rebuild a hollowed-out investment team”.

He had been working as the chief investment officer for the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., following jobs at the Ford Foundation, where he led the asset allocation and risk initiative, and at Morgan Stanley Investment Management.

Mildred Warner, a professor of city and regional planning at Cornell University, has received the Margarita McCoy Faculty Award for the advancement of women in planning in higher education “through service, teaching and research”.

The award was presented by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning and is named for the pioneering urban planner and educator, Margarita McCoy.

Warner, who teaches in Cornell’s College of Architecture, Art and Planning, is also a professor of global development in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, director of the Local Government Restructuring Lab and a faculty fellow at the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability.

Before she began teaching in 1998, Warner pursued work as a social policy planner, specializing in rural development through stints with the Peace Corps in Ecuador, the Ford Foundation’s Rural Poverty and Resources Program and the Cornell Community and Rural Development Institute. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Brian Urquhart, a British diplomat instrumental in the creation and evolving purpose of the United Nations, and who spent 10 years with the Ford Foundation after his U.N. career ended, died January 3 at his home in Tyringham, Mass., at the age of 103.

Mr. Urquhart, pronounced “irk-it”, spent four decades as an adviser to the first five U.N. secretaries general, and for 12 years was the body’s number two official, succeeding Ralph Bunche as the under secretary for political affairs.

His most lasting contribution was as a successful advocate for the world organization’s role as a peacekeeping body, instrumental in creating the force that was deployed to many active war zones in the Middle East, Africa, Kashmir and Cyprus among many other conflicts.

Mr. Urquhart joined the Ford Foundation

as scholar-in-residence in 1986 after retiring from the U.N., where over the years he had counseled Ford on its funding of U.N.-related projects and programs and post-cold war changes affecting the Foundation’s international work. The residency had been created as a one-year position, designed to enable the Foundation to benefit from the experiences and insights of leading thinkers and actors in areas related to Ford’s programs.

“Brian was unusual,” recalled **Shep Forman**, who was working at the time in the New York headquarters, “renewed year after year because he became such an integral part of the International Affairs program and produced so much of value under the Foundation’s aegis.”

Forman, a past president of The LAFF Society, worked closely with Urquhart while director of International Affairs and in a

new role after leaving the Foundation.

“Brian was instrumental in helping me to envision the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University, now nearing its twenty-fifth year of policy research and implementation on a more effective UN and multilateral system.”

Throughout their long association, Forman said, their relationship was a “unique pleasure”, especially his “wit and wisdom at the Century Association to which he nominated me for membership when we both retired from the Foundation, on the presumption, as he put it, that I would ‘now have a place to have lunch’”.

Don Winkelman, influential in the evolution of agricultural research and application in developing countries, died October 8 at his
Continued on next page

Brian Urquhart Meets Sam Nujoma in Swakopmund



By Steven Lawry

This is an abridged version of an article that appears in its entirety on LAFF’s website.

In December 1992, I received a fax from **John Gerhart**, Ford Representative for South Africa and Namibia, who was in Johannesburg setting up the Foundation’s new Southern Africa office. Ford had managed its South Africa human rights, education and poverty programs out of New York for decades, but with Nelson Mandela freed and negotiations for a post-apartheid democratic order underway, the time was right to have grant-making staff on the ground.

I was new to Ford and in Windhoek, Namibia, as Assistant Representative, hired to head the new Windhoek office, which we opened in October 1992. Namibia had

become independent in March 1990 and Ford had supported its independence process in various ways for many years, also out of New York. Though it is a small country, **Franklin Thomas**, Ford’s president, had convinced the board that the Foundation could contribute to Namibia’s long-term success.

John’s fax read: “Brian Urquhart, Ford Foundation Scholar-in-Residence and one of the great men of the 20th century, visiting your office in Windhoek next month. Please make all necessary arrangements.” I hadn’t met Brian, so John’s characterization of him as “one of the great men...” obviously caught my attention.

Brian would be traveling with his wife, Sidney Howard, who was a senior editor at Time. My first task was to inform Namibia’s leadership, so I sought a meeting with Theo-Ben Gurirab, Namibia’s foreign minister, who was thrilled at the news. He had been SWAPO’s (South West Africa People’s Organization) resident representative at the United Nations for 16 year prior to its independence. The U.N. was the principal convener of negotiations between South Africa, SWAPO, internal parties and global powers and Brian played a decisive role in crafting Security Council Resolution 435, the framework for Namibia’s independence negotiations. Brian and Minister Gurirab had worked closely on the negotiations over many years.

Minister Gurirab undertook to arrange a meeting between Brian and Namibia’s President Sam Nujoma. In the meantime, I received a note by pouch from Brian, along with a copy of his wonderful memoirs, *A Life in*

Peace and War—“for what they are worth” as he’d written in the note. Of course, they told of a remarkable life helping create the UN system and its political and civil service structures; define its peacekeeping mission; mediate conflicts in the Congo, Middle East and South Asia, and, as it turned out, bring an end to South Africa’s apartheid occupation and a just peace to Namibia. A chapter of the memoirs is dedicated to Namibia’s long and fitful peace negotiations.

We were to meet President Nujoma at his summer offices in Swakopmund, a small resort town on Namibia’s Atlantic coast. Swakopmund was cooled in the summer by a cold mist coming off the Atlantic, providing relief for those seeking refuge from Windhoek’s heat.

My wife, LoriAnn Girvan, and I drove with Brian and Sidney on the two-lane road between Windhoek and Swakopmund, about a five-hour trip. Foreign Minister Gurirab was waiting for us at the entrance to the President’s residence. We were escorted into the President’s empty office. A few minutes later President Nujoma appeared. His brilliant smile lit up the room, and as he approached Brian with his arms held high in a gesture of embrace, he exclaimed, “Brian, we’re here!”

Those are the words—“Brian, we’re here”—I most remember from the visit. They summed up somehow the joy of victory after many decades of struggle and appreciation for a friend from another part of the world who, on behalf of many others, contributed to Namibia’s freedom. ■

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In Memoriam

Continued from previous page

home in Santa Fe., N.M., at the age of 89.

He was a professor of economics at Iowa State University when, in 1966, he went to work at the Ford Foundation to help establish a graduate department in agricultural economics at the new Colegio de Postgraduados in Chapingo, Mexico, the first program of its type in that country.

Six years later he joined the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), where he was head of the center's economics program as its first economist, pursuing the adoption of improved technologies and methods for effective on-farm research. He became its Director General in 1985 and served in that position until 1994.

The following year he became chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee of CGIAR, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the world's pre-eminent body working to "alleviate poverty and protect the environment in developing countries through improved agricultural technologies" by over-seeing the work of 16 international research centers, including CIMMYT.

Susan Bell Trowbridge, 78, died last July in Princeton, N.J. She was the wife of **James Trowbridge**, who worked at the Ford Foundation for more than 20 years at two separate times, primarily in international programs. She had been an elementary school teacher and then a feature writer for The Chicago Tribune before her marriage.

Her husband worked at the Foundation from 1963 to 1978 and again from 1988 to 1996, including postings to Foundation offices in the Caribbean, Mexico and Peru and to the headquarters building in New York City.

He worked in several positions, as head of the Africa and Middle East program; a consultant in the International Division; acting head of the Latin America and Caribbean office and variously a training associate, program advisor and representative in that area; a program officer in Arts and Culture, and a consultant in the Rural Poverty and Resources program.

Robert Theodore Ward, who from 1965 to 1969 worked in the Foundation's office in the Philippines, died January 11 at a hospice in Santa Barbara, Calif., at the age of 89.

Mr. Ward had gone to the Philippines

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

Balance on 12/31/19	\$10,461.05
INCOME	
Dues, donations, interest	\$1,905.32
EXPENSES	
Newsletters	\$3,114.68
Website	\$1,063.51
Secretarial services (Dorothy Nixon)	31.00
Administrative Expenses	92.40
Paypal Fees	21.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,323.24
INCOME/EXPENSES	-\$2,417.92
Balance on 12/31/20	\$8,043.13

initially to help edit a science textbook and remained to work on varied educational initiatives throughout the islands. After returning to this country, he taught in the department of science education at the University of Chicago and then taught physics and science education at the University of Northern Iowa before retiring. ■