

Next PDAA

Meeting

Wednesday, April 7,
2010

Woman's National
Democratic Club

1526 New Hampshire
Ave, NW, Washington,
DC

Speaker:

Dana Tai Soon Burgess,
details at right

- Cash bar 11:30 am
- Lunch 12 noon
- Speaker 1:00 pm

\$25.00 per person

Reservation deadline:

Friday, April 2, 2009

To reserve please return
coupon on p. 11, or the
form at [publicdiplomacy.org/
MeetingAnnounce.htm](http://publicdiplomacy.org/MeetingAnnounce.htm)

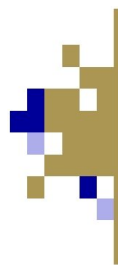
PDAA Annual Dinner

May 16, 2010

See page 5 for details
and reservations

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PDAA Today

Public Diplomacy Alumni Association

Formerly USIA Alumni Association

Choreographer-Educator to Discuss Value of Cultural Exchanges at April PDAA Meeting

Dana Tai Soon Burgess, a noted choreographer, chair of George Washington University's theater and dance department, and a distinguished alumnus of the State Department's exchange programs, will share his personal perspectives on the value of cultural exchange at the PDAA luncheon on April 7, 2010 at the Woman's National Democratic Club in Washington, D.C.

Burgess has been an American Cultural Specialist for the United States Department of State six times. He received Senior Fulbright grants in 2006 and 2008 to teach at the National University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru. Burgess has also established exchanges with dance companies in Peru and India. In 2009, he assisted the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with the DanceMotion USA dance exchange program.

Dana Tai Soon Burgess uses his expertise as a dancer, choreographer, and teacher to encourage dancers and audiences alike to explore dance -- and art more generally -- as an expression of the global connections among individuals and communities. Burgess' exchange experiences in Pakistan, Peru, Mexico, India, Egypt, Israel, and Panama have bolstered his belief that dance is a shared language capable of building international bridges of understanding.

Burgess incorporates the value of cultural exchange in his work as artistic director of his own dance company, Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Company. A prominent Asian-American company, it is recognized for its international character, always infusing international themes to enlighten American audiences.

Burgess grew up in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He studied at the University of New Mexico and George Washington University. His choreography has been presented and commissioned by



the Smithsonian Institution, Asia Society (NY), the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, La MaMa, NY and the United Nations.

Also speaking at the luncheon will be Colombia Barrosse, Chief of the Cultural Programs Division, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, who will give us an update on the Department of State's cultural exchange programs.

This PDAA event will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 11:30 a.m., at the Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. To reserve your place, please return the coupon on page 11, or the form at www.publicdiplomacy.org/MeetingAnnounce.htm, by Friday, April 2, 2010.

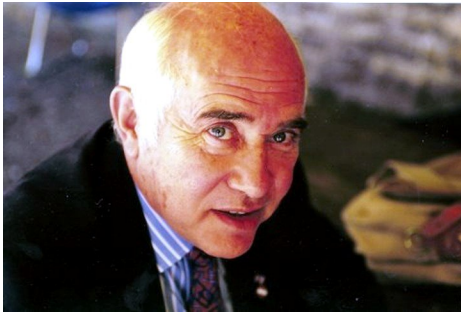
Photo: Courtesy, Dana Tai Soon Burgess & Company

USIA Retiree Life: Art, Teaching, and a View of the Seine

Robert (Bud) Korengold

I doubt if there are many or any former USIA hands who, as the end of their careers approached, didn't spend time wondering what they were going to do after retirement.

I certainly did. However, with an essentially journalistic training and background, I just as certainly never envisioned becoming administrator of an art museum in Giverny, France, just a two-minute walk from the house and gardens of Claude Monet, the father of French impressionism.



Nor did I foresee becoming the senior correspondent in France for an American web site, a teacher at *l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques*, France's breeding institution for its future politicians, diplomats and journalists, or having the luxury of living in Normandy and looking out my window at the Chateau Gaillard, a more than 800-year-old fortress originally built on a nearby hill by Richard the Lion-Hearted when the English controlled the territory.

Yet that's what happened and in each case almost by chance.

In 1994 I was the PAO in Paris, ending my four year assignment and working for Ambassador Pamela Harriman, a stunning and intelligent woman who was the one-time daughter-in-law of Winston Churchill and had been instrumental in getting Bill Clinton elected as U.S. President.

That's when fate and good luck stepped in.

In my PAO capacity overseeing cultural as well as journalistic and educational affairs I had made the acquaintance of Dan Terra, the multi-millionaire Chicago businessman who, in 1992, had created the *Musée d'art américain* in Giverny.

Terra had accumulated a vast collection of paintings by American artists influenced by Monet and other French impressionists and had built his museum to share knowledge of that

American impressionist movement with the French public. Terra knew I wanted to stay in France and before my transfer back to the U.S., he asked me to become the Musée's full-time administrator. That was fate and luck at work again.

As a result, shortly after seeing Ambassador Harriman and Clinton through the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Normandy landings, I officially retired in Paris on June 30, 1994, and began work as Administrator of the *Musée d'art américain* at 9 a.m. the next morning. That rapid a transition doesn't happen very often.

Terra was a remarkable man accustomed to making quick and canny decisions about his business and his art purchases. When I actually began working for him, he more or less peered over my shoulder for several weeks, double-checking every move I contemplated.

After that, apparently convinced that I was more or less competent, he rarely bothered me again. I simply needed to explain to him what I planned to do and why and what it would cost. Almost always the answer was okay.

Needless to say, my USIA background helped a lot. Whatever else PAOs do, they have to develop certain management skills and they served me well at the *Musée d'art américain*. So, of course, did the fact that I had good relations with Ambassador Harriman who sent a lot of important people out to see the museum including then First Lady Hillary Clinton. In addition, I brought to the job my extensive USIA list of names and addresses of important figures in the French cultural world. Still in its infant stages, the Musée had no such base for exhibition invitations and press relations contacts.

Luckily, Terra's art-expert staff (He had another American art museum in Chicago.) made the decisions about what paintings to display and how. I was not trained for that.

My job was to make sure that the museum was properly run, publicized, and made better known, that its entirely French staff of more than 20 guards, gardeners, gift shop salespersons, restaurant personnel and repairmen did their jobs correctly, and that everything was in order when, periodically, the board of directors of Terra's Foundation in Chicago held its meetings in Giverny.

For that, I was not totally out of my depth even though I was, with no prior training, running a French institution with a French staff that knew by heart and rarely failed to demand every one of their rights under French labor laws. My learning curve was sharp and not always easy but I weathered it and

(Continued on page 3)

Art, Teaching, and a View (cont'd)

during a roughly four-year tenure as administrator I practically doubled the annual number of visitors.

What's more I had the pleasure of living in a museum-supplied house just a five-minute walk from my office and working every day in an architecturally attractive setting amid numerous paintings by such famous American artists as Winslow Homer, Mary Cassatt and Lilla Cabot Perry.

In addition, at least during my tenure, I managed to put a halt to the more or less cold war that had existed between the Terra museum and the Monet house and gardens, a major French tourist site next door. The Monet administrators had not looked kindly upon the implantation of Terra's museum just down the street from them in what had been their exclusive territory. Tourists who would ask Monet personnel questions about the American museum and even its whereabouts often were simply brushed off and told no information was available.

Luckily, I knew the Monet administrators from my PAO days. Their main attraction was Monet's house and gardens. They had no original Monet paintings. We had a small garden around the museum but our specialty was original paintings by American impressionists. When I came aboard at the American museum I convinced them that we were complimentary, not competitive institutions and the war ended.

An unusual angle

I had been working only a short while at the museum when, luckily, a journalist friend recommended and got me accepted for a teaching job at Paris' *Institut d'Etudes Politiques*, generally referred to simply as *Sciences Po*. What's more I could do it once a week on Mondays when the museum was closed.

Paris abounds with journalists teaching students how to ask government officials probing questions. *Sciences Po* hired me, however, because I had an unusual and much sought-after angle. Based on my USIA experience, I could explain to those students how government officials learn to formulate and transmit the answers to such questions. No one ever had done that.

Admittedly I could not have gotten off to a worse start. On my first day in class I said, imprudently, that the first rule of a government spokesman is never to lie. Immediately every single one of my students broke out in uncontrollable laughter.

It took me quite a while to re-establish the point I had been trying to make, that spokespersons often are put in positions where they have to evade, be vague, refuse to comment or simply change the subject.

"That's a good question, George, but it's not the basic question."

Once they get caught outright lying, however, their credibility goes down the drain never to return.

As an illustrative assignment I asked each of them to prepare, as if they were delivering it to a major international organization such as the United Nations, a 10-minute defense of some highly controversial government policy. They had the option of any government and any policy as long as it was really controversial.

Immediately every single one of my students broke out in uncontrollable laughter.

Then they had to present it to the class and survive all the penetrating questions from other students and myself that would ensue. Also, they couldn't just spout a party line. They had to remain credible.

That really got them engaged and the subjects they chose were highly imaginative. Oddly enough, the best ever was a young Russian-origin girl's defense of the Russian military crackdown in Chechnya at a moment when there was a lot of crackdown and a lot of brutality.

The teaching was enjoyable. The kids were stimulating and the most rewarding moment was when one student told me the course had convinced her to seek a career as a government spokesperson herself.

Eventually I stopped teaching simply because the long trips to Paris and back, a 150-mile often traffic-clogged journey each time, just became too much.

However, as I did when I was with USIA and still do, I continue to speak periodically about America and American leaders and policies to various groups with some kind of Franco-American interest or orientation.

Because I had been for years a friend of Pierre Salinger, President John Kennedy's press spokesman, I also pitch in periodically as a translator or advisor for the Pierre Salinger museum at his home in Le Thor, near Avignon, where he passed away in 2004.

Recording Your Legacy

Did you make a difference in your career? Did you leave an imprint? In most cases the posts, offices and communications environments where you served were better places after you left. That includes the jobs or volunteer activities you took on before or after your public diplomacy service. But unless you make a record of these accomplishments, no one may ever know about them.

PDAA member Harlan Rosacker suggested that former public diplomacy professionals document their work and life histories, at the least for others to appreciate after they're gone. While easing the task of obituary writers may be a worthy goal, documenting your accomplishments and contributions can also have benefits right here and now.

Start with your own self-esteem: documenting your life and work history shows that you indeed did make a difference. If you don't make this record, who will? Beyond simple ego-gratification, these documented histories can serve as a resource for others studying, researching or just interested in public diplomacy and the people behind it.

PDAA receives a regular flow of requests from students or writers to interview former public diplomacy professionals with certain area, program or historical expertise. Even the best Google searches can't find that granular level of detail.

These histories can be as simple as a chronological listing of jobs or assignments -- capturing places and dates, but focusing more on accomplishments and contributions than duties: problems solved, new ideas implemented, money saved, efficiencies realized, insights gained, lessons learned, lives changed.

For example, noting that you served as a country CAO is fine, but documenting the expansion of the Fulbright program under your leadership is better. Include semi-official accomplishments such as mentoring junior staff or volunteer work, such as coaching soccer or serving on the school board. Also include major publications and invited speeches. And tell about your formal education and important lifetime learning experiences.

There's no prescribed method or medium for capturing your history. Hand-write it, type it, put it on your computer, use your online professional profile. The important job is to get it all down in a form that can be shared with loved ones or colleagues.

PDAA is discussing establishment of a repository for its members to share these work histories. We're working through questions of feasibility and privacy, but would appreciate member feedback on the idea. Please send your thoughts to admin@publicdiplomacy.org. It's your legacy after all.

President's Notes:

In February we were honored to host Senator Chuck Hagel as our luncheon speaker. A long-time supporter of productive international engagement, Sen. Hagel shared his insights and perspectives on America's "Next Chapter." Let me share with you his note to me: "I appreciated the opportunity to be included in your quarterly luncheon. I admire the service to our country that you and your members have given and the important contributions you continue to make."

Our next luncheon gives us the chance to reflect on the important contributions being made to our global outreach efforts by outstanding American creative artists. Yes, cultural diplomacy seems to be on the upswing, and we're thrilled to have choreographer and global traveler Dana Tai Soon Burgess share his experiences as a cultural envoy for the Department of State. Bring a friend, invite a guest, and encourage others to join the PDAA.

And don't forget our end-of-the-year annual dinner to be held on May 16 at Maggiano's in Friendship Heights. Check the insert in this month's newsletter for information and RSVP form. We look forward to seeing you there, when we will announce the winners of the PDAA Annual Award for Achievement in Public Diplomacy.

Member Updates

Ernesto Uribe's new novel, *Rumors of a Coup*, has been published and is available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble Web sites and at Borders. The book deals with a fictitious coca-producing Latin American republic that is in the hands of a ruthless dictator

Michael Walsh was a panelist February 24 at a homeland security conference in Washington sponsored by the non-profit Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Yale Richmond on February 8 was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. That country honored Yale for the establishment of an academic exchange program -- later to become the Fulbright Program -- between Poland and the U.S. He established the program in 1959 while serving as CAO in Warsaw.

Guy Farmer devoted his February 7 column in the *Nevada Appeal* to his proton radiation therapy for prostate cancer at the Loma Linda University Medical Center in California. Guy says "My prognosis is very positive and I'm glad to be home."

PDAA Annual Dinner to Feature Family Style Italian Cuisine

The annual PDAA dinner offers our members, their spouses and guests the opportunity to re-connect with old friends and colleagues and expand their networks with new acquaintances while sharing a delicious meal in a warm and charming atmosphere.

This year's dinner will be held at at Maggiano's Little Italy, 5333 Wisconsin Ave, NW, across the street from Mazza Gallerie in Friendship Heights/Chevy Chase on the DC/Bethesda line (tel. 202-966-5500).

The event will be held in a banquet room on the second floor of Maggiano's. Take the stairs or elevator, and turn left on that floor.

The evening starts with a cash bar at 6:00 pm, followed by remarks and dinner at 7:00 pm. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the evening and to mingle. PDAA has the room until 11:00 pm.

Maggiano's serves family style. Food is brought to the table on platters. There are refills upon request for every serving. Menu items have been selected to give diners a wide choice. There will be appetizers, salads, pasta, fish and chicken servings, plus desserts -- fancy and fruit.

The cost for members and their guests is \$55.00 per person, which covers all the food, desserts, coffee and tea. Drinks, wine, and beer are extra. The cash bar will remain open until the event ends.

Come join the party!

Please complete and return the form on **page 7**, or on the PDAA Web site at <http://www.publicdiplomacy.org/AnnualDinner2010.htm> to make your reservation.

The deadline for reservations is **Monday, May 10**.

Photo. Flickr: Roberto Zingales

Maggiano's Little Italy
5333 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Chevy Chase, D.C. 20015

May 16, 2010
6:00 to 11:00 p.m.



Menu

Food is served family style. There are endless refills of all portions, just ask.

Appetizers: Stuffed mushrooms, bruschetta

Salads: Caesar or Italian antipasti

Pasta: Lasagna with marinara sauce, linguine and clams with white sauce

Entrees: Salmon with lemon

and herbs, roast chicken

Desserts: Profiteroles: vanilla ice cream and hot fudge, fresh fruit plate

Drinks: freshly brewed regular and decaffeinated coffee, hot and iced tea.

Getting there

A map of the area is available on the PDAA Web site; click on the "See map for details" link at <http://www.publicdiplomacy.org/AnnualDinner2010.htm>.

Reduced, validated parking for four hours is available at the nearby Chevy Chase Pavilion, and the Friendship Heights Metro (Red Line) is one block from the restaurant.

You must stamp your parking ticket at the "Carry Out" counter of the restaurant (there is a stamp machine) when you leave. It gives you four hours of parking for \$2.65.

Valet parking for \$7.00 is available after 6:30 p.m.

Art, Teaching, and a View of the Seine (cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

We lucked out

When I left the Giverny museum in 1998, after Dan Terra died, it took my French wife Christine and I half a year to find a permanent home of our own but finally we stumbled onto one very near Giverny in an isolated hamlet of only 11 houses.

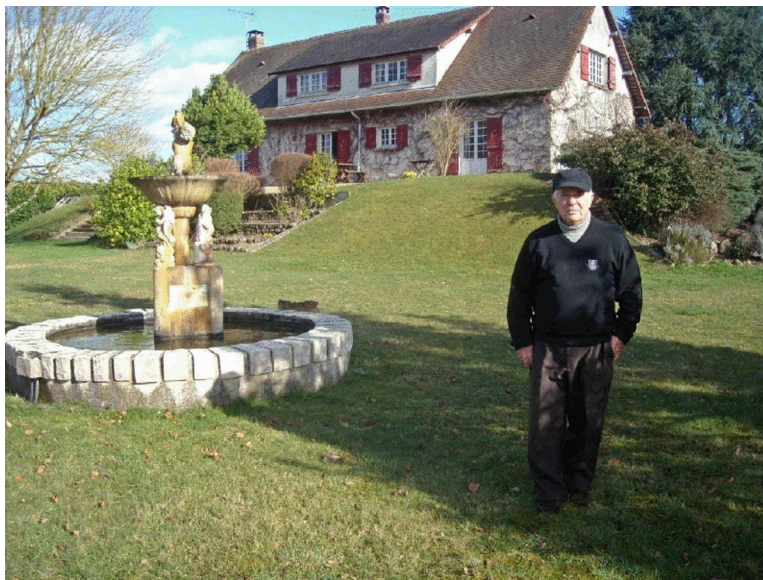
The Seine, carrying its barges, flows in front. There's a lake in back, a sheep farm and equestrian center on one side and wheat fields everywhere else. You can see no less than three chateaux on the surrounding hills including, from the window of the room that would become my office, a stunning view of Chateau Gaillard. We lucked out.

That's where I now occupy much of my time in a very pleasant way as senior correspondent writing for *Bonjour-paris.com*, a web site aimed at English speakers with an interest in France, the French, how they live, how they think and of course, some tips concerning French restaurants and cuisine.

The site has more than 20,000 subscribers, mostly Americans but also English speakers from all over the world. It has published more than 5,000 articles written by people like me, French residents or Francophiles.

That job also fell from the sky. An American correspondent in Paris whom I frequently had helped in my PAO capacity had created the site and was looking for contributors. She asked if I could help and, by now, I've supplied her with nearly 100 articles.

Actually this was just a return to my roots. As PAO in Paris I essentially had been explaining America and its policies to the French. As a journalist there in the 1950s, first for the American newspaper *Army Times* and then for the news agency United Press, I was doing the opposite, explaining the French to Americans. That's essentially what I do now for *Bonjour-paris*, a job that also allows me to remain a member of the Anglo-American Press Association in Paris.



Often I write about French politics. The comparisons of the styles and accomplishments of French President Nicolas Sarkozy and President Barack Obama are endless. I also write, however, about subjects as varied as the French Foreign Legion, the French fascination with bicycle-racing, their tendency to go on strike at the drop of a hat, and the way they con-

stantly are torn between admiration for America and reflex anti-Americanism.

All in all, after what amounts now to a quarter of a century living and working in France, I think I know it pretty well and I see things that are interesting for foreigners but so ingrained in the culture that the French take them for granted and just don't notice them. That's what makes the job such fun and provides such an inexhaustible supply of story ideas. If you are interested in France, and what makes it tick, you might want to check the site out.

Or stop by *chez nous*. We enjoy visitors, particularly USIA colleagues, and the views are great.

SPECIAL: PDAA ANNUAL DINNER

PDAA 2010 Annual Dinner

Sunday May 16, 2010
Maggiano's Little Italy
5333 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Chevy Chase, D.C. 20015

See page 5 for program details. Deadline for reservations: **Monday, May 10, 2010.**

Please complete the form below and mail with your check for **\$US 55.00** for each person to:

**Eileen Binns,
PDAA Treasurer
6919 Radnor Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817**

(Please send payments for this event only.)

Name(s) _____
Street address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone number _____
Email address _____
Date _____
Number of people _____ x \$US 55.00
Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

PDAA Directory Updates

Please note the following updates and corrections in the August 2009 member directory:

Peter P. BIELAK
P.O. Box 707
Williston, NC 28589
(703) 732-4793

Brite-Marie BODORFF
(713) 485-6986
bbordorff@att.net

Bruce K. BYERS
ingbru2@verizon.net

Pamela COREY-ARCHER
pcoreyarcher@yahoo.com

Margaret HELLYER
725 Ninth Ave., Apt 1904
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 407-1700

David I. HITCHCOCK
9707 Old Georgetown Rd
Bethesda, MD 20814

Marilyn P. JOHNSON
persis@myfairpoint.net

Thomas KRAL
(240) 477-7945

Wilma LAMEE
wlamee34sc@aol.com

Martin J. MANNING
Office (202) 632-9926

Chandley MCDONALD
Office (202) 632-9908

Kiki Skagen MUNSHI
kiki@skagenranch.com

Dolores E. PARKER
PO Box 3283
Carmel, CA 93921
(831) 250-7627

Marjorie Ann RANSOM
(202) 986-2383

Robert A. ROCKWEILER
760 Russell Rd
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
(386) 957-4775
rockrobert14@yahoo.com

Michael R. SAKS
michaelsaks@verizon.net

Jaroslav J. VERNER
sibpost@verizon.net

Dan WHITMAN
3630 39th St, NW
Washington, DC 20016
dwhitman89@yahoo.com

E. Ashley WILLS
ginash1973@gmail.com

Kenneth A. YATES
kyates7@verizon.net

Welcome New and Returning Members

Nan BELL
3604 Whitehaven Pkwy, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-2831
nanbell@yahoo.com

Kathy FITZPATRICK
1 Maraldene Drive
North Haven, CT 06473
(203) 582-3808
kathy.fitzpatrick@quinnipiac.edu
Fax: (203) 582-5310

Gregory LAGANA
7109 Cheshire Court
Alexandria, VA 22307
(703) 768-1387
laganagreg@aol.com

Dina LEVINE
5504 Trent St.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
(301) 215-7292
dinalevine@comcast.net

Andrew J. SCHILLING
9400 Regency Crest Drive
Vienna, VA 22181
(703) 268-5435
aschilling@yahoo.com
Fax: (703) 302-6866

In Memoriam

- ◆ Peter Brescia, 86, a retired USIA FSO, died January 16 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. Peter began his diplomatic career in 1950 with the State Department and moved in 1953 to USIA. He was stationed in Germany, France, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan before retiring in 1980. The Italian-born Brescia served in the U.S. Navy (1943–46) and was part of the invasion fleet on D-Day off Omaha Beach. In retirement, he traveled extensively and enjoyed swimming, tennis and squash.
- ◆ Jack Brockman, 86, a retired USIA FSO with extensive Latin American experience, died late last year. His death was noted December 13 on the Web site of the Oklahoma City *Oklahoman*. His postings included tours in Columbia, Guatemala, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Peru. After retiring in 1984, he lived in Miami, FL and later moved to Oklahoma City. He was awarded the Bronze Star during his WW II service with the U.S. Army.
- ◆ Dorothy Dillon, 92, former USIA assistant director for Latin America, died January 31 in Washington, DC. Dorothy was the first woman to hold that USIA position. Her career before joining State around 1950 included teaching at several colleges, heading a Latin American bibliography project for the UN and working at the Library of Congress. Before becoming a USIA FSO, she held several positions in State's office of Research Intelligence. Her early USIA career included postings as CAO in Guatemala and the Philippines. During and after her FSO career she was active in supporting the movement to secure equal rights for women in USIA and the Foreign Service. After her retirement in 1978, she remained active in Latin American affairs including service as Director of the Washington Center for Latin American Studies from 1978 to 1982. She also was a member of the Foreign Service Grievance Board and a contributing editor of the *Times of the Americas*.
- ◆ John Garner, 69, a retired USIA FSO, died January 27 of cancer at his home near Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Garner joined USIA in 1963 and served during his career in Lagos, Tunis, Dakar, Bamako, Abidjan, Paris and Geneva. He retired in 1994 as a Minister Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service. After retiring, Garner moved to Eureka Springs where he was a member of the Carroll County Library Board, chairman of the Carroll County Ambulance Commission and president of the Grassy Knob Volunteer Fire Association. He loved to read and travel. He is survived by his wife, Georgette Garner, a retired foreign service staff officer.
- ◆ Norris Dean Garnett, 78, a retired USIA Foreign Service Officer, passed away on January 14, 2010, at his home in Culver City, California from complications following a stroke that he had suffered some years earlier. He joined the Foreign Service in 1960 and after assignments in Helsinki and Dar-es-Salaam, was posted to Moscow as a program officer working with African students enrolled at Soviet universities. Mr. Garnett had the distinction of being expelled by Soviet authorities for "conducting anti-Soviet work among students from African countries," as a result of his effective work. He later served in posts in Europe, Middle East, and South Asia, as well as in Washington for VOA and USIA's personnel office. Before his retirement, Mr. Garnett was detailed as Public Affairs Director for the Martin Luther King National Holiday Commission, and helped build public support for enacting the holiday.
- ◆ Jane E. Gordon, 87, the wife of a retired USIA FSO who, with her family, survived a 1956 airline crash over the Pacific, died January 12. She had pneumonia and a pulmonary embolism. Jane lived in Darnestown, Maryland and did volunteer work for the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club and the Quince Orchard Library. Before settling in the Washington area in 1969, she had accompanied her husband, Richard Gordon, on his overseas assignments. In October 1956, they were on their way back to the United States from the Philippines with their toddler twin daughters when their airplane ditched into the Pacific halfway between Honolulu and San Francisco. They were among 31 survivors aboard a four-engine Pan American plane, which broke in two after it hit the water. The Coast Guard rescued all of the passengers.
- ◆ Elizabeth Jerga, 83, a VOA journalist and author, died of congestive heart failure January 24 at her Arlington County home. Jerga, who used the broadcast name Marina Havranova during her 17 years at VOA, was born in Palarikovo in Czechoslovakia. When the Soviet Union invaded her country in 1968, she came to the United States. She wrote for the *Detroit Free Press* and freelanced for RFE before joining VOA in 1974. She retired in 1991 and continued to write, publishing eight books, including two children's books, a children's play and biographies of the Slovak artist Koloman Sokol and Mother Teresa.
- ◆ Donald Rice, 82, a radio engineer with VOA and WWDC radio in Washington, DC, died of congestive heart failure February 18. He lived in Silver Spring, Maryland. After WW II service with the Navy and radio engineering school, he joined WWDC in 1949. He worked for 19 years at the station, becoming operations manager. He then moved to VOA as a radio engineer, working there until he retired in 1987. Rice co-owned and operated M & D Audio, and worked as an engineer for visiting sportscasters covering games involving the Washington Redskins, Capitals and Bullets. He sold the business in the 1990s.
- ◆ Clifford M. Reuter Jr., 84, a retired computer programmer and analyst with USIA, died early this year. His death was posted February 13 in the Daytona Beach, Florida *News-Journal*. An Army medic during WW II, he had 35 years of government service. Cliff had many interests and hobbies, including crossword puzzles and photography, and in his early years was a sports car racer. In retirement, he was a stained glass artisan, a fisherman and golfer.

Appreciations

The Dorothy Dillon I Knew

Jack Gallagher

Dorothy Dillon, the gifted FSO and Ph.D. who died in February, would want us to remember her as a USIA champion of women, and those of us who knew her will gladly honor that desire.

I worked as Dorothy's deputy when she headed USIA's Latin American book translation program and as her PAO in Lima when she became the first woman to head the Agency's Latin American area headquarters.

After my retirement in 1986, I continued to maintain contact with Dorothy, who was then pouring her bountiful energy into politics. During a phone conversation with her a few weeks ago I routinely asked, "How are you doing?"

"Not well, Jack I've been very sick." Then she calmly added, "I'm dying, and this will be our last conversation."

As you might suspect, her matter-of-fact statement left me in shock, and I stumbled incoherently through the remainder of that conversation. Afterwards I immediately phoned several ex-FSO colleagues in the D.C. area to alert them to Dorothy's condition so that they might contact her and provide that ailing friend some comfort by letting her know they cared. Enough of sad news

Let's shift to better memories. Many will recall that Dorothy always wore a hat throughout her USIA career, a habit which sometimes drew disparaging remarks. Dorothy once confided to me that she was aware of the mocking comments about her hat-wearing, "but that's my trademark, and I'm going to keep on with it." And keep on she did, even in her retirement years!

I once thought to myself, "If Dorothy were a guardian angel, she'd trade in her halo for a hat" - a thought I never dared to voice, but I'm confident she would have concurred.

When I worked with Dorothy in the book program, I was struck by her intelligence, her management style, her energy -- she was a dynamo -- her fair-mindedness, plus her overall decency and sincere concern for other people's feelings.

I especially remember when she needed to attend an important banquet and was uneasy because she (unmarried) would be surrounded by couples. She resolved that dilemma by phoning my wife and seeking her permission to ask me to accompany her (Dorothy). My wife, who adored Dorothy, consented to this "Dillonian" strategy.

That incident amply demonstrated what a decent and caring person Dorothy was. Oh yes, I attended that banquet.

Michael T.F. Pistor – A Remembrance

Robert Chatten

A half century ago last September 13, our paths intersected at the swearing in of our JOT class, five years into the new Agency's effort to build a professional cadre from the ground up. There were four media types who bonded early in our eager gang of 11: two print journalists who had been editors of their college newspapers, one who had written for network news, and Mike, who had been editor of *Car Life* magazine. He became the first of the group to become an area director.

He paid his hardship post dues early on in East Africa and with a medivac from a Cameroon branch post. But intimates never let him forget the lifestyle-balancing effect of nine years in London, the first five of which were spent, New Frontiersman style, focused on African students studying in the UK. When tall tales of LDC life were told privately among us, he'd talk of laboring in the vineyards of the developing world, citing four years in New Delhi. This was a hard sell after his home leave trips on the QE2 and harder still for anyone who ever was a guest in the PAO house in Delhi. Delhi was no Douala.

One of his greatest gifts to me was introductions to people who knew him as a boy in Tucson, where my wife and I spend winters in retirement. There's a school there named in honor of his father, a University of Arizona professor, who gave distinguished service to the Board of Education. In January, I broke the news of Mike's death to a boyhood friend who had visited him when he was Ambassador to Malawi, touching off stories of "the clever one" who had an early fling at acting and who edited the university humor magazine. I was touched and pleased years ago to write the piece on him marking his induction into the Tucson High School Hall of Fame.

Of the many Mike stories to cherish most are the trips we'd make to two centers of adventuresome ethnic cuisine for the iron-stomached. At his instigation, we hit the Beenie Weenie, across the street in Arlington from an outdoor Hispanic hiring hall. In late days, he couldn't walk the distance of a long putt without resting, but I'd order at the window and we'd sit in the car and get it all over us. At Ben's Chili Bowl on U Street, he wasn't able to stand at the counter with the crowd but was seated where Barack Obama had sat and a young man brought his giant chili hot dog with the massive order of fries he insisted on.

His body quit on him progressively but his head and the twinkle in his eye and the wit of "the clever one" from Tucson High never left him. He was a friend of more than 50 years and I'm among the many who were enriched by him.

PDAA April 2010 Luncheon Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 - Woman's National Democratic Club (See page I for program details),
1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Washington, DC

Deadline for reservations: **April 2, 2010.**

Please complete the form below and mail with your check for **\$US25.00** for each person to:

**Eileen Binns,
PDAA Treasurer
6919 Radnor Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20817**

(Please send payments for this event only.)

Name(s) _____

Street address _____

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Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

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- If your mailing label says **[2009]**, it is time to renew your membership for 2010.
- Please complete the form below (Renewals: indicate only if any items are changed from before) and mail the completed form with your check to:

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Public Diplomacy Alumni
Association

Address:
4521 N. 41st Street
Arlington VA 22207-2936

E-mail: admin@publicdiplomacy.org

Web site:
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Public Diplomacy Alumni Association
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