

## Next PDAA Lunch Program

Thurs., February 28, 2019

DACOR-Bacon House  
1801 F Street NW  
Washington, DC

**Engaging North Korea  
& Other Hard-to-Reach  
Audiences** (details at  
right)

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

\$35.00 members and  
guests, \$42.00 non-  
members

**Reservation deadline:**  
Mon., February 25, 2019

To reserve: please return  
coupon on p. 7, or online at  
[pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org](http://pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org)

## More PDAA Events

**Next lunch program:**  
April 8, 2019. Watch for  
details in the next news-  
letter and online.

## PDAA Awards

**Brunch:** Sunday, May 5,  
2019.

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# PDAA Today

*Public Diplomacy Association of America*

## February 28 PDAA Program to Focus on Engaging North Korea, Other Hard-to-Reach Audiences

After decades of hostile or no communication, difficult, often halting efforts to negotiate, “soft power” diplomacy (including visits to North Korea by the New York Philharmonic and basketball player Dennis Rodman), and a dangerous ratcheting-up of nuclear brinksmanship in 2017, in March 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to meet. That first-ever US-DPRK summit took place on June 12, 2018, in Singapore. Hailed as a success by both leaders and by South Korea, which played a key role in brokering it, the summit’s results have been mixed or limited, although both leaders have pledged to hold another summit this year.

Looking beyond the prognosis for success of this latest effort, how can and should the United States engage a hard-to-reach country like North Korea, both diplomatically and using the tools of public diplomacy? PDAA’s Feb. 28 luncheon program will feature three distinguished experts who will discuss these issues with us.

Ambassador **Joseph Yun**, who served as U. S. special representative for North Korean Policy from October 2016 to March 2018, will set the stage by reviewing recent diplomatic engagement efforts, and offering his recommendations on how negotiations could be successful. Ambassador Yun, who following his retirement from the Foreign Service in 2018 has been a Senior Advisor with The Asia Group and the U.S. Institute of Peace focusing on North Korea, served as U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia and as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, among other positions, during his distinguished 33-year career. Ambassador Yun earned his B.A. from Cardiff University and an M.A. from the London School of Economics.

To discuss engagement with North Korean and other hard-to-reach audiences through civil society, we will be joined by Dr. **Lynn Lee**, Associate Director for Asia at the National Endow-



June 12, 2018 (Official White House Photo )

ment for Democracy. Dr. Lee is responsible for NED’s democracy and human rights programs for the East Asian region, including North Korea, China, and Vietnam. Prior to joining NED, Dr. Lee was a senior project manager at Inter-Media. She holds a doctorate in development studies from Sussex University and an M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Our third speaker, Dr. **Shawn Powers**, will discuss U.S. Government-supported broadcasting as a means of engagement with North Korean and other challenging audiences. Dr. Powers is currently the Acting Chief Strategy Officer at the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), which oversees VOA, Radio Free Asia, and other U.S. Government broadcasting services. He will discuss U.S. broadcasting’s initiatives to reach North Koreans as well as Chinese, Iranian, and other hard-to-reach audiences. Prior to joining USAGM, Dr. Powers was Executive Director of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. He is currently on leave from his position as Associate Professor at Georgia State University, where he leads the Center for Global Information Studies. He earned his Ph.D. from USC’s Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and has held fellowships at the London School of Economics, Oxford University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

The discussion will take place on Thurs., Feb. 28, from 12:00 to 2:00, at DACOR-Bacon House, 1801 F St. NW. To register, please complete the form on page 7 of the newsletter or register on-line at [pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org](http://pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org). **Deadline is Feb. 25.**

## Covering Foreign Affairs: PDAA Members' Discussion with Andrea Mitchell

By Mike Anderson

**A**s part of PDAA's efforts to organize truly "special events," some 30 members were treated to an informal, close-up program with one of broadcasting's most powerful, trailblazing women. They were not disappointed.

On December 7, 2018, Andrea Mitchell – the veteran chief foreign affairs correspondent for NBC and MSNBC news program host – graciously met with the lucky first 30 PDAA members to sign up for the limited-space event. Some in the group recalled how they had come in contact with Andrea over the years as she energetically covered the Congress, the Department of State, and the White House and often accompanied Presidents and Secretaries of State on their international trips, which public diplomacy officers always helped support.

The venue was a crowded conference room named in honor of the late Meet the Press host Tim Russert at NBC's studios on Nebraska Avenue NW.

Among the program's attendees was Sid Davis, the 92-year-old veteran broadcaster and expert on the press, politics, and the presidency. He spent more than 40 years as a journalist, TV news executive for Westinghouse Broadcasting and for NBC News, and Program Director of the Voice of America, directing its worldwide broadcasts in 46 languages 1987-94.

Sid has many claims to fame, including being a White House correspondent in the motorcade in Dallas when President Kennedy was assassinated and one of three reporters to witness the

swearing in of President Johnson aboard Air Force One. But what made Sid's presence special to Andrea was that he was her first boss in Washington. He knew talent when he spotted it, and takes credit for hiring her as an NBC News general correspondent back in 1978 when he was Washington Bureau Chief for NBC News.

Sid recalled how the decision to hire a young Andrea and bring

The visitors were interested in hearing how Andrea and her colleagues are covering foreign affairs under the Trump Administration and new realities, such as the 24-hour news cycle, the influence of social media and cable news, the decline of print media, and irregular news briefings at both the White House and the Department of State. She, in turn, was interested in learning how attendees saw mo-

rale and public diplomacy doing in the Department and assessed recent personnel changes or the lack of much progress in filling senior positions.

Half-way through the event, Andrea had to run off to quickly write a script for airing later that day,

but she promised to return for more interaction, and about a half-hour later, she did. In the interim, Sid filled in for his former colleague by regaling the group with his sharp memories of covering some of the most urgent crises of modern times, working for VOA and for commercial broadcasters, and hiring talent like Andrea.

As the old saying goes, "A good time was had by all." Andrea was pleased to see her long-time friend and mentor Sid Davis again and to be able to comfortably interact with a group of fans and viewers that follows her work and obviously cares about foreign affairs coverage. The PDAA group appreciated her warmth and hospitality and the fact that she clearly knew her audience members and appreciated their service to the country.▣



Photos courtesy of Michael Anderson. Above: Andrea Mitchell and PDAA Treasurer James Bullock. Right: Mitchell and a group of PDAA members in front of the Meet the Press sign in the Tim Russert conference room.



**"a friendly, informal, off-the-record conversation between an experienced journalist and a group of experienced public diplomacy practitioners who still see the importance of explaining U.S. policy and society and values to both the American people and overseas audiences."**

her to Washington was one of the best he ever made. Recently marking 40 years with NBC, Andrea is widely respected as an old-fashioned, exceedingly well-connected journalist who still loves chasing news literally around the world. Also, she is known within the profession as a role model and mentor for younger women journalists.

Although the PDAA event was billed as "The Challenges of Reporting Foreign Affairs – An Exchange with Andrea Mitchell," it really was more of a friendly, informal, off-the-record conversation between an experienced journalist and a group of experienced public diplomacy practitioners who still see the importance of explaining U.S. policy and society and values to both the American people and overseas audiences.



## PASSINGS

**Harriet Cummings Cohan, 88**, wife of USIA Officer Phil Cohan, passed away on August 18, 2018. Mrs. Cohan accompanied her husband to assignments in Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Greece, and Indonesia. She graduated from UC Berkeley in 1952 with a degree in Library Science. That same year, she was hired by the Department of the Army, and assigned to operate the library at Camp Darby in Livorno, Italy. They met when Phil, assigned as his unit's Education Officer, visited the library for research. In 1954, the couple married in Salzburg, Austria, then part of the Army's Italy/Austria command. They have two daughters, Kathryn and Gail. Harriet was hired in Jakarta, their last overseas post, by the Library of Congress accessions office there. After she returned home in 1983, she was rehired by LOC as a cataloger for the National Union Catalog. She retired in 1990.

**Charles Robert ("Bob") Dickerman**, a Staunton (VA) native who served the United States for 30 years as a Foreign Service Officer, died on November 8, 2018, on his farm in Buffalo Gap (VA). He was 81-years-old and had suffered from a rare neurological disorder: Multiple Systems Atrophy with Parkinson's.

Bob was born in Staunton on Nov. 29, 1936. He received his B.A. from Antioch College and a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. During this time, he was also a faculty-level research fellow at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs. In addition, he graduated from the State Department's Senior Seminar on U.S. Foreign and Domestic Policies.

Prior to joining USIA in 1962, Bob was a journalist on three Midwestern newspapers, including *The Chicago Tribune*. As a career diplomat, he specialized in cultural affairs and media relations. During his more than 30-year career, he served in Finland, Somalia, South

Vietnam, Norway, Iceland, West Germany, the Eastern Caribbean, and Denmark.

After his retirement from federal service in 1992, Bob continued to be engaged in politics, and his interest never ceased in how our country is viewed by many people overseas. He followed the news in many countries and maintained many friendships with former colleagues and friends. In his conversations and writings, he discussed and addressed some of our most significant problems: racism and other forms of intolerance and prejudice, our lack of universal health care, and social inequalities. He was intensely concerned about the decline in American prestige and respect and was active in the Democratic parties of Arlington, Staunton, and Augusta County.

**Dave Grimland** passed away quickly and painlessly at home on Oct. 18, 2018. He was a husband, father, grandfather, son, diplomat, storyteller, educator, and friend to many. Born in Roswell (NM) on Feb. 20, 1944, Dave grew up in New Mexico and Texas, receiving a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Texas before entering the U.S. Foreign Service. He served in Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Bangladesh, and India. His daughter Debra was born in Greece, and son Michael, in India. Dave regularly commented that his most foreign posting was in Washington, D.C.

Dave moved with his wife Kathleen and son Michael to Columbus (MT) in 1995 and greatly enjoyed working on his land on Shane Ridge: thinning trees, chopping firewood, plowing snow, and especially managing the rainwater collection system he designed.

Dave was a talented storyteller with a plethora of accomplishments and misadventures overseas. After much encouragement from those close to him, Dave finally put some of the tales on paper and published a book, *Journey to Ithaca*, in 2015. Post-9/11, Dave felt compelled to inform his neighbors about Islam because of his positive experiences living in Muslim majority countries and his

close friendships with Turks. After an appearance in the *Los Angeles Times* where his work was prominently featured, he traveled throughout Montana and across the country giving talks on Islam.

Earlier traumas, especially his work at the Cyprus embassy in 1971, when the American Ambassador, Roger Davies, was killed and the country of Cyprus was at war, took a toll, and Dave's health started declining in 2015. He continued to write, focusing on poetry and sharing his work widely in person and online. To the end, Dave made new friends wherever he could during his walks around town.

**Allen C. Hansen** passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on Sept. 16, 2018, one week before his 94th birthday, after suffering a stroke. Allen was very active with the Boy Scouts, an experience that exerted a tremendous influence on him. At age 18, he joined the Navy during WWII. In 1946, he attended Triple Cities College of Syracuse University in Endicott, NY, on the G.I. Bill, graduating from Syracuse in 1950 with a B.A. in Political Science. After graduation, he worked as a reporter for *The Perth Amboy Evening News* covering Metuchen.

He was recalled to active duty in 1951 during the Korean War, as a Naval Intelligence Officer, serving until 1954. After working briefly in Spain, he returned to the U.S. when notified that his application for a job as an FSO with the newly established United States Information Agency was approved.

He spent 32 years with USIA, working in nine countries and Washington, D.C.

In Venezuela in 1956, on his first assignment with USIS, he met and married Charmaine Rostant of Trinidad. They enjoyed subsequent assignments in Mexico, British Guiana, and Spain. In 1963, while on sabbatical, he received a master's degree in American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. With a growing family, Allen's assignments went on to include Director of USIA operations in Bolivia and Peru and Deputy

PAO in Pakistan.

Among his memorable experiences, he spent a night around a piano as Duke Ellington played; on another, he joked with Danny Kaye; on yet another, he hung out with Lowell Thomas, and on another he organized Kirk Douglas's trip to visit refugee camps in Pakistan. He was a technical advisor on the first-ever USIA anti-narcotics film, called *The Trip*, about drug trafficking in Latin America. He played a key role in educating the Pakistani government about the drug problem in its country.

His three Washington, D.C., assignments included: Caribbean Desk Officer for USIA at the time of the Dominican Crisis in the mid-1960s; USIA Policy Officer for Latin America (1972-1976); and Chief of the Latin American Branch of the Office of Research (1981).

After retiring from USIA in 1987, Allen kept busy writing his memoirs, including: *USIA: Public Diplomacy in the Computer Age* and *Nine Lives: A Foreign Service Odyssey*. He was also the originator of an internet site sponsored by the USIA Alumni Association (now PDAA) and the Public Diplomacy Foundation and served as its webmaster for several years.

For over a decade, Allen volunteered at the State Dept. bookshop and the annual book fair. He never slowed down in his later years, he never stopped being interested in current events, and he never stopped being ever cheerful.

**Emerson Kanegusuke**, husband of retired FSO Patrick Linehan, passed away on September 8, 2018. Born July 26, 1972, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the third son of Luiz and Maria Kanegusuke, Emerson was always the brightest smile and the biggest heart in the room, as he pursued his lifelong quest for a better and kinder world. At 16, he joined the Air Force to train and work as an air traffic controller. At 24, Emerson, who was of Japanese ancestry, followed his roots and moved around the world to live and work in Japan. On June 8,

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## PDAA Members Recall George H.W. Bush



President George H.W. Bush's recent death and memorial service sparked memories by our members of their interactions with the late diplomat, intelligence chief, vice president, and president. We've posted all of the recollections that we received on the [PDAA website](#). Here are some of them:

### My "Meeting" With George H.W. Bush

It was an icy cold wintry day in Washington in January 1977. The wind was blowing, the snow was piling up. Everything was closed, including all US government buildings except for those facilities that had to operate under all circumstances. The Voice of America, broadcasting to the world, was one of those institutions. And as deputy director of VOA, I had to get down to my office.

I set out in my trusted VW with two other VOA colleagues and made it to Dupont Circle, where I got stuck in a snow bank. Almost immediately, a large black limousine pulled up behind us. Three men got out and pushed us out of the snow bank into the street. One of the men said, "I am sorry I can't help you further. I have to get to the White House for an important meeting. It was George H.W. Bush, then CIA director. I thanked him; he said farewell and off they went.

At our regular morning meeting at VOA, I recounted my "meeting" with George H.W. Bush. One of my passengers in the VW, Bernie Kaminsky, was our chief of the VOA news division, a huge—in girth and talent—colleague who was by nature and profession terminally suspicious of everything and everyone he encountered. "Tom," he piped up, "why was the CIA Director following us?"

End of tale. —**Hans Tuch**

Vice President George H.W. Bush paid a short visit to Bogota in the early 80s. I was still a "green" FSiO, so I had been

assigned the graveyard shift in a small op center in the hotel. At 7 am, unannounced and unexpected, the VP stopped by to thank our small crew for supporting his visit and to say good-bye. Looking and feeling like I needed sleep, a shower and make-up (!), I cowered in the back of the room, hoping he wouldn't see me. No luck! "Why are you hiding back there? Come on up here for a picture." The photo arrived within a fortnight, VP Bush with his arm around a young officer, beaming in disbelief and pride! Although I since have lost the photo, I'll never forget his warmth, generosity of spirit, and his deep appreciation for the FS. Thank you, President Bush. —

**Kathy Brion**

President Bush's dinner with the Japanese Prime Minister in January 1992 was closed to members of the press, so they were ushered by me and Secret Service agents to an upstairs hallway off a balcony that overlooked the diners. NHK had a stationary camera there that provided a view of the proceedings. The moment came when the President, who had soldiered through a long day suffering a flu-like bug, became nauseated and threw up, partially on the Prime Minister. When members of the press got wind of what was happening, they headed down the stairs, while the President was put on a gurney. I, the press, and the secret service caused a traffic jam in the lobby. Being in the van of all this, I could hear the President from inside the room say something to the effect: "They are not going to see the President of the United States being taken out on a stretcher," and then there he was, an upright, smiling (if somewhat ruffled) President proceeding through the lobby under his own power. There was no denying the event, and much of the history of it focuses on the comic interpretation put on the event in the world press and late-night comedy, but overlooked is the full credit for grace and fortitude under duress, *gambaru*, which the Japanese gave the President. —**Robert Nevitt**

George H.W. Bush was the only candidate for the Presidency since the era of "Ask Not What Your Country Can Do..." to run for the office with praise for the government and public service. On January 26, 1989, just a few days after taking office, he called together senior public servants for a pep rally at the DAR Constitution Hall. I attended and was pleasantly surprised at the turnout—a full house.

After years of public negativity toward government, the President charged up the audience. Among his many [comments](#):

... Each of us is here because of a belief in public service as the highest and noblest calling....

... Our principles are clear: that government service is a noble calling and a public trust. I learned that from my mom and dad at an early age, and I expect that that's where many of you learned it—there or in school. There is no higher honor than to serve free men and women, no greater privilege than to labor in government beneath the Great Seal of the United States and the American flag....

We felt honored and respected, ready to help the nation move forward. The international challenges confronting the U.S. then would certainly demand our best effort. —**Mike Schneider**

Several of my encounters with President Bush took place in Hong Kong following his presidency. One may be especially interesting to our colleagues, for it illustrates the Bush family sense of humor.

It happened in Hong Kong in the mid-1990s when I worked (following my retirement from the Foreign Service) for De Paul University as its Associate VP for Government Relations. The university was expanding its overseas programs with international banks and other foreign organizations. We initiated, among other partnerships, a major program with the International Bank of Asia (IBA), where De Paul University provided MBA and BA degree programs for the Bank's execu-

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*"Dear Lee,  
Thank you for  
your nice letter.  
I was glad to do  
the TV - as was  
Barbara. I am a  
USIA man."*



President George H.W. Bush and Marilyn Meyers, December 1989. (White House)

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tives and staff.

President Bush was invited by the IBA to take part in one of our joint IBA-DePaul events. As it turned out, the President participated in several IBA-DePaul events over a period of time, which gave me the opportunity of meeting President Bush on several occasions in Hong Kong.

One day (I forget the exact date), I was at the Hong Kong airport awaiting the arrival of President Bush. The HK authorities asked me to wait in the VIP room to which they would bring the president while gathering up his luggage, etc.

In the room was a Reuters wire, which I perused while waiting for the arrival of the president. I noticed an article which focused on President Bush's recent announcement that he planned to parachute from an airplane on his next birthday; the first time he would jump out of an airplane since being shot down by the Japanese during the battle of Chichi Jima in 1944.

The Reuters story contained a quote from Barbara Bush about what she thought about her husband's decision.

When President Bush arrived, we greeted each other. I pointed out that Reuters was carrying an article about his parachute announcement and that his wife was being quoted.

The President had not seen the story and said: "*John, what did Babs have to say about it?*"

I read him the text which included the following comment by Barbara Bush: "*It is difficult for me to understand how George ever worked for an organization with the word intelligence in its name.*"

—Amb. (Ret.) John F. Kordek

President Bush and Barbara came to Korea in the early 80's while I was there. The time most precious to me was seeing them interact with the children of embassy staffers. All our children were invited to meet with them, and it was a lovely time. They acted as if that were the most important thing they had to do that day! —Frances Sullinger

In the early 1980's, I was a first-time PAO (and only officer) in Muscat, Oman, when then-Vice President Bush visited. I vividly remember our country team briefing from that visit. Our Ambassador, DCM, and section heads ran through the normal presentation for the Vice President, before he went to meet with the Sultan of Oman. After we finished, Vice President Bush asked, "*When I meet with Sultan Qaboos, is there anything you would like me to raise that would be helpful to you?*" In my career, I supported many VIP visits, but this was the only time I recall that the senior official asked what he/she could do to help us!

—Dan Sreebny

When President Bush was head of the U.S. liaison office in Beijing, our small mission was housed in a single building in the PRC's diplomatic quarter. By the time I served there in the early 90s, the mission had expanded to occupy three separate compounds in the diplomatic quarter. USIS had inherited the old original office building on a compound which we shared with the Ambassador's residence. The PAO's suite contained a huge walk-in vault that, not having classified on site, we used for storage of office supplies. But it certainly looked secure. I had always assumed that I was sitting in what must have been the liaison mission's "front office."

When President Bush visited Beijing two or three years after he left office, I got the chance to find out. I was invited to a reception for him at the residence. When I got to talk to the president in the receiving line, I said: "Mr. President, may I ask where your office was located when you were head of the liaison office? Someday, I hope to be able to tell my grandchildren that I inherited President Bush's old office." President Bush described where his office was on the building's second floor. To my disappointment, it turned out that I was sitting in the old political/economic section's digs. I must have appeared really crestfallen, since the President smiled consolingly and said: "You're probably

close enough." — Charles Silver

I came to know and appreciate George H.W. and his wife Barbara in 1972. He was then the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and I, as a Voice of America correspondent in Africa, traveled with them for 10 days on Air Force 2 around the African continent. I developed a deep respect for him as a real statesman, who did his homework and had a kind word for everyone. He was also a lot of fun. I joined the two of them in a small plane for a daredevil flight over Victoria Falls, and I recall him shouting out a celebratory "Whoop!" as we pulled out of a dive through the mist rising from the torrent below.

Later that day, we boarded a ferry and crossed the Zambezi from Zambia to Botswana. It was very symbolic, as Botswana has only 150 meters of shoreline on the Zambezi, which at the time was its only common border with another black-African-ruled country. By his crossing, he was making a statement of U.S. support for majority rule in Africa. As we crossed, we were observed and photographed by white Rhodesian troops in the bushes at their edge of the border, and by white South African troops in the bushes on the Caprivi Strip side of the border. I photographed them back with my long lens. We were met by a Botswana minister and spent the night at the Chobe Safari Lodge, which then was a farmhouse and few rondavels. The lodge owner and Ambassador Bush got into a small boat and cruised deep within Namibia, which at the time was a major issue at the United Nations. Since this was a totally unauthorized violation of a contentious border, the Ambassador asked me not to mention it in my VOA reports. I respected his request. —Charles Bell

It was the day of municipal elections in Houston, Texas, and former President George H.W. Bush was waiting in line with his wife Barbara to vote for a new mayor. The only media present was a television crew from Azerbaijan. Its members were in Hou-

ston on a USG-sponsored TV cop to film a documentary about how a mayoral election is conducted in an American city. I was their escort and executive producer. What better way to demonstrate democracy at work than to show a former President who takes the time to vote in a local election! Fortunately, President Bush and the Houston election officials agreed to this special request. After he voted, President Bush gave an interview on the important role of citizen participation in a democracy. As the President was about to depart, the team leader shyly asked for a group photo. President Bush readily agreed and insisted that each member have an individual photograph taken as well. He then called me over. I did not know my tie was twisted because of an ID badge, but he straightened that out and Mrs. Bush joined us for a last photo. Afterwards, I commented in a thank you letter that the Azerbaijan team was surprised and delighted by his courtesy and consideration. I said I was not surprised because I had seen those qualities displayed years before when then Vice President Bush, on an official visit to Rio where I was posted, requested he meet every Brazilian staffer who worked at the Consulate General. What did surprise me about the Houston experience is that I received a thank you note in response to my thank you letter. "Dear Lee," the President wrote, "Thank you for your nice letter. I was glad to do the TV - as was Barbara. I am a USIA man." It has been reported that his mother inculcated in him the admirable habit of writing such notes, but I never expected to be the beneficiary of one. Thank you, Mr. President. —Lee Lederer

Argentina, early July 1988, inaugural preparations for the president-elect Carlos Menem were underway. The U.S. delegation included Jonathon Bush, older brother of President George H.W. Bush. He wanted to play tennis and I invited him to a session. After two tough sets, we hoisted cold drinks, at which time

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Ambassador Cynthia Efird,  
PDAA President

(Photo: A. Kotok)

**"I am asking  
that each of you  
try to bring into  
the fold at least  
one new  
member."**

## President's Notes

I am writing this column during the longest U.S. governmental shut-down in history. Most of us remember past shut-downs: the disruption to the lives and families of our foreign service, civil service, and locally employed colleagues, the necessity to postpone or cancel programs and activities with resulting high monetary and strategic costs, the difficulty in maintaining momentum and morale. I am sure that all of us are concerned about the damages to public diplomacy efforts worldwide of this longer hiatus. One aspect that I hear little about from the pundits is how this fecklessness is affecting the perception of the reliability of the U.S. government among audiences overseas. Although all State employees may be working as "essential" personnel, the reputational hit to the U.S. will still be substantial.

I fear that we have become so inward-looking that we have ceased to recognize that carrying out national security objectives depends on foreign perceptions of the U.S. government and the society it represents to the world. From the beginning of our national history, U.S. leaders have addressed the need to speak with a "decent respect to the opinions of mankind," because, again quoting Thomas Jefferson, "the good opinion of mankind, like the lever

of Archimedes... moves the world." An Administration, or the U.S. people more broadly, does not necessarily need to be "liked," but together they must engender a certain level of respect and confidence. PDAA has an important role to play in explaining the connection between foreign perceptions and securing national goals. Thanks to all of you for engaging in this debate in your communities, on-line, and in other fora.

To this end, led by our Chair for Communications Mike Korff, the Board is working on the PDAA brand. To begin with, we are changing the long form of our organization's name to the Public Diplomacy Association of America so that it corresponds better with our initials (PDAA). Those long-time members of PDAA will remember that we were originally the USIA Alumni Association, then (when USIA was assumed in State) the Public Diplomacy Alumni Association, and finally – because we wanted to welcome active-duty members as well as retirees – PDAA, An Association of Public Diplomacy Professionals. This latter name was a good description of who we are but was confusing. The new name should be easier to remember. We also plan to provide an honorary membership to the Murrow Award winner each year. This will give us another opportunity to publicize PDAA and our member-

ship benefits. Speaking of welcoming new members, I am asking that each of you try to bring into the fold at least one new member. We have done a good job in recruiting and maintaining our membership to date, but are still short of our goal of 400 paid-up memberships.

We have not only an important message to the outside foreign policy world – the centrality of public diplomacy – but also many opportunities for productive interactions among ourselves. Please put on your calendars the upcoming February 28 luncheon program at DACOR House. As explained elsewhere in this Newsletter, we are going to consider how public diplomacy functions in a society where we have very limited access – North Korea. The November luncheon, arranged by Wendy Simmons, gave us a chance to consider public diplomacy in South Africa, an open society but one that presents its own challenges. The two programs together provide a chance to compare public outreach in two very different environments. Finally, save the date May 5, for the annual PDAA brunch again at the Army-Navy Club. Nothing we do is as important as providing awards to honor our active-duty colleagues for their hard work under difficult circumstances and in these difficult times. I look forward to talking to each of you at upcoming events. □

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2002 in Tokyo, Emerson met FSO Patrick Linehan who was to be his partner and husband for the next 16 years. Emerson immediately took on the unpaid duties of a diplomatic spouse, hosting diplomatic events at their home and representing the U.S. overseas with enthusiasm and joy even though the U.S. was not his country. Always with his warm signature smile, Emerson made friends around the world as the State Department called them to work

in Tokyo, Brasilia, Ottawa, Seoul, Osaka, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC. In 2014, they published their book *Husbands* (in Japanese) about their life and work together as a gay diplomatic couple.

**An earlier version of this notice indicated that Mr. Kanegusuke's husband, Patrick Linehan, had passed away. We apologize for the error.**

**Virginia S. Murphy**, 99, widow of the late USIA FSO Edmund R. Murphy, died of congestive heart failure on Feb. 25, 2018, at her

home in Chevy Chase, MD, six days shy of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Murphy was born and grew up in New Orleans, where she met Edmund Murphy, a naval officer in the Armed Guard during WWII. They were married in January 1945. After the war ended, Mr. Murphy's Foreign Service career began, and the couple moved to Washington. Following Mr. Murphy's assignment on the Latin American desk, the couple served in Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Port-au-Prince, Bogota, and Helsinki. Mr. Murphy retired in 1973. □

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I told him that Neil Bush, son of the U.S. leader, had caused an angry stir in Argentina by seeking oil rights in Menem's province La Riorda during this period. Flouting the Bush WH connections, Neil angered many Argentines as he was taking advantage of the name and access to Menem. Jonathon agreed that Neil was out of line. Guess what? Next morning, Neil showed up at the Embassy apologizing to the ambassador for his actions and promptly left the country. Seems he received a message from the WH to apologize and scat, which he did. His dad acted promptly, as he knew right from wrong. —**Fred Coffey, Jr.**

**D**uring Bush's tenure as President #41, I was one of the Deputy Assistant Secretaries of State in the East Asia/Pacific Bureau.

New Ambassadors in Washington must first present their credentials to the President before they can convey their government's views on issues to officials of the Administration or the Congress, and the State Department Protocol office waits until it has a "bevy of new arrivals" and will then set up a few hours at the White House for each Ambassador to meet briefly with the President to present credentials from his/her government. This particular December afternoon, six Ambassadors were scheduled to meet, one after the

other, with President Bush and the National Security Advisor, Brent Scowcroft, and I, as DAS for the South Pacific, was there to accompany two of them, both the new New Zealand Ambassador and the Ambassador from the Federated States of Micronesia in their meetings with the President.

The New Zealand Ambassador sailed right through his 10-minute meeting. No problem.

Not so the Ambassador from Micronesia. I knew that Ambassador Jesse Bibiano Marehalau had been allocated five minutes on the schedule, and he had told me how thrilled he was to be meeting with President Bush *in person* and that he had two very important points he had been instructed to convey.

Well, the President, Ambassador Marehalau, Brent Scowcroft, and I walked into a small room just off the East Room of the White House. President Bush and the Ambassador sat down on a small sofa, and General Scowcroft and I sat opposite them, so close that our knees were almost touching theirs, but we were both out of camera range and that was the important thing.

The President launched into a tale of his days in the South Pacific as a Navy fighter-pilot and the Ambassador sat there absolutely *transfixed*. I could see the sands of time running through that five-minute hourglass, and I knew the Ambassador would feel awful once he got outside and realized that he had said nothing,

so I leaned forward, touched his knee and said, "Mr. Ambassador, I think there were a couple of points that you wanted to raise with the President?" And the Ambassador sat back, turned to the President and delivered his messages: one, two.

Success!

But there is a bit more: As the four of us walked out together, the Ambassador's wife and Barbara Bush joined us, and then the Ambassador, his wife, and Mrs. Bush walked on a bit ahead, and the President, alone, was walking just ahead of me. And I realized that, despite having just participated in two very significant meetings with him, we had never been introduced, and I heard a small voice say, "Mr. President, I would just like to introduce myself: My name is Marilyn Meyers."

And he turned and took my hand and said, "*It is a pleasure to meet you, Marilyn*" and summoned a photographer to take a picture of the two of us standing there in the East Room...with a Christmas tree reflected in the background in one of the mirrors. Damn, those White House photographers are good!

And I still have that photo here in my guest bedroom in my apartment. —**Marilyn Meyers**

**Ms. Meyers served as an usher for President George H.W. Bush's memorial service at the Washington National Cathedral.**

## PDAA February 28, 2019, Luncheon Program

DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC

Deadline for reservations: **February 25, 2019**. See page 1 for program details.

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