

Next PDAA Lunch Program

Monday, Sept. 16, 2019

DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC

Topic: Voice of America

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

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

Reservation deadline:
Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019,
5:00 pm

To reserve, please return
coupon on page 7, or
reserve online at
pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org/

Future PDAA Events

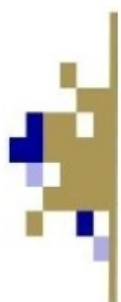
Aug. 31—Visit to Muse
Vineyard **Canceled** - we
will announce a new date.
Sep. 9—(noon) Town Hall
on Future of PD Organiza-
tions (see front page of this
Newsletter). RSVP request-
ed.

Also of Interest

Sep. 4—(10 a.m.) Public
meeting of Advisory Com-
mission on PD featuring A/S
Michelle Guida: GWU El-
liott School, Room 602.

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PDAA Today

Public Diplomacy Association of America

VOA Director to Discuss Mandarin, Persian Programming & Women's Voices, Reaching Refugees

VOA Director Amanda Bennett will be PDAA's speaker at the Sep. 16 luncheon kicking off the 2019-2020 program year. Bennett will discuss new VOA Mandarin and Persian programming as well as VOA initiatives to reach refugees, include more women's voices in programs, and undertake investigative reporting.

Bennett will also discuss challenges facing international journalists in the age of dwindling press freedom and disinformation.

Amanda Bennett is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, investigative journalist, and editor; she was named Director of the Voice of America in March 2016.

Through 2013, she was Executive Editor, Bloomberg News, where she created and ran a global team of investigative reporters and editors. She was also co-founder of Bloomberg News' Women's project and was editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* from June 2003 to November 2006; prior to that was editor of the *Herald-Leader* in Lexington,

Ky. She also served for three years as managing editor/projects for *The Oregonian* in Portland. Bennett served as a *Wall Street Journal* reporter for more than 20 years. A graduate of Harvard College, she held numerous posts at the Journal, including auto industry reporter in Detroit in the late 70s and early 80s, Pentagon and State Department reporter, Beijing correspondent, management editor/reporter, national economics correspondent and, finally, chief of the Atlanta bureau until 1998, when she moved to *The Oregonian*.

Bennett shared the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting with her Journal colleagues, and in 2001 led a team from *The Oregonian* to a Pulitzer for public service. Together with her husband, Donald Graham, she is a co-founder of TheDream.US, which provides college scholarships to the children of undocumented immigrants.

The discussion will take place on Mon., Sep. 16, 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 publicdiplomacy.org. **Deadline is Sep. 12.**✉



Future of Public Diplomacy Organizations Focus of Special Meeting

A special roundtable discussion among members of the Public Diplomacy Association of America, the Public Diplomacy Council, and other interested professionals has been set for Mon., Sep. 9, 2019, at noon. It will focus on the past, present, and future of organizations focused on Public Diplomacy.

The special meeting will take place at noon at George Washington University's Elliott School Lindner Family Common, 1957 E Street St. NW,

6th Floor.

Lunch is included and admission is free; in order to plan for the catering, please RSVP if you plan to attend by e-mailing FirstMondayForum.RSVP@GMail.com.

In anticipation of the Sep. 9 discussion, PDAA has posted an overview of Public Diplomacy Organizations prepared by Alan Heil, a member of PDAA and PDC. The overview is on the PDAA website., pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org.✉

PDAA Today



PDAA President Janice Brambilla

“All of us on the Board have been thinking about the future of PDAA.”



PDAA Board Member Pat Kushlis. Pat is our first “beyond-the-beltway” member of the Board.

President's Notes

I was honored to be asked to serve as the President of the Public Diplomacy Association of America (PDAA). A compelling reason I had for accepting was that it would allow me to work with 12 Board members whose careers in the foreign service and civil service involved promoting the national interest of the United States through understanding, informing, and influencing foreign attitudes. My predecessor Ambassador **Cynthia Efrid** is a tough act to follow. Under Cynthia's exceptional leadership, PDAA membership grew, and we enjoyed a multitude of exciting and informative programs on important issues of the day.

The first offering in our 2019-2020 luncheon program is coming up on Mon., Sept. 16, when Amanda Bennett, Director of the Voice of America, will be the speaker. **Joan Mower**, our new Chair of Programs who arranged this program, and **Greta Morris**, Deputy Program Chair, would welcome your suggestions for topics and speakers to feature in upcoming programs. Please send your ideas to their email addresses: mower.joan@gmail.com and gretamorris0612@yahoo.com.

All of us on the Board have been thinking about the future of PDAA. Recognizing the areas of overlap and cooperation with the Public Diplomacy Council (PDC) has led us to consider even further integration of the two organizations. A working group, composed of members from both organizations, has begun looking into possibilities, including forming a new organization.

To examine these possibilities further, a town hall meeting is sched-

uled for Monday, Sept. 9, to examine the question of “The Past, Present and Future of the Public Diplomacy Organizations.” I urge you to attend and offer your thoughts and ideas on how PDAA and PDC can be more closely aligned. The town hall will be held at the GWU Elliott School, 1957 E Street NW, Lindner Commons on the Sixth Floor. Alan Heil, former deputy director of the Voice of America, who is a member of both organizations, examines the future of the two organizations in an article you can read on our [website](#). I think you will find it interesting and informative.

A listing of Board members and contact information is included on the back page of this newsletter. Please share with us your ideas and recommendations for both new and existing PDAA activities. We also welcome feedback on the program luncheons, First Monday programs, and the annual awards luncheon at admin@publicdiplomacy.org.

Speaking of our Board of Directors, you'll note that we have elected Pat Kushlis as our first “beyond-the-beltway” member. Pat, a long-time PDAA member, is based in New Mexico. Her appointment is part of an outreach effort to identify the interests of members who do not live in the immediate Washington, D.C., area.

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you on Sept. 9 for the town hall and Sept. 16 for the luncheon program. Mark your calendars for the additional programs coming up on Nov. 18, Feb. 24, and Apr. 20.

Warm regards,

Jan

Membership Dues Increase

The PDAA board has voted to raise membership dues for those living in the greater Washington, DC, area to \$50 annually. Dues for those living elsewhere will remain at \$35 per year. (The Washington, DC, area includes the adjacent MD and VA counties, plus the ring of counties one layer out, e.g., Loudoun and Prince William in Virginia or Howard, Frederick, and Anne Arundel in Maryland. Those who live even further out but regularly attend PDAA and First Monday events are asked to pay at the \$50 rate.

This increase goes into effect September 1, so those who have not yet paid 2019 dues may want to do so now.

PDAA faces cost increases that it must cover to keep its budget balanced. The Board also recognizes that members living in the DC area have more opportunities to benefit from PDAA programs than do those further away, particularly the First Monday events held jointly with PDC and the U. of Southern California (that are free to attendees but are subsidized by the sponsoring organizations).

The Board strives to minimize cost increases. For example, the organization opted for a less elaborate menu at the DA-COR Speaker Luncheons, in lieu of raising participation fees. The Board is also discussing new fundraising ideas for the annual PDAA awards. (This year, generous member donations to the awards fund topped \$2,300 – thanks to everyone who gave!)

Sally Grooms Cowal: Life After the Foreign Service

By Sally Grooms Cowal

April, 1995. I retired. I'd moved back to Mexico City into a pent-house apartment in a beautiful Art Deco building in the newly gentrified Condesa neighborhood. I looked forward to settling into a quiet but active retirement, imagining myself mastering the art of Mexican cooking, serving on some non-profit boards, and spending summers in Cape Cod where we had a family house on a pond. Tony Cowal and I had met 10 years earlier while I was serving as Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs at the US Embassy in Mexico, and he was an American businessman who had been living there since 1970. We married in Mexico in 1987, and then two years later he dutifully followed me to Washington, where I was unexpectedly thrust into the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Mexico and the Caribbean, followed by serving as Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. But the deal was always the deal: when I finished with the Ambassadorial assignment, we were going back to Mexico, where he could resume his career.

May 18, 1995. Tony died of a heart attack. With the varnish still sticky on the floors of the renovated penthouse, I wandered about in a haze, having lost both of my north stars, career and spouse, in the space of a single month. I traded the sticky floors for long, solitary walks on the Cape Cod Seashore and stayed there with my 5-month-old Bouvier des Flandres puppy until the fall winds whipping off the Atlantic jolted me from my reverie and sent me back to Mexico City. My musings about the future had finally coalesced around the idea that our real enemies were not other nations (this especially seemed true in the post-Cold War euphoria) but poverty, underdevelopment, and disease. I wondered whether there was a role for me on this battle-ground.

I served as Counselor for Political Affairs at the US Mission to the UN in New York in the mid-1980's and appreciated the role played by the specialized agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, etc.) quite distinct from the political machinations of the UN itself, with its General Assembly and Security Council. By pure coincidence, in the fall of 1995, a new joint and cosponsored UN program was being created to deal with the exploding (and explosive) HIV/AIDS epidemic. Knowing absolutely nothing about AIDS except what I had read in the newspapers, I was introduced to the Executive Director of the new

program to be called UNAIDS. Peter Piot, a Belgian medical doctor, virologist, and the discoverer of the Ebola virus, was looking for a Deputy. He wanted someone who knew the UN system and the US Government, since US funding was going to be about 25% of the total for the new agency. He offered me the job. I accepted, and by November, the puppy and I were living in Geneva.

I spent four years in the role. I talked to the Pope about condoms, and to Nelson Mandela when we arranged for him to speak at the World Economic Forum in Davos and warn the attendees that if they didn't do something about AIDS in Africa they could forget about development in Africa. I attended Princess Di's funeral to represent her work on HIV. We managed to get the disease on the world's agenda, and today many more people are living longer lives with AIDS thanks to more effective drugs and many more have never been infected because of the work we did in prevention.



When the tide began to turn on AIDS, I had worked my way out of a job! I left UNAIDS in 1999 and became the President and CEO of Youth for Understanding (YFU), a high school international exchange program that I had first been acquainted with as the USIA Director of the President's Youth Exchange Initiative in the Reagan Administration. When the five-year-old Cuban rafter boy, Elián González, his father, step-mother, and six of his classmates from the primary school he attended in Cuba pitched up on my YFU doorstep for a six-week stay while the US courts decided whether Elián's Miami relatives could file an asylum claim on his behalf to keep him in the United States or he could be taken back to Cuba by his father, my life and job changed again. I left YFU and started the

Cuba Policy Foundation to persuade the American people that the Cuban embargo, a remnant of the Cold War, should be ended in favor of a policy restoring diplomatic relations, trade, and commerce between the two countries. After 9/11, the wind went out of the sails for normalization, and I felt that nothing was going to move forward in the next few years. Unfortunately, that proved to be correct, although finally in the Obama Administration, diplomatic relations were resumed.

For the last 17 years I have been mainly professionally focused on the health of women and girls in low- and middle-income countries. I spent 11 years as a senior vice president at Population Services International and for the last six years I've been the head of global programs at the American Cancer Society. Today more women die from cervical cancer than for all causes of maternal mortality. By 2040, just around the corner, it is estimated that there will be 29 million new cases of cancer per year, 70% of them in developing countries where access to treatment is low to non-existent. We're working to change that paradigm with better access to treatment, prevention, and patient services. I am working on cancer because, like the exploding AIDS crisis in the 1990's, I see crippling disease and the economic burden it puts on families and communities as a social problem that leads to instability and requires a solution. In my heart I also believe that where you live shouldn't determine if you live.

As if working 12 hours a day and travelling 25% of the time isn't enough, my husband Robert Muse and I own and operate a vineyard, winery, and tasting room in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, called Muse Vineyards. The same Bouvier puppy who accompanied me on my journey to a post-foreign service life got us there when he claimed that the small Georgetown town house where we moved in 2002 upon marrying Robert was too cramped for his 98-pound body and he needed a place in the country to romp. We established the vineyard in 2005 and have been winning national awards since 2015, when our Bordeaux-style blend won the Virginia Governor's Cup. Weekends generally find me there when I am not roaming the globe from Africa, to Europe, to the Middle East on American Cancer Society business. Come visit! The tasting room is open from Thursday through Monday every week, all year around. ☐

New PDAA Officers and Directors Announced

Janice Brambilla is PDAA's new President. She succeeded Ambassador Cynthia Efird, who held the office for the past three years.

Joel Fischman is the new Vice President, succeeding Tania Chomiak-Salvi.

Other new members of the Board of Directors include **Judy Baroody**, who will chair the Awards Committee; **Joan Mower**, who chairs the Program Committee; **Domenick DiPasquale**, who will serve on the Awards Committee; and **Jarek Anders**, who will serve on the Program Committee.

Pat Kushlis joins the Board and serves as head of National Outreach; she is based in New

Mexico.

Continuing directors include Cynthia Efird (President Emerita), Bill Wanlund (Board Secretary), Mary Jeffers (Board Treasurer), Michael Korff (Communications Committee coordinator and PDAA Editor), Claude Porsella (Member News Editor), Tom Miller (Deputy Chair of the Awards Committee), and Ambassador Greta Morris (President Emerita and Deputy Chair of the Program Committee).

NEW PRESIDENT

Jan Brambilla served for over 25 years in senior executive positions in Foreign Service and Civil Service Human Resources Man-

agement, Organizational Analysis/Strategic Planning, Executive Performance and Compensation, Policy/Program Development and Implementation, and Budget/Financial Management. Her work took her to assignments throughout the Public Diplomacy community, including positions with the Voice of America, International Broadcasting Bureau, Broadcasting Board of Governors, United States Information Agency, and Department of State.

To contact officers and Board members, write to admin@publicdiplomacy.org.



Natella Svistunova, PAO, US Embassy Belmopan, received a PDAA Award for Achievement in Public Diplomacy at this year's PDAA awards brunch. She received the award for an innovative plan to combat gender violence. She designed a successful media campaign to create an anti-violence label for a cooking sauce. (Photo: Alan Kotok)

PDAA Honors Outstanding Public Diplomacy Initiatives

Creative programming, strong leadership skills, and innovative solutions to pressing social needs characterize the work of the four recipients of this year's PDAA Awards for Achievement in Public Diplomacy.

At the May 5 PDAA awards ceremony, held again this year at the Army and Navy Club, outgoing PDAA President Cynthia Efird noted that a record 26 nominations had been submitted for the 2019 awards.

The four winners were:

• **Natella Svistunova**, PAO, Embassy Belmopan, Belize;

• **Debra Toribiong**, Public Diplomacy Specialist, Embassy Koror, Palau;

• **Chris Hodges**, PAO, Consulate Jerusalem (now the Palestinian Affairs Unit, Embassy Jerusalem, Israel);

• **Niles Cole**, CAO, Embassy Kampala, Uganda.

Complete details on the 2019 award are available on the PDAA website.



Natella Svistunova, PAO, Embassy Belmopan, Belize, received an award for her work on combatting gender-based violence. Pictured: Anne O'Leary, a mentor; Adirenne Galanek, former Chargé in Belize; Shirin Bukhari, a former colleague in Tashkent; Svistunova; WHA DAS Jon Piechowski; Amb. Cynthia Efird. (Photo: Alan Kotok)



Claude Porsella, PDAA Member News Editor, compiles material on the comings and goings of PDAA members and notable personalities in public diplomacy. You can contact him at admin@publicdiplomacy.org. (Photo: Alan Kotok)

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Birn, a retired USIA officer, passed away March 23 at a care center in Bethesda. He was 88. The cause was pneumonia, said his daughter, Anne-Emmanuelle. Born in New York on Dec. 12, 1930, Birn received a degree in liberal arts (specializing in English) from Yale in 1952. At Colum-

bia University, he then pursued a Master's degree in political science and began his doctoral studies in international relations. Birn studied at the University of Paris—*Institut d'études politiques (Sciences Po)* under a Fulbright fellowship co-sponsored by France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was there, at a Mardi Gras party, that he met Jacqueline Mendels, a cellist and chemistry graduate. Upon his return to New York

City, the romance continued through twice daily missives, and by December 1957, Birn finally convinced Jacqueline to cross the ocean, cello in hand. They married at New York's Temple Emanu-El on March 6, 1958. Birn's plans to become a diplomat were put on hold for four years so that Jacqueline could obtain U.S. citizenship (then a requirement for spouses). In the meantime, he

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worked as a New York City school-teacher, and she as a researcher at the New York Academy of Medicine until they welcomed their first child, Daniel. On Oct. 20, 1962, Birn was sworn in as a USIA Foreign Service Officer. In 1963, he was appointed a junior consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, where daughter Anne-Emmanuelle was born. His other assignments included Hong Kong, Malta, and Mexico City. Birn was a policy officer at Voice of America from 1978 to 1987, earning a USIA Career Achievement Award. Following his retirement, Birn worked as a substitute teacher for the Fairfax County public schools. [See appreciation by Michael Schneider](#)

Teresa Collins Carroll, age 79, died June 10 after a battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was born Aug. 20, 1939, in Washington, DC, to a family of more than six generations of Washingtonians. Carroll had a 31-year career with USIA, rising from an entry-level clerical position to Director of the USIA Office of Official Correspondence. In that role, she supervised the Agency's official correspondence with the White House, State Department, and Congress, as well as other important public and private institutions. After her retirement from government service, Carroll accompanied her husband for a tour at the U. S. Embassy in Guatemala. Upon returning to the United States, she volunteered for a broad range of civic activities. A resident of the Goodwin House Alexandria for more than 13 years, Carroll participated in many social activities and programs.

James (Jim) Critchlow, a Radio Liberty pioneer and Soviet expert, died July 7 at his home in Newburyport, MA. A 1948 graduate of MIT, Critchlow studied Russian at Georgetown University 1950-1951 in preparation for his role establishing Radio Liberty, the U.S. radio station broadcasting from Germany to the Soviet Union. On its fifth day on the air, with minimal transmission expertise and no confirmation that its transmissions were being received, Radio Liberty was

the first to broadcast the news inside the Soviet Union of Stalin's death and the subsequent political turmoil. Critchlow held various positions at Radio Liberty for 20 years, writing a book about his experience, *An Insider's Story of Cold War Broadcasting*. He continued his career with USIA in Washington as the chief of Soviet and Eastern European research from 1972 to 1976. His final position from 1976 to 1985 was planning and research officer with the Board for International Broadcasting, which oversaw the financing and operation of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. After retirement, he continued his work as a fellow with Harvard University's Russian Research Center (now the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies). From his vantage point as a Cold War veteran, Critchlow's expertise and insights was sought after in the post-Cold War era.

Robert "Ted" Theodore Curran, 87, died peacefully in his sleep on July 10 in Traverse City, MI. Born in Brooklyn on Dec. 21, 1931, he graduated from Haverford College in 1953 with a B.A. in History and Russian and from Columbia University in 1955 with an M.A. in Russian history. Curran worked briefly in IBM's professional management program before joining the Foreign Service in 1955. His diplomatic career led to postings in Washington and around the world in Germany, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Mexico, Afghanistan, and Morocco. His varied experiences abroad included hosting Louis Armstrong in Germany in 1957; having King Hussein's bodyguard help him change a flat tire in the Jericho Valley; escorting Lady Bird Johnson through the 1967 Montreal World Expo; welcoming the Apollo 11 crew in Mexico City in 1969; teaching President Nixon how to give an 'abrazo' to the president of Mexico; helping guide Henry Kissinger on a tour of Afghanistan in 1976; picking up the American hostages from Iran in Algeria with President Carter in 1981; hosting President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush in 1983 in Morocco; and playing a midnight round of golf with the King of Morocco. In 1984 Curran retired from the Foreign Service with the rank of Career Minister. Following retirement, he held

various high-level positions, including President of the Foreign Policy Association in New York. Curran settled in Benzie County, Michigan, and was an active member of a number of organizations. In his [oral history](#), Curran said *I think the survival of the human spirit and people able to talk to one another and deal with one another was a great influence on my feeling that almost any human problem can be overcome if people of reason and intelligence can get together, particularly younger people.*

Lisa Harshbarger, died March 24 in Stuart, Florida, at age 59. Born in Bloomington, Ind., she was a graduate of Manchester College and received her Ph.D. in linguistics from Indiana University. In 1985, she taught writing and speaking skills in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a job that led her to accept two Fulbright junior lecturer positions, an English Language Fellow assignment, and eventually in 2001 a Foreign Service position as a regional English Language Officer. Harshbarger served in Washington, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Hungary, and the Philippines, and in the English Language Program Office at the Foreign Service Institute prior to her retirement in 2013.

Philomena Jurey, 91, a former White House correspondent for the Voice of America, passed away July 26 in Hillsdale, Pa., from vascular dementia. A native of Newcastle, Pa., she received a B.A. in journalism at the University of Missouri in 1949. Jurey worked as a reporter for various daily papers in Virginia and Ohio, where she met her future husband, Jack Jurey, who became the news editor and editorialist for WTOP-TV in Washington. Jurey began her illustrious career with VOA in 1961, steadily rising to higher positions. She became VOA's White House correspondent in 1974, covering Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Reagan. *The Washington Post* wrote that when she accompanied President Reagan to China, *Jurey was the media celebrity the Chinese officials wanted to meet.* In 1988, she was named Editor-in-Chief of the VOA newsroom. Jurey wrote three books and was the recipient of several awards, among them USIA's

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Superior Honor Award for outstanding achievement and the University of Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism. She was commended for “her dedication to objective and unfettered journalism in the public interest, and her careful and thorough coverage of the White House and the Presidency for the world.”

Eugene “Gene” Paul Kopp, who served twice as Deputy Director of USIA (1973-1977 and 1989-1992) and then as Acting Director in 1976-1977, died May 13 of cardiac arrest. Kopp had previously served as Deputy General Counsel of USIA from 1969 to 1971; Assistant Director for Administration in 1972; and acting General Counsel and Congressional Liaison in 1972. Kopp also served as a consultant to the National Security Council. ([See remembrance by Ambassador Jock Shirley](#)).

Robert J. “Bud” Korengold, a 1964 Nieman Fellow who served as a foreign correspondent in Europe before transitioning to a career in diplomacy, passed away March 15 in Vernon, Normandy, France. He was 89. Born in 1929, Korengold was a native of Minneapolis. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years during the Korean War era before starting his career as a journalist. In 1957, he joined UPI, working for it in Paris, London, Geneva, and Moscow, where he met Lee Harvey Oswald, who years later assassinated President Kennedy. In 1963, Korengold spent one year in Boston as a Nieman Fellow. He returned to Moscow as *Newsweek*’s bureau chief before moving to London. In 1973 Korengold joined USIA, serving as the editor for the magazines *Economic Impact* and *Horizons U.S.A.* In 1977, he transitioned to a career in diplomacy, first working as a press officer and then as a counselor for public affairs at U.S. embassies around Europe, including Brussels, Belgrade, London, and Paris. In 1985, he served as the coordinator for USIA press support of President Reagan’s visit to Europe and, later that year, was the White House coordinator of public diplomacy for the meeting between President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev at the Geneva summit.



Martin Manning with fellow IIP librarians. Seated: Lynne Scheib; Standing: Vivian Stahl, Anita Green, Joan Taylor; Back: Martin Manning. Martin Manning’s passing was noted in the March issue of the Newsletter. [An Appreciation by John Jasik of Marty’s life is on the PDAA website.](#) (photo courtesy of Lynne Scheib)

For that work, he received USIA’s Distinguished Honor Award in 1986. In 1988, he received a Presidential Award for Sustained Superior Accomplishment in the field of foreign policy. In 1994, the French government named him a *Chevalier* (member) of the *Ordre des Palmes académiques*, which recognizes distinguished academic and cultural figures, for “services rendered to French culture.” France also named him a *Chevalier* in its Order of Arts and Letters. Korengold was inducted into Medill’s Hall of Achievement in 2006. Following his retirement from diplomacy in 1994, he spent four years as the administrator of the Musée d’Art Américain in Giverny, France. He lived in Normandy and for many years wrote about French culture and being an expatriate living in France for the American website [bonjour-paris.com](#). ([See appreciation by Miller Crouch](#))

Robert Eugene Miller died June 25 at his home in Indianapolis following a long struggle with ALS. He was born Oct. 12, 1931, in Newton, Ill. Following his schooling in Newton and in Indianapolis, Miller

served in the U.S. Army. He then worked in Washington, with the State Department and later USIA, and also studied at the Art Students’ League in New York. Miller was a specialist in international exhibitions, developing and organizing exhibitions and trade fairs for circulation in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Africa. Based in Vienna, he managed USIA exhibitions in Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, and East Germany. Beyond his expertise in international exhibits, Miller was also an artist, craftsman, and collector in his own right. After his retirement, he accompanied his wife Cynthia Fraser Miller and their son Alexandre to her assignments in Vienna, Berlin, Bonn, and Rome.

Frederic S. “Tony” Sprainger Mabbatt III died February 9 in Sun Valley, Id., where he had retired after twenty years in the Foreign Service. Born in 1932, he studied international relations at San Diego State University, served in the Marine Corps, and worked for the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the San Diego Zoo before joining USIA in 1963. His overseas posts included Jordan, Sudan, Brazil, Tanzania, Indonesia, and the Netherlands. He wrote a book about his experience, *On the Front Lines of the Cold War: The Adventures of an American Foreign Service Family*. “It is clear from his writing that he experienced joy, fear, and satisfaction during the era of Cold War tensions with the Soviet Union,” his publisher noted. Mabbatt retired in 1985, and with his wife Jean moved to Idaho, where he maintained an avid interest and involvement in foreign affairs while spending more time satisfying another passion, fly fishing.

Gordon Wallace Murchie died March 16. He was born in San Diego. During his 35 years with USIA and USAID, he lived in the Philippines, Thailand, and Costa Rica. Murchie served throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. He received Superior Service awards from both agencies, and the Order of the White Elephant from the Royal Thai government. During his 35-year post-retirement career, Murchie and his wife Anita joined delegations to the People’s Republic of China, South Africa, and Aus-

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ustralia. He became an executive in the wine industry, especially in Virginia, where he resided. Murchie helped create the Congressional Wine Caucus and received several awards, including the American Wine Society Award of Merit, and a commemorative bronze bust of George Washington bestowed by Mount Vernon.

Ambassador Arthur Winston Lewis, age 92, passed away peacefully January 10 in Wilmette, Ill. He was born July 1, 1926, in New York City. A student at Dartmouth College, Lewis left to enlist in the Navy in 1943 and served for 23 years until 1966, when he joined USIA. With the support of the Ford Foundation, Lewis created an expanded minority recruitment program for USIA in 1967, targeting African American, Latino, and Native American students enrolled in universities around the nation. The program brought students to Washington for expanded training in history, language, and international affairs as preparation for successfully completing the Foreign Service entrance exam. Lewis began his own foreign service career

in 1969 when he was assigned by USIA to the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania. While there, he promoted American music as a forum for engaging the Romanian people. When the American jazz-rock band *Blood Sweat & Tears* visited Romania in 1970, Romanian officials sought to shut down a performance; Lewis successfully negotiated with communist officials to allow the concert tour to continue. Lewis's primary foreign policy interest was Africa, where he served in Zambia, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. In 1979, he was appointed USIA's Director of African Affairs. In 1983, President Reagan nominated him as U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone, where he served until his retirement in 1986. In subsequent years, Lewis continued to promote international political and economic development in Africa. He moved to Wilmette in 2016 to be closer to his daughter, Dale, son-in-law, granddaughter and two of his five great grandchildren.

Jaroslav John "Jerry" Verner, age 87, passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Bethesda July 12. Verner was born in Minneapolis June 18, 1932. He grew up in St. Paul and attended the

University of Minnesota, where he met Lois Ostrander, whom he married in 1954. He served in Korea with the U.S. Army and then attended Columbia University, where he earned an M.A. in Russian Studies in 1959. That year, he joined USIA, working as a Foreign Service officer for more than 35 years. Verner witnessed and participated in numerous historic events. He was present at the famous 1959 Moscow "Kitchen Debate" between Nixon and Khrushchev, and served as spokesman at the historic 1969 Moscow SALT treaty negotiations. Verner was in Kabul during the 1973 coup in Afghanistan; was in Moscow during the 1986 Chernobyl disaster; and witnessed from the East German side the tearing down of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. Verner was a world-class philatelist, exhibiting throughout the world his collection of covers of the Czech Legions in Siberia during World War I and earning numerous awards. ☐

Please send obituaries and Appreciations to Member News Editor **Claude Porsella** admin@publicdiplomacy.org. For suggestions on what to include, see *Obituaries: Memories of You* on the PDAA website.

PDAA September 16, 2019, Luncheon Program

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

Deadline for reservations: **September 12, 2019**. See page 1 for program details.

Please complete the form below and mail with your check, payable to PDAA, for **\$35** for members and guests, and **\$42** for non-members. Or pay online at pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org.

Number of members/guests _____ x \$35 Number of non-members _____ x \$42

PDAA membership for 2019 ... Check your mailing label for renewal status

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