

Annual Spring Membership Dinner

Sunday, May 28, 2006

Maggiano's Little Italy

5333 Wisconsin Ave, N.W.,
Washington, D.C

- Cash bar 6:00 pm
- Remarks
- Dinner 7:00 pm

\$50.00 per person

Reservation deadline:
Wednesday, May 24

Food is served family style; you select from the servings on your table. See the article on this page and menu on page 3.

To reserve please return coupon on p. 11, or the form at www.publicdiplomacy.org/MeetingAnnounce.htm

USIAAAA TODAY

USIA Alumni Association

Volume 25, No. 2

Walter Roberts Endowment Established at GWU

Bruce Gregory

George Washington University's Public Diplomacy Institute (PDI), through the generous support of Walter Robert has established the Walter R. Roberts Endowment designed to advance excellence in the study of public diplomacy.



Walter Roberts

lic diplomacy arena" and the study of public diplomacy – "its practice and theory."

Walter Roberts' public diplomacy career includes service with the Voice of America and Foreign Service tours overseas and in Washington until his retirement as Associate Director of USIA. After his Foreign Service retirement, Roberts served as executive director of the "Stanton Panel" on International Information, Education, and Cultural Relations and executive director of the Board for International Broadcasting. **[Continued, page 4]**

Spring Membership Dinner Set For May 28

The annual USIAAAA membership dinner -- that offers a chance for former colleagues to catch up on old times and for new friendships -- takes place Sunday, May 28.

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

Reduced, validated parking is available at the nearby Chevy Chase Pavilion, and the Friendship Heights Metro is one block from the restaurant. A map of the area is available on the Web site; click on the "See map for details" link at <http://www.publicdiplomacy.org/MeetingAnnounce.htm>.

The evening starts with a cash bar at 6:00 pm, followed by remarks at 6:45 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. Maggianos serves family style. Food is brought to the table on platters. There are re-fills upon request for every serving.

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The Roberts Endowment will be the first part of a significant fund raising effort for PDI. The funds will go for annual awards to recognize scholarly and professional achievement in public diplomacy and to support research, lectures, public forums, and other activities.

PDI initiated the Roberts Endowment in a ceremony on January 31 hosted by GWU President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and attended by Roberts and members of his family, PDI Chairman Steven Livingston, Dean Michael Brown and faculty of GWU's Elliott School of International Affairs, PDI Board members Barry Fulton and McKinney Russell, and Public Diplomacy Council member Barry Zorthian.

President Trachtenberg expressed the university's appreciation for the Endowment, which he said will "strengthen GW's presence in the pub-

Another Day... Another Snake

Robin Berrington

It started out as just another day at the Reptile Discovery Center (RDC) at the National Zoo in Washington, DC. Some friends were in town and had come to see me carry out my volunteer duties. As I often do with visitors, I brought out a favorite black California king snake with a beautiful white chain-link pattern encircling its long body. A crowd gathered as I showed him off. Then the unexpected happened: he bit my right hand.

The keepers think he was hungry because he had not been fed in a while, and may have thought I was the day's lunch. He coiled around my arm -- a typical reflex after capturing prey. The more I tried to coax him off, the firmer was his bite. Then he started to chew on me. Although it didn't hurt, more "painful" was that it was happening in front of people.

One reason we handle snakes before the public is to demystify them -- to show that they can be docile, not that aggressive. I had often worked with this king snake; he was usually very tame, even cuddly. But never underestimate wild animal behavior: things can and will backfire.

I poured water on him. Chew chew. I put my hand with him still attached back in his enclosure. More chewing. Blood began to seep out around his mouth because of an anti-coagulant enzyme all snakes have in their saliva. By then the onlookers knew something was wrong and some were getting upset; a colleague ushered them out. Finally, I put my hand under a newspaper. In the dark with no visual stimulation, he eventually released me. Maybe he tired of my taste.

The staff sent me to the medical unit where they disinfected the wound, dressed it and suggested I go home.

The next day the nurse took another look and pronounced my hand in fine shape. But now I have a good story for cocktail party conversation, which, while brandishing my small scar, I intend to embellish with each telling: as the monstrous serpent coiled around me, its fangs dripping with venom...well, you get the point.



From reptilian characters to reptiles

I retired from the Foreign Service in 1999 after a 32-year career in Thailand, Japan, Ireland, and England. I started working at the zoo in 2002 after returning from a WAE tour as CAO in Japan. After that experience, I cast about for something totally different, and thought volunteer work at the zoo might be fun. With an interest in snakes ever since childhood, and having just finished a career in which I dealt with not a few reptilian characters, this seemed like the perfect fit. Also the RDC is one of the few places at the zoo where volunteers can enter the animal enclosures and have a hands-on experience, so that clearly appealed too.

After an extensive training program, which included learning to handle and feed some of our charges, I started working the "line" -- the word for the long rows of windowed enclosures where each snake, lizard, crocodile, tortoise, or frog resides. Imagine a docent at a museum and I do much the same thing -- except that my subjects slither, swim, or jump. And occasionally bite!

Since last year I have taken on another duty at the zoo: VIP tours. I have escorted members of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, a Congressional Fish and Wildlife Sub-Committee,

grandparents and grandchildren from an Elder Hostel group, and several wealthy zoo donors. What they all want to see is Washington's newest celebrity, Tai Shan, our panda cub nicknamed Butter Stick. Like all baby animals, he ranks high on the oooooh/aaaaah scale.

When visitors inevitably ask about him, I loyally encourage them to also see some of our cute baby reptiles -- the everglades rat snakes that resemble colorful, tiny moving twigs at birth or the newly hatched leopard tortoises that are about the size of a 25-cent coin with legs -- but for some inexplicable reason they prefer Tai Shan. I am not discouraged.

[Continued, page 3]

Another Day, Another Snake (cont'd)

After years of trying to win advocates for questionable American policies overseas, I don't easily give up. However, knowing most children's attitudes toward reptiles, I have the "successor generation" on my side.

Next: giant Japanese salamanders

One of the most satisfying experiences was my involvement with the zoo's plan to get giant Japanese salamanders, an endangered amphibian that is rarely seen outside Japan. One of the zoo's major projects is the new Asian Trail currently under construction. The salamanders will be a featured resident there. Thanks to my 16 years of experience at our embassy in Tokyo I was able to advise my colleagues on ways to deal with the Japanese, translate some of the documents and "interpret" their bureaucratic behavior. After much to-ing and fro-ing about the details of an agreement, when word came back that the Japanese authorities had approved our proposal there was a collective sigh of relief. Finally the lessons of my many meetings in Tokyo years ago with difficult Ministry of Education officials paid off.

Currently the RDC is undergoing renovation. We are in one of the historic older buildings at the zoo and the roof and skylights badly needed repair. While this was going on we had to transfer many of the residents to holding pens. If a chunk of roofing were to fall in the crocodiles' pool, or even worse if one of the repairmen went to fetch it, the results might not be good. But we are nearing completion and most of the occupants should be back in their improved quarters soon. Anyone wishing a behind-the-scenes tour, just call me at 202-686-1619 or send an e-mail to robin.berrington@verizon.net.

Are my USIAAAA dues paid up?

Want to find out the status of your USIAAAA annual dues?

Check the mailing label on this issue of the *USIAAAA Today* newsletter. At the end of the first line, after your name you will see a set of brackets. If the bracket says **[2007]**, **[2006]**, or **[LIFE]** (for lifetime membership), your dues are paid up and current.

If the label says anything else in the brackets -- **[2005]** or **[]** then you need to renew. Annual dues are \$25.00; please complete and return the coupon on page 11 or print out and return the form at

<http://www.publicdiplomacy.org/7.htm>.

Spring Membership Dinner (cont'd)

Menu items have been selected to give diners, including those with special dietary needs, a wide choice. There will be appetizers, salads, pasta, fish and chicken servings, plus desserts -- fancy and fruit.

The cost is for members and their guests is \$50 per person, which covers the all the food, dessert, and coffee or tea.

Drinks, wine, and beer are extra. The cash bar will remain open until the event ends.

There will be plenty of time to enjoy the evening and to mingle with friends and colleagues. USIAAAA has the room until 10:45 pm.

Please complete and return the form on page 11, or on the Web site at <http://www.publicdiplomacy.org/MeetingAnnounce.htm> to make your reservation.

The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, May 24.

Menu

Food is served family style; you select from the servings on your table. Most platters are overflowing with food, and there are endless refills of all portions, just ask for more.

Appetizers - Spinach and artichoke al forno, Fresh mozzarella and tomato

Salads - Caesar or chopped

Pasta - Lasagna with meat, Stuffed shells with roasted vegetables

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.

The cost is \$50.00 per person, which covers the all the food, dessert, and coffee or tea. Other drinks, including wine and beer are extra.

Parking

Validated parking is available a few steps from the restaurant in the Chevy Chase Pavilion. The entrance to the underground parking is just north of the restaurant. If you stamp your parking ticket at the "Carry Out" counter of the restaurant (there is a stamp machine), it gives you four hours of parking at 50 cents per hour. We suggest that you get it stamped when you first arrive.

Metro: Friendship Heights (Red Line)

Walter Roberts Endowment, cont.

Roberts Endowment initiation ceremony.

From left:

Barry Fulton, Walter Roberts, Bruce Gregory and GWU President Trachtenberg

He was later appointed by Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton to the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. Roberts has a leadership role with the Public Diplomacy Council and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations' Task Force on Public Diplomacy, a founding board member of PDI, and a long-time member of the USIA Alumni Association.

In addition, he has a lifelong interest in teaching and the academic study of public diplomacy. Roberts, who has a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, has taught public diplomacy for ten years at GWU's Elliott School of International Affairs. He is the author of the book *Tito, Mihailovic and the Allies, 1941-1945* as well as numerous articles and speeches on public diplomacy. He was one of the first to recognize that public diplomacy should be developed as a specialized field of study in the same way that foreign policy, international relations, development assistance, diplomatic history, and other concentrations are taught at colleges and universities around the world.

Roberts's research and writing continues. His article on "The Evolution of Diplomacy," to be published in the summer issue of *Mediterranean Quarterly*, includes new research

on the origins of U.S. public diplomacy and the little known influence of the Havana Convention of 1927 on duties of diplomatic officers. This article is required reading in GWU's spring 2006 graduate seminar on *Public Diplomacy and National Security*.

PDI's mission is to advance the study and practice of public diplomacy through teaching, research, and professional services. Creating a master's degree program in public diplomacy is a high priority. In 2005, PDI initiated a Public Diplomacy Fellows program. Career diplomat Bob Callahan now fills this position on a two-year State Department assignment.

PDI was established in 2001 by GWU's School of Media and Public Affairs and the Elliott School of International Affairs, in collaboration with the non-profit Public Diplomacy Council. It operates under a board drawn equally from academic and diplomatic communities and is located on GWU's main campus near the Department of State.

Bruce Gregory is Director of the Public Diplomacy Institute

Public Diplomacy Council Blasts Cuts in VOA English

Excerpts from March 24, 2006 commentary ...

Is the US about to silence its own radio voice in English? Incredibly, it is.

Unless Congress or the Administration reverse course, in most of the world the English service of the Voice of America will be off the air forever this October. The sole survivor would be a few hours of Africa-focused news in English for that continent. This is truly unthinkable, in the view of many inside and outside of government, because English is:

... The universal language of international politics, trade, entertainment and the Internet, spoken by more than a billion people

... The primary tongue of the world's only superpower and largest predominantly English-speaking country;

... The language of choice for new around-the-clock services of Al Jazeera, Russia and China, as even Iran ramps up its English broadcasts to the world.

At a recent panel of the Davos World Economic Forum in Switzerland, the presidents of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Queen of Jordan engaged in a discussion about change and challenge in each of their countries. To no one's surprise, the leaders of four countries pivotal in the anti-terrorism struggle of ideas were conversing in English.

The Voice of America is the nation's official overseas network, the largest civilian publicly funded U.S. multimedia outlet overseas, with an audience of more than 100,000,000 listeners, TV viewers and Internet users each week. About one out of six listens in English. The Wall Street Journal quotes former VOA directors as being "shocked", "horrified" and "appalled" at a budget-driven decision to silence "an invaluable national strategic asset: America's ability to communicate globally (in its own language) about its culture, values and foreign policy."

The members of the Public Diplomacy Council strongly agree. The Council consists of more than 70 veteran professionals and scholars who advocate strengthening the nation's overseas information, cultural and educational exchange programs. Most have served abroad. Like millions around the world, Council members have often depended on VOA hourly newscasts and in-depth analysis as their daily window on America and the world.

Full text of the commentary is found online at

<http://pdi.gwu.edu/>

Members Overwhelmingly Approve USIAAA Name Change

USIAAA members voted by a wide margin to change the association's name to Public Diplomacy Alumni Association. The final count came to 166 votes in favor of the proposed new name, versus 69 for retaining the current USIA Alumni Association.

USIAAA suggested the change in hopes of broadening the Association's appeal to a wider membership base and enhancing its relevance to the current foreign affairs environment. USIAAA board members reported increasing difficulty recruiting new members to a group whose name reflected an agency that no longer existed, but whose functions have continued in the Department of State and other organizations.

Final vote tally:

Public Diplomacy Alumni Association: 166 (71%)

USIA Alumni Association: 69 (29%)

Association president Gene Nojek commented, "I fear that USIAAA in its present form could come to resemble one of those associations of World War II military units that have yearly reunions whose participants steadily decline in number under the impact of actuarial realities until just a few show up."

The Association conducted the vote from March 1 to April 15, through paper and online ballots. Some 201 of the 235 votes were cast with paper ballots, with 34 votes tallied through the online method. The online ballot was displayed on a private page on the PublicDiplomacy.org Web site, with the results captured and counted by InternationalVoting.Com. An independent audit by USIAAA Secretary Elinor Green Hunter verified the vote totals.

The new organization name will include the tag line, "Formerly the USIA Alumni Association" to recognize the original title and to provide continuity. Several votes in favor of the change included comments indicating awareness of the need for the name change, but a reluctance to abandon the reference to USIA.

The actual name change will not be implemented until the USIAAA Board officially accepts the vote results and appropriate legal steps are taken.

Library of Americana Translation Project Unveiled

Editors note: a project to translate important American books into Arabic was unveiled on April 17, 2006. Here are excerpts from the announcement by the Global Americana Institute.

The classics of American thought and history have been little translated into Arabic. Worse, even when they have been translated, they have appeared in small editions and fairly quickly go out of print. Worse still, the distribution system for Arabic books is poor, and there are few public libraries, so that many books that have been published in the past are no longer available to most readers.

We have therefore begun a project to translate important books by great Americans and about America into Arabic, and to subsidize their publication so that they can be bought inexpensively. We are also subventing their distribution. We seek funding from the general public as well as from foundations.

....

The project will begin with a selected set of passages and essays by Thomas Jefferson on constitutional and governmental issues such as freedom of religion, the separation of powers, inalienable rights, the sovereignty of the people, and so forth.

We intend to have all the founding fathers translated—Madison, Franklin, Washington, Paine, and so on. We would also like to see works that treat issues in democracy and multi-culturalism, as well as engaging histories of the United States. We cannot find in OCLC, an electronic catalogue of over 40 million books held in participating libraries, any Arabic translation of the major speeches and letters of Martin Luther King or of the works of Susan B. Anthony. Eventually it would be nice to see in Arabic a good solid book about, e.g., the history of the American Jewish community, and other important minority groups about which most Arab readers would find it difficult to get solid knowledge from the sources now available to them.

Likewise, it would be nice to put into Arabic Western books about, e.g., Iraq. Our Middle East Studies programs and university presses publish a great deal of interest to the Arab world, and yet little of it gets translated, and even where books are translated they sometimes take a long time to get into print.

Contributions will allow us to locate and fund qualified Arab translators, to arrange for printing, to subsidize the printing so as to ensure the book is affordable and that there is a paperback version, and to subsidize and ensure wide distribution, to bookstores, street vendors and libraries throughout the Arab world. Although we will definitely launch a web site and try to make things available on the internet, readers should remember that that is still a small and underdeveloped medium in the

Middle East. Inexpensive and well-distributed paperbacks will have more impact at this point in time.

Eventually, if we can attract enough funding, it might also be possible to subsidize courses on American studies at Arab universities or even to endow some chairs. The translations of source material would then be available for use in the classroom as texts. It is especially important to begin offering Arab high school teachers some training in American studies so that they can work it into social studies and literature classes, e.g.

The Global Americana Institute and the translation project are non-partisan and welcome support from and cooperation with all persons committed to democratic principles and human rights.

The project will begin with a selected set of passages and essays by Thomas Jefferson on constitutional and governmental issues such as freedom of religion, the separation of powers, inalienable rights, the sovereignty of the people, and so forth.

The Institute also hopes to build on past such efforts as well as parallel work done by other organizations, which it acknowledges, and for which it is grateful. We would like to help with distribution and reprinting of suitable works already published. The Center for American Studies and Research at the American University in Beirut, founded in 2004 through a generous endowment by Alwaleed Bin Talal, will play an increasingly important role here, though its focus is Anglophone at the moment. There is a US government translation project that has done some excellent work, focusing on contemporary works of political science by US authors, which we see as complementary to our own efforts. There was also an important Social Science Research Council translation project headed by Steve Heydemann and Dan Brumberg and published in Arabic by Saqi Books, which paid special attention to modern political philosophy.

More details: www.globam.org/

Or contact: Juan Cole, Department of History, 1029 Tisch, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003

Appreciation --- Jo Campbell

Ross Chomiak

Her name was Josephine, and that's how she signed her checks and evaluation reports, but we all knew her as Jo -- Jo Campbell. The one with a smile, and frequently outrageous clothes -- something Native American, something Guatemalan, with African beads.

One characteristic of Jo Campbell that has stayed with me -- twelve years after retiring from USIA and as Jo's editor on the Wireless File for Africa (IPS/PA) for a number of years -- was that she liked what she was doing, she genuinely enjoyed being a reporter. (Yes, the current in-word here should be "journalist". I was about to type it, and I like it. But I remembered that Jo was of that school where people like her were "reporters", and "staff writers" in a byline. Journalists? Yeah, but we didn't go around proclaiming to one and all that we are journalists.)

Jo was especially good at using the phone to get her story. She was good at finding the right sources and getting them to tell the story in a way that she would understand, and then she would write it in an understandable and interesting fashion. With enthusiasm. Jo was a reporter, and she enjoyed being a reporter. And she took on the assignments with enthusiasm. I don't remember ever hearing her "wondering out loud" whether a certain story was worth covering. She would take an assignment and run with it. And work fast.

We had a daily deadline in IPS/PA, and our file was bilingual, and Jo delivered -- often early enough so her story would be translated into French for the same day's file.

One morning there was a USINFO from a PAO in Guinea, I believe. There was a mild earthquake and the PAO needed a story about it, because in that part of West Africa earthquakes just didn't happen. I gave the assignment to Jo, who immediately began to work the phone. US government geologists in Colorado, she learned, did notice the West African earth tremor on their sensitive recorders, and Jo Campbell began to ask questions. Colorado geologists provided names of other experts, and before long, without leaving her desk, Jo handed me a story about earthquakes that "never occur." But there are exceptions. And Jo's story included experts' views on why some things that aren't supposed to happen, happen.

The piece was unusual and interesting, and finished in time to have it translated into French and included in the same day's file as the original English version.

It made us look good before the local media and officials. I don't know, but doubt that the French "USIS" in that country

had a story about the unusual earthquake, and our person had it -- in French and English.

Another time we got word that a nickel mine in Botswana is suffering, because its main client, a smelting plant in Louisiana, is on strike.

Jo Campbell was our resident labor specialist. She was a steward of AFGE and frequently counseled employees who had grievances. (But I must quickly add here, that never once did Jo tell me she couldn't do a story or the story would be late, because she had some union business to take care of. She took the union business very seriously, but she also remembered that she was on a member of a team known as the Africa Wireless File, and she would never disappoint her team members.)

One characteristic of Jo Campbell that has stayed with me ... was that she liked what she was doing, she genuinely enjoyed being a reporter.

Of course I gave the assignment on nickel to Jo, and she began making phone calls.

It turned out that the grievance in Louisiana was so local, that the union headquarters wasn't aware of it. (The Botswanan miners certainly were). Eventually Jo Campbell did find the most knowledgeable sources in Louisiana -- local union officials, and learned that the issues that caused the strike were virtually resolved, that the nickel plant would return to production in two or three days. And that meant? That ore shipments from Botswana would once again head for Louisiana.

This story involving Louisiana and Botswana didn't make the Washington Post or the Los Angeles Times, or the New York Times news service. This was before the Internet and Google, but it was during the time of Jo Campbell, reporter).

Yes, she liked what she was doing. And after she retired she continued to write. Albeit for a news service that she herself set up and gave herself assignments. We stayed in touch via e-mail and snail mail in retirement, and I can say that the enthusiasm and passion for reporting that Jo Campbell had as a very junior editorial assistant, and as an experienced writer never left her. Until her very last days, I guess: a couple of months before her death I sent her an e-mail, and didn't get a reaction. Something was wrong, I said to myself. Then came the obituaries.

In Memoriam

- ◆ Robert C. Amerson, 80, died at his home in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, February 25, after a brief illness. His 23-year career in USIA included postings in Caracas, Milan and Rome. He concluded his career as the Edward R. Murrow Fellow at the Fletcher School of Tufts University.
- ◆ Kenneth E. Boles, 77, a film and television producer for USIA, died February 28 of complications of lung cancer. He retired in 1987.
- ◆ Josephine (Jo) Campbell, 79, a writer with the press service of USIA, died March 1 of cancer at a hospital in Petaluma, Calif. During her 30 career she served as a writer/ editor in the Near East and African branches. In retirement, she was a prize winning writer on dogs and ran an online environmental news service. [Appreciation, page 7]
- ◆ Harry Hirsch, 95, a German-born sportswriter who arranged tours and exhibits of US culture, died March 3 in Berlin. He had multiple organ failure. Some of projects included the Alvin Ailey dance troupe tour of Africa and the “The World of Franklin and Jefferson” exhibition in Paris in 1975. He moved to Berlin after retiring in 1989.
- ◆ Lee Hall, 80, a foreign correspondent for NBC television in the 1950s and early 1960s and then a VOA correspondent for 28 years, died of cancer March 23 at her home in Washington. She joined VOA in 1962. Her assignments included the White House and head of VOA’s west coast bureau.
- ◆ Michael Love, 45, died last fall from complications of heart surgery, a member of USIAAAA reported. Love was a junior officer at USIS Tokyo during the early 1970s, when he resigned from the foreign service.
- ◆ Ed Robinson died February 8 at the Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He was 85. He served as an information officer in Southeast and South Asia and in Germany, and for many years headed the Thai language service at VOA. [Appreciation, this page]
- ◆ Bill Stricker, 94, died March 16. He was living in Tiburon, California. His 30 years of government service began with OWI during World War II. He later worked for VOA in both New York and Washington. Before retirement, he ran the USIA press center at the UN.

Ed Robinson -- An Appreciation

Dabney Chapman

If ever a popularity contest were to be held among our many sterling and convivial colleagues, it would be hard to beat Ed.

He embraced his friends with hoops of steel, nurturing a vast number of “best friends” by phone and letters years before the convenience of e-mail. During those dreaded periods of stateside service, his memorable picnic lunches at Haines Point were noted for corralling some of the most scintillating of our co-workers.

Much of Ed’s agency service, like his WWII Navy stint, was in the Asia he knew and loved so well. But he made his professional mark in Europe as well as director of the Amerika House in Marburg. And our principal adversary the USSR always fascinated him.

Bob Cross and I had the pleasure of his company during an auto-tour of Russia in the summer of 1958 when we annoyed our Intourist guide by walking in different directions to frustrate surveillance and meet the locals to whom we gave numbers of newspapers and Sears and Roebuck catalogs.

In recent years, Ed and I frequently walked and talked together. He had a good journalist’s keen catholic curiosity and a flattering way of suggesting that his interlocutor knew more about the subject at hand than he did –which was rarely the case. I don’t recall that Ed ever had to manage the necrology section of a newspaper, but everything in the make-up of a great paper intrigued him.

When once we were on the subject of obits and eulogies, I mentioned that my favorite parting tribute was the much-polished chestnut of Fitz-Green Halleck:

“Green be the turf above you,
Friend of my better days.
None knew you but to love you
Or named you but to praise.”

Ed countered with Nehru’s farewell to Gandhi – the eulogistic parallel to Lincoln’s lapidary address at Gettysburg and like the address a prizewinner for brevity. Ed said that Nehru was content to say just five words to describe the departed Mahatma:

“He was a good man.”

And so was Ed – good husband, father (of six sons), novelist and friend – in short, a good man.

Dan Oleksiw, An Anecdote

We received the following story about Dan Oleksiw after the deadline for the last issue of USIAAA Today, in which our obituary and an appreciation appeared. — Eds.

Harry Britton

I am one of the few people that I know--in fact the only one--who ever received and abject apology from "Big Dan" Oleksiw. Here's how it happened.

After five years in Kuala Lumpur where I used my newly -minted Chinese to good advantage, I spent an academic year of Asian studies at University of California - Berkeley. I probably fell into the "thinkers" versus "doers" categorization popular at the time. I ended up in the fast policy guidance office in Washington with East Asia as my area of responsibility. Attendance at Dan's weekly staff meeting was expected. Other peripheral support offices also sent representatives. Dan knew us but didn't have day-to-day contact and therefore he didn't know us as well as he did his own staff.

The meeting was nearing its end when Dan looked at me with those drill-bit eyes that would bore right through you powered by his powerful energy. He said: "You want to be PAO in Singapore. You talk to me if you want something like that!" and soon brought the meeting to an end. He was right. I did want the Singapore slot. But I had never talked to anyone about it. I was shocked by Dan's sudden outburst but didn't deny the hope.

Dan looked at me with those drill-bit eyes that would bore right through you powered by his powerful energy.

The next day I was home with one of the worst cases of the flu I ever had. In the midst of my misery I received a call from Dan who was due to leave his power position soon. Apparently he thought I was off work because of his outburst. After I assured him I was indeed ill, he extended his abject apologies. He had mistaken me for another officer who had approached Dan's successor, John Reinhart, about Singapore.

After confirming again that I did not have a feigned illness and was truly sick, Dan again apologized and we let it go at that--no hard feelings or recriminations. But things worked out. I got out of Washington in the standard three years. John offered me the Deputy Director slot in Taipei, perhaps aware of my embarrassment. And two weeks after I arrived in Taiwan, President Nixon announced his visit to the People's Republic of China, the whole East Asia picture changed and the new atmosphere made the Taipei job one of the most interesting I ever had.

Thanks, Dan, for getting me recognized.

Wanted: Member News, Tributes, Appreciations

USIAAA Today now carries updates -- one to three paragraphs each -- on the activities of USIA alumni. Any submission should include the date you retired or left USIA.

We will also accept short articles on your activities that would be interest to the membership. Topics could include continued work in public diplomacy and related fields. Please continue to let us know about deaths in the USIA family. Articles of tribute and appreciation are welcomed.

Please send your contributions by e-mail to Ed Scherr at: edscherr@earthlink.net

USIAAA Member Directory ... Coming Summer 2006

One of the privileges of USIAAA membership is a periodic member directory. The new 2006 directory will feature member names and contact information so you can keep track of old friends and new acquaintances.

We will generate the directory from our member database, the same set of data used to generate the mailing labels for the *USIAAA Today* newsletter. We have captured and published in the newsletter all of the changes and corrections since the last issue of the directory in December 2004.

However, if you have late changes or just want to make sure we have your latest info, please send your updates by **June 30, 2006** to:

E-mail: admin@publicdiplomacy.org

Or by postal mail to ...

USIAAA
Attention: Directory Updates
4521 N. 41st Street
Arlington, VA 22207

We would like to receive directory changes in writing, to minimize transcription errors.

Member Directory Updates

Please note the following updates and corrections to the most recent (December 2004) USIAAA member directory:

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USIAAA Spring Membership Dinner

Sunday, May 28, 2006 - Maggiano's Little Italy (See page I for program details).

5333 Wisconsin Ave, N.W., Washington, DC

Deadline for reservations: **Wednesday, May 24, 2006**

Please complete the form below and mail with your check for **\$US 50.00** for each person to:

James C. Whittemore

USIAAA Treasurer

3320 Quebec Pl. NW

Washington, D.C. 20008

Name(s) _____

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Telephone number _____

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Number of people ____ x \$US 50.00

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USIAAA Membership Renewal for 2006

Please complete the form below and mail the completed form with your check for **\$US 25.00** to:

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Washington, D.C. 20008

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