



LAFF

THE LAFF SOCIETY Promoting Social and Professional Contacts Among Former Staff Members of the Ford Foundation

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BRAZIL: SOCCER AND CITIZENSHIP

By Shepard Forman

Brazil has long been known as a sleeping giant, a country of vast but as yet unrealized potential, whose people by-pass their passivity through samba and Carnaval, fueled by a low-grade sugar-cane rum called Cachaca. But a decade of dramatic economic growth, based largely on China's appetite for natural resources and a credit-driven consumer market, led to vast private foreign investment and the emergence of Brazil on the world stage.

As a serious player on climate change, in international trade negotiations and intellectual property rights, and as a leader in the struggle to contain the AIDs pandemic, Brazil had begun to exercise a leadership role in global politics that, for a short time, lifted the nation's spirits to an all-time high. As a prosperous democracy, led in succession by two highly respected presidents, Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Luis Ignacio (Lula) da Silva, the perennial country of the future appeared to be the country of now. A series of mega-events—the Rio plus 20 environmental conference, the 2013 Catholic youth encounter with Pope Francisco, the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics—were viewed as emblematic of Rio de Janeiro's renaissance and a new, non-stoppable Brazil.

And then it stopped. Page after page of newspaper articles read like a road map to stagflation. Inflation has returned, the value of the Real has declined, rates of growth and employment have slowed, a real-estate bubble is forcing potential home buyers and mobile renters alike out of the housing market, the much-touted natural gas and petroleum reserves under the off-shore salt bed suddenly appear out of technological and cost-estimate reach, China has seriously slowed its purchase of Brazil's commodities and the Sao Paulo stock exchange lost a huge



Brazil's 1994 FIFA Cup team

amount of its value, as did the portfolio of Eike Batista, Brazil's wealthiest man and the one-time symbol of Brazil's seemingly unstoppable wealth accumulation.

Foreign direct investment has moved elsewhere, and over-use of credit at high interest rates has led to a worrisome rate of consumer forfeitures. Drug traffickers are creeping back into recently "pacified" slum communities, and street crime, including some well-publicized horrific kidnappings and rapes in public transport, have the public on edge. The mood in Brazil has moved in a period of months from euphoric to perplexed—how has it all gone wrong?

Paradoxically, Brazil's other historic opiate, soccer, holds the answer. As Brazil's great cities prepared to host the Confederation Games, the precursor to the 2014 World Cup, something awakened the national consciousness. It began with the interdiction of the new multi-million dollar mega-stadium known as the Engenhao, whose sliding roof proved to be a major risk because of poor construction. Newspapers began to report on the costs and cost-overruns of soccer stadiums in all of the host cities, including the legendary Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, which was temporarily opened for the Confederation

Games final in which Brazil's World Cup selection team routed the championship Spanish team, once again placing Brazil at the very top rung of world soccer.

But as Brazilians watched with pride as their team of talented young players out-performed their critics' skepticism and came together as true champions, they also accompanied the largely peaceful massive street demonstrations that have become the real story of the season. Millions of people have poured into the streets night after night in more than 80 Brazilian cities to express their anger at the enormous public expenditures in preparation for the mega-events and at the perceived and actual costs to the quality of education, health care, metropolitan transportation and security. And, as the magnitude of the costs escalated, so did public outrage against corruption, highlighted by the conviction and impending imprisonment of dozens of former government officials involved in congressional vote-buying schemes and other sordid fiscal malfeasance.

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Officers Elected

Shepard Forman was re-elected to a three-term as LAFF's president at a meeting of the LAFF Society's executive committee in New York City on September 18. **Nellie Toma** was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Barry Gaberman has decided not to run for re-election as vice president.

In seeking a replacement, the committee voted to create two new vice president positions "to build a more secure institutional platform to better serve" the society's members and to recruit a "younger and diverse cadre of former Foundation staff members."

Details on who is elected to the new vice president positions and on their duties will be posted on the society's website.

Brazil

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To chants of “the people have awakened,” Brazilians have made a spontaneous and unscripted set of demands on governing authorities at all levels for vastly increased investments in education, health care and public transportation. They have demanded the end of impunity and imposition of harsh penalties for public officials’ corruption. In quintessential Brazilian fashion, street signs mix linguistic creativity with popular sentiment: “Take your rosary out of my ovary,” read one. “Jesus opposes PEC-37,” read another in protest against the congressional bill that would take investigatory power away from public prosecutors and invest it in congress itself.

Governing authorities have struggled to understand the origins and strength of a movement convened and oriented by social media, but to the credit of Brazil’s strong democratic ethic, have not tried to stifle or shut it down. Mayors in most of the major cities thought they could contain the demonstrations by withdrawing the ten cents hike in bus fares that sparked the protests. The Sao Paulo governor and mayor did so rather clumsily, announcing the reversal

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while declaring it would be at the expense of social programs.

President Dilma Rouseff denounced the relatively minor incidences of violence and looting and expressed support for the democratic expression of the people, but revived a number of old proposals that had little traction: 100% of new salt-bed oil and gas revenues for education; contracting thousands of foreign, mainly Cuban, doctors to bolster the public health system; increased investment in commuter transportation, and a call for a plebiscite on political reform. More recently she convened her 39 cabinet ministers and held a press conference with a kitchen sink list of their responses, only to encounter public cynicism when the press reported on the payroll costs of her over-bureaucratized administration.

Most everyone I know and talk to at every level of Brazilian society applauds the street demonstrations and the fact that Brazilians have discovered their civic side. They con-

tinue to believe in the potential of this great nation and the future at its command, recognizing that the major problem lies within the government and that the people have the power to demand change.

The fundamentals are there. Of all of the emerging “powers” Brazil is blessed with adequate water, energy self-sufficiency, exportable quantities of food production and no external enemies. Its failures at good governance are now obvious to all Brazilians who have demonstrated their readiness to assume their responsibilities as active citizens.

If this is true, as I believe it to be, Brazil has arrived finally at its future. Those of us who had the privilege of watching the young soccer team sing the national anthem before their outstanding victory in the Confederation Cup have tempered our euphoria with optimism: Gol Brazil! ■

Shepard Forman is president of the LAFF Society and lives in Rio de Janeiro.

THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I watch the tide of civic demonstrations under way in countries across the globe and reflect on the mobilizing power of social media, I recall the decade-long series of Foundation grants that enabled NGOs to participate at the United Nations conferences on environment (Rio), women and development (Beijing) and racism (Durban), among others. While support for social movements—from civil to human rights and gender equity—have been a hallmark of the Foundation’s proud history, deliberately paralleling NGO activism with inter-governmental deliberations was uncharted territory that had significant positive impact in most cases and unintended consequences in at least one other.

The Durban conference, for example, where Foundation grantees denounced Israel for racism, created something of a media and congressional firestorm that consumed the Foundation’s attention for several years and reverberated with new grant guidelines and grantee obligations that a number of NGOs found constraining at best.

Perhaps the most significant contribution the Foundation has made has been the promotion of ideas, many of them progressive by any measure, and always with a view to greater equity, increased participation, more freedom and the expansion of rights. These values are the shared elements of the highly diverse protest movements that are occurring in Brazil, Egypt and Turkey. Efforts to analyze them and find patterns and similarities have not yielded great insights, perhaps because the motivations, forms of organization and the participants them-

selves vary as much as the socio-political and economic environments in which they are taking place.

But behind the demands for real democratic governance, for the end to impunity and corruption, for improved public services in transportation, health and education, and for greater economic opportunity and equity, there appears to be across each of these broad national movements a shared expression of values that seeks an end to the enormous gap that exists between popular aspirations and political privilege.

Two articles in this Newsletter issue, one on Egypt by our colleague Alia Arafa and the other by me on recent events in Brazil, implicitly compare the civic struggles that are playing out in those two countries—unfortunately one with sharp political divides and violence, including a security forces crackdown, the other with more cohesive political demands but also with a police response that on occasion has been far harsher than crowd control required.

Of course, there have been spoilers and scavengers in Brazil who vandalized stores and destroyed public property, but they have been a tiny minority among the otherwise peaceful demonstrations in some 80 Brazilian cities. Brazilians across every social class and walk of life are by-and-large united in their support for what they see as a great civic awakening. We can only hope that Egyptians too will unite around a common vision for their country’s future.

We hope you’ll be inspired to contribute your own articles to future issues, and that we can enliven the website by posting your views and exchanging ideas in the members’ forums. **Shep Forman**

MORSI OF EGYPT AFTER ONE YEAR: NEITHER A MUSLIM NOR A BROTHER

By Alia Arafa

When the peoples of several Arab nations rose up two years ago in what has become known as the Arab Spring, Alia Arafa wrote an article about her experience as one of the protesters in Cairo that appeared in the May 2011 issue of this newsletter. Here she explores the tumultuous events that led to the convulsions of that country now.

The world was stunned when millions of Egyptians went to the streets on June 30, not only in Cairo's Tahrir Square but in all Egypt's villages, towns and cities in exemplary peaceful demonstrations to oust President Mohamed Morsi just one year after his election. The international community seemed not to understand why these millions were so impatient.

Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, won the presidential election with a very slim victory over his opponent Ahmed Shafik. Out of almost 51 million registered voters, the turnout was only 23,672,236, just 46.5 percent of registered voters. Abstentions were 27,324,510, or 53.5 percent of the registered voters. This was because millions of people refused to elect either Morsi, who represented the Islamic stream, or Shafik, who was prime minister under the deposed Hosni Mubarak and represented the old regime. But it was a telling sign that only 13 million Egyptians out of the eligible 51 million voters voted for Morsi. In spite of that, the people respected the election's results and hoped that Morsi's rule would bring peace, stability and a better life to the average Egyptian and, in particular, more respect for human rights, which are the values of the Islamic religion. But just a few months after he assumed office on June 30, 2012, President Morsi took major decisions that manifested misuse and abuse of power, such as the removal of the prosecutor general and appointment of a new prosecutor in a clear violation of the constitution. In addition, he issued a presidential decree that gave him unprecedented powers and placed him above the law.

Such actions were the start of major and widespread anger. However, when ordinary people and political activists started protesting, major human rights violations

were committed by members of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party, many of whom had been appointed to key positions in his government in a process that became known over the year of his ruling as "Ekhwanization", or "Brotherhoodization", of the state.

Protesters, political activists and human rights activists who were symbols of the revolution that toppled his predecessor, Hosni Mubarak, were considered, under Morsi's rule, thugs or agents of the West. Many were imprisoned and some have died as a result of torture. In one of the more flagrant examples, Mohamed EL Gindy, an activist and an administrator of an opposition group on Facebook, was kidnapped and later found dead. The first forensic report concluded that Gindy died in a car accident. But a revised forensic report by a committee of the Ministry of Health proved he died of torture. According to the Nadim Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture, 34 cases of death and 88 cases of torture were recorded during the first 100 days of Morsi's rule. This was clearly not what people aspired for after the January revolution.

In addition, Morsi and his group led a major attack on the media and freedom of expression in general, charging writers, opposition leaders and public figures who criticized the regime with insulting the president, among other things.

Furthermore, especially women activists have been targeted as part of the Muslim Brothers' plan to discourage them from participating in any protests, due to the major role they played in the success of the first revolution. Under the rule of Morsi this past year, women had been harassed on several occasions in Tahrir Square by organized pro-Morsi groups in a manner that is very alien to Egyptian culture. During the 18 days of the first Egyptian revolution no such incidents were reported.

This plot against the judiciary, the media, activists and women made people very furious. What made people even more angry was that many events and actions confirmed that the "Guidance Office" of the Muslim Brothers was ruling Egypt, not President Morsi. Nearly all the advisers of the president surprisingly resigned, one by one, after the presidential decree was issued that con-

solidated Morsi's power. They all confirmed that they had not been aware that such a decree was pending and were not even consulted. It became very apparent to all of them that they were just a façade for Morsi to show that he had advisers from the liberal parties. People started questioning, who, then, had the president been consulting?

Also, the fact that people got to know about presidential and governmental decisions through the use of popular media such as Facebook and Twitter by leading members of the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice party just days before such decisions were announced to the public raised many unsettling questions.

Frustration and anger grew further after Brotherhood supporters and militants beat and tortured protestors last February in front of Etehadia Presidential Palace. Videos and pictures were circulated and the Muslim Brotherhood didn't even deny it, insisting that the protestors were thugs and outlaws. However, all the world witnessed through videos and on TV that ordinary Egyptians were actually the tortured and beaten. These images and incidents not only shocked the people but aggravated their anger and determination to get rid of what had apparently become very clear: this is not the rule that they aspired for after the January 2011 revolution.

The widespread perception and the incidents of Islamization of Egypt (as though Egypt was not an Islamic country before they came to power) that took place during the year of Morsi's presidency further convinced the people that he and his followers were trying to instigate a new version of Islam that is far from the moderate Islam they believe in. In the eyes of the Muslim Brothers, Islam is a mixture of violence and terrorism known to us as the Jihad, which allows them to do any evil in the name of Islam. To enable them to achieve their goal, they were trying to grab as much power as possible by dominating all Egypt's institutions as well as key positions in Egyptian ministries. They also tried to penetrate the intelligence department and the army, claiming they were corrupted, which is far from the truth.

Moreover, Ministers in the government were appointed only because they are

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Morsi

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members of the Muslim Brotherhood, known as the “Ekhwan”, such as the appointment of the director of Morsi’s presidential campaign, a sales representative in the Vodafone telecom company, as a Minister of Investment! It became very apparent that “Ekhwanization” was taking place in all the key positions in the government as well as in local municipalities.

In my opinion, the straw that broke the camel’s back was the investigation that a young and brave prosecutor undertook which discovered that during the first Egyptian Revolution Morsi and more than 20 members of the Muslim Brothers escaped from the Wadi El Natroun Jail with organized help and support from members of Hammas, El Qaeda and Hezbu Allah, all known terrorist groups. It became known as the 2011 Prison Break. Over the last year and until now, events continue to unfold as to the true violent nature of the Muslim Brothers, who do not carry inside them the values of peaceful Islam that all Egyptians believe in but an agenda that feeds evil and radical Islam through terrorism.

People went to the streets because they realized they elected not only an incompetent president who was about to destroy the ancient civilization of Egypt in one year but, most important, because they realized they are under the leadership of an international terrorist group trying to make Egypt the base for all Jihadists and terrorists in the world in the name of religion.

Egyptians are known to be peaceful, kind, patient and very tolerant, all values of true Islam, but once they reach their breaking point no ruler through history and no current regime or superpower can oppress or break them. By June 30, the first anniversary of the ruling of the Muslim Brothers, they reached that point and on July 3, backed by their patriotic army, toppled not only Morsi but the whole Muslim Brotherhood Project in Egypt. ■

Alia Arafa worked for the Foundation from 1983 through 2000. She obtained her master’s degree in Public Administration from the American University in Cairo, specializing in Development Studies. She held several executive positions at international donor agencies in Egypt and elsewhere. From June 2010 and until May 2013 she was director of the Program Management Unit of the EU Human Rights and Good Governance Programs in the Ministry of International Cooperation in Cairo.

WHAT’S ON LAFF’S WEBSITE

These are brief excerpts from articles that appear in their entirety on our website. Read them there and check out other features on the site, including past issues of the newsletter.

After Gay-Rights Victory, a New Challenge for Grant Makers

By Michael Seltzer

Two days before the 44th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which occurred on the streets of my neighborhood, Greenwich Village, the Supreme Court ruled that the Defense of Marriage Act violates the constitution of the United States and states have the right to pass same-sex marriage laws.

While the decision came on the heels of another Supreme Court decision dealing an unconscionable blow to voting rights, the court’s decision on same-sex marriage will long be known as one of the most significant and historic civil-rights victories in our lifetimes.

It also marks a time for philanthropy to reflect on its power to further social justice: Nonprofits, with the support of foun-

dations, paved the way for this decision, but now donors have much more work to do to help assure full equality for all.

J. Bob Alotta, executive director of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, notes that the work to secure civil rights is far from completed: “We have funded in 43 states and 81 countries and have learned that we must not draw neat lines around decades or movements and say, ‘Done.’ Our work is not done. We are erasing the torture of our ancestors, the toil of our predecessors, and our best imaginable selves if we do not rise up immediately and demand justice. We have no choice but to physically stand where the law now refuses to go. But I am so, so proud of all of the people who have brought this day to fruition. I also deeply believe in tomorrow.” ■

Will Hertz Moves On

By Bob Tolles

LAFFers will be saddened by the news that **Will Hertz**, formerly of the Secretary’s office at the Foundation and one of the most consistent contributors to these pages, has announced his retirement and will no longer be one of our editors. In a note to **John LaHoud**, our managing editor, he wrote that having reached the age of 88 he was ready to bow out and pass on his share of the editorship to a younger person recruited from more recent Foundation alumni.

“With the passing of time and such stalwarts as **Frank Sutton**, I am simply out of touch with current Foundation staff and recent retirees,” he wrote. “The LAFF Newsletter editorship should be in the hands of people who know, and known by, its readers”

In a recent personal note to colleagues,

Will wrote of a major change in his lifestyle. After losing his wife a few years ago, he decided not to carry on as a solo act, sold his home overlooking the water in Yarmouth, Maine, and moved into the Thornton Oaks retirement community in nearby Brunswick. He took a two-bedroom suite, one room of which is used for his office where he writes concert notes for musical organizations in Maine, Massachusetts and elsewhere, a practice of many years. Because of its proximity to Bowdoin College, the community has a high quotient of retired academics and rewarding side activities, including lectures and musical and theatrical events in Brunswick and nearby Portland.

He added: “This was the right move at the right time. I recommend this style of life to those in their senior years who feel the need for a change, dinner companionship and someone else to mow the lawn and shovel the snow.” ■

REFLECTIONS ON A DECADE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS

By Joan Dassin, Mary Zurbuchen and Rachel Clift

“IFP represented new thinking about the way in which international aid could be used to help vulnerable groups reach their educational and leadership goals while giving back to their societies.”

Chinua Achebe, Nigerian author

Staff, alumni, board members and guests of the Ford Foundation’s International Fellowships Program (IFP) gathered at the Foundation’s New York headquarters in May to celebrate a decade-long, groundbreaking program that transformed a traditional fellowship mechanism into a global network linking higher education and social change.

Attended by nearly 200 guests, including IFP directors from the program’s 22 offices worldwide, alumni, current fellows, university representatives, the Board of the International Fellowships Fund (IFP’s managing organization) and many Foundation officers and staff, the event highlighted the achievements of the Foundation’s largest ever program in international education.

From its beginning in 2001, IFP provided higher education opportunities for social justice leaders from marginalized communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Russia. The program supported more than 4,300 exceptional individuals, virtually all of whom work for social justice in their home communities.

Having successfully fulfilled the program’s twin goals of broadening access to higher education and building leadership for social justice, IFP is scheduled to close operations in September.

Below is a brief synthesis of the program that builds on excerpts from a new book, *Linking Higher Education to Social Change* by the writers of this article, introduced at the May 23 celebration, and offers an inside glimpse into how the program was conceived and executed as well as insights into lessons learned over the past decade.

Who We Are

Supported initially through a \$280 million grant made by the Ford Foundation to the International Fellowships Fund (IFF) in

2001, IFP removed traditional barriers to advanced higher education in several ways. To start, we eliminated restrictions on age limits, study fields and foreign language requirements, and provided fellows with a variety of pre-academic training opportunities to help ensure degree completion and overall success, particularly for those who studied in unfamiliar cultural and academic settings. By the end of the program, IFP Fellows had earned masters and doctoral degrees from more than 600 universities in nearly 50 countries.

IFP developed a unique fellowship model that integrated gender, race, ethnicity, region, religion, economic and educational background, and physical disability into its recruitment and selection process. By working closely with partner organizations on the ground in 22 countries, we targeted students from marginalized groups and required successful candidates to demonstrate not only academic potential but also leadership capacity and social commitment. Candidates had to hold an undergraduate degree but also be activists or practitioners. They would be steeped in their local context and culture, yet eager to acquire new knowledge and perspectives. They would see the fellowship not only as an opportunity for personal gain, but also as a way to advance the public good. Above all, they would come from marginalized communities that by definition are far less likely to have access to advanced education than their more privileged counterparts.

Thus the program’s goals were twofold: broaden access to and equity in higher education, and enhance fellows’ ability to contribute to social change.

The Questions We Asked

Applicants were assessed along the dimension of socio-economic disadvantage, and then scored for three other major selection criteria: academic achievement, social commitment and leadership potential. Of our more than 4,300 Fellows, 79 percent are first-generation university students; 73 percent were raised in a family where parental income was below the national average; 57 percent have mothers who did not advance further than primary school, and 68 percent come from rural areas or small cities and towns. Many diverse ethnic, linguistic and

religious minorities are represented among our cohorts and, significantly, half of IFP Fellows are women.

The usual criterion for international scholarships—selecting the “best and brightest” on the basis of a candidate’s academic record—was insufficient. Instead, the program looked for indicators of intellectual and personal achievement in other realms— independent publications, whether candidates had founded organizations, or if they had shown extraordinary motivation and success in overcoming social or economic obstacles to further their education. Leadership capacity and social commitment were as important as academic performance.

The IFP fellows achieve academic results that show they can perform as well as their more privileged counterparts. Virtually all fellows were accepted to full-time masters, doctoral or similar postgraduate programs in competitive universities in Britain, continental Europe, the United States and other regions. Fully 97 percent of more than 4,100 program alumni have successfully completed their fellowships, and 91 percent have earned advanced degrees. They also remain true to their social-justice commitment. The International Fellowships Program didn’t contribute to “brain drain”. On the contrary, the vast majority of the alumni have returned home, where they utilize their new knowledge for the betterment of the most vulnerable groups in their societies.

These diverse individuals came from difficult and marginal backgrounds, and lacked the financial and social capital of more privileged members of their societies. IFP needed to shape the “enabling conditions” that would assist each fellow to cross national and cultural boundaries and succeed in demanding and unfamiliar academic and social settings.

Development of a range of “pre-academic training” approaches for fellows who needed to study in a second- or third-language environment turned out to be one of the program’s most significant innovations, in addition to IFP’s flexible policy regarding study destination, which partially removed the critical “language bar” preventing many talented men and women all over the world from securing advanced study opportunities.

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Pre-enrollment training in areas such as research and computer skills and academic writing also prepared fellows for rigorous graduate-level study programs.

Locally based partner organizations played a key role in managing the fellows' anxieties and expectations. Partners' insights into individual circumstances provided context and continuity when fellows experienced personal or academic problems, when family emergencies arose and as fellows faced challenges of re-integration after finishing their studies. Universities where IFP fellows were clustered also provided ongoing support, and in the course of working with IFP developed new approaches for serving non-traditional students.

We also knew that fellows could form a unique and powerful collective resource once they had finished their studies. Most alumni are engaged in multiple activities, including further study, social and political activism, and public policy roles, and in case after case they report that the IFP fellowship opened new and often unanticipated opportunities, including employment, research grants, doctoral-level degrees and increased visibility for social justice initiatives.

Lessons Learned

Several critical lessons emerge from the IFP experience. First, as thousands of applications poured into IFP partner offices around the world, it became clear that the program could meet only a tiny fraction of the demand for fellowships. We received nearly 80,000 completed applications over the ten-year selection cycle, and tens of thousands of additional inquiries and preliminary applications.

Second, we now know that with proper support structures in place talented individuals from marginalized communities can achieve academic success in a wide variety of higher education institutions. In working with the fellows across the world, IFP found that academic preparation for overseas study is a relatively low-cost, up-front investment that yields consistently high returns.

A third lesson is that both public and private universities can increase their proportion of non-traditional international students by adopting more flexible admissions policies, including conditional admissions. Universities can offer bridging programs and strong academic counseling that enable students to make timely transitions into their full-time academic programs as their skill levels improve.

Fourth is the importance of working with local organizations to identify candidates who authentically represent marginalized or excluded groups. Even universities with limited recruiting budgets can draw on local expertise to help them reach international candidates other than the usual urban elites.

Finally, on the policy level, many donor countries provide individual scholarships as part of their foreign assistance programs. Yet donors often find it difficult to demonstrate a direct connection between scholarships and overall foreign-assistance goals, such as poverty reduction. Targeting fellowships to talented leaders living and working with vulnerable communities and committed to solving their problems will help increase the chances that these beneficiaries will return home after their studies and help advance local development.

The IFP Legacy

IFP's influences extend beyond individuals. We see impacts on partner universities, which transformed their admissions practices and designed new academic programs to serve students from socially excluded groups. The IFP model for pre-academic training is being used at the undergraduate as well as graduate level in various countries, again to prepare students from marginalized groups for success in highly competitive programs. Many other scholarship programs around the world have consciously used IFP selection criteria to reach beyond the usual elites and ensure that students from marginalized groups do not enter their study programs at a disadvantage.

Overall, IFP demonstrated that greater inclusiveness in higher education can be achieved without any loss of academic quality, and that higher education can—and should—be positively linked to social change.

This is the enduring value of the IFP legacy.

This is an edited version of an article that is published in its entirety on the LAFF Society's website. Background also is available at www.fordifp.org

Joan Dassin, executive director of the IFP, worked at the Foundation from 1989 to 1996 as the Representative for Brazil and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. **Mary Zurbuchen**, IFP's director for Asia and Russia, worked at the Foundation from 1984 to 2000 in the Bangkok, Manila, Jakarta and New Delhi offices. She served as Representative in Indonesia from 1992 to 2000. *Rachel Clift is IFP's communications officer.*

IN MEMORIAM

Penny Alex, who worked in the Foundation's Latin America and Caribbean program from 1984 to 1997, died in May.



"She was always a positive person," said **Nellie Toma**,

who worked with her at Ford, "and, even though she had been ill for a long time, always had a happy demeanor."

Her husband died three years ago. She is survived by two sons, Michael and Scott, and a daughter-in-law, Sally.

DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

THREE FILMS will be shown later this fall at the Foundation in New York City as part of Philanthropy New York's Documentary Film Series, designed "to get our members thinking about alternative avenues for promoting their missions."

All three will be shown on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30, with the filmmakers available at a wine and cheese reception before each showing and a panel discussion after.

The films are:

October 3: *The Trials of Muhammad Ali*, an exploration of the boxer's struggle to overturn a five-year prison sentence for refusing to serve in the military during the Vietnam War.

November 14: *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*, the story of a 98-year-old black woman's odyssey through 70 years of the civil rights struggle.

December 5: *Who is Davani Crystal?*, a study of illegal immigration told through the life of a single immigrant who "died trying to find a better life".

The LAFFing Parade

Susan Berresford, a former president of the Ford Foundation, is one of three women to be honored by the Global Fairness Initiative (GFI) with its fourth annual Fairness Award in a ceremony October 9 in Washington, D.C. The other honorees are Tarja Halonen, president of Finland from 2000 to 2012, and Zeinab Al-Momani, president of Specific Union for Women Farmers in Jordan.

“These women,” said Karen Tramontano, co-founder of GFI with former President William Clinton, “exemplify a kind of leadership that is central to GFI’s belief that only by integrating the work of ‘grassroots’ and ‘grasstops’ organizations and individuals can true economic access and opportunity be catalyzed and rights and protections extended to the world’s working poor.” GFI’s mission is to “make our global economy work for those who need it most, the world’s working poor.”

The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. at the historic Howard Theatre. Further information for those who would like to attend is available at www.fairnessaward.org

A plea to increase “investment in young children in the United States” as a “critical step forward during a time of growing inequality” was made by **Lisa Jordan** in a recent article in The Huffington Post. “It may be a self-evident truth that we are all created equal,” she wrote, “but inequalities entrenched by the age of five can last a lifetime.”

Jordan has been executive director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation since 2009, after having spent nine years at Ford.

Her article, titled “All Eyes are on the United States,” was published online as part of Huffington’s Global Motherhood initiative, supported in part by Johnson & Johnson.

“Unfortunately,” she wrote, “in an era of financial shortages and political vitriol, elected officials often consider long-term investments—particularly those that don’t benefit people of voting age—far too politically risky....investing in early childhood should be a no-brainer....action requires strong, visionary leadership—and well-informed voters holding political leaders’ feet to the fire.”

Calvin Sims was named president and chief executive officer of International House, a New York City cultural exchange facility that provides a variety of programs and leadership training for its diverse, multi-cultural residents. More than 65,000 people have lived at the house on Riverside

Drive since it was established in 1924 with contributions from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and the Cleveland H. Dodge family. Those who have benefitted from its programs include two Nobel Prize winners, heads of state and award-winning authors, singers and actors.

Sims, who was a program officer in the media and justice initiative at Ford since 2007, is a graduate of Yale University and spent 20 years with The New York Times as a foreign correspondent and director and producer in the newspaper’s television, documentary film and web divisions. He held an Edward R. Murrow Press Fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations, and was Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University.

Yes! Magazine, co-founded and published by **Fran Korten**, has won the 2013 Utne Media Award for General Excellence. The magazine, based on Bainbridge Island in Washington State, was cited for several articles, particularly one about how a citizen-led effort in Boulder, Colo., is trying to replace the corporate-controlled power utility with their own renewable-energy utility. Christian Williams, editor-in-chief of Utne Reader, said the magazine’s “message of hope and optimism is both inspiring and essential in these uncertain times.”

Korten, who worked at the Foundation from 1978 to 1997 in community development in the Jakarta and Manila offices and in New York, said of the non-profit magazine, “The practical solutions we feature fit together to reveal large societal shifts that hold the potential for a better world.”

David Finkelstein, a prolific free-lance writer whose work has appeared in a broad range of publications, including The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Progressive and Sports Afield, has had a busy year.

Most recently, in the September-October issue of The Humanist, he questioned whether a sign in New York City’s LaGuardia Airport—“WELCOME TO LAGUARDIA. GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS”—is “at best inappropriate, at worst tasteless and offensive....I was also deeply disturbed because...the same sentiment...had not so long ago spewed forth from the lips of none other than Osama bin Laden.”

In July, an “open letter” to Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Mike Rogers, chairs of the Senate and House intelligence committees, was published on the Consortiumnews.com website and prompted scores of comments. In it, he said he is “outraged at your

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DARREN WALKER NAMED FOUNDATION’S PRESIDENT



DARREN WALKER has been named president of the Ford Foundation, the tenth in its 77-year history.

Walker had been Ford’s vice president for Education, Creativity and Free Expression since he was hired in 2010. Before that he was a vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation after serving as chief operating officer of the Abyssinian Development Corporation in Harlem.

“Darren is the kind of thoughtful, intellectually curious and engaging leader that we had all hoped to find,” said the Foundation’s chair of its Board of Trustees, Irene Hirano Inouye. “He brings to the role extensive experience in both the private and non-profit sectors, which we consider valuable in an era that demands collaboration across many fields.”

Walker grew up in the small town of Goose Creek, Texas, near Houston and is a graduate of the University of Texas. He worked as an international lawyer and in the capital markets division of the Union Bank of Switzerland before entering the nonprofit world.

He serves on several boards, including the Arcus Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and the New York City Ballet.

More background is available on the Foundation’s website.

At a recent gathering of Ford staff, he linked the work of current and past staff in determining “What should we help build next?”

He said, “...whatever we help the social justice visionaries of this generation to build next – at its foundation will be our staff. Because, like those who came before them and those who will follow, they are passionate about this place and its mission, and the enduring legacy we leave.

“In this way, one of the most indispensable elements of our culture is stewardship across generations. We’re not just stewards of what we’ve helped build, but of the hard work and intellectual rigor of our predecessors. Together, we are part of an unbroken chain of commitment to social justice that reaches back to our earliest years and stretches far ahead of us. What a thrill to recognize the power inherent in that inter-generational bond.” ■

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knee-jerk 'security first' response" to Edward Snowden's release of National Security Agency documents. America, he wrote, is "fast becoming" a country where people are "so concerned for their immediate safety and well-being" that they are prepared "to abandon the rights which have defined us as a nation and which we once so cherished."

Finkelstein, a graduate of the Harvard Law School, joined the Foundation in 1967 as its first East Asian specialist, a position he held for 10 years.

Urvashi Vaid is one of four writers contributing to an article titled "What's Next for the LGBT Movement?" posted in June on OpinionNation, the blog site of The Nation magazine. Commenting on recent Supreme Court decisions, she wrote that "what comes after the marriage cases ignores the reality that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people's lives are not free, equal or secure, even with the positive outcome of these...decisions." In assessing the strengths and weaknesses of, the opportunities for and the threats to the movement, she said there is a need to create an "infrastructure of social media, legal, research and watch-

dog groups to expose and defeat the right wing culturally and politically...the work ahead for queers is to be transformative, not transfixed."

Vaid, a former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, is the director of the Engaging Tradition Project at the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at the Columbia University Law School. She worked in the Governance and Civil Society program at the Foundation from 2001 to 2005.

The filmmaker **Andre Robert Lee**, a former Foundation program assistant, has been showing his new documentary film at selected sites around the country. The film, *The Prep School Negro*, draws on his years at Georgetown Friends School in Philadelphia to explore the experiences of present-day prep school students to see "how much has really changed inside the ivory tower." The film observes that while his family believed "elite education was Andre's way up and out...this new world cost him and his family much more than anyone could have anticipated." The film is described as "the poignant and unapologetic truth about who

really pays the consequences for yesterday's accelerated desegregation and today's racial naivete."

Dates for the showings, some of which include workshops after the film and appearances by Lee, are listed at www.theprepschoolnegro.org/see-the-film/ ■

D.C. Chapter Meeting

LAFF'S CHAPTER in Washington, D.C., has planned a get-together starting at 6 the evening of Tuesday, October 8. LAFF's president, Shep Forman, will be there to provide an update on recent developments at LAFF and the Ford Foundation.

The event, which will include drinks and appetizers, will be at the El-Hibri Foundation at 1420 16th Street, NW, near P Street.

The gathering is open to all former Foundation staff, whether or not they belong to LAFF. Those planning to attend, as well as those who will not be able to, are requested to contact Judy Barsalou at jmbarsalou@gmail.com.