



# LAFF

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

Spring 2016, No. 82



Richard Magat, co-founder of LAFF, at left, and Peter Geithner, a former President of LAFF.

## LAFF is 25, Join the Celebration

In the early spring of 1991 several former staff of the Ford Foundation began asking about each other, looking for a way to connect again with what had been “a significant part of our lives”.

From that desire to re-create the “colleagueship” they had known at Ford came the idea to form an alumni group, and from that idea came the Life After the Ford Foundation Society.

Its purpose, said its principal founders, **Richard Magat and Edward J. Meade, Jr.**, was “simply to circulate news of the professional and/or personal events of former staff members, thereby to remember old bonds, possibly renew acquaintances, and to help one another professionally”.

The society grew quickly, in large part because both men had spent the bulk of their careers at Ford and had a wide range

of friends and colleagues they could contact directly. Dick, who later became president of the Edward W. Hazen Foundation, had been director of what was then the Office of Reports for 25 years. Ed, who died in 1994, was at Ford for 29 years, working primarily on education and then, until he retired in 1989, as the chief officer for the urban poverty program.

What started with a few has grown to nearly 500 members in all parts of the world, and many of them will be coming to New York City on May 17 to mark the 25th anniversary of that small but hopeful beginning.

The theme for the day: “Life After, and at, the Ford Foundation: Understanding the past to frame the future”.

A planning committee of both LAFF members and Foundation staff has been working on a detailed agenda for the day, which will

be sent along with a formal invitation. Some events have been determined, though.

After people sign in and mingle over pastries and coffee, they will be welcomed by **Darren Walker**, president of the Foundation, and **Shep Forman**, president of LAFF. Dick Magat will recount the early days of LAFF.

Two morning sessions are planned, one being “A Walk Through the Foundation’s History” guided by Pat Rosenfield and Rachel Wimpee of the Rockefeller Archives Center, where Ford’s archives now are kept.

The second will look at the Foundation today, “All That’s New: Strategy, Learning and the Thematic Areas”, with Martin Abregu, Ford’s vice president for Democracy Rights and Justice, and Bess Rothenberg, director of the Strategy and Learning Unit.

During the lunch break Darren Walker will hold a conversation with LAFF members and Foundation staff, covering such topics as the Foundation’s work now, challenges facing philanthropic institutions, and the visions of the future.

There will be at least three “breakout” sessions in the afternoon, tentatively dealing with how foundations operate in a challenging era for civil society; the Changing Face of Philanthropy; and the outlook for grant-making in a charged United States political environment.

Before the day ends with a cocktail reception, those attending will have a chance to walk through the building to see again the physical space they once worked in before the building closes for two years for renovations, a project that will be explained in a separate session following the afternoon breakout meetings.

The building will be closed later this year to begin a \$190 million renovation project necessitated by the need to bring the nearly 50-year-old structure up to current New York City building and environmental codes. It’s expected to be completed by the summer of 2018. In the meantime, the 375 employees

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## LAFF is 25

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will work in a building at 1440 Broadway, at 40th Street.

The design of the building will not change. It will still be a 12-story office tower surrounding a 174-foot-high atrium, what was described soon after it opened as “an act of faith in the midst of ruin.” Its exterior and the atrium have been official New York City landmarks since 1997.

“We’re not only grant makers but stewards of a building that Henry Ford II commissioned and was deeply involved with,” Darren Walker said in a recent interview with *The New York Times*. “This building is part of our legacy and was a gift to the city. And I take that responsibility seriously.”

But the Foundation is taking advantage of the project to impose more modern sensibilities on the space within those walls and around the atrium.

“This building is not compatible with our culture as an organization,” Darren said. “It is hierarchical, off-putting and inaccessible.”

So, among other changes, the separated offices will be replaced by wide-open work spaces, a move that the original architect, Kevin Roche, endorses. “You get away from

the idea of the isolation of the office and create a community,” he said, “which I subscribe to 100 percent.”

In addition, the presidential suite will be reduced by half, the space for non-profit conferences will be doubled, two floors will be made available for use by other non-profit organizations, and space will be provided for a new visitor center, an art gallery and open areas for visitors.

Some aspects of the building that made it special will be retained: the furniture will stay and, while all the plants now in the atrium will be replaced, new plantings will re-create the unique atmosphere of the central area.

On May 17, the building will be a vivid reminder of the past while the activities being planned will help both LAFF and the Foundation look toward the future. ■



Ford Foundation Headquarters,  
(Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo Associates)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I retired from the Foundation in 1996, our exceptionally able grants administrator and colleague **Laurice Sarraf** put together a list of all the grants I made or signed off on during my 18 years at the Foundation. These grants spanned nearly two decades of the Foundation's work in human rights and social justice, governance and public policy, and international affairs, as well as support for rural development, the social sciences and economics during my initial stint in Brazil.

I am struck both by the bold effort that list represents and saddened by how many of the deep-seated problems we tried so determinedly to address at the time are still with us, often in transmuted and sometimes more blatant form. I am also reminded, as **Michael Lipsky** points out in his piece for this Newsletter, that successful grant making is a collaborative effort, requiring trust, cooperation and commitment among grant seekers and grant makers, program officers and grants administrators, multiple funders, and public and private actors.

Now, trying to make sense of the growing inequalities, social divides and political turmoil that surround us across the globe, I find myself asking: Are the problems simply intractable? Are our resources too limited? Are our actions too narrow or stove-piped? Are our time horizons too short?

These questions are not for philanthropy alone. A host of national and international institutions, including the United Nations System, grapple in seeming perpetuity with questions of peace and security, racism, ethnic conflict, social justice, public welfare, good governance, immigration and climate change, to name but a few of the challenges that continue to vex us.

There is no question that we have made progress, though too often promise seems unfulfilled, deep-rooted problems seem insurmountable or the darkest

instincts of humankind appear to be overwhelming our better instincts. We are at this moment living in especially complex and perilous times in which the economic and political processes and institutions that have shaped our adult and professional lives no longer are believed by many to function for the majority or, for that matter, the general common good.

Economic disparities and social inequities appear starker than ever, despite a century of experimentation with diverse development and governing models. Representative democracy itself seems particularly in play, as outsized economic interests vie with insurgent popular constituencies for control of party machineries and the gateways to political power, and sharpened political discourse threatens civility and the public order.

It is with this in mind that I so look forward to **LAFF at 25**, the May 17 colloquium and reunion that Ford's president, **Darren Walker**, is enthusiastically hosting at the Foundation. It will be a time to collectively take stock, celebrate the work we have done and enable us to think together about the role of philanthropy in general and the Ford Foundation in particular as it experiments with innovative approaches to the root causes of inequality that give rise to so much grievance and anger.

Understanding history, as Darren has pointed out, is critically important to this enterprise, since it helps us understand the evolution of the problems that are still with us, and provides lessons that can orient the Foundation's, and our own, efforts going forward.

Your presence and contributions at the May 17 celebrations will greatly enrich our discussions about the Foundation's past and future work. It also provides an opportunity to help shape LAFF's agenda for the next 25 years. Please make every effort to join us. I look forward, along with Darren, to seeing you in May.

**Shep Forman**

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# PHILANTHROPY IN AFRICA AND THE “ENDURING NETWORK” OF LAFF

by Alan Fowler

The Ford Foundation creates enduring networks in mysterious ways. This reflection is prompted by the South Africa office’s funding for a “first” for Africa: a Chair in African Philanthropy at the Wits Business School in Johannesburg, which I will help establish as a visiting professor.

The Foundation earlier had funded the John Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, in Cairo, but not as an academic chair.

The story stretches back some 30 years to my stint as a program officer for public policy and governance in the Nairobi office. Of interest is what happened in the time between, a LAFF-like weaving of personal and professional relationships around the Foundation’s commitment to the co-evolution of a research infrastructure and philanthropy, or gifting, on the continent.

The recent planning grant to set up the Chair in African Philanthropy has many parents with Foundation links. A few milestones help trace the origins and trajectory through the people, moments and initiatives that contributed to this latest structural investment enabling the continent to study gifting in its own terms to better reflect, learn about and value itself.

Maybe it starts in the late 1980s when the Foundation had just established an office in Harare, Zimbabwe as a satellite of Nairobi, with **Peter Fry** as assistant representative. At that time, unlike southern Africa, South Africa was “serviced” directly from New York with **John Gerhart** and **David Bonbright** then in the lead of a history well described by David in LAFF’s Summer 2015 issue of the newsletter.

A potential grantee in Zimbabwe working with Save the Children Fund, **Gerry Salole**, pointed out that among indigenous non-governmental organizations, “a quintessential African Institution was strangely completely invisible to development pundits and agencies who kept building bad copies of what people were already doing for themselves.”

Move on a few years to a model of “indigenously-connected” community foundations that was taking shape in the United States as well as being tested in other countries. In East Africa, initially hosted by the Aga Khan Foundation, Ford’s Nairobi program officer **Tade Aina** was stimulating formation of what

has, for example, become the Kenya Community Development Foundation. The African Women’s Development Fund is a West African example.

In newly “independent” South Africa, where **Jim Joseph** had served as America’s post-apartheid ambassador, disappointing experiences of implementing this model prompted the, by then, Foundation Representative Gerry Salole to allocate a grant for studying how indigenous, or “horizontal”, systems of gifting actually worked in southern

His consistent search for learning about helping traditions of people with more limited wealth is a thread throughout much of what has transpired.

Able led by **Susan Wilkinson-Maposa**, with myself as technical advisor, three Poor Philanthropist publications stemming from the initial CLPV research and follow-up studies shed new light on how and why people who are poor help each other. Results in terms of community foundation thinking and practice of “horizontalism” found resonance in the United States, as well as with other parts of the continent, shared, for example, through meetings of the Africa Grantmakers Network, another Foundation grantee. This “knowledge” grant meshed well with another major strand of the Foundation’s efforts for and on the continent.

All along, starting in the mid 1990s and together with others, the Foundation was supporting a nascent International Society for Third Research (ISTR). Complementing its “activist” local organization-building efforts, led by **Michael Edwards**, the Foundation was investing in the development of a global infrastructure to study what later became referred to as civil society. New York and the Foundation’s Africa offices were supporting ISTR global and regional conferences as well as a new Centre for Civil Society at the University of Kwazulu Natal with **Adam Habib** as its first director, serving with me on the ISTR board.

Fast forward to the Foundation’s Special Initiative for Africa (SIA). This effort was conceived in 2000 to counter the depressing international narrative of a continent without hope or capacity. With **Akwasi Aidoo** and **Bheki Moyo** as its architects and first executive and program director respectively, in 2005 this incubating effort became embedded on the continent as Trust Africa, a further stage in infrastructure building.

Bheki’s doctoral thesis on the role of four American Foundations in southern Africa had caught my eye as a valuable contribution to observing how they learn from their role in the region, leading to numerous conversations between us over the ensuing years. His subsequent appointment as Director of the South-

*Continued on next page*



Clockwise from upper left: John Gerhart, Gerry Salole, James Joseph, and Tade Aina.

Africa. That research grant connected with a leadership initiative in South Africa started by Jim Joseph on his return to America. This entity was the Centre for Leadership and Public Values (CLPV) at the University of Cape Town Business School. In his role on the research project’s advisory board, he recalled that

“In the book, *The Charitable Impulse*, published in 1989, I examined the relationship between wealth and social conscience in communities and cultures outside of the United States in order to demonstrate the universality of the charitable impulse.” (Foreword to *The Poor Philanthropist*, V. I)

## Philanthropy in Africa

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ern Africa Trust and Adam Habib's appointment as Vice Chancellor of WITS university gave both impetus and opportunity for today's critical step: a dedicated academic home that complements and allows space to reflect and critique the Foundation's many practical grantmaker achievements and failures.

In our conversations, the Foundation's current Representative in South Africa, **Nicolette Naylor**, describes this grant in the following way:

"We have all heard about the rise of new philanthropy in Africa where there is an increase in the number of self-identified philanthropists on the continent and people are talking and writing about this phenomenon but somehow no common agenda has emerged that brings together African narratives on philanthropy in a way that grapples with the ideological tensions between narratives from the West, drowning out narratives emanating from the continent."

She goes on to explain that:

"In a context where the benevolence of Western private philanthropy is no longer assumed and instead heavily critiqued for undermining sovereign States on the continent it is critically important to unpack and critique notions of philanthropy that speak to the new geopolitical and economic moment that we find ourselves in. The Chair offers an opportunity to present alternatives emanating from notions of Ubuntu; religious teachings and communitarianism on the continent. The Chair may also offer a robust critique of philanthropic models imported from the United States by U.S. foundations. The Chair, in the spirit of Academic Chairs, is exciting because while it may make mainstream private foundations uncomfortable it will also allow for a deeper, reflective and thoughtful analysis, grounded in rigorous, innovative academic research and writing."

The Chair is interesting at another level because it comes full circle in terms of the notion that networking paths can creatively lead back to Ford and to members of LAFF. Nicolette has been employed by the Foundation for nine years, starting her tenure in January 2007 as the Human Rights Program Officer based in Johannesburg. She was heavily influenced by the work the office was undertaking in partnership with other Africa offices to promote local philanthropy and its infrastructure. This was under the leadership of **Alice Brown**, the Representative in South Africa at that time, assisted by **Halima Mohamed**, who had worked alongside both

Alice and, previously, Gerry Salole.

The combination of **Alice Brown**, **Adhiambo Odaga**, **Tade Aina** (Representatives in the West Africa and East Africa Offices) and people like Mike Edwards in New York, all influenced her thinking around philanthropy and civil society and its importance as a field of investigation for the continent.

During the early years as a Foundation Program Officer she was introduced to Trust Africa and heard of efforts by Tade Aina to catalyze the indigenous philanthropy in Kenya. Unfortunately, this was also at a time when the Foundation decided to dramatically reduce its funding toward a robust philanthropy program.

In her experience, the closure of the philanthropy portfolio in the Office for Southern Africa had a devastating impact on the exploratory investments of people like



**Akwasi Aidoo and Nicolette Naylor**

the late John Gerhart, Gerry Salole and Alice Brown. Their early work was geared toward strengthening local indigenous philanthropy and the civil society infrastructure for philanthropy to thrive, albeit from a U.S. perspective building on learning about U.S. models of philanthropy and community foundations.

As Nicolette was musing over how one could embark on studies in the field of philanthropy on the continent, Halima Mohamed had left Ford and completed her post-graduate studies in this field. They stayed in touch while Halima continued her path towards Trust Africa and, in this way, Nicolette became exposed to the work of Bheki Moyo and his exceptional thesis. Today Halima works as a consultant to Ford Southern Africa advising Nicolette on the philanthropy program in the office.

In June 2014, Darren Walker announced that Ford would reconsider its work on philanthropy and re-engage in the space. Nicolette was asked to join a Global Working Group within Ford to contribute to the debates that the institution was having as it restructured its work. The Working Group organized itself under the rubric "Philan-

thropy: Reboot, Reposition, Reimagine".

Based on her institutional memory and recollections around earlier endeavors at Ford, Nicolette wanted to contribute to the discussions in a way that would build on the work of those who had come before her. Around this time, with great enthusiasm, she became engrossed with and inspired by the hefty volume *Giving to Help, Helping to Give*, edited by Tade Aina and Bheki Moyo.

Assuming the role of Representative in 2015, Nicolette started a series of dialogues with Bheki Moyo on the theme of African philanthropy. When, along with Adam Habib, Bheki Moyo presented the idea of a Chair in Philanthropy she did not take long to confirm her enthusiasm.

The office decided to cautiously re-engage in the space by supporting the Chair as a thoughtful, though as you will see from the quotations, thought-provoking re-engagement with knowledge generation and higher education. This step is happening at a time when the Foundation, led by Representatives on the continent, wants to embrace and support knowledge generation that emanates *on* the continent, *for* the continent and *by leaders* on the continent while fostering ties with Foundation offices in Asia that are similarly exploring these themes, and by learning from the rich experiences within the LAFF community.

An inaugural working seminar bringing together participants from across and beyond the continent will co-define the Chair's pan-African character, agenda and profile. Once more, Foundation networking appears. In identifying participants for the inaugural seminar I came across LAFFer **Mark Sidel**, a fellow ex-president of ISTR, recently appointed visiting Chair in Community Philanthropy at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University.

This personal story illustrates what seeds the Foundation sows and the relational webs it can create with LAFF as a collective holding space for them all. The serendipity of my history and new interim role makes the Chair in African Philanthropy a unique cooperation between LAFF and current leadership on the continent that should no longer be a question of chance.

Should, perhaps, the next 25 years of LAFF be characterized by a reinvigorated partnership with the Foundation by mutual design for mutual benefit? Where there's a will there's a way. ■

*Alan Fowler is emeritus professor at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands.*

# TRACING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE FISCAL ANALYSIS INITIATIVE

by Michael Lipsky

The Stanford Social Innovation Review has published an account of the origins and development of the State Priorities Partnership that, for most of its existence, was known as the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative (SFAI), in its Spring 2016 issue: [http://ssir.org/articles/entry/statehouse\\_scrutiny](http://ssir.org/articles/entry/statehouse_scrutiny).

I thought the LAFF constituency might be interested in learning about the Initiative and its accomplishments, as writing the piece for the Review has provided me a chance to reflect on grant making as a process whose dynamics are mostly obscure to people who have not participated in foundation rites.

The core of the Initiative was to create organizations in the American states that would make their budgets and tax policies more transparent. The approach, broadly speaking, was already being executed to a high standard at the national level by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The fairly simple idea, easily grasped, was to replicate in the states what the Center already was doing so successfully at the national level.

The execution of the idea, as I explain in the Review article, was more challenging, since at the time there were no organizations in the states doing, or even fully capable of doing, such work.

But over the last 20 years the Partnership has become a notable part of the policy landscape in more than 40 states and the District of Columbia. Its many moving parts are supported by eight national funders and hundreds of local funders and individual contributors. (A directory of state Partnership members is at [www.statepriorities.org](http://www.statepriorities.org).)

In telling the story from my point of view as a grant maker—a requirement of contributors to the Review’s “Viewpoints” column—I was keenly aware that I was understating the grantees’ critical contributions to the design as well as the execution of the Initiative. The LAFF readership will recognize this as a cardinal sin of grant making, both because it radically simplifies and therefore distorts the reality, and because it is clumsy in terms of how the grant maker wishes to interact with people outside the foundation world. As grant makers we want to distribute credit, not claim it.

Another distortion results from perpetuating the view that the grant officer acts alone even within the world of philanthropy. Substantial grant initiatives are implicitly and necessarily collaborations between grant officers and the directors and senior staff members who help shape them and secure their authorization. This is obviously the case at a general level. At the very least, directors counsel on how to present ideas and written materials in ways that are consonant with the expectations of senior officers and trustees. In the case of the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, many people made specific interventions that fundamentally shaped the project.

**“...over the last 20 years the Partnership has become a notable part of the policy landscape in more than 40 states and the District of Columbia. Its many moving parts are supported by eight national funders and hundreds of local funders and individual contributors.”**

I joined the Ford Foundation in the summer of 1991 as a program officer in the Governance and Public Policy unit. **Shep Forman** was the director, continuing the work he had been doing as director of a larger unit that included the Foundation’s human rights and civil rights work. But he was also the newly appointed director of the Foundation’s International Affairs program. I had expected to be working with **David Arnold**, Shep’s deputy for the Governance work, but when I arrived in New York I found that he had gone off to India to oversee Governance programs there.

I experienced my first months remarkably free of guidance or supervision.

In the spring of the next year I was ready to talk to Shep about the Initiative. He was very positive, but he also thought that I had not reckoned with the cost of a project of the magnitude I had in mind. I realize now that I may have been ready to be a “grant maker”

but had no experience with assembling resources beyond my own portfolio and little idea how to go about it.

Shep encouraged me to talk to **Bob Curvin**, the director of the Urban Poverty Program, to see if UPP might be interested in supporting the work. Bob was very positive as well; through the remainder of my 12-year tenure at Ford, UPP contributed half the Foundation funds that supported the 12 core state grantees, a substantial \$300,000 per year.

Bob also pointed out that even with the pooling of resources from the two units we probably still didn’t have enough to fund the Initiative properly. He suggested that I reach out to other funders. Though I didn’t know other funders at that point, I began to meet with a new funder affinity group on income security. It was at a meeting of what soon became known as the Grantmakers’ Income Security Taskforce (GIST) that John Blyth of the C.S. Mott Foundation and James Hyman of the Annie E. Casey Foundation expressed interest in supporting the work. The involvement of these two foundations in the end permitted the Initiative to launch with those first 12 state groups. The Ford, Mott and Casey foundations were the only national funders for the first six years or so.

Other colleagues who made specific contributions to the effort include **Jan Jaffe**, who became acting director of the Governance program after that first year, and then **June Zeitlin** and **Michael Edwards**, who as directors supported the Initiative during subsequent stages. The first expansion of SFAI occurred when **Michael Seltzer**, my colleague in Governance, agreed to share the cost of adding state nonprofit organizations in three states as lead SFAI partners. **Mark Elliott** was my silent partner in signing off on RGAs that committed Urban Poverty funds to the Initiative every two years.

If one adds administrative assistants, grant managers, program assistants and legal staff who pored over every grant document in search of unartful language, the list of people who contributed to the development of the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative at the Foundation would fill an atrium. ■

*Michael Lipsky is a Distinguished Senior Fellow with Demos, a research and policy center.*

## LAFfing Parade

**Melvin L. Oliver** has been named president of Pitzer College, its sixth president and the first African American to head one of the five undergraduate institutions in the Claremont Colleges cluster in Claremont, Calif. He will assume the position in July.

"I want to deepen the commitment of Pitzer to recruiting, supporting and graduating those students (of color)," he said, "because I think it's an exceptional education and I want it to be available to as many of them as possible."

His appointment comes at a pivotal time of national campus unrest over racist, ethnic and gender equity issues that has roiled many colleges and recently led to protests that forced the resignation of the dean of students at Claremont McKenna College, one of the cluster institutions.

"It's very important for students to be able to see someone like them become the president of one of the five Cs," he said.

Dr. Oliver comes to his new position with a reputation as a champion of racial diversity on college campuses, most notably in his current position as executive dean of the University of California's Santa Barbara College of Letters and Science, where he helped increase minority graduate student enrollment in the social sciences by 40 per cent since he became dean in 2004. He also began a program to recruit and prepare minority and low-income students for doctoral programs in all fields.

As Vice President of the Asset Building and Community Development Program at Ford, he helped develop such pioneering initiatives as the Self-Help Fannie Mae Program to secure home mortgages for 35,000 low-wealth households and change the methods banks use to evaluate mortgage applications, and the Leadership for a Changing World Program, which identifies and supports community leaders.

He taught sociology at the University of California at Los Angeles from 1978 to 1996 and, in 1989, co-founded the UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty to train more quality researchers of color.

A book he co-wrote in 1995, *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality*, won many awards, including the



**Melvin L. Oliver**

Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the American Sociological Association.

He has a bachelor's degree from William Penn College and a master's degree and doctorate from Washington University.

**Raymond Offenheiser**, president of Oxfam America, will be the commencement speaker at Warren Wilson College, a private liberal arts college near Asheville,

N.C., with an innovative curriculum that "combines academics, work and service in a learning community committed to environmental responsibility, cross-cultural understanding and the common good."

The liberal arts college is one of the few in the country whose students work for the institution as a graduation requirement. The campus includes a working farm, a market garden and a vast area of managed forest. It has more than 100 work crews, and students must work 240 hours a

semester to help pay their college expenses.

The work crews include those who maintain the college's vehicles; work on the campus's electrical and plumbing systems; work on the farm and in the garden; provide tech support; clean and maintain laboratories, and do all the landscaping.

The president of the college is **Steven Solnick**, who worked for the Foundation in its Moscow and New Delhi offices from 2002 to 2012, when he left to become head of the college.

In making the announcement for the May 14 ceremony, he said, "For a campus where our students are dedicated to making a difference in the world, this is an excellent opportunity to hear from a person and about an institution doing just that."

Offenheiser joined Oxfam America, an affiliate of Oxfam International, after working in the Foundation's offices in Dhaka and Lima from 1986 to 1996.

"Our world today," he said of the opportunity to speak at Warren Wilson, "is starved for a new idealistic generation that cares deeply about poverty, human rights and the planet, is committed to challenging the status quo in constructive ways and is filled with hope and confidence.

"I'm delighted to join the 2016 class of Warren Wilson College and their families to celebrate turning this year's group of practical radicals loose on the world. Those of us in this work await you."

A new book that examines the intersection of scholarship, activism and sociocultural politics in mainland Southeast Asia is edited by a former Ford staff member and includes a chapter written by a LAFF member.

**Oscar Salemink** said the book, *Scholarship and Engagement in Mainland Southeast Asia*, was inspired by the work of Achan Chayan Vaddhanaphuti, "an academic who

has worked tirelessly in Thailand and beyond to foster critical social-science scholarship that engages with marginalized communities."

**Rosalia Sciortino** wrote a chapter, titled "Learning Across Boundaries: Grant-making Activism in the Greater Mekong Sub-region", that she describes as a study of "paradigmatic shifts in philanthropy and international aid and their

implications for local programs and institutions". It can be accessed at [www.academia.edu/19734394/Learning\\_Across\\_Boundaries](http://www.academia.edu/19734394/Learning_Across_Boundaries). One reviewer said the book, which is published by Silkworm Books of Thailand, "demonstrates convincingly that rather than compromising or trading off against one another, engagement and intellectual endeavor can be mutually reinforcing. The quality and breadth of the contributions in this book reflect and build on the totality of Achan Chayan's work..."

Salemink, a professor of the anthropology of Asia at the University of Copenhagen, worked for the Foundation from 1996 through 2011 in Thailand and Vietnam on grants for higher education, arts and culture, and sustainable development.

Sciortino worked in the Jakarta and Manila offices of the Foundation from 1993 to 2000 and now is regional director of the Southeast Asia and East Asia International Development Research Center.

**Gowher Rizvi**, who is the International Affairs Advisor to the prime minister of Ban-

gladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, was the chief guest recently at an evening of music and dance to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the Indira Gandhi Culture Centre in Dhaka, an institution that promotes cultural

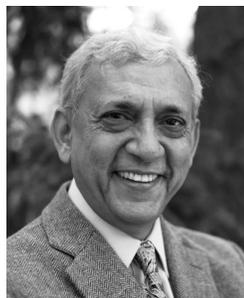
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**Oscar Salemink**



**Raymond Offenheiser**



**Gowher Rizvi**

## IN MEMORIAM

**Malcolm Gillis**, former president of Rice University and at one time a consultant to the Ford Foundation in Indonesia, died last October at the age of 74.

Mr. Gillis worked with Ford during the 1970s as a representative of the Harvard Institute for International Development (HIID), which provided hands-on training for aid-giving organizations in developing countries. The Foundation provided housing and transportation for HIID staff, who, said **Peter Weldon**, a member of the Foundation's staff in Jakarta at the time, "were regarded as part of the Foundation family".

A noted economist, Mr. Gillis was president of Rice from 1993 to 2004. Upon his retirement he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Association of Rice Alumni in large measure for having initiated the university's first strategic plan in nearly 50 years, a capital drive that enabled Rice to renovate existing buildings and build new ones.

He also was cited for investing in information and computational technology,

biotechnology, nanotechnology and environmental and energy technology while, as noted in a statement from the university, he "consistently promoted the humanities and social sciences as no less important than the natural sciences and engineering to contemporary life and endeavor".

After receiving his doctorate from the University of Illinois he taught economics at Duke University and then at Harvard before returning to Duke to be dean of the graduate school, then vice provost for academic affairs and finally dean of arts and sciences before leaving for Rice.

**The Rev. Canon Stephen W. Price**, who was an assistant to Ford's vice president for financial affairs and then a private consultant to the Foundation advising non-profit community-based organizations working in inner-city poverty areas, died January 24 of complications from a lung transplant. He was 73.

After his graduation with honors from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, Mr.

Price earned a master's degree from the Yale Divinity School and was ordained at the First Congregational Church of Ridgefield, Conn., his hometown. His first assignment was as a minister for the St. Paul, Minn., Urban Parish and was named pastor of the United Methodist Church.

He joined the priesthood of the Episcopal Church in 1980 and at the time of his death was priest-in-charge of Calvary Episcopal Church in Conshohocken, Pa.

He was a member of the Cathedral Chapter and president and chair of the finance committee of the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral. He was named honorary canon shortly before his death.

His life-long commitment to civil rights and social justice began when he joined the 1965 voting rights march in Selma, Ala. He also demonstrated outside the Democratic National Convention in 1968 and campaigned for disinvestment from South Africa in 1972.

*Continued on next page*



It's a girl—"bright-eyed, generally calm and with the sweetest disposition, though she can scream like Joan Rivers" says her proud father, **Rusty Stahl**. Ruby Selah Stahl was born January 31 and named for both her father's maternal grandmother, Reba, and mother's paternal grandfather, Reubin. Selah is a Hebrew word meaning both "pause and reflect" and "rock", which Rusty notes happens to be the name of the leadership development program through which he met his wife, Sarah From. Rusty worked at Ford in the Governance and Civil Society and Peace and Social Justice programs and is the president and CEO of the Talent Philanthropy Program of the New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

## PERSONALS

**Rosalia Sciortino** visited recently with a former colleague and long-time friend, **Pratiwi Setianto**, who was a program assistant for the Gender and Reproductive Health program in the Jakarta office of the Foundation when Lia worked there before moving on to the Manila office. Lia was with the Foundation from 1993 to 2000 and now is regional director of the Southeast and East Asia International Development Research Center.



Members of LAFF's Thailand chapter met for lunch in February in Bangkok. Around the table and starting from the left are **William Klausner**, **Mary Zurbuchen**, who worked in the Jakarta and New Delhi offices from 1984 to 2000, **Sisamon Plengsri**, **Rosalia Sciortino**, who was in the Jakarta and Manila offices from 1993 to 2000, **Patcharee Srikanchana**, **Darane Peterson**, who worked in the Bangkok office from 1975 to 1981, **Peter Weldon**, who worked in the Bangkok and Jakarta offices from 1973 to 1980, **Chatsarun Isarangkora**, **Chaythip Bunyastit** and **Sunanthana Kampanathsanyakorn**.

The LAFF Society  
c/o Nellie Toma  
PO Box 701107  
East Elmhurst, NY 11370

## In Memoriam

“He was a champion for the people and a hero to us,” said his stepdaughter, Kristine Dickinson-Pabody.

His work at Ford involved co-ordinating the Foundation’s investment policy with program goals, and fostering community and real estate development. He continued as a consultant when he left to join the firm of K.S. Sweet Associates in King of Prussia, Pa.

For many years he worked to provide low-cost housing for senior citizens of modest means, and was a leader and member of several public-private partnerships.

Survivors, in addition to his stepdaughter, include his wife, Kathleen Deets Price, two sons, two daughters, a stepson and four

grandchildren. He also is survived by his first wife, Dawn Flewellen, from whom he was divorced.

**Donald T. McDonald**, who worked at the Foundation for nearly 20 years in several positions overseeing taxes and insurance, has passed away. He was 81.

Mr. McDonald was hired in 1966 as a senior account administrator in the office of the comptroller and two years later became the overseas accounting advisor in Lebanon for the Middle East and Africa office.

Then, after a short stint in 1971 as an accounting advisor in New York, he became the assistant director in the office of Taxes, Comptroller and Insurance. Through a series of title changes and promotions in that office he stayed until he retired as Risk

Manager in 1985.

Mr. McDonald was a graduate of St. Peter’s College, now St. Peter’s University, in Jersey City, N.J., and was a member of the U.S. Army’s 775th Field Artillery Battalion.

Survivors include his wife, Janice, two sons and five grandchildren. ■

## LAFF Parade

exchanges between India and Bangladesh to foster cooperation between the countries.

The High Commissioner of India, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, the guest of honor at the program, noting that the literature, language, culture and heritage of the two

countries is “identical”, said the center “has been promoting not only the culture of Bangladesh and India but also the genres of art and culture of the subcontinent.”

Dr. Rizvi was the Foundation’s representative in New Delhi from 1996 to 2002. ■

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

BALANCE ON 12/31/14 \$11,660.79

### INCOME

Dues, donations, interest \$3,805.72

### EXPENSES

Newsletters \$2,742.76

Website \$1,000.00

Secretarial services (Dorothy Nixon) 130.00

PO Box, supplies, postage 268.04

Paypal fees 56.80

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,197.60**

Income/Expenses -\$391.88

**BALANCE ON 12/31/15 \$11,268.91**