

THE LAFF SOCIETY

For the men and women engaged in Life After the Ford Foundation

WINTER 2005

NO. 39

EDITORIAL

In his statement accepting the presidency of The LAFF Society (see p. 1, col. 2), Peter Geithner says, "Like all organizations of any merit, The LAFF Society should reexamine and renew itself from time to time." This is such a time, but renewal depends largely on the participation of more LAFF members than in the past. So men and women from all periods of the Foundation's history are strongly invited to share ideas (and even a little time) with us. Please get in touch with Peter (Geithnerpf@aol.com), Shelia Gordon: (SheilaGordon@interfaithcommunity.org) or Mary Camper-Titsingh (isaakbk1@aol.com).

Acceptance Statement

In accepting the presidency of The LAFF Society, Peter F. Geithner said, I am pleased to serve as the new president of The LAFF Society, whose development I have followed with great interest.

This organization is a fitting reminder of the rewarding years so many of us have spent in the Foundation. The LAFF Society is also a valuable vehicle for maintaining contact with our colleagues who as

Geithner is New LAFF President



Peter F. Geithner, an international affairs specialist, has been named president of The LAFF Society, succeeding Emmett D. Carson, president of the Minneapolis Foundation. At the Foundation, Geithner held program management positions mainly concerned with Asia.

He is currently an advisor to the Asia Center, Global Equity Initiative, and Ash Institute at Harvard University, and consultant to the Ford, Rockefeller, and Sasakawa Peace Foundations, Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, and other organizations.

In accepting the nomination, Mr. Geithner termed The LAFF Society "a fitting reminder of the rewarding years so many of us have spent in the Foundation." (See Statement, p. 1, col. 1)

Mr. Geithner was director of Asia programs at the Foundation from 1990 to 1996. Earlier, he served for two and a half years as the Foundation's first representative in China (1988-90), Program Officer in Charge, Developing Country Programs (New York, 1981-87); Representative for Southeast Asia (Bangkok, 1976-81); Deputy Head, Asia Pacific (New York, 1973-76); and Deputy Representative for India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka (New Delhi, 1968-73).

Before joining the Foundation, Mr. Geithner served with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Washington, D.C. He was also assistant to president of a private international company, and served four years as a Naval aviator.

He is presently a board member of the National Committee on United States—China Relations, Chica Center for Economic Research (Peking University), Center for the Advanced Study of India (University of Pennsylvania), Japan Center for International Exchange, U.S. Committee for

(cont. on p. 5)

Ford staff members and since worked to improve the well-being of individuals and institutions throughout the world.

Like all organizations of any merit, The LAFF Society should reexamine and renew itself from time to time. As at other points in our fourteen-year history, this may again be such a time. I therefore hope that LAFF members old and new will consider

taking an active part in our work, especially in suggesting new programs and in recruiting new members.

Finally I want to acknowledge the important contributions my predecessors have made, from our first president (and co-founder), the late Ed Meade, to my immediate predecessor, Emmett Carson, who has served so ably in the last three years.

The LAFF Society

c/o Mary Camper-Titsingh
531 Main Street, Apt. #1110
New York, NY 10044

President, Emmett Carson
Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Camper-Titsingh

Advisory Board
Sheila Gordon
Ruth Mayleas
Mary McClymont
Janice Molnar
Rusty Stahl
Francis X. Sutton
Kerwin Tesdell
Lillian Trager
Christine Vincent

Editor, Robert Tolles
Graphic Designer, Ruth Neumann

Curvin Wins Leadership Award

Robert Curvin, former vice



president for communications, received the Civic Leadership Award of the New Jersey Council of the

Before joining the Foundation as director of the Urban Poverty program, he was a member of the editorial board of *The New York Times* and later dean of the Graduate School of Management and Urban Professions at the New School for Social Research.

Curvin played a crucial role in the 1970 Mayoralty campaign, when the incumbent mayor standing trial for extortion, was running again. Curvin and others called a convention that enabled black and Puerto Rican groups to unite behind a single candidate instead of dividing the minority vote. Their candidate won.

Franklin Thomas, former Foundation president, called Curvin "a leader in the Ford Foundation's successful efforts to spread community development principles to low-income communities across the United States and overseas." Curvin has been a trustee of the Victoria Foundation for 26 years and currently serves with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, which addresses economic empowerment, social justice, and civic engagement in Newark.

Humanities in October. Describing what he termed "the double-pronged effectiveness of Curvin's leadership, Larry Goldman, president of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center said, "His compassionate commitment to issues of human quality is of the heart but it's also of the mind because it is so foully underpinned by his extraordinary intellect. The passion gives him the charisma to be notice, but the intellect lends the strength to make a difference."

Curvin was born in Newark where he has spent all of his adult life with the exception of military service and three years in pursuit of a Ph.D. in politics at Princeton University. In 1995 he was inducted into the Rutgers University Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

He was a founder and later president of the Newark chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality when riots broke out in 1967. He worked with then Governor Richard Hughes to avoid bloodshed and stabilize the unrest. He was commissioned, along with journalist Bruce Porter, to investigate the causes of looting in New York City following the 1977 blackout.

The LAFFing Parade

James W. Trowbridge, after working with Lutheran World Relief started last summer with the World Conference of Religions for Peace as Assistant Secretary General. He is developing programs of its 55 national and regional inter-religious councils on peacemaking, conflict resolution, disarmament, women's empowerment, and orphan children with AIDS. The organization is a grantee of the Foundations. Jim's new address is 8 Deer Run, Princeton, NJ 08540, (609-921-2428).

Dues. Except for one person who does the newsletter mailings and maintains our mailing list, all concerned with the newsletter are volunteers. But printing and mailing do entail costs, which must be met by your dues.

The dues are a modest \$7.50 a year. You can tell whether you are paid up to date by the numeral after your name on the mailing label. The LAFF Society is extremely tolerant, some say pathologically solicitous) toward delinquents. though

Ted's Menagerie

Ted Smith, executive director of the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, A Boston-based grand-maker concerned with



the environment, puts out one of the liveliest reports in the Foundation world, in this case biennially. In the 2002-2003 report, Ted devotes his personal message to "interviews" with diverse animals on their problems with the Bush administration.

Here are some of the things that Ted "learned:"

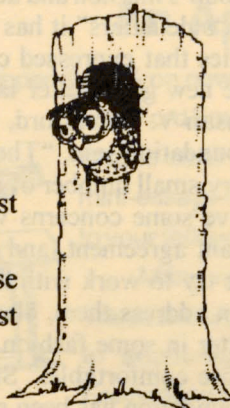
Grizzly Bear: “A grizzly bear in Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front Range said he couldn’t fathom why the Bush administration wants to take him off the endangered species list – his best chance for survival. His forebears (*sic*) lived on the Prairie when Lewis and Clark’s expedition came through 200 years ago and now he and other grizzlies are trying to survive in remote roadless areas of the high country, limited to less than 5 percent of their previous range.”

Bison: “A bison reflected sadly that she had lost her brother last year when he wandered across the Yellowstone National Park boundary and was executed on public land in Montana by government sharpshooters. She reminded us that bison know nothing of the boundaries drawn by humans, the same species that shot them to extinction on the Great Plains.”

Salmon: “In the Klamath Basin of Oregon/California, where Bush regulators have dewatered a magnificent river and historic salmon run, a female salmon watched thousands of her relatives go belly up last year when the river’s summer flow was diverted to irrigators. . . . She couldn’t help venting that the current White House policy stinks more than her rotting relatives.”

Elk: “We caught up with a regal bull elk in the Yellowstone on a pristine winter morning. Huffing and puffing and verging on collapse, he haltingly told us about a joyriding group of snowmobiles that had chased him through deep snow for nearly five miles. . . . He said that he can handle a wolf pack chase, but the snow machines simply never tired in coming after him. . . . “These machines should not be allowed in the National Park.” The Bush people see it differently.

Marbled murelets: “In the world’s largest remaining temperate rainforests, the Tongass in Alaska, two marbled murelets, which nest only in magnificent ancient forests close to the coast, had just gotten word of the Bush decision to open their wilderness home territory to bulldozers and chainsaws. They had thought that the Clinton ‘roadless rule’ would safeguard their home — a rare jewel in the planet’s vanishing temperate rainforest inventory.”



Caribou: “On the Arctic plain a caribou came by, heavy with calf, and asked why President Bush wanted to invade the herd’s calving grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for only a six month supply of oil and gas to feed SUVs. She impishly, and semi-seriously, wondered what the White House reaction would be if she and 50,000 of the Arctic’s Porcupine caribou herd decided to calve in Washington’s Walter Reed or New York’s Bellevue Hospitals?”

Various birds, carnivores, ungulates, prairie dogs, raptors, butterflies, etc.: “To get the bigger story of threats to the health of entire ecosystems, we sat in on a ‘community meeting’ of all species living in the Colorado/Utah Rockies where the White House is promoting oil and gas development. . . . The message from the meeting came through clearly: ‘Don’t mess with our ecosystem!’ . . . A great horned owl offered a concluding thought: ‘We lose neighbors one by one over many seasons, and as we do, we are all diminished.’ . . . The animals departed in silence, knowing that their survival is in the balance.”

Another Kennedy Epic

Former vice president Roger G. Kennedy made another acclaimed contribution to the remembrance of American history. Oxford University Press in October published his *Mr. Jefferson’s Lost Cause: Land, Farmers, Slavery, and the Louisiana Purchase*, which the authoritative *Krikus Reviews* called “Thematically rich and full of subtle arguments” and forces a reconsideration of accepted views. . . . And [is] fresh, endlessly fascinating, and altogether extraordinary.”

After leaving the Foundation, Kennedy became director of the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, and afterward director of the National Park Service. His earlier books include *Burr, Hamilton, and Jefferson*, and he was a general editor of the 12-volume *Smithsonian Guide to Historic America*.

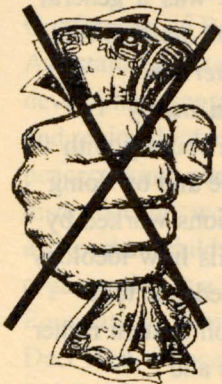
President Jefferson nearly doubled the size of the country with the Louisiana Purchase and by doing so encouraged plantations worked by slaves. Kennedy reveals how ideology and politics gave precedence to a slave-worked plantation system rather than a republic of free and independent yeomen, which Jefferson espoused in his early writings. *Mr. Jefferson’s Lost Cause* examines the great financial interests (such as powerful land companies and British textile interests) that beat down anti-slavery opponents in the South including Native Americans, African Americans, and Appalachian farmers. Kennedy describes how slaveholders’ cash crops, such as tobacco and cotton, sickened the soil and how the planters moved from one desolate tract to the next. Soon the dominant

culture of the entire region—from Maryland to Florida, from Carolina to Texas—was that of owners and slaves producing staple crops for international markets. The earth itself was impoverished, in many places permanently damaged.

Shedding new light on the Louisiana Purchase, *Mr. Jefferson's Lose Cause* explores the effect of a series of choice made during the first fifty years of the nation and upon the land itself.

ACLU Contends with Foundation

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has rejected \$1.15 million from the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations rather than accept anti-terrorism clauses in the foundations' grant agreements.



The executive director of the ACLU is Anthony D. Romero, formerly director of the Foundation's Human Rights and International Cooperation program. He declared that the language of the

contracts governing the grants was broad and ambiguous, leaving them open to interpretation that could impede free speech and limit advocacy work at his organization and other nonprofits.

The Foundation's new grant letter language reads, "By signing this letter, you agree that your organization will not promote or engage in violence, terrorism, bigotry or the destruction of any state, nor will it make subgrants to any entity that engages in these activities."

The Foundation offered to give the ACLU a letter stating that it had no

intention of interfering with the group's mission and activities, similar to "side letters" it has given universities that expressed concerns about the new grant letter language. Susan V. Berresford, president of the Foundation said, "There have been a very small number of institutions that have some concerns with the new grant agreement, and in every case we try to work with them to see if we can address them, clarifying the grant letter in some fashion that makes them more comfortable." She said the Foundation has been proud to support the civil-liberties union's mission of defending free speech. "We do not, however, believe that a private donor like Ford should support all speech itself, such as speech that promotes bigotry or violence. . . [We] have a different mission from the ACLU, even while we share the same basic values."

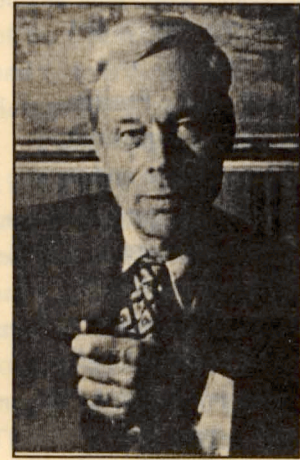
The Foundation had consulted with Mr. Romero and several other nonprofit leaders when drafting the new grant agreement. The decision to reject those grants sharply divided the ACLU board.

The controversy over the grant-letter language followed charges that the Foundation was supporting organizations that engaged in anti-Israel activities. The Foundation withdrew funding from the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights Law and initiated a review of funding other grant recipients alleged to have taken part in anti-Israel activities.

The ACLU also withdrew from the Combined Federal Campaign, forgoing the nearly \$500,000 it expected to receive from the drive rather than review its employment lists against federal terror watch lists. Government anti-terrorist procedures have been criticized by charities and foundations.

Catholic Relief Services, which works with about 50,000 agencies abroad, said some Patriot Act based requirements are "asking you to certify things that no one could conceivably ever know."

David Freeman, A Ford Pioneer



David L. Freeman, who joined the Ford Foundation in its infancy as a national institution, died on July 4 at age 86, at his home in St.

Andrews, New Brunswick.

Joining the staff of the Foundation in 1950, he helped established the Fund for the Republic, a controversial offshoot of the Foundation that one wag termed "a wholly disowned subsidiary." Freeman served successively as the Fund's acting president, secretary, and vice president-treasurer.

In 1958, he joined the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, where he served for ten years. He then became president of the Council on Foundations, a post he held until 1978. During his tenure he helped guide the foundation community through turbulent years when it was under attack in Congress. The struggle culminated in the Tax Reform Act of 1969, which strengthened regulation of foundations and imposed a tax and minimum distribution requirement on them.

Among his accomplishments, he prepared the *Handbook on Private Foundations*, a classic. Before his retirement in 1993, he served as executive director of the Scherman Foundation, which supports social welfare and arts organization in New York City as well as national

5 The LAFF Society

organizations working on human rights and civil liberties, reproductive health and rights and peace and security.

Over the years, Freeman served as a consultant to many small family foundations. He was also a director and president of the Southern Education Foundation for 14 years. The Scherman foundation declared, "David's intellect, vision, and commitment to peace social justice, and a sound environment contributed to the well-being of hundreds of nonprofit organizations. His strong voice will be missed."

Geitner New LAFF President

(cont. from p. 1)

Security Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, Institute of Current World Affairs, and Global Policy Exchange.

Mr. Geithner is a graduate of Dartmouth College (BA) and the Johns Hopkins University of Advanced Intergenerational Studies (MA), and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Council of Foreign Relations. He has received the State Department Distinguished Service Award and the Royal Thai Government Order of the White Elephant.

Casey Stengel's Pitcher

BY WILL HERTZ

When Casey Stengel was managing the New York Mets, he had a young pitcher who spent the off-season working for a Ph.D. in physics at Columbia. *Sports Illustrated* heard about him and commissioned him to write an article on the physics of

An Appeal

This newsletter depends 99% on news and other submissions by or about Ford Foundation alumni

Please send in material—about yourself, others, mini-essays—anything you feel would be of interest to your fellow alumni.

Many responses come from older retirees. These are always most welcome, but we also want to encourage colleagues who have left the Foundation in the 1980s, 1990s, and more recently to contribute.

Send to the rotating editor for the next issue: Willard J. Hertz, 99 White's Cove Rd., Yarmouth ME 04096, or e-mail wahertz@maine.rr.com



baseball pitching — what makes a curve ball curve, etc. Shortly after the article appeared, the pitcher was knocked out of the box in the second inning. As the despondent young man was sitting on the dugout bench, head in hands, Casey muttered to him: "Too bad you can't do what you know."

Musically speaking, I'm like that young pitcher. When I was a kid, I studied the violin, and, boy, was I terrible. After performing at one student recital, the piano accompanist handed me the music saying "Go home and practice." A friend of mine was forced by his mother to attend; his sole comment about my playing was "Why was it so long?" At the age of 15, I took pity on my family, friends and neighbors and gave up the violin for the high school newspaper.

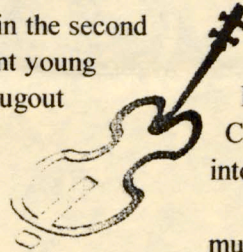
But my interest in music continued, and I substituted the study of it for its performance. I began to listen to records with scores borrowed from the library; to attend rehearsals and concerts with scores in hand, to hang around with musicians and to

listen to their insights, performance problems, and assessments of one another's playing. At Harvard, I talked music with visiting composer Béla Bartók, and when I was working for my master's at Columbia, I learned how to sneak into Toscanini's rehearsals.

I took my self-administered musical education a big step further when the Ford Foundation sent me to Pakistan. With a lot of evening time on my hands, I used it to study the chamber-music repertory, using recordings and scores brought by visitors from the U.S. Chamber music became, and still is, my favorite musical format.

In Memoriam

Frances Nation, a travel specialist in Personnel Services, died in November. Before retiring from the Foundation in 1981 after fourteen years service, she was known to literally hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people and had vast contacts with airlines and hotels the world over.



An Appeal

This newsletter depends 95% on news and other information submitted by our readers. The earlier you send in material—about yourself, others, or anything you feel would be of interest to your fellow alumni—

Many responses come from older readers. These are always most welcome, but we always encourage colleagues who have left the foundation in the 1980s, and more recently.

Send to the mailing editor for the next issue: William J. Herz, 99 Wylie's Cove Rd., Yarmouth ME 04096, or e-mail wjherz@maine.rr.com

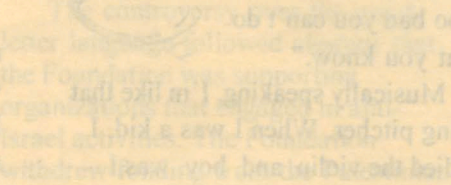


ACLU Contents with Foundation

another's playing. At Harvard (HCA) talked music with visiting composer Bob Taylor, and which I was working for my master's at Columbia. I learned how to speak into Toscanini's rehearsal.

baseball pitching. What makes a curve ball curve and shortly after the pitcher appeared, the pitcher was knocked out of the box in the second inning. As the designated young man was sitting on the dugout bench, head in hands, Casey muttered to him:

THE LAFF SOCIETY
c/o Mary Camper-Titsingh
531 Main Street, Apt. #1110
New York, NY 10044



looked my self-administered into Toscanini's rehearsal. I learned how to speak into Toscanini's rehearsal.

what you know. Musical speaking I in like that. Musical speaking I in like that. Musical speaking I in like that.

In Memoriam

Before retiring from the Foundation in 1981 after fourteen years service, he was known to literally hundreds of people thousands of people and had vast contacts with airlines and hotels the world over.

the high school newspaper. But my interest in music continued, and I substituted the study of it for its performance. I began to listen to records with scores borrowed from the library, to attend rehearsals and concerts with scores in hand to hang around with musicians and to write an article on the physics of

organizations working on human rights and civil liberties, reproductive health and rights issues, and education.

Over the years, Ericman served as a consultant to various small foundations. He was also a director and president of the American Educational Foundation, and he was the chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy. David's interest in education and a sound educational foundation to the self-being of students of nonprofit organizations. His strong voice will be missed.

Gettier New LAFF President

Security Coordinator in Asia and Pacific Institute of Human World, Exchange and Global Policy. Exchange man was sitting on the dugout bench, head in hands, Casey muttered to him:

what you know. Musical speaking I in like that. Musical speaking I in like that. Musical speaking I in like that.

Casey Stengel's Pitcher

When Casey Stengel was managing the New York Mets, he had a young pitcher whom he called "the all-season wonder" of it for its performance. I began to listen to records with scores borrowed from the library, to attend rehearsals and concerts with scores in hand to hang around with musicians and to write an article on the physics of

the high school newspaper. But my interest in music continued, and I substituted the study of it for its performance. I began to listen to records with scores borrowed from the library, to attend rehearsals and concerts with scores in hand to hang around with musicians and to write an article on the physics of