

# LAFF

THE LAFF SOCIETY For the men and women engaged in Life After The Ford Foundation

Spring 2006 NO. 45

## The LAFFing Parade

**Patricia Dell Darcy**, on her membership application form, reports: "Left Foreign Service to join the foundation from 1950-2, or when the New York move was made. I answered most applications for grants, and keep track of grants (no adding machines or computer). Retired (playing tennis now)."

**Dick Dye** (International Division, 1961-1981): "I retired from the Institute of International Education in 1998. Since then I have run my own international education development business. This has taken me numerous times to Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the former Soviet Union. The majority of the assignments have involved assisting AID missions with education program evaluation, program development, and strategic planning."

**Bryant George** is Secretary of Counterpart International, which works in 60 countries on capacity building, humanitarian relief, and reconstruction and development in war-torn or weather-devastated areas. He is also special assistant to the president and chair of the board of the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help, which works in seven countries in Africa. IFESH seeks to build or rehabilitate 1000 village schools, send 700 master teachers to train village women to become teachers in the village schools, and train young Africans to be outreach bankers. These will go in townships and villages and seek out new loans, and service the loans. (202)244-8873. 1200 18th St. NW, Washington DC 20036. brygeorge@aol.com

**Kamla Chowdry**, program officer in the New Delhi office in the late 1960s and early 1970s, has died. She came to the Foundation with a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and a professorship at the India Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. She was later a founding trustee of the foundation-supported National Foundation  
*continued on page 2*

## In Memoriam

### Marshall A. Robinson

*Robinson died January 7 in his Manhattan home after a long illness. He was 83. He joined the Ford Foundation in 1964 and became vice president for Resources and the Environment in 1979. He had served as dean of the Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh and held earlier positions as an economist at the Brookings Institution, Dartmouth College and Tulane University, and the National Bureau of Economic Research.*



Chester Higgins, Jr./New York Times

Marshall Robinson, Russell Sage Foundation president, at new offices.

He left Ford to become president of the Russell Sage Foundation, one of the nation's oldest. As the obituary writer in *The New York Times* observed, the foundation had had a succession of short-lived administrations and faced friction between trustees and directors as well as outside questions over the relevancy of its work. During Robinson's reign the foundation spent millions of dollars in research grants exploring such topics as risk perception and the way the changing roles of men and women were reshaping the country's institutions. He sought to avoid either a liberal or conservative label for the foundation. He told the *Times* in 1982 that huge sums

had been spent to conquer poverty in the United States without defining the root causes, noting the role of social science in tackling modern problems. "There's an eternal battle going on between people who say let's do and not just think about doing, and those who want to be more thoughtful." "There's room for both."

Robinson was born in Berkeley, California, and graduated from the University of California in 1943. He served as a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps in the Pacific in World War II before receiving a master's degree and a PhD. in economics from Ohio State University. He wrote *An Introduction to Economic Reasoning* in 1956, which has been translated into ten languages.

From 1992 until last year he was vice president of the Augustine Foundation of New York, which supports women and children's programs in Indian communities in Guatemala and Mexico. He is survived by his wife, Flavia Derossi, two daughters, a son, and two granddaughters.

**Peter de Janosi recalls his longtime friend and colleague at the Ford Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation:**

Marshall joined the Ford Foundation in 1964 to head up the Economic Development and Administration Program (EDA). When we first heard that an economist named Robinson was to be appointed, my colleagues and I (including Bud Harkavy,  
*continued on page 3*

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

Peter F. Geithner, *President*  
Mary Camper-Titsingh, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Dorothy Nixon, *Administrative Secretary*

#### Advisory Board

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

Richard Magat, *Editor*  
Marilyn Reichstein, *Graphic Designer*

---

#### The LAFF Society Financial Report for 2005

Balance on 12/31/04	\$3225.33
2005 Income	\$7043.54
Dues, 17 Lifetime Memberships, interest on savings and checking accounts, donations.	
2005 Expenses	\$2904.19
Printing, shipping, postage and miscellaneous costs for refreshments, purchase of blank checks, dues refunds, and Mary Camper-Titsingh expenses for 2004 (\$50).	
Balance on 12/31/05	\$7364.68

---

*continued from page 1 The LAFFing Parade*

dation for India.

**Mary Racelis**, former assistant representative in Manila, is a research scientist at the Institute of Philippine culture at Ateneo de Manila University. Last year she gave a series of lectures on civil society to German audiences in Aachen, Berlin, Bonn, and Hamburg. The series was part of the 50th anniversary celebration of Philippines-Germany relations.

Dr. Racelis recently completed a book on voices of children in urban informal settlements in the Philippines. She also teaches a graduate course on The Anthropology of Globalization at Ateneo and the University of the Philippines. ▲

## President's Message

I am pleased to report that 2005 was an active year for LAFF.

#### Membership

As of the end of December 31, we had 331 members in our data base. One hundred thirty-one of you kindly responded to our request for updated contact information. Led by Sheila Gordon, chair of the Membership Committee, we now have 17 life members.

Sheila and her colleagues are actively seeking to expand our membership and to encourage the 61 on our current list who are behind in their dues to renew their membership.

#### Finances

Mary Camper-Titsingh has provided the accompanying financial report for 2005. That our year-end balance was more than double 2004's is due in substantial measure to those of you who made multi-year payments.

Thanks to those of you who have sent us your email addresses, we should be able to reduce significantly the cost of distributing the newsletters, directory, and event announcements. We continue to be fortunate in having volunteers provide almost all the services LAFF provides.

#### Chapter Activities

The New York chapter organized two well-attended events. David Arnold, president of the American University in Cairo spoke in May at the Nathan Cummings Foundation (thanks to Lance Lindblom.) Anthony Romero, executive director, American Civil Liberties Union, spoke in September at Marymount Manhattan College (thanks to Radhika Balakrishnan).

Lisa Mensah, chair of the New York Program Committee, is now scheduling similar events for 2006. The India chapter in New Delhi, under F. C. Bhambri's leadership, hosted visits by David Winder and George Rosen and his wife.

This year, we hope to organize chapters in the Greater Boston and Washington, DC areas, with inaugural events in the spring. We also hope to see chapters organized in Southeast Asia and other

locations outside the United States, where there are significant concentrations of alumni.

#### Newsletters

Our expert editors – Dick Magat, Will Hertz, and Bob Tolles – produced three regular issues during the year, plus a special issue in October on Katrina-Rita. With your help in providing news, reflections, reminiscences, and information for The LAFFing Parade, they hope to match that number this year.

#### New Directory

The long-promised update of the LAFF directory is completed. We are sending it to all current, paid up members by email or hardcopy, as you have requested.

#### Electronic Communication

We hope to soon have a list serve and/or web site up and running to facilitate communications electronically. For those with access to email and the web, we will be able to send/post the newsletter, directory, announcement of events, and other information of interest to the membership. Your technologically-challenged president is grateful to Aaron Levine and Sheila Gordon for their help.

#### Personnel

Ruth Neumann, who assisted in the design and production of some 50 newsletters since LAFF's founding in 1991, has turned over the reins to Marilyn Reichstein. We are grateful to them both.

Our appreciation goes also to Mary Camper-Titsingh, who continues to ably serve as Secretary-Treasurer, and to Dorothy Nixon our efficient administrative secretary.

We continue to seek other volunteers to take over from those who have served LAFF for the past 15 years.

My thanks to each of you for your interest and support. With your active involvement, I look forward to an even more productive 2006.

**PETER F. GEITHNER**

later of Population fame, but then a young economist in EDA) were wondering which of the many economists named Robinson it might be. We were particularly concerned because we barely survived the two-year tenure of a very ineffective Program Director who shall remain nameless. Shortly thereafter a youngish and imposing Marshall Robinson appeared who turned out to be exceptionally effective.

Marshall quickly put his stamp on the various activities of EDA, and he did so decisively and sensitively, characteristics he continued to exhibit throughout his career. EDA was designed to strengthen the economics profession, and to reform and improve American business schools. While serving these communities, Marshall also showed his independence from them, and never hesitated to be tough on economists, however distinguished, if he thought they made no sense. He was equally merciless with business schools deans who thought they "owned" the Ford Foundation program, and made unreasonable demands. Yet, when they met Marshall's high standards, he was enthusiastically supportive. These high standards were not based on ideology: a first rate Marxist economist was just as eligible to receive a fellowship as a conservative one.

Marshall's interest in policy issues also opened up EDA to more support for non-academic projects. He had a strong wish to improve the state of the world, and he

nudged EDA to finance timely and well-focused policy research. He was not critical of programs that were action-rather than research-oriented, though at times he mused in private that he wished some of his colleagues would first try to understand problems prior to throwing vast sums of money at them. At the same time, he was impatient with arid and abstract academic research.

After the great shuffle caused by McGeorge Bundy's arrival at the Ford Foundation, EDA was transformed into a program that was broadly social science-oriented. It also gave attention to the development of European business schools. His leadership and the Foundation's resources made a lasting impact on the map of European business schools. During these years Marshall was also a central figure in other programs, including the large and controversial higher education activities for minorities, initiated by Doc Howe, and the exceptionally successful and important set of initiatives dealing with women and higher education spearheaded by Mariam Chamberlain.

When he was appointed Vice President of the Foundation's Environment Program, he built on some of the significant accomplishments of his predecessor, but also introduced many new ideas and approaches. Among these was the establishment of an outstanding task force on energy that issued a number of important and influential studies that are timely to

this day.

The Russell Sage Foundation had a long and distinguished record in policy research on social, economic and political issues, but it fell on difficult times in the mid 1970s, and by the time Marshall was appointed, it was, in fact, in a severe crisis that threatened its survival. This situation provided a challenge for him, and he was successful in stabilizing, then revitalizing it. Financial problems were brought under control, research and publication programs were revived, and a new visiting fellows program was initiated. While a number of people were involved in these efforts to bring back to life an organization that was on the brink of disaster, most notably Oscar Ruebhausen, Chair of the Russell Sage board, there is little doubt that Marshall's leadership can be credited with most of the success.

After retiring Marshall spent some time as a visiting scholar at the City University, at Yale, and at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin, but his two major interests became foreign travel, and tending to his garden and weekend house in Connecticut.

Marshall was a complex and interesting person who had an impact on many individuals and institutions. He was an effective operator in organizations, but was totally non-bureaucratic. He took his work, but not himself seriously, and he had a fine sense of humor. He did not suffer fools gladly, but was a most loyal friend. He will be greatly missed. ▲

---

## The Bashing Game

Throughout its history the Foundation has received widespread acclaim for its good works. But it has also been the object of joshing, ridicule, and attack and bitter criticism, from left and right and in-between.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of one of the zaniest treatments of the Foundation, Dwight Macdonald's *The Ford Foundation: The Men and the Millions-an Unauthorized Biography*. The Foundation was only a few years old but it was already gun-shy about publicity. Still, it gave Macdonald free rein, and the result, as Francis X. Sutton wrote years afterward, "stands out for its liveliness, independences, and fair-mindedness in the rather dreary terrain of writing on foundations."

One of the hardy perennials of Foundation-bashing is the editorial page of the *Wall Street Journal*. A Dec. 30, 2005 article called the Foundation's new "Difficult Dialogues" program "endless palaver." The program gives 43 colleges and universities grants of from \$10,000 to \$100,000 to encourage new scholarship and conduct discussions of such subjects as race, sexual identification, and religion. The program was created in response to reports of growing intolerance and efforts to curb academic freedom. "The grants"

will of course be a welcome source of revenue for the colleges," says the *Journal* writer. "And dialoguing will be a nice break from more demanding activities like writing papers."

On January 11, the *Journal* declared that the Ford Foundation's \$12 million program to persuade law schools to make clinics part of their curriculum, "turned into a political battering ram." "Clinics," Heather MacDonald wrote, "came to embody a radical new conception that emerged in the 1960s—the lawyer as social-change agent. No one elected a Ford-funded 'poverty lawyer' to create a new entitlement scheme. If that lawyer can find a judge who shares his passion for welfare, however, the two of them will put into law a significant new distribution of rights and resources that no voter ever approved."

Nor can liberals resist the temptation. *The New Yorker's* urbane Henrik Hertzberg recently called the Foundation a "sappy do-gooder." Dwight Macdonald, whose book appeared originally as a series of articles in *The New Yorker*, would not have made a crack like that. ▲

# Recollections of the Foundation's Population Programs

by Oscar (Bud) Harkavy

The Foundation's first ventures in the population field, in the early 1950s, were prompted primarily by Foundation politics. Rowan Gaither, an associate director (i.e. vice president, and later, president) knew that certain trustees were interested in population because their wives were active in Margaret Sanger's Planned Parenthood movement. To encourage more trustee support for Barney Berelson's behavioral science program, Gaither asked Waldemar (Wally) Nielsen to write a report identifying population activities to be undertaken under the aegis of the behavioral sciences. Nielsen interviewed the nation's leading demographers, who, not surprisingly, proposed support for training and research in demography. Funding for family planning services and contraceptive research were specifically excluded.

At about the same time, John D. Rockefeller III established the Population Council. Rockefeller was frustrated by the refusal of the Rockefeller Foundation, which he chaired, to address his long-standing concern with high rates of population growth in the poor countries of the world. The Council's initial funding came from a personal gift of \$100,000 from JDR III himself. For more than a decade thereafter, the Ford Foundation provided some fifty percent of the Council's funds. The Council assembled an expert staff in three major areas: demography, family planning, and biomedical research directed to improved contraception.

The Foundation's principal population activity under the behavioral sciences was support of the Council. When the behavioral sciences program was phased out in 1959, its population portfolio was taken over by Tom Carroll, a Foundation vice president responsible for the economic development and administration program (EDA), which, up to that point, concentrated only on research and training in economics and business administration. Tom Carroll recognized that influential trustees continued their population inter-

est and told me, an EDA program officer, to "do population."

Trained as an economist, and not as a demographer, I sought guidance from prominent academics. These included Ansley Coale, an economist-demographer at Princeton, and Ronald Freedman, a sociologist-demographer at Michigan, and such Population Council luminaries as its president, Frank Notestein, a leading demographer, and Sheldon Segal, associate director and later, vice-president of its biomedical division. Barney Berelson eventually succeeded Notestein as the Council's president, becoming one of the most effective intellectual leaders of the population movement, and a close collaborator with Foundation staff.

Moye Freymann, a public health doctor on Douglas Ensminger's staff in India, introduced me to Third World family planning programs, then at their earliest stages. Eventually he returned to the States to head a major academic program in family planning administration at the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, a model for other university programs that trained scores of Third World family planning leaders.

The golden days of population work began in the late 1950s and lasted until the mid-1970s. The times were propitious for population work. Alarmist concern that the "population explosion" in the "underdeveloped world", resulting from improved public health, would lead to outright starvation, as predicted in Paul Ehrlich's best-seller of that title, gave way to a more nuanced approach. Coale and Edgar Hoover's *Population Growth and Economic Development in Low Income Countries*, which advanced the thesis that the birth of more children required more expenditure for their health and education, diverting savings from capital investment, was widely accepted by the academic and foundation community. Further, there was realization that high fertility resulted in increasing numbers of young people vainly seeking employment, leading in

turn to misery and unrest. And it was surely obvious that the individual family would be much benefited if the mother could control her fertility, allowing more time and resources for nurture and education of fewer offspring.

I was fortunate to recruit a talented team beginning with Lyle Saunders, a medical sociologist noted for his work on health problems of Native Americans, and Anna Southam, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia, a leading infertility specialist. Lyle and Annie quickly became sought-after population experts, devoting much of their energy advising fledgling Foundation population activities around the Third World.

The Foundation's leadership was extremely hospitable to our population work. When the chiefs of EDA left the Foundation to go to Washington—Tom Carroll to become president of George Washington University and Kermit Gordon to join John Kennedy's council of economic advisors—I was left as acting director of EDA. When I informed President Henry Heald of an offer to become dean of the college of business at the University of Rochester, he said, "My boy, your future is with us." Shortly thereafter, he made me director of the newly formed population program.

McGeorge Bundy, Heald's successor, couldn't have been more supportive. And at different board meetings, two chairmen, Jay Stratton and Alex Heard, asked me if we could make a significant difference in curbing excessive population growth if the Foundation turned over all its resources to the population program. I hastily declined the offer.

The population program operating out of New York struck up a mutually satisfactory division of labor with the field offices. We in New York made grants in support of research and training at U.S. and other industrial world universities and institutions, focused on demography and population policy, family planning administration, and biomedical research directed to discov-

ery of new methods of birth control.

Regional representatives hired their own population staff and ran their own programs, which were extremely useful to host countries as they grappled with high fertility rates. From time to time, overseas representative and their population people got together for strategy sessions with New York population staff and outside experts.

The Foundation's population group collaborated actively with governmental overseas assistance programs, United Nations agencies, the Population Council, and other foundations in promoting population efforts. The site of much this planning was the Villa Serbelloni, the Rockefeller Foundation's conference center overlooking the shores of Lake Como at Bellagio. We learned that once we convinced Robert McNamara, then president of the World Bank, and greatly concerned with population issues, to commit to a Bellagio meeting, his high-level peers in other organizations felt impelled to attend in person.

I believe it's fair to assert that the combined foundation, UN, and government efforts in the population field were responsible for one of the major social movements of the twentieth century. Fertility began a remarkable descent, first in industrializing countries of Southeast Asia, followed by most of the rest of the developing world, with glaring exceptions in much of sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Beginning in the mid-1970s, the golden age of population work began to tarnish. At the UN-sponsored World Population Conference of 1974, held in Bucharest, Rockefeller delivered a speech asserting that population agencies, including his own Population Council, were wrong in expecting that contraception alone would solve the world's population problems. Those of us in the field protested that we never were so simple-minded. We fully appreciated that women's education and empowerment, reduction of infant mortality, as well as economic development generally, were vital to the success of fertility control. We also argued that efforts to those ends should not come from population budgets, amounting to about 2 percent of total development aid, but from the remaining 98 percent.

Heavy-handed imposition of birth control targets, notoriously in India and

China, gave ammunition to extremists who claimed that family planning programs were means of oppressing women by the men who controlled governments. By the time of the UN World Population Conference held in Cairo in 1994, attention to reduction of unwanted fertility was notable by its absence. The Conference report focused almost entirely on the welfare of the individual woman and child. Over the subsequent years, the kinds of activities we supported in the earlier days of the population movement largely disappeared from the agendas of Ford and most other large foundations. Perhaps it is once again time for private foundations to consider innovative approaches to unsolved population problems, as a continuing contribution to human welfare. ▲

### **Chen Heads China Medical Board**

Lincoln Chen, former Foundation representative for India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, has been named president of the prestigious China Medical Board. Dr. Chen is currently director of the Global Equity Initiative at Harvard University's Asia Center. He was formerly executive vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation. Taro Takemi Professor of International Health at Harvard, and director of the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies.

Dr. Jordan Cohen, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges and chair of the China Medical Board selection committee, declared, "Dr. Chen's wide-ranging background and understanding of China and southeast Asia makes him ideally suited to lead of Board toward its 100th anniversary in 2014."

The China Medical Board is the leading American foundation focused on medicine and public health in Asia. Its contributions have been launching modern, Western-based medical sciences and education in China with the establish-

ment and continued support for Peking Medical College, pioneering village-based rural health work in China, and strengthening medical education and research at key institutions in more than a dozen Asian countries.

Dr. Chen was graduated from Princeton, Harvard Medical School and the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. He is currently chair of the board of CARE, and a member of the United National Fund for International Partnerships. ▲

### **IN MEMORIAM Talton F. Ray**

Talton Ray, who served in the Program Related Investment Program from 1968 to 1981, died in January at the age of 66, after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Before becoming publisher of The Francis Press, a publisher of biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs of remarkable but often unfamiliar people whose stories deserved to be more widely known, Ray devoted his professional career to understanding and solving problems of poor neighborhoods. After leaving the Foundation he was director of operations of the South Bronx Development Corporation.

His work in community development began in Venezuela in 1961-1964 as field director of ACCION, a private, nonprofit organization. Drawing on that experience, he wrote a book titled *The Politics of the Barrios of Venezuela* (University of California Press 1969). In 1988 he became president of the Council for Community-Based Development, a national organization created to raise awareness of community-based development and to encourage increased support of the field by private-sector institutions. Its members were corporations and foundations. Ray also designed and organized the National Neighborhood Indicators Project, which involved researchers in seven cities in tracking changing neighborhood

---

#### **WRITE! WRITE!**

**You wouldn't want a newsletter with blank pages, would you? Then please set pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and send in recollections, news of yourself, comments, or anything you think would be of interest to your colleagues.**

**The newsletter depends mainly on contributions from you and fellow LAFF Society members.**

**Send material to the editor of the next edition, Willard J. Hertz, 99 White's Cove Rd., Yarmouth, ME 04096. wahertz@maine.rr.com**

conditions.

Ray was graduated from Stanford University and held a master's in Public Law and Government from Columbia University.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Lili, daughters Justina and Nicola, and grandson Kai. Contributions may be made to Angel Flight (pilots association for people needing urgent medical transportation) , 492 Sutton Street, North Andover, MA 01845. A memorial fund in his name has been created at the Mt. Hope Housing Corp. Attn. Shaun Belle, president, 2003-05 Walton Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10453. [www.mounthopehousing.org](http://www.mounthopehousing.org).

The remembrances of two colleagues follow:

**Eamon Kelly:** Talton Ray was an extraordinary individual and an exemplary foundation officer. He was in many ways the ideal professional: a person who worked very hard and with great integrity, while at the same time always having a smile on his face and a good word for his colleagues. Talton brought a wonder-

ful spirit of openness and imagination to PRI. He dealt with potential clients well, many of whom were not qualified for a PRI or, indeed, any kind of loan or equity investment: but he knew how to politely decline their application with great sensitivity. For those who did qualify, Talton had the patience and the willingness to put in the time working through the problems with the sponsors and there were a whole host of success stories ranging from MS Magazine to *Essence* to the South Shore Community Development Bank. Talton was a tireless worker and even after investments were put in place he followed up on them and made sure that the new entrepreneurs had all of the support and technical assistance they needed to be successful. Talton was a fine colleague and a joy to be around.

**Paul Strasburg:** One of Talton's obvious characteristics was the immense energy and commitment he poured into everything he did. He was a very physical guy. He gave up boxing but installed a trapeze in the hall of his apartment so he could

always get an indoor workout. Equally obvious was his intense devotion to his family. Both his energy and devotion to family was on full display in the more than two years he valiantly, optimistically and without complaint fought the illness that finally took his life. ▲

### **New Directory**

A new Directory of LAFF Society members is available. New features are inclusion of information on unit and years of service at the Foundation and current position.

Also, for the first time, the Directory will be available electronically. It will be sent as a PDF file attached to an e-mail to current membership who have requested delivery by e-mail. Hard copies are available for \$5 each from Mary Camper-Titsingh, 531 Main St., Apt. 1110, New York, N.Y. 10044.

### **Dues Alert**

The new dues schedule is payer-friendly. No annual payment is necessary. Dues for three years are \$25, for 10 years, \$50, and lifetime, \$100.

Last date of payment is on your mailing label.

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