

THE FOREIGN SERVICE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2023



IN THEIR OWN WRITE

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PARITY

REFUGEES
ON CAMPUS

REMEMBERING
JIM DOBBINS

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The Foreign Service Journal Centennial Writing Competition

The U.S. Foreign Service is on the eve of its first centennial in 2024.

The past century has witnessed hot and cold wars, cyber advancements (internet, AI, crypto, etc.) and attacks, the war on terror, the rise of great power competition, and the ensuing transition to a multipolar world, among many other global developments. As an institution and a profession, the Foreign Service must continue to evolve to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

The Foreign Service Journal has been addressing these changes and challenges on its pages since becoming the flagship publication of the American Foreign Service Association in 1924.

Today, to honor the centennial—and AFSA’s role as the “Voice of the Foreign Service”—the *Journal* extends a special invitation to you to voice your own thoughts on the future of the Foreign Service by way of a writing competition. **The topic is:**

Looking ahead to the next century, describe the ideal Foreign Service— as an institution and a profession.

Possible areas to consider when writing your essay: diplomatic practice; FS reform and modernization; international development and foreign assistance; civilian-military relations; recruitment, hiring, and retention; and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

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The winning essay will be published in the May 2024 edition of *The Foreign Service Journal*. Second- and third-place essays will be published in later editions. All winning essays will be edited for style.

REQUIREMENTS

- You are a member (but not an AFSA board member). We especially want to hear from those newer to one of the foreign affairs agencies (entry- and mid-level), but welcome submissions from any active-duty or retired current AFSA members.
- One entry maximum per person.
- Your entry is 800 to 1,000 words. It has not been submitted to or published in any print or online publications.
- You have not included any AI-generated content.
- Essays will be attributed. Please include full name, current and previous postings, and agency/position as part of a one- to two-sentence bio note.
- Authors are responsible for getting any necessary clearances before submission.

**Please send your submission to journal@afsa.org by December 15, 2023,
subject line: FSJ Writing Competition + Your Last Name.**

We look forward to hearing from you!
—The Foreign Service Journal Team

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Paige Puntso
Post Representative of the Year

THE FOREIGN SERVICE JOURNAL

November 2023 Volume 100, No. 9



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On the Cover—Illustration by Davide Bonazzi.

AFSA-PAC and Engagement on Capitol Hill

BY TOM YAZDGERDI

Most folks, including many of our members, don't know that AFSA has a political action committee (PAC). Only when I was elected in 2019 as the AFSA State Department vice president did I become aware of it. In the public eye, PACs tend to be viewed negatively; they are seen as hyperpartisan or awash in big-donor money. But that certainly is not the case with AFSA-PAC.

Established in 2002, AFSA-PAC does not rely on member dues or solicit contributions from anyone but our active-duty members and retirees. The funding comes entirely from voluntary member donations. And, of course, the PAC abides by all federal election laws, such as not making disbursements to candidates that exceed the established monetary limits.

According to its bylaws, AFSA-PAC does not make contributions to state, county, or local/municipal elections, or to presidential races. Most important, AFSA-PAC is scrupulously nonpartisan in that it contributes equally to Democrats and Republicans who support the Foreign Service, full stop.

AFSA-PAC's focus is on the appropriating and authorizing committees with jurisdiction over Foreign Service management issues, FS staffing, and general foreign affairs matters. (See full bylaws at <https://afsa.org/afsa-pac-bylaws>.)



Tom Yazdgerdi is the president of the American Foreign Service Association.

Contributing to U.S. senators and representatives has given AFSA a seat at the table. I literally had that experience when I attended a recent fundraising dinner for a senator who is a strong supporter of the Foreign Service. At the fundraiser, each of us was given a chance to introduce ourselves and then raise issues of importance to our organizations.

Surrounded by high-powered lobbyists representing various industry groups, I definitely felt like the odd man out. But when my turn came to speak, I had the opportunity to tell those assembled what AFSA is all about and what our top priorities are.

The senator in question already knew. He promised to fight for career ambassadorial nominees unfairly caught up in Senate holds that usually have nothing to do with the nominees.

He also said he would push for passage of the Senate version of the State Department Authorization Act of 2023, which has a number of significant provisions for our members, when the House and Senate meet in conference later in the year.

I would like to thank those who have donated to AFSA-PAC and share my view of its importance. Being able to support those in Congress who believe that the United States must have an appropriately funded and staffed Foreign Service is truly indispensable.

While there is already a bipartisan core of support for the U.S. Foreign Service in both houses of Congress, AFSA will continue to build on that support with further outreach.

As we approach 2024, an election year and the 100th anniversary of both the modern Foreign Service and AFSA, PAC funding will help put us in a position to advocate for policies that help all our members.

These policies range in scope from keeping our Service professional and nonpartisan to protecting our pensions and advocating for benefits that make the Foreign Service more attractive, especially for our members at the lower end of the pay scale.

The more PAC funding AFSA has, the greater the capacity to engage with additional representatives and senators and their staffs who either pay little attention to the Foreign Service or who may not have a clear idea about what we do for the American people.

They should hear about the role of the Foreign Service protecting American citizens abroad and advancing U.S. interests in some of the most difficult and dangerous places in the world, and often far away from loved ones.

In other words, the PAC helps AFSA get its foot in the door so that we can tell our story—which is a proud and compelling one that deserves respect and support.

If you have any questions on specific PAC activities, please contact AFSA Treasurer and AFSA-PAC Chair John O'Keefe at okeefe@afsa.org. As always, I welcome hearing your views at yazdgerdi@afsa.org, on this subject or any other matter of interest.

Wishing you and your family a joyous Thanksgiving! ■

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Finding the Words

BY SHAWN DORMAN

As we go to press in mid-October, we watch in horror the carnage of the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel from Gaza. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in the region with four U.S. objectives: make clear that the U.S. stands with Israel; prevent the conflict from spreading; work on securing the release of hostages; and address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

As this crisis unfolds, one cannot ignore the stunning fact that the United States has no ambassador to Israel—or Lebanon, or Egypt, or Oman. Also missing, going on three years: State’s counterterrorism coordinator, State’s assistant secretary for human rights, and USAID’s senior Middle East official.

AFSA President Tom Yazdgerdi’s October *FSJ* column looked at the broken nominations and confirmations process that severely delays getting ambassadors and other high-level diplomats into critical posts. From moving nominee lists to and from the White House more quickly to doing something to curb individual senators from putting months-long holds on nominees, it needs fixing.

This is an urgent national security problem that must be solved by the

administration and Congress together. Perhaps this Middle East crisis will be the catalyst for change.

Meanwhile, when you need to

take a break from the crushing news cycle, this month’s focus celebrates writing and publishing in the FS community. The books in this year’s “In Their Own Write” collection tell Foreign Service stories through memoir and fiction. And there are histories and biographies, as well as books on policy, management, and regional themes. The “Of Related Interest” section highlights a selection of timely foreign affairs books.

This month’s Feature, “Welcoming Refugees: School Campuses as Sites for Resettlement and Integration,” by Professor Diya Abdo, tells how the non-profit Every Campus A Refuge can now connect with the State Department’s new Welcome Corps program allowing Americans to directly support refugees in their communities.

In “The Quest for Reasonable Civ-Mil Parity,” attorney and FS family member Adam Pearlman speaks out on the June 2023 Executive Order 14100 (on advancing economic opportunity for military spouses) and the lost opportunity to also support Foreign Service families.

In the Appreciation for James “Jim” Dobbins, Fletcher Burton shares recollections of this “Architect of Nation-Building.” And In FS Heritage, “Once Upon a Time: The U.S. Consulate in Martinique,” Sébastien Perrot-Minnot tells the intriguing story of this nearly two-century-old consulate that closed its doors in 1993.

In the Reflection, Bea Camp recounts the 1992 presentation of “The Swedish Vasa Order of America.”

Be well, and be in touch. ■



Shawn Dorman is the editor of The Foreign Service Journal.



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**- Former Ambassador
William B. Taylor**

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Supporting FS Singles

I'm responding to AFSA's member newsletter of Aug. 22, announcing the 2023 Harriman Award for Constructive Dissent recognizing Christophe Triplett, a first-tour management officer, for advocating for locally employed (LE) staff in same-sex relationships, and to the September 2023 *FSJ* on Foreign Service families.

Regarding support for Foreign Service families, including LGBT+ personnel with partners, yes, it's very important to do that. Just as important, the Foreign Service needs to support singles without "partners," too.

We should treat singles equally by allowing them to designate a plus-one. We don't need labels, because everybody needs somebody—whether a blood relative, heterosexual or gay partner, or friend.

This is important because for years now, singles without partners, who are mostly single heterosexual women, have been discriminated against on many levels. We have received much less overall compensation and no money for travel of a plus-one to help us with packing, health concerns, or emotional well-being.

Foreign Service personnel should not need a sexual and/or legalized relationship to designate a plus-one.

Action Requested: Get rid of labels and allow every employee going overseas to designate a plus-one to receive the same benefits as married or gay partnered personnel.

Support single heterosexual women, too!

*J Carson
FSO, retired
Sarasota, Florida*

The Biden Administration and Immigration

The Biden administration's enforcement of existing immigration law is a

farce and an abdication of promises made to legal intending immigrants and locally employed (LE) staff colleagues awaiting Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) processing.

While Secretary of State Antony Blinken and those in his chain of command must support the administration's decision not to enforce existing law under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), AFSA does not have to do so.

AFSA should vigorously condemn the current approach, which provides instantaneous self-selecting immigration opportunities to scofflaws, the vast majority of whom hold not even a penumbra of justification for entering the United States uninvited.

To the extent the Biden administration enforces the law, it plays a zero-sum game—which is to say, those foolish enough to seek immigration through legal means are punished with additional years of delay.

Understandably, this dichotomy has had a devastating impact on the morale of our consular colleagues, both on the visa line and those supervising them, who spend millions of dollars and thousands of hours laboring to uphold the illusion that immigration into the United States continues to be a dignified, controlled process.

Much worse, the same policy that makes a mockery of the spirit of the INA is now requiring a slavish adherence to the letter of that act, which identifies annual allocation limits to designated "buckets." AFSA members may not be aware that because SIV applicants draw from the same "bucket" as those unaccompanied minors flooding into the country, SIV processing may be delayed by as much as 10 years.

For all the lip service that State and AFSA give to supporting our LE staff colleagues, we are supposed to stand by

silently as they are told to put their plans on hold for years, to make room for those who have earned no place in the process.

Our foreign employees worked entire careers in good faith, many at great sacrifice and even personal risk, in the hope of qualifying for an SIV so they could start their lives over again as legal permanent residents (many of whom eventually become our most dedicated American citizens).

Implementation of INA is today a bipartisan mess, many years in the making. As the independent voice of foreign affairs professionals, it is incumbent on AFSA to insist loudly that Congress overhaul the current law.

The Senate could take up H.R. 3599, passed this year by the House, which substantially increases the numbers of legal immigrants—something both sides of the aisle appear to agree on—and facilitates easier visas for seasonal agricultural workers. Or Congress could start from scratch, if necessary.

Our betrayal of LE colleagues must be remedied immediately. Without full enforcement of immigration law as envisioned by the legislative branch, we effectively have no border. Without a say into who enters our country and when, we have lost the ability to choose who we are as a society and a nation.

*Michael A. McCarthy
Ambassador, retired
and
Nicholas M. Hill
SFS, retired* ■

Share your thoughts about this month's issue.

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State Adopts a “Learning Policy”

On Sept. 8, Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources Richard Verma sent a departmentwide email announcing the State Department’s adoption of its first Learning Policy, which he called a “key milestone in the Secretary’s Modernization Agenda.”

Verma wrote that the policy “is intended to redefine our approach to learning, prioritize learning as part of our culture, and empower learning partnerships between employees and managers.” It offers every employee the opportunity to spend up to 40 hours in nonmandatory training on topics of their choosing. That said, the new courses and training are being presented for now as optional and encouraged, but not “required.”

The program will be managed jointly by the Bureau of Global Talent Management and the Foreign Service Institute. As a first step in creating the new Learning Policy, GTM and FSI rolled out a “Core Curriculum” on April 10 (see June 2023 Talking Points). Courses in the curriculum cover essential skills including supervisory leadership, congressional relations, negotiation and presentation, and interagency work.

For more on the Learning Policy, employees can visit the Learning@State website.

Blinken’s Kyiv Visit Eclipsed by Missile Attack

Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a surprise visit to Kyiv on Sept. 6 to show support for the nation as it defends itself from Russia. But the initiative was overshadowed by a Russian airstrike that killed at least 16 civilians and injured another 31 in the Ukrainian



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Staff at U.S. Embassy Kyiv assemble for a meet and greet with Secretary Blinken on Sept. 7, 2023.

city of Kostyantynivka just hours after his visit concluded.

While in Kyiv, Blinken met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba, and Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. He also joined embassy personnel for a meet and greet, where he told the audience: “Never go to someone’s home without bringing a housewarming gift. We come bearing some further assistance for Ukraine across multiple areas, but that assistance doesn’t actually mean anything unless it is used effectively, and so many of you every single day are working closely with our Ukrainian colleagues to make sure that the assistance we’re providing is being used effectively and is being used properly.”

Indeed, while in Kyiv, the Secretary announced that the U.S. government would be providing more than \$1 billion in additional aid to Ukraine. The trip marked Blinken’s fourth visit to Ukraine since the war began in February 2022, and his first overnight stay.

Meanwhile, across the border, the Russian government expelled two Amer-

ican diplomats on Sept. 14, giving them just seven days to leave the country. The two were accused of conducting “illegal activity” and “maintaining contact” with Robert Shonov, a 25-year employee of the U.S. consulate general in Vladivostok who was arrested in May 2023 and accused of illegally passing information to the Americans.

Secretary Urges Partial Return to the Office

In a Sept. 11 departmentwide message regarding the future of telework, Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrote: “We need to recalibrate our approach—increasing our in-person presence to ensure we’re working as an integrated team, committed to engaging the American people and operating with the highest standards of security.”

The Secretary stopped short of requesting a full-time return to the office but explained that in-person work is needed to conduct day-to-day diplomacy: “Much of our team requires regular access to classified materials, systems, and meetings. When it comes

to cultivating relationships—with other governments or agencies, the private sector, or civil society—there’s no substitute for engaging face-to-face. And in-office interactions—collaborating on a memo, mentoring a new employee, bumping into a coworker in the cafeteria—help strengthen our culture and creativity, especially for those who have joined State in the past two years and lack a common baseline for understanding department norms.”

“Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach,” he wrote, “we’ll continue to make decisions about telework eligibility based on individual positions and circumstances, using our Mobility Assessment Tool. Ultimately, we expect most full-time employees will physically be in the office three to four times per week.”

Secretary Blinken on American Diplomacy in a New Era

On Sept. 13, Secretary of State Antony Blinken was invited to deliver remarks at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Contemporary Quote

The State Department isn’t [the Department of Defense]: ‘We don’t have weapon systems; we have diplomats, armed with experience and hard-won expertise. Not having Senate-vetted and -confirmed ambassadors in the field during a crisis is like fighting a battle with needed weaponry sitting in storage.’

—Senior FSO (ret.) Alan Eyre, quoted in Robbie Gramer, “There’s No American Ambassador in Israel,” *Foreign Policy*, Oct. 9.

The Secretary talked about his formative years as a practitioner of diplomacy and compared that period to today, which he calls “another hinge moment in history.”

“What we’re experiencing now is more than a test of the post-Cold War order,” said Blinken. “It’s the end of it.”

He talked about the movement toward autocracy by Russia, China, and others; the potentially negative influence of corporations on diplomacy; and the lack of trust citizens have in their governments all across the globe, including in the United States.

He also outlined an American vision for the future, which requires linking our

domestic and foreign policies and building strong alliances. Read the entire speech here: <https://bit.ly/Blinken-SAIS-speech>.

FSO Mark Lambert New Head of “China House” at State

Foreign Service Officer Mark Lambert has been selected as the department’s next head of the Office of China Coordination, known informally as China House. The office was formed in December 2022 to “responsibly manage our competition with the People’s Republic of China” by bringing together experts in international security, technology, and strategic communications.

In a press release announcing its creation, the Office of the Spokesperson wrote that the Secretary and the department are “committed to ensuring we have the talent, tools, and resources to successfully execute U.S. policy and strategy towards the PRC as the most complex and consequential geopolitical challenge we face.”

Lambert has served as deputy assistant secretary of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs since 2021. He previously served as special envoy for North Korean affairs and as director of the Office of Korean Affairs. Lambert has served in Hanoi, Beijing (twice), Bangkok, Tokyo, Iraq, and Bogotá. *Foreign Policy* calls



Secretary Blinken delivers remarks at SAIS, Sept. 13.

HEARD ON THE HILL



Confirm State Department Officials

The scenes in Israel are devastating beyond comprehension. ... This is an all hands on deck moment in history, and the administration needs a Senate-confirmed American diplomat present in every capital in the region as soon as possible. Right now, we don't have a U.S. Ambassador in place in Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Oman, or Kuwait. USAID hasn't had an Assistant Administrator for the Middle East for nearly three years—a role that will be essential to the deployment of emergency economic and humanitarian aid in response to this crisis. The State Department's Coordinator for Counterterrorism—which leads the Department's efforts to defeat terrorism abroad—has been awaiting confirmation for nearly two years.

Now is not the time for politics. The Senate should confirm those awaiting votes the day we are back in session, and immediately schedule committee hearings to expedite confirmation of the remainder. Democrats and Republicans must work together to support our ally Israel.

The nominees for U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Oman, Kuwait and the State Department's Coordinator for Counterterrorism await a vote on the Senate floor. The nominees for U.S. Ambassadors to Israel and Egypt, and the USAID Assistant Administrator for the Middle East await committee hearings.

—Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) in an Oct. 8 statement.

his new job “one of the most important diplomatic assignments in Washington at a time when the State Department has faced staffing issues and criticism from Capitol Hill over its management of China-related policies.”

In other staffing news, former Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has been nominated by President Biden to be the next U.S. ambassador to Israel, replacing Tom Nides. David Huitema, a State Department ethics official, has been nominated to lead the Office of Government Ethics.

USAID Hiring Practices Prompt Senate Concern

On Sept. 8, three U.S. senators wrote to USAID Administrator Samantha Power to express concerns about hiring practices at USAID.

Senators Edward Markey (D-Mass.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and

Bernie Sanders (Ind.-Vt.) wrote of their “concerns about long-standing workforce challenges and the increasing reliance on non-career, temporary hires.” The senators quoted AFSA's position, as published in a *Foreign Service Journal* article by then-USAID Vice President Jason Singer: “Decades of hiring workarounds and the agency's patchwork, fragmented, and seemingly ad hoc approach to strategic workforce planning have diluted USAID's career employee workforce, complicating operations, management, and agency-union relations.”

The senators asked a series of questions regarding USAID's failure to provide a Workforce Report addressing the issues already raised by Congress, the agency's failure to follow workforce recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office, its failure to consider

AFSA's recommendations for addressing workforce problems, its extensive use of noncareer staff, and more.

The senators asked Power to respond to their questions in writing by Oct. 31. Read the entire letter at <https://bit.ly/Power-ask>.

AI and the Future of Diplomacy

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a hot topic in the world of diplomacy as the department and others look at ways to use AI to streamline their workload while combating improper use and maintaining security. Earlier this year, the State Department added a new section to the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) addressing AI policy, 20 FAM 200.

During a Sept. 7 meeting of the FOIA Advisory Committee, Giorleny Altamirano Rayo, chief data scientist at the State Department's Center for Analytics, said that the department would launch its first-ever “enterprise AI strategy” in October, “laying out the framework so that the department can responsibly, safely and securely harness the capabilities of AI to advance our work.”

Eric Stein, deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Global Information Services, told the audience that State is working on a pilot program that uses AI to reduce the yearslong Freedom of Information Act backlog. The department also recently began using AI to help with the declassification process for old documents.

In June, the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy hosted a virtual conference to discuss the use of AI in public diplomacy. More than 200 people logged on to hear from panelists Alexander Hunt, a public affairs officer at U.S. Embassy Conakry; Jessica Brandt, policy director for the Brookings

Institution's Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology Initiative; and Ilan Manor, a senior lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Vivian Walker, the executive director and designated federal officer for the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, moderated the event and later wrote a blog post about it for the University of Southern California Center on Public Diplomacy.

Hunt explained the ways his staff in Conakry uses ChatGPT to “super charge” their work, offering a demonstration and explaining how to get the most out of the service. He stressed, however, that his team is trained to consider anything produced by ChatGPT to be “a starting point” for the final draft.

Manor encouraged the audience to “imagine a ‘StateGPT’ able to analyze decades of internal documents generated by the State Department. Diplomats could

view this internal AI to track changes in other nations’ policy priorities, identify shifts in foreign public opinion, or even identify changes in how America narrates its policies around the world.”

Jessica Brandt discussed how autocrats use AI and large language models to create mass propaganda campaigns, and offered ideas for using AI and public diplomacy to fight these campaigns.

A full transcript of the event can be found at <https://bit.ly/State-AI-event>.

State’s First-Ever Top-Secret Cloud Strategy

The State Department’s chief information officer (CIO) and director of the Technology and Innovation Office spoke on the Federal News Network’s “Ask the CIO” program on Aug. 28.

CIO Jimmy Hall Jr. talked about the department’s strategic plan and its first-ever top-secret cloud strategy, which, he said, offered a “road map” for modern-

izing IT infrastructure and improving efficiency and security with cloud computing while still meeting strategic objectives.

“What we’re looking for is a secure environment,” said Hall. “One that’s coupled with a data strategy, and that enables our analysts and diplomats to enjoy the benefits of either open source intelligence or some of the more classified sources of intelligence that they have a need to know.”

The strategy will not be publicly released, Hall said.

Iran and Saudi Arabia Exchange Ambassadors

For the first time in seven years, Iran and Saudi Arabia have exchanged ambassadors.

Iran officially reopened its embassy in Saudi Arabia in June following years of hostility between the two nations that began when Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran were attacked by protestors in

50 Years Ago

A Look at Four Foreign Services: Brazil–West Germany–Israel–Japan, Part II

All four Services have a lot in common. ...

- The Foreign Service represents an attractive career to university students in all four countries on a par with and sometimes higher than other professions. ...

- Most individual officers are sure their career choice has been the right one. They have a sense of satisfaction about their work and only a normal amount of conviction that they are overworked and underpaid.

- There is a growing concern over the role of economics in international relations and a feeling that Foreign Services must produce economically trained officers in order to remain competitive with other government agencies interested in this field.

- There is almost no feeling that a nation’s Foreign Service should mirror the nation. Quality is a more impor-

tant consideration; “elitism” is not an ugly word when applied to ability and intellect.

- There is some attention being given to the role of women in Foreign Services and an awareness that a woman’s career may have to suffer if she marries. There is no intention, however, to offer special consideration to women and their careers at the expense of smooth operation of the Service.

—FSO Pratt Byrd, from an article of the same title in the November 1973 FSJ. The article is based on a case study the author prepared during the Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy.





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www.fepblue.org/covered

Clements Worldwide

Clements.com/fsj

Chambers Theory Property Management

www.chamberstheory.com

FEDS Protection

fedsprotection.com

Property Specialists, Inc.

PropertySpecialistsinc.com

Richey Property Management

RicheyPM.com/foreignservice

Senior Living Foundation

slfoundation.org

WJD Management

wjdpm.com

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Podcast of the Month: *This Does Not Compute* (www.csis.org/podcasts/does-not-compute)

One of the many excellent podcast series from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, *This Does Not Compute* focuses on the fields of cybersecurity, internet governance, space policy, intelligence, and other areas of technology policy. Past episodes have featured the Treasury Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis; the future of Meta's Threads, which was introduced as an alternative to the floundering X (formerly Twitter); and the effects of disinformation on the Asian American community.



In a recent episode titled "Lessons from History: Technology and Policymaking," host Caitlin Chin talks with historian Jason Steinhauer about artificial intelligence (AI) and disinformation. Steinhauer is the author of the bestselling *History, Disrupted: How Social Media and the World Wide Web Have Changed the Past*, which was highlighted in the November 2022 FSJ. In this episode, Steinhauer, founding director of the Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest at Villanova University, talks about how policymakers can use their knowledge of history to address modern challenges like AI and online disinformation.

The appearance of a particular site or podcast is for information only and does not constitute an endorsement.

2016. The rift led to instability in neighboring Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. But on Sept. 5, the two nations once again exchanged ambassadors.

On Sept. 18, five Americans jailed in Iran were released in a prisoner swap, leading to hope for further negotiations on other issues, such as a new nuclear deal. Five Iranians were also released from U.S. custody, and the U.S. agreed to grant Tehran access to \$6 billion of its reserves that had been frozen overseas.

Secretary Speaks with American Imprisoned in Russia

On Aug. 16, Secretary Blinken spoke by telephone with Paul Whelan, an American who has been wrongfully detained in Russia for more than four

years. This marks the second time the Secretary has personally spoken with Whelan.

A source told CNN that Blinken told Whelan: "Keep the faith, and we're doing everything we can to bring you home as soon as possible."

Several other Americans are currently in prison in Russia, including *Wall Street Journal* reporter Evan Gershkovich and Marc Fogel, a former teacher at the Anglo-American School of Moscow, which was forced to close by the Russian government in May.

U.S. Ambassador to Russia Lynne Tracy met with both Whelan and Gershkovich in September. ■

This edition of Talking Points was compiled by Donna Scaramastra Gorman.

The Quest for Reasonable Civ-Mil Parity

BY ADAM R. PEARLMAN

When President Biden signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14100 on June 9, 2023, it could have been a landmark initiative by the chief executive and head of state to benefit the families of all U.S. public servants who sacrifice so much while serving our country overseas. But it wasn't.

Instead, the well-intentioned initiative “to advance economic opportunity for military spouses” once again formally recognized the sacrifices of military families to the exclusion of all others.

It must be said up front and unambiguously: Noting and advocating for the needs of nonmilitary families—including those in the foreign affairs, intelligence, and law enforcement communities—who experience similar hardships to those of military families, is not to detract from the consideration military service members and their families receive from the White House and Congress. Members of the military and their families earn the benefits and thanks they receive, and there is still more work to be done to support them.

It is simply past time to inculcate the same gratitude for nonmilitary sacrifices in policy, law, and high-level rhetoric as well.

From Rhetoric to Policy

Since President Biden took office, this White House has repeatedly taken

special notice of military spouses and families, including in no fewer than 24 presidential proclamations in addition to several other important policy measures such as the National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality, and the Military Parental Leave Program.

The June executive order, “Advancing Economic Security for Military and Veteran Spouses, Military Caregivers, and Survivors,” gives tangible form to several elements of the administration’s oft-stated support for military families in a document that carries the force and effect of law within the executive branch.

The E.O. recognizes “that military spouses are an underserved community” and prescribes a wide range of initiatives to benefit military spouses and families, including:

- Directing the development of a governmentwide Strategic Plan on Hiring and Retention for Military and Veteran Spouses, Caregivers, and Survivors;
- Increasing federal job postings utilizing the Military Spouse Non-competitive Appointing Authority;
- Expanding training on the employment of military and veteran spouses, caregivers, and survivors across federal agencies;
- Setting governmentwide standards to improve the domestic employee teleworking overseas (DETO) program;

- Directing the Office of Personnel Management to issue guidance to agencies outlining telework and remote work flexibility for military spouses and caregivers;
- Encouraging federal agencies to collaborate to place a military spouse or caregiver in another position following changes to support continuity of care or relocation due to a permanent change of station (PCS) that makes it untenable for them to continue in their existing position;
- Reinforcing the importance of considering remote work options for military spouses when reevaluating or entering agreements with host nations;
- Developing tailored resources for military and veteran spouse entrepreneurs, including additional Small Business Administration consideration to support them “in starting and sustaining their businesses”;
- Bolstering military families’ access to child care;
- Encouraging federal agencies to grant administrative leave for military spouses in conjunction with PCS moves;
- Amending legal assistance instructions across the military departments to allow families to receive advice related to employment under status of forces agreements or other host nation agreements; and
- Improving the collection of data on military and veteran spouses, caregivers, and survivors in the federal workforce.

And . . . What About Everyone Else?

The near-monthly recognition of the bona fide hardships endured by military



Adam R. Pearlman, a State Department eligible family member (EFM), is a senior attorney and the managing director of Lexpat Global Services, LLC, a firm he founded with another EFM. He is also a former civil servant whose prior government service includes both the State Department and Defense Department. The opinions and characterizations in this piece are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. government.

families, and now formalizing that via executive order, stands in sharp contrast to the White House's one-line nod to "those who uproot their lives every few years when a [public servant] family member's job calls on them to find a new home" in the 2023 Proclamation on Public Service Recognition Week.

To be sure, not everything has been at a standstill. The Foreign Service Families Act of 2021 (FSFA) was a major achievement in closing certain gaps between military and overseas nonmilitary service considerations. The FSFA applies provisions of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act concerning residential leases and cell phone contracts to members of the U.S. Foreign Service, compels in-state tuition for Foreign Service children, and directs the Secretary of State to do more to promote family member employment.

As AFSA Advocacy Director Kim Greenplate wrote in the March 2022 *FSJ*: "The [FSFA] achieves more for Foreign Service parity with the U.S. military than any effort in recent memory."

Even so, the department's data show that of the more than 12,000 nonmilitary adult family members based overseas, 55 percent (more than 7,000) are not employed. It is reasonable also to assume that many more are underemployed.

In raw numbers, the number of U.S. government civilians and their family members based abroad is relatively small compared to our uniformed colleagues and counterparts. But military families also tend to live on large, secure, fairly well-resourced installations with on-site American health care, education facilities, banking, commissaries, and retail exchanges.

The families of Foreign Service members and others often spend as much or more time overseas but are posted in less supportive places with higher

The Foreign Service Families Act of 2021 itself demonstrates just how easy it is to include language benefiting "member[s] of a qualifying Federal service" versus simply "the Armed Forces."

hardship scores because of their isolation, persistent security threats, lack of modern health care, and/or insufficient schooling options.

All of that comes on top of the regular moves every two to three years, like the military, and spouses having few meaningful opportunities to maintain or advance their careers either inside the mission or on the local economy.

What Needs to Be Done

There are certainly differences between military and nonmilitary service, and with them come some unique problem sets, needs, and solutions. The family situations of enlisted members of the military, for example, tend to differ greatly from those of the officer ranks and of officers in nonmilitary agencies.

As military spouse Melissa Sullivan wrote in *The Washington Post* in July, some data show that family food insecurity is a significant problem in the enlisted ranks. And with deployments to some countries, such as to NATO ally Italy, military spouses are prohibited from working off-base at all without losing their status.

But, as noted earlier, the unemployment rate of nonmilitary spouses is staggering, and the terms of many bilateral work agreements (BWAs), at posts where they apply, also leave much to be desired in terms of both content and clarity.

Indeed, lack of any sort of interpretive guidance from the State Depart-

ment leaves U.S. employers who might otherwise be flexible with teleworking FS spouses with uncertainty concerning possible corporate tax or tort liability.

Finding that exposure unacceptable, some companies have put their FS-spouse employee(s) in the untenable position of having to either stay behind (and, presumably, collect a separate maintenance allowance from the State Department), or resign. Just as the E.O. calls for legal assistance judge advocates to provide military spouses advice related to employment, the State Department can do more to bring clarity to BWAs.

Considering all of the above, and in full acknowledgment that there are legislative underpinnings to certain benefits exclusive to military families, we should be able to expect the president, the White House, and the U.S. government to be more inclusive of nonmilitary public servants' spouses and families when devising economic opportunity and professional advancement programs in consideration for the inherent and imposed hardships of frequent overseas moves in their extraordinary service to the United States.

From *that* perspective, E.O. 14100 took a big step in the wrong direction, and unnecessarily so. Indeed, the text of the FSFA itself demonstrates just how easy it is to include language benefiting "member[s] of a qualifying Federal service" versus simply "the Armed Forces."

Some measures that should be undertaken by the State Department immediately include:

- Advocate for a follow-on executive order that incorporates nonmilitary families into the provisions of E.O. 14100;
- Advocate for consistent rules and parity between the Military Spouse Non-competitive Appointing Authority and those applicable to spouses of appropriate nonmilitary employees and officers serving overseas;
- Provide interpretive guidance for bilateral work agreements and/or other relevant instruments at each post where a family member is working outside the mission so spouses and their employers have clarity on their tax and/or other

liability exposure, particularly concerning remote work for U.S. companies;

- Negotiate local income tax immunity or exemption for teleworking U.S. government spouses, and relevant tax and tort protections for their U.S.-based employers into BWAs;
- Develop a governmentwide policy allowing federal employees and third-party contractors to work remotely on U.S. government business on employ- ing- or contracting-agency approved equipment from U.S. embassy-approved housing, perhaps by including such provisions in the current legislative proposal that would provide military spouses with more U.S. government telework options;
- Conduct a thorough review of economic and professional opportunity

Speaking Out is the *Journal's* opinion forum, a place for lively discussion of issues affecting the U.S. Foreign Service and American diplomacy. The views expressed are those of the author; their publication here does not imply endorsement by the American Foreign Service Association. Responses are welcome; send them to journal@afsa.org.

programs, preferences, and benefits available to military spouses and family members to determine whether there is a legal or otherwise sound policy rationale for excluding civilian employee spouses and family members from each of the identified programs, preferences, and benefits; and

- Ensure the interests of nonmilitary families are represented during the process of further updating the DETO program, as further discussed in last month's issue of the *FSJ*. ■

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FOCUS ON FOREIGN SERVICE AUTHORS

IN THEIR OWN WRITE

The *Foreign Service Journal* is pleased to present our 22nd annual Foreign Service authors roundup. We compile “In Their Own Write” for publication to celebrate the wealth of literary talent within the Foreign Service community and to give our readers a chance to support colleagues by sampling their wares. The collection of titles here, in particular the memoirs, is also a terrific resource for anyone contemplating a career in international affairs. And it comes to you in time for holiday shopping.

Each entry contains full publication details along with a brief commentary. All listings are for the paperback edition unless there is only a hardcover edition, and where an e-book is available that is noted.

This year our list of books written, edited, or translated by Foreign Service personnel and their family members stands at 47, down from 62 last year. The list is not a definitive record of works by FS authors; as always, we rely on the authors themselves to bring their books to our attention. If your recent book is not presented here, please let us know and we can add it to next year’s collection. We accept submissions for the November *FSJ* all year, by mail or email to journal@afsa.org.

For inclusion, books must be available for purchase. Please note that we use publisher list prices as of press time.

Also note: Inclusion of a book in this collection does not imply endorsement by the American Foreign Service Association or the *FSJ*. AFSA welcomes the opportunity to share the news of books published by members of the FS community but does not vouch for the contents of the books.

Further: We feature only one book by each author, chosen by the author, and list other titles in the author note.

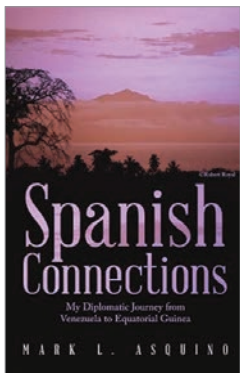
This year, in addition to six works of history or biography and five books on policy and issues, we have 12 memoirs, 19 works of fiction, and two volumes of poetry. Another three titles under “Potpourri” include a book on birding in Brazil.

We also include a selection of recent books “of related interest” to diplomats and their families that were not written by FS authors.

It takes a village to put this collection together. This year, it was assembled by Publications Coordinator Hannah Harari and written by Associate Editor Donna Gorman.

—Shawn Dorman, Editor in Chief

MEMOIRS



**Spanish Connections:
My Diplomatic Journey from
Venezuela to Equatorial Guinea**

Mark L. Asquino, independently published, 2023, \$19.99/paperback, e-book available, 350 pages.

Growing up, Mark Asquino was fascinated by his mom’s tale of an uncle who may—or may not—have fought and died in the Spanish Civil War. This fascination led to a lifelong interest in all things Spanish and an eventual, almost accidental, career as a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Information Agency.

Asquino’s memoir, *Spanish Connections*, tells the tale of his roundabout road into the Foreign Service, which he joined in 1978 after completing his Ph.D. and serving as a Fulbright lecturer in Spain. He covers the pain of passing the exam and languishing on the hiring list, surviving A-100, and convincing his mom that his new career path in the “foreign legion” wasn’t as dangerous as she imagined after watching the 1952 spy thriller “Diplomatic Courier.”

During his three decades in the Foreign Service, Asquino

served in Latin America, Europe, Central Asia, and Africa, capping off his career as ambassador to Spanish-speaking Equatorial Guinea. He writes about going through a divorce while serving in Madrid, attending the funeral of a Kazakh contact who was assassinated, seeking medical care for a sick parent from overseas, and dealing with his own spiral into depression that needed to be treated medically while he was in Russian language training. All these stories are woven into tales of his work and colleagues at each post.

Ambassador Mark Asquino retired in 2015. He and his wife, Jane, live in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he is president of Global Santa Fe.



**Kept: An American
Househusband in Paris**

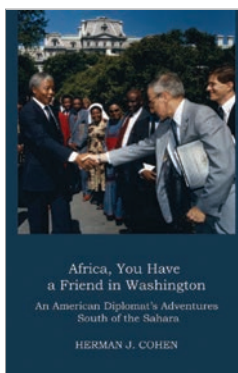
Gregory E. Buford, Moontower Press, 2022, \$11.99/paperback, e-book available, 240 pages.

In this follow-up to his first memoir, *An American Househusband in India*, author Gregory Buford lands in Paris with his three children and his wife, Foreign Service Officer Dana Williams. But before he can get there, he first

needs to survive life as a stay-at-home dad in Arlington, Virginia, and a series of disastrous job interviews with the CIA.

In what may be a first for the State Department, his wife convinces the embassy to allow Buford and the kids to travel to post ahead of her. Much hilarity ensues as he tries to enroll kids in school, navigate the grocery store, and complete all the other tasks of an FS spouse with limited French.

Gregory Buford is also the author of *Making Ghosts Dance* (2017), which was both a Montaigne Medal and Eric Hoffer Award finalist, and *Kept: An American Househusband in India* (2018). He currently lives in Turkmenistan, where he's working on a memoir of his time in Cambodia and a novel set in Austin, Texas. A Texas native, Buford has lived in the Dominican Republic, Japan, India, France, Cambodia, and Switzerland.



Africa, You Have a Friend in Washington: An American Diplomat's Adventures in Sub-Saharan Africa

Herman J. Cohen, New Academia Publishing/VELLUM, 2023, \$24.00/paperback, print only, 142 pages.

After being sworn into the Foreign Service in July 1955, Herman Cohen immediately failed his French language exam. Twice. He was then sent

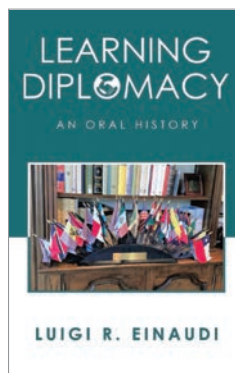
to Paris for his first assignment and given one final opportunity to pass the language exam or face separation from the Service. He passed and went on to spend 38 years in the Foreign Service.

In his memoir, a volume in the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training's Memoirs and Occasional Papers series, Cohen offers a fascinating insider's perspective on the political and cultural changes taking place across the African continent in the 1960s.

He recalls joining the newly organized Bureau of African Affairs just as 35 British and French colonies were becoming independent countries. Cohen helped create a new embassy in Kampala before moving on to the racially segregated city of Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia, where, as the regional labor officer, he worked with separate Black and white labor unions.

As a senior officer, Cohen had numerous interactions with department leadership. He writes about meeting with Secretaries of State James Baker and George Shultz, along with various African leaders. He also writes about his 1984 assignment as principal deputy assistant secretary for personnel, when he negotiated with AFSA leadership to resolve employee grievances and had to make difficult decisions regarding curtailments and other matters.

During his time in the Foreign Service, Herman Cohen served in France, Uganda, Southern Rhodesia, Zambia, Zaire, and Washington, D.C., before becoming U.S. ambassador to Senegal and The Gambia. Among other high-level positions related to Africa, he served as assistant secretary of State for African affairs from 1989 to 1993. He retired in 1994 with the rank of Career Ambassador and is now president and CEO of Cohen and Woods International. He received the 2019 AFSA Award for Lifetime Contributions to American Diplomacy and is also the author of *The Mind of the African Strongman: Conversations with Dictators, Statesmen, and Father Figures* (2015) and *US Policy Toward Africa: Eight Decades of Realpolitik* (2020).



Learning Diplomacy: An Oral History

Luigi R. Einaudi, independently published, 2023, \$26.99/paperback, e-book available, 686 pages.

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST) has the largest collection of U.S. diplomatic oral history, covering the stories of known and not-so-known diplomats alike. ADST interviewed retired FSO Luigi Einaudi

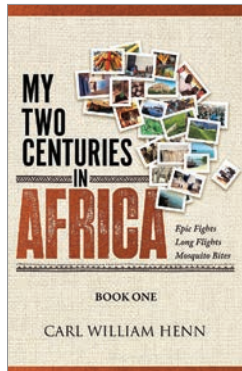
beginning in 2013; *Learning Diplomacy: An Oral History* is the compilation of those interviews.

The story begins with Einaudi's birth in 1936 and covers his education, military experience, and professional experience, including as a Foreign Service officer. The story gives an insider's view of the work of the policy planning staff in the 1970s under then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and in the 1990s during Warren Christopher's tenure as Secretary.

It covers events that occurred during Einaudi's tenure with the State Department, including the Peru-Ecuador War, border conflicts in Central America, the 1973 Chilean coup, and more. He also discusses the future of the department, saying it needs the resources to enable personnel floats that allow time for training and education.

Luigi Einaudi joined the Foreign Service as a reserve officer in 1974, after a decade at the RAND Corporation. His 23-year career culminated in service as the U.S. special envoy to the peace talks between Ecuador and Peru in 1998. He served twice on the Secretary of State's policy planning staff and was director of policy planning for inter-American affairs (1977-1989) and ambassador to the Organization of American States (1989-1993). In 2000 Einaudi was elected assistant secretary general of the

OAS and later served as acting secretary general (2004-2005). He is also the author of *Beyond Cuba: Latin America Takes Charge of Its Future* (1974) and other works.



My Two Centuries in Africa (Book One): Epic Fights, Long Flights, Mosquito Bites

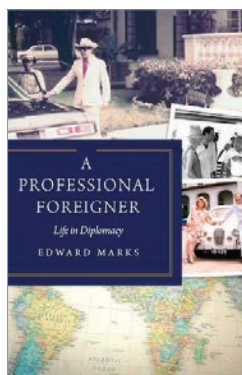
Carl William Henn, independently published, 2023, \$24.99/paperback, e-book available, 200 pages.

As a child in Indiana, Carl William Henn longed to do something exciting. He got his chance in 1981, when he joined the Peace Corps and moved to Morocco. He fell in love with Africa

and ended up spending most of his career on the continent, working primarily as a public health specialist. The first volume of a two-part memoir, this book covers 1980 to 2000, and the second covers the 21st century.

Henn briefly recounts his childhood before moving on to his tour in Marrakesh, where the Peace Corps assigned him to work at a home for boys whose bodies were ravaged by polio. From there, after a stint in the U.S. with his new Moroccan wife, he joined a nonprofit in Burkina Faso. The author’s conversational style draws the reader in as he details slaughtering sheep after converting to Islam for his wife, letting his young children sit on a crocodile in Burkina Faso, and working to destigmatize HIV-AIDS in West Africa. In the process, he offers his unique and insightful views on various experiences in Africa.

After facing a devastating personal loss, Henn joined USAID and returned to Africa, first to Zimbabwe. He was then assigned to Zambia from 2004 to 2010 to work on HIV-AIDS prevention and treatment, as well as drought relief and refugee feeding, and later served in Burundi, from 2018 to 2019.



A Professional Foreigner: Life in Diplomacy

Edward Marks, Potomac Books, 2023, \$34.95/hardcover, e-book available, 304 pages.

Edward Marks spent 40 years in the Foreign Service, serving primarily in Africa and Asia from 1959 to 2001, including assignments as ambassador to Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde. He admits that during his long career, he “always

seemed to be at the opposite end of the [African] continent from the hottest developments,” but no matter—even his most mundane recollections are compelling in the retelling.

In *A Professional Foreigner*, Marks describes life as an American diplomat in a mostly bygone era. He writes about his accidental discovery of and application into the Foreign Service as a Jewish college student from Detroit, talks about getting into trouble at a Georgetown bar one night during A-100, and gives just enough details about life in the Service back then to keep present-day FS members riveted. (Fun fact: Corridor reputation was important even a half century ago.)

Yet he also manages to explain what diplomacy is, going back to the start of the Foreign Service in a way that will bring in the newbies without boring those who have been around awhile.

Marks shares what it was like to be a participant on the fringes of some of the century’s biggest historical moments: he was at U.N. headquarters in New York when the Cold War ended, and he served in Africa during the decolonization era. But he also includes a tale of rescuing an American citizen from a “house of ill repute” in Mexico and writes of buying and restoring an old Jaguar sedan in Sri Lanka.

A former FSJ Editorial Board member and chair, Ambassador Marks contributes to various periodicals and is the author of *Complex Emergencies: Bureaucratic Arrangements in the U.N. Secretariat* (1996) and co-author of *U.S. Government Counterterrorism: A Guide to Who Does What* (2012) and *U.S. Counterterrorism: From Nixon to Trump—Key Challenges, Issues, and Responses* (2017). He writes, speaks, and consults widely, mostly with the Department of Defense.



Memoirs from Overseas and Back

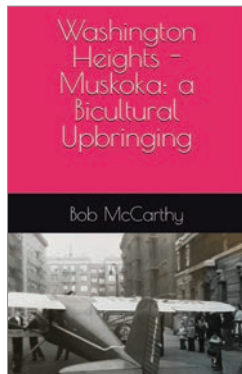
Carol Mathia, Proteus Press, 2023, \$9.99/e-book, 789 pages.

Carol Mathia started writing *Memoirs from Overseas and Back* as one chapter in the book *Let Your Light Shine*, a collection of stories about female educators who were born before 1950. Mathia quickly realized that her life as a Foreign Service spouse had given her enough material to fill an entire book.

Memoirs from Overseas and Back starts with Mathia’s childhood as a twin sister from a working-class Catholic family in Indiana before pivoting to college—which included a year abroad in Spain—and marriage to Bob Mathia, who became a USAID

economics officer in 1971. The couple's first assignment was to Tegucigalpa, where Mathia made the critical faux pas of neglecting to wear nylons to a ladies luncheon. This and other tales of life as a spouse in the 1970s and 1980s are sure to entertain.

Mathia spent 23 years as a Foreign Service spouse, working as an educator throughout. She, her husband, and two daughters were posted to Honduras, Panama (twice), Pakistan, and the Dominican Republic. She returned to the United States in 1993 and continued to work as an educator in Indiana. In 2021 Mathia took part in an oral history project for spouses of Foreign Service employees through the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training.



Washington Heights – Muskoka: A Bicultural Upbringing

Bob McCarthy, independently published, 2023, \$14.50/paperback, e-book available, 270 pages.

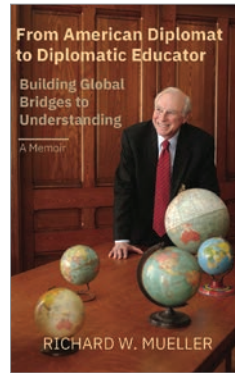
In the introduction to *Washington Heights – Muskoka: A Bicultural Upbringing*, Bob McCarthy acknowledges that his life doesn't readily lend itself to writing a memoir: There were no dramatic events, disasters, or shifts

of fate to give his story a true narrative arc. And yet, he writes, "there should be a space for the average guy" to write down his life. McCarthy then gets down to business, writing his "love letter" to the two places he called home before he joined the Foreign Service: the bustling Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City and the quiet Canadian lake town, Muskoka, where he spent summers with his mother's family.

Thanks to the free Russian-language classes offered by Fordham University during the Cold War, the author developed an interest in Russian while in high school, which led to his eventual career in the Foreign Service, with several assignments to Eastern Europe and Russia. Anyone interested in what life was like for a kid in New York in the 1950s will be charmed by this book, as well as anyone interested in what diplomats do.

Bob McCarthy joined the State Department in 1973 and served in Belgrade, Budapest, Moscow (twice), Podgorica, and St. Petersburg. He retired from the Foreign Service in 2002.

Washington Heights – Muskoka is his first book.



From American Diplomat to Diplomatic Educator: Building Global Bridges to Understanding

Richard W. Mueller, Arlington Hall Press, 2023, \$18.99/paperback, e-book available, 355 pages.

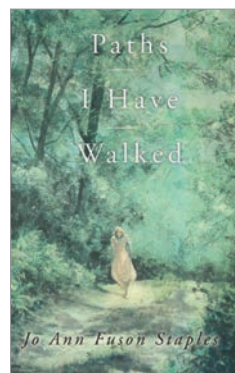
During his 32-year career as a Foreign Service officer, Richard Mueller worked for Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, and James Baker. In this memoir, a volume in the Association

for Diplomatic Studies and Training's *Memoirs and Occasional Papers* series, Mueller writes about his experiences with these men, giving a personal spin on decades of global foreign policy.

He also writes about serving at the U.S. embassy in Saigon during the Vietnam War, at the United States Liaison Office in Beijing in the 1970s before the establishment of a formal embassy, and as the highest-ranking U.S. diplomat in Hong Kong before it returned to Chinese control. The book is intended to give average Americans insight into the inner workings of the State Department's global network of embassies and other missions.

The book also covers Mueller's second career after he retired from the Foreign Service in 1998. As the title of the book suggests, Mueller moved into the field of education, becoming the head of school first at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts and later at Hong Kong International School and Shanghai American School. Mueller explains the connections he sees between diplomacy and education, as both fields work to "build bridges to understanding among diverse countries and peoples."

Richard Mueller and his wife, Claire, live in Golden, Colorado.



Paths I Have Walked

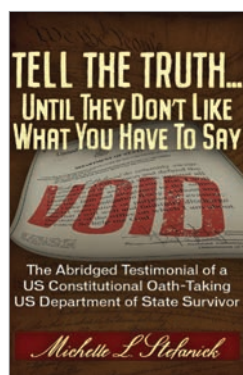
Jo Ann Fuson Staples, FriesenPress, 2023, \$29.99/paperback, e-book available, 378 pages.

From a childhood of poverty and abuse in the mountains of southeastern Kentucky, Jo Ann Fuson Staples grew up to travel the world as a Foreign Service spouse. In *Paths I Have Walked*, Staples tells the story of that journey.

The story is deeply personal, covering her mother's murder at the hands of an abusive spouse and her own troubled relationships, including with a man suspected by the FBI of being skyjacker D.B. Cooper. While on a flight to visit the D.B. Cooper suspect in prison, she met

George Staples. The two were married, and she encouraged him to apply for the U.S. Foreign Service. Their first posting together was in the 1980s in El Salvador, where the author details daily life as an FS spouse. She also shares experiences from their life at their other posts, before going on to describe her life in retirement, which includes an attack by a grizzly bear in Alaska.

Jo Ann Fuson Staples is married to Ambassador (ret.) George Staples, who served as the Director General of the Foreign Service from 2006 to 2007. As a 26-year Foreign Service spouse, she was assigned to San Salvador, Montevideo, Malabo, Nassau, Harare, Manama, Kigali, Yaoundé, and Mons.



Tell the Truth ... Until They Don't Like What You Have to Say: The Abridged Testimonial of a US Constitutional Oath-Taking US Department of State Survivor
Michelle L. Stefanick, Trine Day, 2023, \$24.95/paperback, e-book available, 480 pages.

On Aug. 7, 1998, Michelle Stefanick was serving as the Financial Management Center director at U.S. Embassy

Nairobi when terrorists set off a truck bomb outside the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. She was traveling regionally in Kenya on the day of the attack that killed many of her colleagues, yet the experience profoundly affected her. She began to suspect a conspiracy involving numerous officials throughout the government, including in the State Department, the FBI, the military, and elsewhere. This book represents her attempt to convince others of her theories.

Michelle Stefanick joined the Foreign Service as a financial management officer and served in Cameroon, Kenya, Russia, Sudan, Germany, and Washington, D.C., before retiring in 2013.



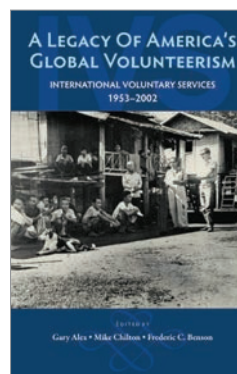
La Dolce Italia: Tasty Food, Amazing Travels, and the Sweet Life, Vol. Red
Mikkela Thompson, Blurb, 2023, \$22.00/paperback, e-book available, 124 pages.

In this third volume of her *La Dolce Italia* trilogy, Mikkela Thompson details the foods she found in various cities and towns across Italy. She also offers her perspective on Italian people and cul-

ture, and provides lists of seasonal fruits and vegetables by month. Part memoir, part travelogue, the book lays out Thompson's favorite restaurants and shops in Amalfi, Sicily, Umbria, and elsewhere. She recalls her favorite restaurants, coffee shops, and beaches. She even includes a chapter on Parmesan cheese production.

Mikkela Thompson joined the Foreign Service as an office management specialist in 2011. She has served in Dhaka; Bogotá; and as an OMS rover out of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Caracas, Nassau, Vancouver, Santo Domingo, and Port of Spain. She has also worked at the Family Liaison Office and the American Foreign Service Association. As the child of an FSO, Mikkela lived in Denmark, England, Finland, Korea, Sweden, and the United States. She is currently assigned to eDiplomacy, where her job is to help her colleagues with technology and knowledge management.

HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY



A Legacy of America's Global Volunteerism: International Voluntary Services, 1953-2002

Edited by Gary Alex, Mike Chilton, and Frederic C. Benson. Peace Corps Writers, 2022, \$20.00/paperback, e-book available, 370 pages.

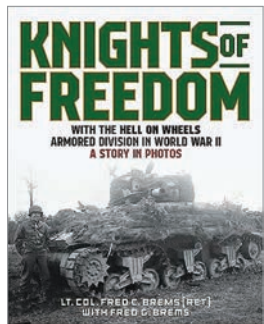
From 1953 to 2002, more than 1,300 young people worked overseas for the International Voluntary Services (IVS), a precursor to the Peace Corps and

other U.S. government volunteer programs. *A Legacy of America's Global Volunteerism* tells the inside story of IVS, with former volunteers sharing both personal stories and the origins and structure of the program, along with lessons learned by its architects.

Volunteers write about the risks they faced, avoiding land mines, charging elephants, poisonous snakes, and gunfire. But they also discuss the success of their work teaching English and improving agricultural projects, translating for injured Northern Vietnamese soldiers, teaching metalworking techniques in Papua New Guinea, and preventing malnutrition in remote villages in India.

Many of the volunteers served in or near Vietnam during the Vietnam War, risking their lives as they went about their workdays. Others served in more stable yet still difficult environments, such as rural health clinics and villages without potable water. Some relate romances that led to marriage and children.

The collection is edited by three former USAID employees: Gary Alex was a Foreign Service officer from 1977 to 1996, serving in Bolivia, Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka, and Washington, D.C. Originally from Iowa, Mike Chilton worked as a USAID contractor in Thailand and Vietnam from 1966 to 1975. Frederic Benson was a USAID contractor in Laos from 1970 to 1974.



Knights of Freedom: With the Hell on Wheels Armored Division in World War II, A Story in Photos

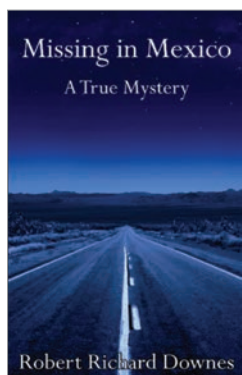
Fred C. Brems, with Fred G. Brems, Stackpole Books, forthcoming, \$29.95/paperback, 320 pages.

In 1941, six months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the author’s father—also named Fred Brems—

was drafted into the U.S. Army and served as a tanker with the 2nd Armored Division, eventually rising to command a platoon and then a company of Sherman tanks. Along the way, he took more than 600 photos, and when he returned home after the war, he shared the stories behind the photos with his son.

The younger Fred Brems became a student of military history who never forgot his father’s stories or photos. He embarked on a project to digitally scan and enlarge the photos, and eventually decided to compile the digitized photos, as well as his dad’s stories, into a book. Students of World War II military history and fans of old photography will find a new and personal look at the era within the book’s pages.

Fred G. Brems is the spouse of retired USAID FSO Susan Brems. He and his spouse served in Lima, La Paz, Managua, and Manila. He has an M.A. from the University of Maryland and a B.S. from Georgetown University.



Missing in Mexico: A True Mystery

Robert Richard Downes, independently published, 2022, \$14.95/paperback, e-book available, 279 pages.

In 1982 Robert Richard Downes was a first-tour consular officer serving in Mazatlán, Mexico, when a U.S. citizen, Professor Nicholas Schrock, was reported missing in Downes’ consular

district. For the rest of his tour, Downes helped lead the search

for Schrock. The search continued for years after Downes had moved to a new post, but Schrock was never found.

After he retired, Downes decided to write the story of the search for the professor. *Missing in Mexico* draws on his personal recollections as well as cables, letters, and newspaper articles from the time to show the behind-the-scenes work that went into the search. Downes writes that he wanted “to show a broader audience a series of events from the viewpoint of Foreign Service officers serving abroad and trying to protect American citizens.” It also gives a view of life at a consulate in the days before emails, cell phones, and desktop computers.

Robert Richard Downes is a retired Senior Foreign Service officer with the State Department. During a 37-year diplomatic career, he served overseas in Mazatlán, Stuttgart, Bangkok, Bonn, Berlin, Canberra, Caracas, and Managua. He currently lives in Texas.



The Extraordinary Leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt: Why It Matters Today

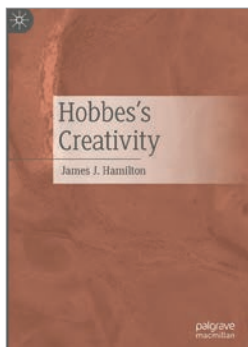
Emilio Iodice, independently published, 2023, \$15.00/paperback, e-book available, 220 pages.

Former Foreign Service Officer Emilio Iodice is back with his newest book, this one on the life and leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt. In his opening disclaimer, Iodice notes that “parts of

this work are fiction,” with various names, places, and events imagined by the author. He adds, though, that it reads more like a biography, with quoted material from those close to Roosevelt taken from the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library.

Iodice was moved to write the book, he explains in an author’s note, because he believes that Roosevelt’s leadership and ideals were inspirational, and “a new generation needs Eleanor Roosevelt as a guide to know what to do in a time of conflict, contradictions, and anguish.”

Emilio Iodice served in Brazil, Mexico, Spain, and Italy before retiring from the Foreign Service in 1998. He subsequently served as vice president of Lucent Technologies and director and professor of leadership of the John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University until 2016. He serves on the board of Marymount International and is a professor of leadership at LUISS University in Rome and director emeritus of Loyola University Chicago’s campus in Rome.



Hobbes's Creativity

James J. Hamilton, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, \$119.99/hardcover, e-book available, 271 pages.

In *Hobbes's Creativity*, retired FSO James J. Hamilton examines the work of Thomas Hobbes, focusing on the effect of the philosopher's environment and culture on his creative thinking and development.

Hamilton first studied Hobbes as a graduate student. But upon retiring from a 26-year Foreign Service career in 2006, and while casting about for a new hobby or interest, he discovered that research focused on Hobbes had expanded dramatically, and he decided to take a fresh look. Hamilton defines "creativity" before moving on to an overview of Hobbes's upbringing, education, personality, and passions, all of which led the young philosopher to develop his ideas on political theory and what he called the "state of nature."

James Hamilton joined the Foreign Service in 1979, serving in Porto Alegre, Lisbon, The Hague, Luanda, and at the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna over a 26-year career. He has a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University and taught briefly at Purdue University in Indiana.



Imperfect Partners: The United States and Southeast Asia

Scot Marciel, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers/The Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, 2023, \$39.95/paperback, e-book available, 560 pages.

Part memoir, part foreign policy explainer, *Imperfect Partners* begins in 1986, 10 months after author Scot Marciel moves to Manila to begin his first Foreign Service assignment. As he returns home from a date with his future wife, Marciel unwittingly drives through a protest

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Marine Corps University Press offers a variety of scholarly publishing opportunities for faculty, staff, and graduate-level students. In addition to a full catalog of monographs covering Marine Corps history and national security/international relations topics, MCUP also publishes three journals annually.

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Journal of Advanced Military Studies

MCUP launched the *Journal of Advanced Military Studies* (JAMS) in 2020 to provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussion of national security and international relations issues and how they impact the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps directly and indirectly. JAMS is published biannually, with occasional special issues that highlight key topics of interest. The Fall 2024 issue of JAMS will focus on amphibious operations and the evolution of military services. Article submission deadline is **31 May 2024**.

Marine Corps History

Marine Corps History publishes twice a year, and the editors are accepting new articles, historiographical essays, and book reviews on all topics within the long history of the Corps. Articles all focus on some aspect of the Corps either directly or indirectly, including foreign marines and Joint operations. MCH is accepting submissions of scholarly articles focused on new and unique research. To submit an article for consideration, email mcu_press@usmcu.edu. Upcoming submission deadlines are:

- Summer 2024 issue (deadline **1 December 2023**)
- Winter 2024 issue (deadline **1 June 2024**)

NEW BOOK RELEASES



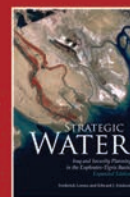
Warfare in Peacetime
Proxies and State Powers
by Christopher C. Harmon



Shared Experience
Organizational Culture and Ethos at
the U.S. Marine Corps Basic School,
1924-1941
by Jennifer L. Mazzara



From Hegemony to Competition
Marine Perspectives on Expeditionary
Advanced Basing Operations
Edited by Matthew R. Slater



Strategic Water
Iraq and Security Planning in the
Euphrates-Tigris Basin, Expanded Ed.
Frederick Lorenz
and Edward J. Erickson

that turns out to be the beginning of the Philippine People Power revolution.

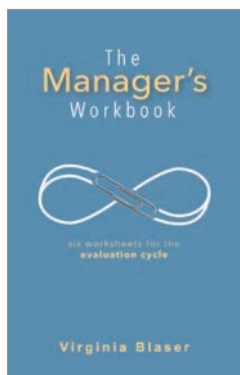
From that inauspicious beginning, the writer goes on to serve 37 years in the Foreign Service, most of it in Southeast Asia. *Imperfect Partners* covers revolution in the Philippines, U.S.-Vietnam relationship building in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, postwar Cambodia, and other hot spots in U.S. foreign policy.

In his review of the book (October 2023 *FSJ*), Ambassador (ret.) Ted Osius notes: “Marciel provides an insider’s view of events while remaining scrupulous about history and even-handed in his analysis. Rather than writing a memoir, Marciel chose to weave his insights into the story of recent diplomatic engagement in the region in which he spent most of [his career].”

This helps the book go beyond a mere academic viewpoint—what other policy handbook reflects on singing karaoke with the Indonesian defense minister on the margins of an ASEAN Regional Forum meeting?

Scot Marciel retired from the Foreign Service in 2022. He served as U.S. ambassador to Myanmar and Indonesia and was ambassador for ASEAN affairs. He also served as principal deputy assistant secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific affairs and in the Philippines, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Türkiye, and Brazil. Marciel is currently a fellow at Stanford University’s Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center and a senior adviser at BowerGroupAsia.

POLICY & ISSUES



The Manager’s Workbook: Six Worksheets for the Evaluation Cycle

Virginia Blaser, independently published, 2022, \$4.99/paperback, e-book available, 68 pages.

In an April 2023 *Foreign Service Journal* article, author Virginia Blaser writes: “During my three decades in the State Department, I saw how some extremely poor evaluation practices

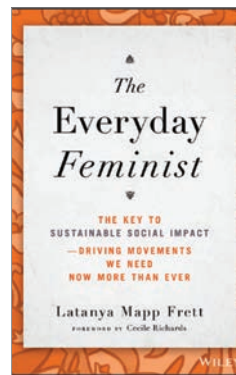
entrenched in our culture disadvantaged those who may not be strong writers, are not familiar with how to game the evaluation system, or who have supervisors who are not fully engaged in the evaluation process or poor writers themselves.”

Blaser’s attempt at a solution to this critical human resources

problem can be found in *The Manager’s Workbook: Six Worksheets for the Evaluation Cycle*. This slim book—available online for free—helps new managers develop a system that works across the evaluation cycle. There are sections on onboarding new employees, creating a predictable system of check-ins, and, because every post is marked by yearly employee churn, a chapter on predeparture reviews.

With worksheets, questionnaires, and even a list of bonus questions to help trigger useful dialogue, Blaser’s book is a must-read for anyone thinking about the upcoming evaluation season.

During 34 years in the Foreign Service, Virginia Blaser served in Madrid, Brussels, London, San Salvador, Port Louis, Kampala, Dar es Salaam, Cape Town, and Washington, D.C., with four tours as a deputy chief of mission and principal officer. She was also a Presidential Rank Award recipient. Blaser retired in 2022 and lives in Cape Town.



The Everyday Feminist: The Key to Sustainable Social Impact Driving Movements We Need Now More Than Ever

Latanya Mapp Frett, Wiley, 2023, \$28.00/hardcover, e-book available, 240 pages.

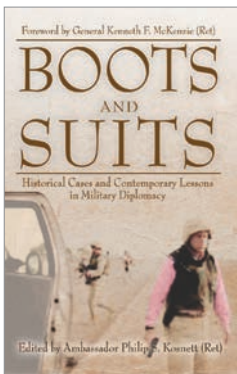
Latanya Mapp Frett defines “everyday feminists” as ordinary people who use their voice and personal resources to push for transformational social change within their communities. In this book, she shares compelling stories of some of the ordinary women with whom she worked throughout her career, introducing readers to little-known feminists and exploring how these women have been successful in their activism.

For example, while in law school, she studied in Nairobi, where she met a hairdresser whose salon doubled as a center for community debate and activism. The experience expanded Frett’s understanding of the ways and places in which activists could serve. From there, she met other women doing the same hard work throughout the global south and in the U.S., working first as a lawyer with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, later as an FSO with USAID, and then as the executive director of Planned Parenthood Global.

Frett also offers actionable advice for social impact professionals in larger organizations—like USAID and the State Department—as well as for lawmakers, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit professionals looking to replicate the grassroots success of these women.

With a foreword by Cecile Richards, former president of Planned Parenthood, this book is a must-read for anyone looking to make a difference in the lives of women around the world.

During a 10-year career with USAID, from 2001 to 2011, Latanya Mapp Frett was posted in Mali, Iraq, Nigeria, and Egypt. She is currently the president and CEO of Global Fund for Women. She also serves on the board of directors at Oxfam America and CHANGE, and is an adjunct professor at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.



Boots and Suits: Historical Cases and Contemporary Lessons in Military Diplomacy

Edited by Philip S. Kosnett, Marine Corps University Press, 2023, available (free) online: www.usmcu.edu/mcupress/, 440 pages.

Edited by Ambassador (ret.) Philip Kosnett, *Boots and Suits* is a compilation of essays by nearly two dozen

authors, from the U.S. and abroad, with wide-ranging experience in the military, the Foreign Service, academia, and other areas of international development. The authors discuss various aspects of military diplomacy, which they differentiate from both “military confrontation” and “diplomatic overtures.”

As retired FSO Robin Holzhauser notes in her *FSJ* review of *Boots and Suits* (September 2023), the book “offers valuable insights for military personnel, policymakers, students, and researchers interested in the military’s evolving role in diplomacy.”

State Department authors include Eugene Fishel, deputy director in the State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research; John Hennessey-Niland, former U.S. ambassador to Palau; retired Foreign Service Officer Yaropolk Taras Kulchycky; Ronald Neumann, a retired ambassador and Vietnam veteran; and FSOs Heather Steil, Alison Storsve, and Stallion Yang.

In part one, the history of military diplomacy is covered, with essays on the Ottoman Empire, the U.S. Confederacy, and the Carter and Reagan eras. Part two features contemporary challenges in Ukraine, Russia, China, and even the Netherlands. The final section offers “lessons from practitioners” about adapting to foreign cultures, bridging the military-civilian divide, and more.

Career FSO Philip Kosnett served as U.S. ambassador to Kosovo from 2018 to 2021. He also served as chargé d'affaires in Türkiye and Iceland, and deputy chief of mission in Uzbekistan,

EDITOR & MEMOIR COACH

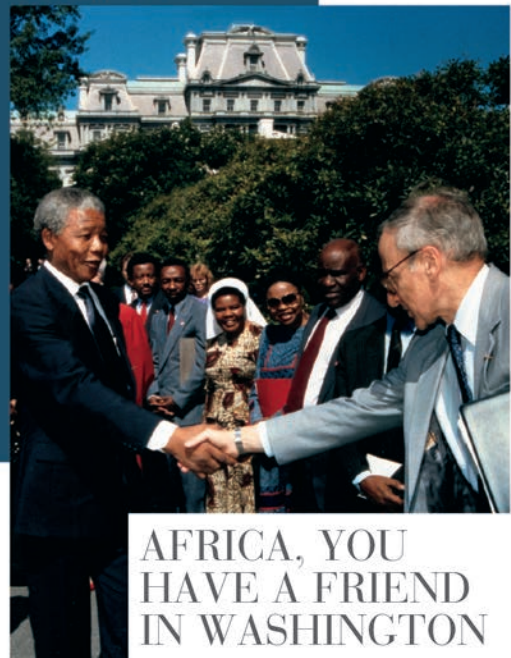
ANN AUBREY

I will say, with memoir, you must be honest. You must be truthful.

Elie Wiesel

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WWW.ANNAUBREY.COM

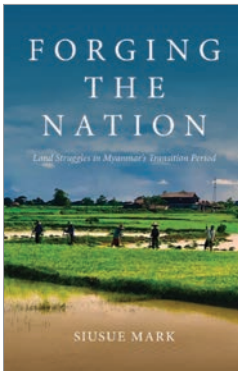
NEW



A memoir by Amb. Herman J. Cohen

Available on Amazon

along with four tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He retired in 2021 and lives in Black Mountain, North Carolina.



**Forging the Nation:
Land Struggles in Myanmar's
Transition Period**

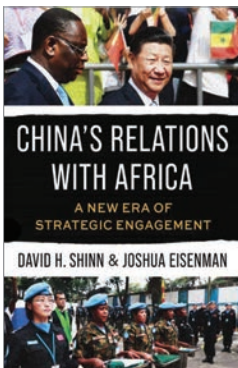
SiuSue Mark, University of Hawai'i Press, 2023, \$28.00/paperback, e-book available, 248 pages.

A military coup in Myanmar in February 2021 brought the country's young democracy to a quick end, as the junta imprisoned the political opposition and deployed lethal force to stop dissent. But

the coup's leaders underestimated the degree to which ordinary citizens would fight back through civil disobedience and strikes.

In *Forging the Nation*, USAID Foreign Service Officer SiuSue Mark explains the role land ownership played in this struggle for power. Because Myanmar is an agriculture-based economy, land is "the ideal lens" through which to view the country's political development in recent decades. Mark examines the connection between Myanmar's democratic transition, ethnic politics, and global capital pressures on land to understand the role of land in political and economic transitions.

A political economist and development practitioner with two decades of experience across Asia and Latin America, SiuSue Mark joined USAID in January 2022 and is currently posted in Kazakhstan as a democracy and governance officer. Earlier she consulted with the World Bank and the United Nations in the governance of land and natural resources in transition and post-conflict settings. From 2008 to early 2019, she lived in Burma/Myanmar and was involved with its democratic transition.



**China's Relations with Africa:
A New Era of Strategic
Engagement**

David H. Shinn and Joshua Eisenman, Columbia University Press, 2023, \$35.00/paperback, e-book available, 504 pages.

China's rising influence in Africa has prompted a great deal of concern and commentary in recent years. In their latest book-length collaboration,

China's Relations with Africa, retired FSO David Shinn and his co-author Joshua Eisenman cover the topic in detail.

Shinn and Eisenman look at the diplomatic tactics China has been using since 2012, when Xi Jinping became president of the People's Republic of China, to strengthen relations with political and military leaders throughout Africa. The authors detail China's expansion into the global south through arms sales, port calls, educational exchanges, and space cooperation. They close with a series of predictions about the future of China-Africa relations.

During a 37-year career in the Foreign Service, David Shinn served as ambassador to Burkina Faso (1987-1990) and Ethiopia (1996-1999). He also served in Lebanon, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritania, Cameroon, and Sudan. Shinn teaches African studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University and is a nonresident scholar at the Middle East Institute. Joshua Eisenman is an associate professor of politics at the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame and senior fellow in China studies at the American Foreign Policy Council. Shinn and Eisenman also co-authored *China and Africa: A Century of Engagement* (2012).

FICTION



**Paris Gold: Ten Tales of
Treasures Lost and Found**

Judith Baroodly, independently published, 2022, \$9.99/paperback, e-book available, 227 pages.

In the introduction to her second collection of stories, *Paris Gold: Ten Tales of Treasures Lost and Found*, retired FSO Judith Baroodly confesses that they are all "based in some way on real events or people."

Many of the stories are set in places Baroodly and her spouse were posted or visited, including Cyprus, Russia, Morocco, and Northern Virginia. Perhaps most memorably she tells of an art collector hiding from the mob, an American tourist who helps her Russian tour guide defect to the United States, and a town transformed when one of their own buys a winning lottery ticket but then refuses to come forward.

Judith Baroodly started her career as a television reporter in Norfolk, Virginia, before joining the Foreign Service. As a public diplomacy officer from 1984 to 2011, she served in Damascus, Tel Aviv, Casablanca, Nicosia, Santiago, and Baghdad, with a final overseas posting as minister counselor for public affairs in Paris. She served on the editorial board of *The Foreign Service*

Journal from 2011 to 2013 and taught at American University and the National War College. Baroody is also the author of *Casablanca Blue* (2020).



The Tea Merchant

Leena Bhatnagar, independently published, 2022, \$14.99/paperback, e-book available, 417 pages.

Set in Boston in the weeks and months leading up to the 1773 Boston Tea Party, the precursor to the American Revolution, this novel by Leena Bhatnagar tells the story of a widowed tea merchant named Constance Pruitt who becomes a smuggler and spy for the Sons of Liberty. Hailing from a prominent family in New England, Constance is still mourning the death of her brother, whose murder three years prior remains unsolved.

At 400-plus pages, *The Tea Merchant* covers Constance’s fight for independence from her Loyalist parents, who want to see her remarried in London, and her struggle against the British East India Tea Company’s sinister plans for the colonies. Along the way she meets various men—including several from the company—who propose marriage. She also meets a mysterious housekeeper who works for a handsome company man while hiding secrets of her own. History buffs will be interested in the descriptions of events leading up to the Boston Tea Party in colonial Massachusetts.

Leena Bhatnagar is the daughter of Foreign Service Officer Alka Bhatnagar. She works as an economist at the U.S. Treasury Department and is a volunteer at the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of American History.



**Shadow of the West:
A Story of Divided Berlin**

Sarah Brotherhood Chapman, Black Rose Writing, 2023, \$22.95/paperback, e-book available, 301 pages.

In her debut novel, third culture kid Sarah Brotherhood Chapman follows the happenings of Kate, a new girl at Berlin American High School, and Anika, an East German girl who finds

herself in danger on the other side of the Berlin Wall. Foreign Service kids will warm to the story of being the new person on

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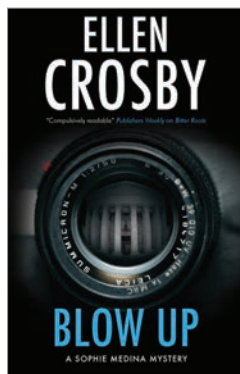
THE FOREIGN SERVICE JOURNAL

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campus, trying to find friends and fit in. And any adults who remember serving in a divided Berlin before the wall fell will likely enjoy the author's description of the city, its people, and the nightlife of the time.

The story is also accessible to those outside the Foreign Service, as the author finds ways to explain the work of diplomacy and the political situation of the time without interrupting the flow of the story. Although the book is billed as a young adult novel, there's plenty for everyone as Kate looks for friends, love, and purpose in her new country.

The child of Foreign Service parents, Sarah Brotherhood Chapman grew up in Germany, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Holland, and the USSR, graduating from high school in West Berlin. After college, she lived and worked in Türkiye for three years before returning to the United States to work at *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian Magazine*. Chapman and her FSO husband have been posted in Kingston, Ankara, Istanbul, Athens, Geneva, Bangkok, and Rome. They are currently based in Munich.



Blow Up

Ellen Crosby, Severn House, 2023, \$18.99/paperback, e-book available, 240 pages.

Blow Up is the third book in Crosby's mystery series featuring international photojournalist and amateur sleuth Sophie Medina. The book opens with her husband's mysterious death after he tries to complete a project on behalf of the CIA. As Sophie is trying to find out

what happened, she goes for a run and finds Everett Townsend, a Supreme Court justice, lying in an alley, clinging to life. Soon Sophie is on the run, using her photos of Washington's unhoused residents to uncover the secret that got Townsend killed.

In addition to this three-part series of thrillers centered on Sophie Medina—the first two being *Multiple Exposure* and *Ghost Image* (both re-released in 2022)—Crosby is the author of the stand-alone novel *Moscow Nights* (2000), which is based loosely on her time as a Moscow correspondent in the late 1980s. She has also published a series that takes place in Northern Virginia, the Wine Country Mysteries.

A former journalist, Ellen Crosby is married to André de Nesnera, a Foreign Service officer who retired from the Voice of America in 2015. The couple have lived in England, France, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, and the former Soviet Union. They now reside in Northern Virginia.



The Last Violinist

Kenneth Dekleva, independently published, 2023, \$11.99/paperback, e-book available, 192 pages.

In this sequel to *The Negotiator's Cross*, which was featured in the *FSJ*'s 2022 roundup, protagonist Jong-un is a gifted North Korean violinist whose talent takes him out of his homeland and into love—and trouble—in South Korea, Austria, Russia, and elsewhere.

Jong-un is drawn into a web of espionage and diplomacy before he embraces his faith in God and discovers where he truly belongs. Several characters from the first novel, including Father Ismael and a legendary CIA station chief known as the Musician, make an appearance in this sequel.

Kenneth Dekleva was a regional medical officer/psychiatrist with the State Department from 2002 to 2016, serving in Moscow, Mexico City, New Delhi, Vienna, and London. Now a practicing psychiatrist in Dallas, Dekleva is also a senior fellow at the George H.W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations and a professor and director of psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.



The Exile's Promise: Burden of the Banished, Book One

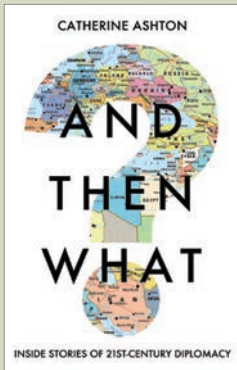
Elizabeth A. Drysdale, Stag Beetle Books, 2023, \$13.99/paperback, e-book available, 322 pages.

Like all humans in this young adult novel, Mariel has been banished from land by the evil Faes and is resigned to a life at sea, where she collects and incinerates human garbage alongside her dad, brothers, and friend Ry. But when her brother disappears during a storm, she suspects he may not be dead and decides she must search for him on land, where she risks capture and execution by the Faes.

Once on land, Mariel is discovered by a Fae captain who suspects she may be human but decides to trust her. The two travel to the capital together, and Mariel gets involved in a rebellion started by her missing brother. Can she find him before the Faes hunt her down?

(Continues on page 41)

OF RELATED INTEREST



And Then What?: Inside Stories of 21st-Century Diplomacy

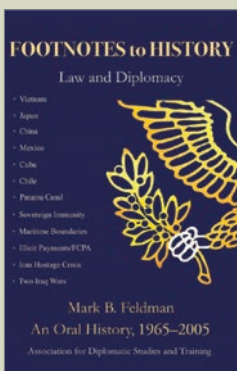
Catherine Ashton, Elliott & Thompson, 2023, \$29.95/hardcover, e-book available, 256 pages.

Baroness Catherine Ashton wrote this book, she explains, because “I wanted to describe what it was really like to be in the middle of events as an ordinary person given an extraordinary role to play.” Indeed, as the European Union’s first High Representative for Foreign

Affairs and Security Policy, Ashton had one of the best seats at the table, working to find collaborative solutions to all manner of global crises.

Though the pace was relentless and the press could be hateful, the work itself was satisfying, and in seeing the worst the world could offer, she also witnessed acts of bravery and kindness that gave her hope and moments of joy. Ashton worked with such State notables as John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, and Bill Burns to negotiate historic settlements (think Iran nuclear deal). Her story offers insight into what went on during such critical negotiations, along with her thoughts on the tools diplomats need to succeed in today’s world.

Catherine Ashton served as the E.U.’s first High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy from 2009 to 2014. She is a distinguished scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and a consultant to the Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.



Footnotes to History: Law and Diplomacy

Mark B. Feldman, Xlibris, 2023, \$17.99/paperback, e-book available, 270 pages.

In 2021 the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training sat down with retired FSO Mark Feldman. From that interview came Feldman’s memoir, *Footnotes to History: Law and Diplomacy*.

Born in 1935, Feldman went to work for the State Department in 1965, not long after graduating in “one of the strongest classes to graduate from Harvard Law,” because he naively hoped to help “solve the Vietnam War.” He joined the department as a GS-14 Civil Service staff attorney and served until 1985, working on issues including the war in Vietnam, the Iran hostage crisis, and Iraq wars. Feldman shares recollections about Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, and Henry Kissinger. He also discusses meeting war criminal Klaus Barbie, actress Tippi Hedren, and Prince Bandar, Saudi Arabia’s ambassador to the U.S. from 1983 to 2005.

Mark B. Feldman served in the State Department Office of the Legal Adviser from 1965 to 1981, including as deputy legal adviser and acting legal adviser (1974-1981). He taught foreign relations law at Georgetown University Law Center and has worked in private practice since 1981.



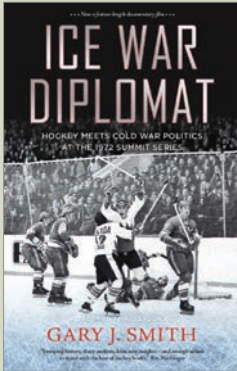
No Ordinary Assignment: A Memoir

Jane Ferguson, Mariner Books, 2023, \$29.99/hardcover, e-book available, 336 pages.

In *No Ordinary Assignment*, Jane Ferguson chronicles her journey from awkward teen living on a farm in rural Ireland to award-winning international war correspondent. She learned to overcome fear under fire—surviving a terrorist attack on a hotel in Kabul, sneaking into Syria at the height of the civil war, and watching children die of starvation in Yemen—all while navigating her own fear that she wasn’t good enough for the career she chose.

The book gets deeply personal as Ferguson tries to make a romantic relationship work, struggles to pay her bills on a freelancer’s salary, and yearns for approval from her mentally unstable mother, all placed in the context of the conflicts she is sent to cover. Foreign Service readers will recognize many of the places where she travels and works—Cairo, Kabul, Sana’a, Dubai, Mosul, and more—though not a regional security officer in the world would have let embassy staff take the risks Ferguson takes to tell her war stories.

Jane Ferguson is a special correspondent for *PBS NewsHour* and a contributor to the *New Yorker*. She has won an Emmy Award, a Peabody Award, the George Polk Award, and the Aurora Humanitarian Journalism Award for her reporting.



Ice War Diplomat: Hockey Meets Cold War Politics at the 1972 Summit Series

Gary J. Smith, Douglas & McIntyre, 2022, \$26.95/paperback, e-book available, 336 pages.

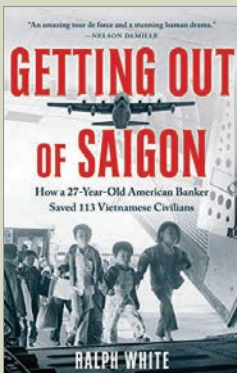
A first-tour Canadian diplomat in Moscow in 1972, Gary Smith was tasked with supporting the Canadian-Soviet hockey series, one that was in danger of falling apart due to political

differences between Canada and the Soviets. In this compelling memoir, he tells the story of how he came to join his country's Foreign Service after a childhood mostly spent in small Canadian towns, where he first developed both his interest in international affairs and his love of hockey.

Smith's experience taking the Canadian Foreign Service entrance exams—both written and oral, like the entrance exams into the U.S. Foreign Service—and the lengthy wait he endured to find out if he'd be offered a job will sound familiar to U.S. diplomats. Soviet and Russia scholars will find his descriptions of serving in 1970s Moscow fascinating. And hockey fans will appreciate his descriptions of the behind-the-scenes bickering over referees and the minute-by-minute accounts of the actual matches—eight games in all were scheduled, and it took a nail-biting final match on the ice in Moscow to determine the victor.

Before retiring in 1998, Gary Smith served as Canadian ambassador to Indonesia. After retirement, he worked as executive consultant for the film "Ice-Breaker." He currently lives in Perth, Ontario.

For former AFSA President Eric Rubin's review of *Ice War Diplomat*, see the May 2023 *FSJ*.



Getting Out of Saigon: How a 27-Year-Old American Banker Saved 113 Vietnamese Civilians

Ralph White, Simon and Schuster, 2023, \$28.99/hardcover, e-book available, 320 pages.

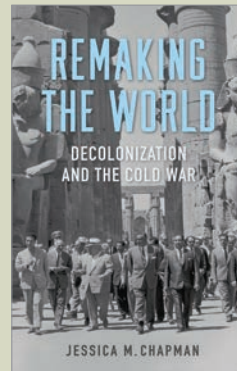
In early 1975, Ralph White was a 27-year-old bank manager at the Saigon branch of Chase Manhattan Bank. He'd transferred there at the behest of his boss, who tasked him with closing

the branch if it appeared that Saigon was in danger of falling to the North Vietnamese army.

When White arrived in Saigon, senior managers warned him that the city was about to fall and urged him to evacuate the entire staff, plus all their family members. White wasn't sure what he was allowed to do, but he knew what the right thing to do was. He tells readers exactly how he did it in *Getting Out of Saigon*.

White talked about the experience in a conversation with writer D.Z. Stone that appeared in the July-August 2023 *FSJ*. Asked if he considers himself a hero, Stone reports, White flinched and said: "The heroes were the Foreign Service officers who defied U.S. policy and their delusional ambassador, risking their careers and their own lives to evacuate thousands of at-risk Vietnamese who had worked for Americans."

Ralph White spent the majority of his career in the finance industry, working with several banks in Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, and New York City. After retirement, he turned to writing. In 2009 White founded the Columbia Fiction Foundry, a creative writing workshop for alumni of Columbia University, where he earned his MBA.



Remaking the World: Decolonization and the Cold War

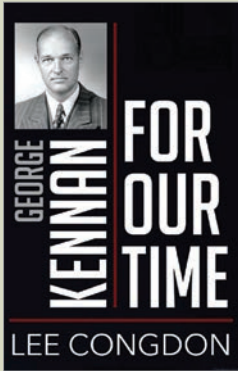
Jessica M. Chapman, The University Press of Kentucky, 2023, \$30.00/paperback, e-book available, 316 pages.

For most people, the Cold War calls to mind images of Soviet weaponry or the Berlin Wall. But in *Remaking the World*, historian Jessica Chapman looks not at the nuclear arms race of

the Cold War era but at the connection between the Cold War and decolonization across the globe between 1945 and 1965. During those two decades, more than 50 nations declared independence from their colonizers.

Chapman begins where World War I ends, with the collapse or weakening of numerous powerful empires that had thrown their armies into the war. She then looks closely at events that bubbled up in the aftermath of that war in six separate countries: India, Egypt, the Congo, Vietnam, Angola, and Iran, explaining how shifting policies in the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba influenced their fight to decolonize. Finally, she examines the role of the United Nations and regional actors, as well as policy changes in the post-Vietnam War era.

Jessica Chapman is a professor of history at Williams College and the author of *Cauldron of Resistance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and 1950s Southern Vietnam* (2013).



George Kennan for Our Time

Lee Congdon, Northern Illinois University Press, 2022, \$19.95/paperback, e-book available, 232 pages.

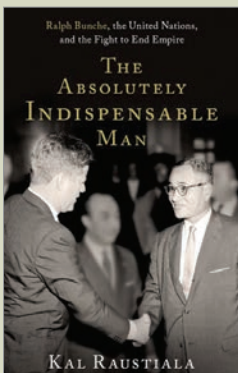
Every Foreign Service member today knows—or should know—of George Kennan’s larger-than-life stature in the world of foreign policy. A Soviet expert, Kennan almost single-handedly convinced the Washington establish-

ment to adopt a Cold War-era strategy of containment of the Soviet Union with his fabled “Long Telegram,” a 1946 cable he sent to the State Department from his post in Moscow.

In *George Kennan for Our Time*, historian Lee Congdon delves into Kennan’s early life and upbringing, which led directly to his interest in, and talent for, diplomacy. Congdon then outlines Kennan’s contributions to the field and lays out his philosophies regarding international relations and nonintervention beyond his more well-known work in the Soviet bloc, including Kennan’s call for revival of religious faith and a return to early American ideals.

Lee Congdon is a professor emeritus of history at James Madison University and the author of multiple books, including *Seeing Red* (2001) and *Solzhenitsyn* (2017).

George Kennan for Our Time was reviewed by Joe Novak in the March 2023 issue of *The Foreign Service Journal*.



The Absolutely Indispensable Man: Ralph Bunche, the United Nations, and the Fight to End Empire

Kal Raustiala, Oxford University Press, 2022, \$34.95/hardcover, e-book available, 688 pages.

In 1950 Ralph Bunche became the first Black American to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet, he is not as well known as many other diplomats of

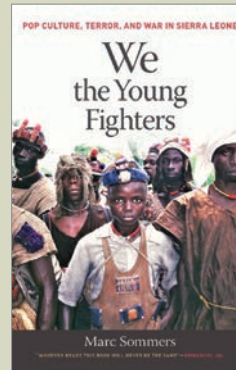
his era, with many of his achievements lost to history. In *The Absolutely Indispensable Man*, Kal Raustiala sets out to right this wrong.

Raustiala takes readers through Bunche’s early life in Los Angeles, to Harvard, where Bunche became the first Black man to earn a Ph.D. in political science, and on to the State Department and the United Nations. As one of the principal

architects of the U.N., Bunche negotiated the first peace treaty between Israel and neighboring Arab countries, and Raustiala maintains that Bunche is responsible for the U.N.’s role as a *peacekeeping*—not only peacemaking—institution.

Kal Raustiala is a professor of comparative and international law and the director of the Ronald W. Burke Center for International Relations at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is also the author of *The Knockoff Economy: How Imitation Sparks Innovation* (2012).

For reviews of *The Absolutely Indispensable Man* by Ambassador (ret.) Jim Dandridge and Alexis Ludwig, see the September 2023 *FSJ*.



We the Young Fighters: Pop Culture, Terror, and War in Sierra Leone

Marc Sommers, University of Georgia Press, 2023, \$32.95/paperback, e-book available, 488 pages.

In October 2000, Marc Sommers was in The Gambia to interview refugees from Sierra Leone. When he asked them to talk about their experiences fleeing a brutal war in their homeland

in 1999, many recollected that the perpetrators of horrible crimes against civilians were devotees of hip-hop musician Tupac Shakur, considering their Tupac T-shirts to be uniforms and tying American flags around their heads, Rambo-style. The refugees mentioned other pop culture icons as well, including Bob Marley, whose song “Get Up, Stand Up” was used as a rebel fight song.

The experience led Sommers to write *We the Young Fighters*, which delves into the ways pop culture can radicalize young people a world away but can also be used to reach otherwise alienated youth and to push for government reform.

Marc Sommers is the author of 10 books, including *Stuck: Rwandan Youth and the Struggle for Adulthood* (2012) and *The Outcast Majority: War, Development, and Youth in Africa* (2015). He has a Ph.D. from Boston University and currently works as an international consultant with a focus on youth, peacebuilding, education, and security.



The Secret Gate: A True Story of Courage and Sacrifice During the Collapse of Afghanistan

Mitchell Zuckoff, Penguin Random House, 2023, \$28.99/hardcover, e-book available, 336 pages.

Although it reads like a thriller, *The Secret Gate* tells the true story of Foreign Service Officer Sam Aronson and Afghan writer and women's rights advocate Homeira Qaderi in the early

days of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021.

Sam, a former Diplomatic Security agent turned FSO, volunteered to join the State Department team helping with the evacuation of more than 100,000 American and Afghan civilians from Kabul Airport. Homeira, a poet and single mother of a young son, was an outspoken critic of the Taliban, making her a target of the new regime. When her literary agent contacted Sam, the young FSO agreed to help Homeira and her son escape through a secret entrance to the airport.

Mitchell Zuckoff is a professor of narrative studies at Boston University. He has won the PEN/Winship Award for Nonfiction, the American Society of Newspaper Editor's Distinguished Writing Award, and The Livingston Award for International Reporting. He is the author of numerous nonfiction books, including *13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened in Benghazi* (2014) and *Fall and Rise: The Story of 9/11* (2019).

See the May 2023 *FSJ* for Ambassador (ret.) Michael McKinley's review of *The Secret Gate*.



American Refuge: True Stories of the Refugee Experience

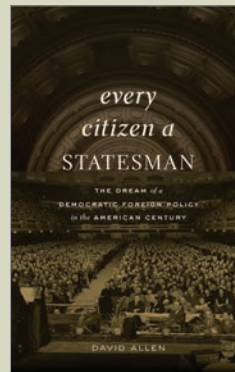
Diya Abdo, Steerforth Press, 2022, \$16.95/paperback, e-book available, 176 pages.

In *American Refuge*, Diya Abdo, herself the child of refugees, shares the stories of seven refugees from around the world who found their way to the United States. They came

reluctantly from Burma, Burundi, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and Uganda, and are now building new lives far from home with the help of Every Campus A Refuge (ECAR), an organization founded by Abdo.

Abdo chronicles the lives of these refugees before they were forced to flee their homes, the persecution they suffered along the way, and their experiences in camps and as they resettled. The book's cover illustration was created by one of them, an artist who escaped two assassination attempts in Iraq before relocating to the U.S.

Diya Abdo, a U.S. immigrant, was born in Jordan to Palestinian refugees. An activist and English professor at Guilford College, Abdo founded Every Campus a Refuge to leverage university resources to provide temporary shelter to refugee families. She won the 2021 J.M.K. Innovation Prize for her work with ECAR. Her article on ECAR appears in this edition (see page 48).



Every Citizen a Statesman: The Dream of a Democratic Foreign Policy in the American Century

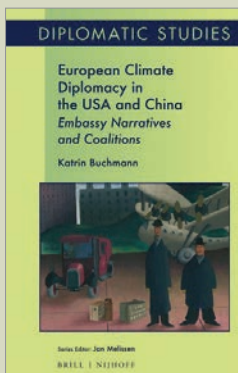
David Allen, Harvard University Press, 2023, \$45.00/hardcover, e-book available, 344 pages.

Founded in 1918, the Foreign Policy Association, one of the first international relations think tanks, soon began to organize nationwide popular

discussion groups under the slogan: "World Affairs Are Your Affairs." This civic involvement was a far cry from today's seemingly disinterested populace, as seen every four years during national elections, in which, David Allen notes, foreign policy is hardly discussed at all.

In *Every Citizen a Statesman*, Allen traces the path from an early 20th-century democratic foreign policy, when, he claims, U.S. citizens believed they had a civic duty to stay involved and informed, to today's cloistered and elitist "establishment," which rarely factors the will of the people into its decision-making.

David Allen is a historian and former fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School. He has taught at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University, and his research appears in the *International History Review* and the *Journal of Cold War Studies*. He also writes regularly for *The New York Times*.



European Climate Diplomacy in the USA and China: Embassy Narratives and Coalitions

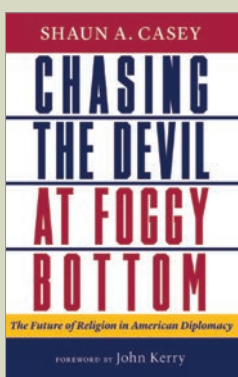
Katrin Buchmann, Brill Nijhoff, 2022, \$185.00/hardcover, e-book available, 528 pages.

Much has been written about international efforts to slow the rate of climate change. Here, Katrin Buchmann takes a narrow approach in examining the issue, focusing specifically on the efforts

of several European embassies in 2007-2014 to change domestic politics through their diplomatic networks, forging alliances to increase the chance of success in international negotiations.

Buchmann makes it a point to differentiate between diplomacy and foreign policy. She notes that foreign policy researchers typically ignore the work of embassies: “For this reason, I wanted to figure out what role European embassies play in the E.U.’s climate diplomacy and how effective they are.” Because China and the United States are the biggest emitters of carbon, Buchmann focuses on them specifically as she works to understand the effectiveness of European diplomatic efforts to curb emissions.

Katrin Buchmann earned her Ph.D. in politics and international studies from the University of Cambridge. She currently works on renewable energy in East Africa.



Chasing the Devil at Foggy Bottom: The Future of Religion in American Diplomacy

Shaun A. Casey, Eerdmans Publishing, 2023, \$30.00/hardcover, e-book available, 269 pages.

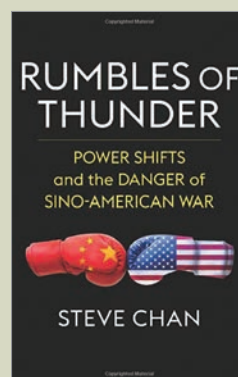
While church and state are understood to be necessarily separate in the United States, in *Chasing the Devil at Foggy Bottom*, author Shaun Casey argues that to build a successful foreign policy

platform, diplomats need to understand the crucial role religion plays in the field, including in conflict resolution, human rights, and sustainable development.

A longtime colleague of former Secretary of State John Kerry—who wrote the foreword—Casey joined the State Department under Kerry as special representative for religion and global affairs and the first director of the department’s Office of Religion and Global Affairs. With this experience and expertise, Casey writes of the need to move beyond the typical focus on securing religious

freedom and countering violent extremism, which he believes led to such foreign policy disasters as the misguided decision to invade Iraq in 2003. He argues instead for a research-based approach to policy decisions around religion.

Shaun Casey is a senior fellow at the University of Virginia and a Pulaski Institution nonresident fellow. He was previously director of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and a professor in the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Casey is the author of *The Making of a Catholic President: Kennedy vs. Nixon 1960* (2009) and co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theology* (forthcoming).



Rumbles of Thunder: Power Shifts and the Danger of Sino-American War

Steve Chan, Columbia University Press, 2022, \$32.00/paperback, e-book available, 336 pages.

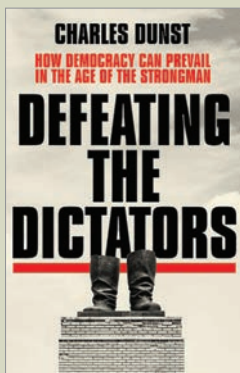
You’ve likely read in numerous reputable outlets—including this one—that China is on the rise, presenting a serious threat to the American economy and the global balance of power. In

Rumbles of Thunder, Steve Chan argues that claims of a “rising China” are alarmist and untrue.

According to Chan, the shifting balance of power noted by diplomats and other China watchers does not mean war is on the horizon. Chan believes that China is not striving to upend the global order and that the United States is not in decline, as other authors have claimed. In fact, he argues, American structural advantages will endure, allowing the U.S. to retain its status as the only global superpower “for at least several decades.”

The biggest flashpoint Chan sees in the relationship between China and the West is Taiwan. While “we have not yet reached a situation reminiscent of the Cold War,” he believes the tense relations between Washington and Beijing have led to “increasing investment in military capabilities and decreasing economic interdependence,” which could trigger a Sino-American confrontation.

Steve Chan is College Professor of Distinction Emeritus at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is also the author of *Trust and Distrust in Sino-American Relations: Challenge and Opportunity* (2017); *Thucydides’ Trap? Historical Interpretation, Logic of Inquiry, and the Future of Sino-American Relations* (2020); and *Contesting Revisionism: China, the United States, and the Transformation of International Order* (2021).



Defeating the Dictators: How Democracy Can Prevail in the Age of the Strongman

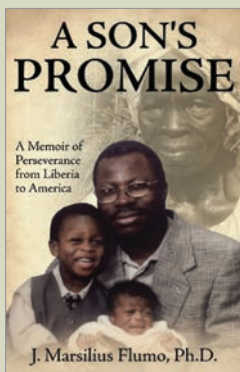
Charles Dunst, Hodder & Stoughton, 2023, £25.00/hardcover, e-book available, 448 pages.

Unfortunately for U.S. diplomats, after the Jan. 6 insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capitol, it felt exponentially more difficult to extol the virtues of democracies and fight autocratic tendencies

abroad. In *Defeating the Dictators*, Charles Dunst argues that autocrats around the world, including in Russia and China, are becoming more powerful, making this a dangerous time for democracies. Further, he writes, “beating the drum for liberal values and economics abroad while these same principles appear to struggle at home will do us no good.”

Dunst calls for a “no-bullshit approach to the future,” urging Americans to take a hard look at both our own failures and the successes of other countries so that we can band together and defeat the dictators. He points to Singapore, a stable and thriving autocracy, saying any attempt to sell democracy as an ideal to such a country is “doomed to fail.” His book is intended as a road map to reinstitute the basics of good governance in democracies before autocracies take any more ground.

Charles Dunst is deputy director of research and analytics at The Asia Group, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and a contributing editor at *American Purpose*. His articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, and *Foreign Policy*. A former foreign correspondent, Dunst holds degrees from the London School of Economics and Hamilton College.



A Son's Promise: A Memoir of Perseverance from Liberia to America

J. Marsilius Flumo, Bitterroot Mountain Publishing, 2021, \$19.95/paperback, e-book available, 550 pages.

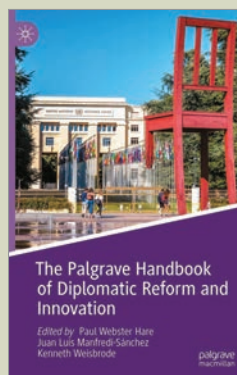
J. Marsilius Flumo's memoir is a tribute to his mother, whom he credits with pushing him to a successful future even though it required numerous sacrifices on her part. Flumo writes of

his upbringing in rural Liberia and of the tragedies that marked the lives of his parents and grandparents, including the murder

of his grandfather at the hands of vengeful villagers.

The book offers a view into tribal relationships, beliefs, and conflicts. Flumo's early childhood is interesting in that it is so very different from a typical American childhood. His mother finds a way to send him to a private Catholic school to pursue his education, changing his trajectory for the better. From there he goes to the University of Liberia, where he experiences discrimination because of his status as an indigenous “country boy.” Flumo eventually finds work with USAID in Monrovia, escapes Liberia during the civil war in 1990, and ultimately becomes a U.S. citizen.

J. Marsilius Flumo teaches at John R. Rogers High School in Spokane, Washington. He worked as a locally engaged staff member with USAID in Monrovia from 1989 to 1990. He has a Ph.D. in educational leadership from Gonzaga University.



The Palgrave Handbook of Diplomatic Reform and Innovation

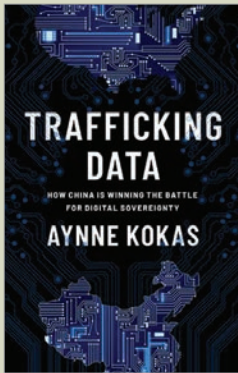
Edited by Paul Webster Hare, Juan Luis Manfredi-Sánchez, and Kenneth Weisbrode, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, \$219.99/hardcover, e-book available, 775 pages.

This handbook opens with the premise that “diplomacy is a neglected global issue” that is nevertheless a public good

in need of nurturing. The 40 scholars and practitioners from more than 30 countries who contributed to the handbook offer their ideas for ways to innovate, improve, and reform the practice of diplomacy.

Contributors examine the effects of the “digital revolution” on diplomacy as they look at various global organizations and ministries that must be reformed to meet the needs of this new, connected world. Most of the rules of diplomacy were established more than six decades ago, they write, and so organizations like the United Nations need updating; a role also must be found for tech-focused companies.

Paul Webster Hare was a British diplomat for 30 years and the British ambassador to Cuba from 2001 to 2004. He is a senior lecturer in international relations at Boston University. Juan Luis Manfredi-Sánchez is a visiting professor at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and a full professor at University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain. Kenneth Weisbrode is an assistant professor of history at Bilkent University in Türkiye; co-founder of the Network for New Diplomatic History; and co-editor of the journal *Diplomatica*.



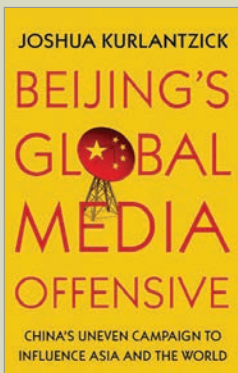
**Trafficking Data:
How China Is Winning the
Battle for Digital Sovereignty**

Aynne Kokas, Oxford University Press, 2022, \$27.95/hardcover, e-book available, 360 pages.

You've probably heard by now that your kids' TikTok dances are a threat to U.S. national security. But the threat to national security extends far beyond TikTok. In *Trafficking*

Data, Aynne Kokas looks at how TikTok, Facebook, Fortnite, and other technology firms in both the United States and China are exploiting holes in government policy to gather information on ordinary citizens. American companies are focused on the bottom line, not security, and U.S. consumers remain mostly disinterested in the threat. As Kokas argues, this allows the Chinese government to collect reams of data on U.S. citizens as they work to influence our elections and more.

Aynne Kokas is an associate professor of media studies at the University of Virginia and the C.K. Yen Chair at the University of Virginia's Miller Center. She has researched trade between the U.S. and Chinese markets as a management consultant, professor, Fulbright scholar, and employee of Fortune 500 companies. *Trafficking Data* won a bronze award from Axiom Business Book Awards and was a gold medalist in the 2023 IPPY Awards. Kokas is also the author of *Hollywood Made in China* (2017).



**Beijing's Global Media Offensive:
China's Uneven Campaign to
Influence Asia and the World**

Joshua Kurlantzick, Oxford University Press, 2022, \$32.99/hardcover, e-book available, 560 pages.

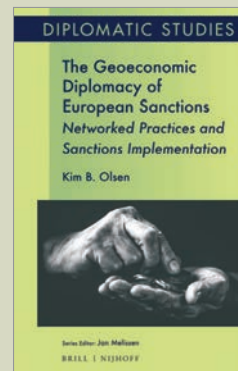
Southeast Asia expert Joshua Kurlantzick warns that China is using both soft and "sharp" power to increase its global influence in ways that are a real threat to U.S. policy

goals. In *Beijing's Global Media Offensive*, he describes China's information strategies, including savvy use of social media—even those mediums to which its own citizenry has no access—and a global network of journalists, employed to sell China's brand of authoritarianism.

The Chinese government is playing the long game, investing billions that the U.S. and others can't or won't match. Kurlantzick urges the U.S. to push against China's advance while also reminding us of the need to curb the authoritarian impulses that are on the rise in our own country.

Joshua Kurlantzick is a senior fellow for Southeast Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations. He was previously a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he studied Southeast Asian politics and economics and China's relations with Southeast Asia, including Chinese investment, aid, and diplomacy. He is the author of five previous books on China and Southeast Asia.

Beijing's Global Media Offensive was reviewed by Josh Glazeroff in the March 2023 issue of *The Foreign Service Journal*.



**The Geoeconomic Diplomacy
of European Sanctions:
Networked Practices and
Sanctions Implementation**

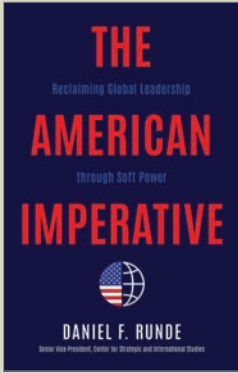
Kim B. Olsen, Brill Nijhoff, 2022, \$106.00/hardcover, e-book available, 220 pages.

When Russia invaded neighboring Ukraine in 2022, Kim Olsen was already hard at work on this book about how governments can and

should use geoeconomic diplomacy to "maintain some control over the unpredictable processes that unfold" when sanctions are unleashed on international markets. Though the introduction touches on the sanctions that were quickly levied against the Russian Federation after its unprovoked attack, the bulk of the book covers lessons learned from previous European Union (E.U.) attempts to shape foreign policy through economic power plays, including in Russia in the early 2010s and in Syria in 2011.

Olsen takes a hard look at how diplomats—European diplomats, in particular—can engage with private, nonstate actors in support of their own geostrategic objectives, using economic levers that are typically beyond state control to influence foreign policy.

Kim Olsen is a former senior adviser to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin, Paris, Istanbul, United Nations New York, and Tunis. An expert on geoeconomics, economic sanctions, and E.U. foreign and security policy, Olsen is an associate fellow with the German Council on Foreign Relations. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Antwerp.



**The American Imperative:
Reclaiming Global Leadership
through Soft Power**

Daniel F. Runde, Bombardier Books, 2023, \$28.00/hardcover, e-book available, 280 pages.

After two decades working in the field of international development, Daniel Runde has written this book to “raise the alarm” about the new power struggle he sees shaping up between

China, Russia, and the United States. With the world distracted by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, China continues to build a diplomatic presence across the globe, competing for economic influence with the U.S. in what Runde calls “an entirely new kind of superpower competition.”

In *The American Imperative*, Runde argues that the U.S. must rethink how it uses the tools at its disposal, with a focus

on economic and soft-power skills rather than military might, to lead. The United States, he writes, is the only country equipped to help developing nations build their economies and support good governance—which, in turn, supports American interests.

Runde also calls for the State Department and USAID to be more transparent about how and where they spend their development dollars, suggesting that Congress should be responsible for collecting data to track and enforce development progress.

Daniel Runde is a senior vice president, director of the Project on Prosperity and Development, and holds the William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He has held leadership roles at the World Bank Group and USAID, where he served as director of its Office of Global Development Alliances from 2002 to 2007.

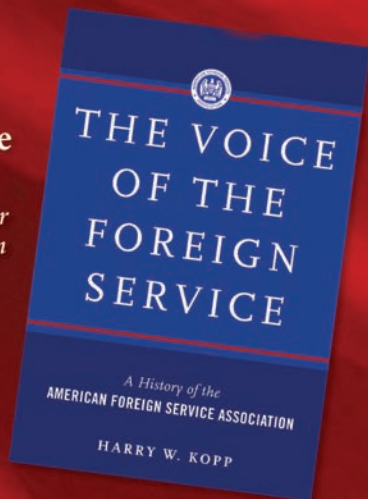
FOREIGN SERVICE BOOKS

Bringing You Inside the World of Diplomacy

A History of the American Foreign Service Association

By Harry W. Kopp for
the American Foreign
Service Association

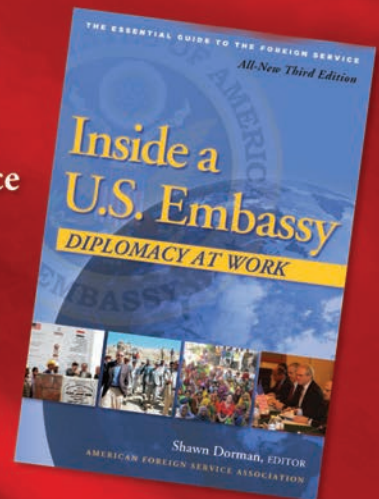
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The Essential Guide to the United States Foreign Service

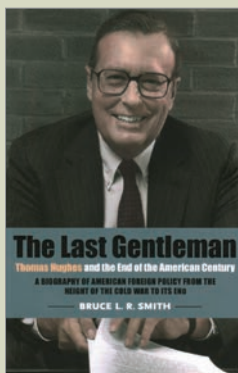
Edited by Shawn
Dorman

afsa.org/inside



BOTH BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH AFSA AND ALL MAJOR BOOK RETAILERS

(Fiction section continued from page 32)



The Last Gentleman: Thomas Hughes and the End of the American Century

Bruce L.R. Smith, Brookings Institution Press, 2022, \$34.99/paperback, e-book available, 390 pages.

Thomas Hughes was the assistant secretary of State for intelligence and research in 1965 when he correctly predicted that if the Vietnam

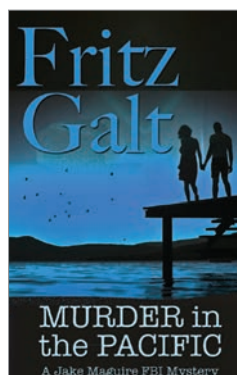
War escalated, the consensus around U.S. foreign policy goals would collapse. Hughes' bold memo was written for his friend Hubert Humphrey, who had just been elected vice president. Hughes would retire from the State Department in 1970 and go on to become president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In this biography Bruce L.R. Smith tells the story of Hughes' life and career, offering a behind-the-scenes account of major events such as the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban missile crisis, and the CIA's failed Operation Mongoose targeting the Castro regime. The book is valuable for its depiction not just of Washington's well-known public figures but for its detailed descriptions of the typically invisible diplomats, like Hughes, who were doing the real work of the day.

Bruce L.R. Smith is a senior staff member in the Brookings Center for Public Policy Education. He has served in the White House Office of Science and Technology and at the Department of State. A retired professor of political science at Columbia University, he is the author or editor of many books on American foreign and science policy.

A review of *The Last Gentleman* by John Starrels appeared in the April 2023 issue of *The Foreign Service Journal*.

This is the third novel by Elizabeth Drysdale, an award-winning author of young adult fiction and the daughter of a Foreign Service officer and Air Force veteran, Clay Allen. She accompanied her father on tours across Asia. Her first novel, *Curse of the Forgotten* (2020), was a Swoony Award finalist. She resides in a small town in northern Utah with her husband and three sons.



Murder in the Pacific: A Jake Maguire FBI Mystery

Fritz Galt, independently published, 2022, \$14.99/paperback, e-book available, 188 pages.

Special Agent Jake Maguire has taken a break from his work as an FBI agent to go on a honeymoon in Hawai'i with his new bride, sexy journalist Amber Jones Maguire. But when Jake goes out for a morning run, he stumbles across

a crime scene: A U.S. Marine from the nearby military base has been murdered while out surfing. Jake and Amber are soon pulled away from their vacation and into the murder investigation. They begin to learn about island surf culture as they work to uncover a murderous white supremacist group within the military. *Murder in the Pacific* is the fourth installment in a series.

Foreign Service spouse Fritz Galt, who co-founded Tales from a Small Planet (talesmag.com) in 1999, has also written a series of thrillers featuring protagonist Mick Pierce. Galt and his wife, Foreign Service Officer Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, have been posted in Belgrade, Taipei, Mumbai, Beijing, Shanghai, Brussels, Guangzhou, Honolulu, and Ulaanbaatar, where his wife served as U.S. ambassador to Mongolia. They currently live in Washington, D.C., where Galt is hard at work on his next book.



Finding Kony

Robert E. Gribbin, independently published, 2022, \$15.99/paperback, e-book available, 267 pages.

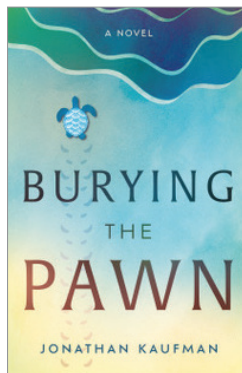
Set in Uganda in the early years of the 21st century, the novel *Finding Kony* traces the quest of Paul Simmons, a Black man from Alabama with a degree in journalism, to find Joseph Kony. Kony was the real-life leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (which terrorized Ugandans, murdering civilians and abducting children)

from 1987 until his disappearance in the 1990s somewhere along

the border between South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic. In this work of fiction, Simmons is determined to locate Kony and discover his motives in becoming a killer.

Having spent most of his adult life and career in Africa, author Robert Gribbin ably explains the politics and fighting that led to Kony's rise, capture, and subsequent disappearance as he follows the protagonist on his journey.

Ambassador (ret.) Robert Gribbin served in the State Department Foreign Service for 35 years, including postings in 15 African countries and on delegations to the U.N. General Assembly and U.N. Human Rights Commission. He was the U.S. ambassador to Rwanda (1996-1999) and the Central African Republic (1993-1995). Gribbin also wrote *The Last Rhino* (2020), which takes place in the Congo, and *The Serpent of the Nile* (2021), an adventure story set in South Sudan.



Burying the Pawn

Jonathan Kaufman, River Grove Books, 2023, \$22.95/paperback, e-book available, 430 pages.

Burying the Pawn follows its main characters across time, frequently skipping between decades in Venezuela, Florida, and North Carolina, as it tells the stories of Zeb Ackerman, an adventure tour operator stymied by attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; Black immigrant

Kiara Battle, an educational psychologist with anger issues who struggled with learning disorders and racism as a child; and Leo Bello, a Venezuelan-born financier who grew up in poverty but became a success after immigrating to the United States.

Zeb's business has been sabotaged by angry rivals, while Kiara, his elementary school crush, is trying to become a better person and doctor. Leo's support could help them both, but a partnership between the three seems unlikely, as both Zeb and Kiara have reason to dislike him—Leo publicly humiliated Zeb and rejected Kiara's romantic overtures.

The author's first novel, *Burying the Pawn* shines a compelling light on the challenges of individuals with learning differences. Proceeds from the book benefit Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities and the University of North Carolina Learning Center.

Jonathan Kaufman, whose father, Robert, was a Foreign Service officer from 1959 to 1980, grew up in Washington, D.C., Paris, Brussels, and London. He holds a B.A. and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



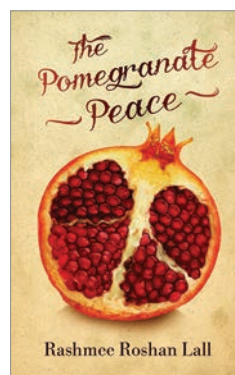
Mobility

Lydia Kiesling, Crooked Media Reads, 2023, \$28.00/hardcover, e-book available, 368 pages.

In her second novel, author and former Foreign Service kid Lydia Kiesling tells the story of Bunny Glenn, an American teen who, at the start of the novel, is living in Azerbaijan with her FS family. Her father's job exposes her to some of the behind-the-scenes

machinations of the oil and gas business in the time leading up to the global war on terrorism. Bunny grows up and accidentally, apathetically, finds her own career in the oil industry, where she struggles with the ethics of her work. Traveling across the globe, she matures and struggles to find purpose in her adult life. Scenes dealing with divorce in the Foreign Service and its effects on the left-behind spouse are particularly poignant.

Lydia Kiesling is the daughter of former Foreign Service Officer John Brady Kiesling, who resigned from the Service in 2003 because of his opposition to the war in Iraq. As a child, she was posted with her family to Tel Aviv, Casablanca, Yerevan, and Athens. Kiesling's first novel, *The Golden State*, was named one of NPR's best books of 2018. The Portland, Oregon-based writer has a degree from Hamilton College.



The Pomegranate Peace

Rashmee Roshan Lall, Quercus, 2022, \$3.99/e-book, 320 pages.

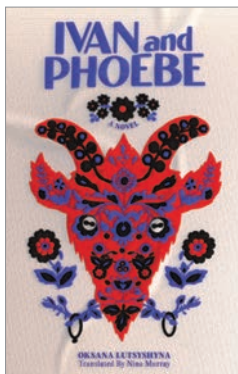
The Pomegranate Peace takes place on the U.S. embassy compound in Kabul shortly after the embassy is attacked in September 2011. The protagonist feels as though she is trapped in a prison, unable to leave the compound for security reasons. When her Afghan colleague, Najim, begins sharing food from home,

she finally begins to feel as though she is experiencing Afghanistan. And as she becomes familiar with American programs and actions, she begins to see U.S. efforts to stabilize the country as absurd.

The new edition of this wry account of the U.S. engagement in Afghanistan, and the first in print, was released recently in India in paperback and is available in the U.S. as an e-book.

Rashmee Roshan Lall is a journalist and the spouse of retired Foreign Service Officer Michael Macy. She began her career with *The Times of India* in Delhi and later moved into

broadcasting with the BBC World Service in London, where she met Macy. The couple served together in India, Haiti, Tunisia, and Afghanistan. Roshan Lall has written for numerous publications, including *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, and *The New York Times*. Holding an M.A. in creative writing and a Ph.D. in creative writing/critical research, both from the University of East Anglia, she is a lecturer in journalism at Goldsmiths, University of London, and writes *This Week, Those Books*.



Ivan and Phoebe

Oksana Lutsyshyna, translated by Nina Murray, Deep Vellum Publishing, 2023, \$26.95/hardcover, e-book available, 425 pages.

Ivan and Phoebe are a young, married couple who were active as students in the Ukrainian independence movement of the 1990s. The story moves between small-town Uzhgorod, where Ivan grew up in a traditional family,

and the big cities of Kyiv and Lviv, where the protests took place. Ivan and Phoebe grapple with the trauma of surviving the revolution—Ivan refuses to talk about his torture at the hands of the KGB, while Phoebe uses poetry to describe her experience.

Oksana Lutsyshyna, a Ukrainian author and poet who teaches at the University of Texas at Austin, was awarded the Lviv City of Literature UNESCO Prize and the Taras Shevchenko National Prize in fiction, two of the most prestigious literary awards in Ukraine, for this book.

Her research interests center on the issue of metropolitan modernity and Central and Eastern European identity in literature. She has also written a collection of poetry.

Translator Nina Murray is a Foreign Service officer and an award-winning poet. She won the 2021 Ukrainian Institute London Prize for Ukrainian Literature in Translation and is the author of five collections of poetry, including her most recent, *Glaphorn Circular: A Gleaner's Journal*. Murray served in Vilnius, Toronto, and Moscow before becoming director of the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Arts Envoy Program in Washington, D.C. She has been on leave since 2021.



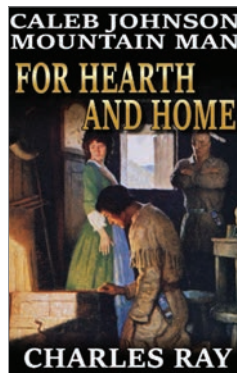
Lady Joanna's Bed

Rebecca Nugent, independently published, 2023, \$15.99/paperback, e-book available, 373 pages.

When her Aunt Alexandra dies, Sandy Morgan inherits the entire estate—including a mysterious antique bed hidden in a secret room of her aunt's home. Sandy and her childhood friend, Kella, take turns in the bed, where they dream of sexual encounters with

men from other times and places. As the dreams become more realistic, Sandy works to uncover the mystery behind the magical bed. She and Kella travel to long-ago Iceland, Denmark, Ireland, and elsewhere, experiencing “amazing nights of passion and romance” in the secret room.

Rebecca Nugent is the spouse of retired Foreign Service Officer Allen Nugent. She and her husband were posted to Rangoon, Asunción, Guangzhou, Canberra, Bangkok, and U.S. Embassy Koror in Airai, Palau. *Lady Joanna's Bed* is Nugent's third novel but her first romance work. She lives and writes in South Carolina.



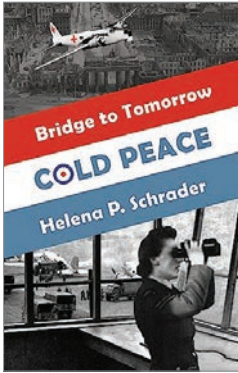
Caleb Johnson Mountain Man: For Hearth and Home: A Frontier Western Adventure

Charles Ray, independently published, 2023, \$8.99/paperback, e-book available, 104 pages.

Charles Ray is back with another book in his Caleb Johnson Mountain Man series. This time Caleb, Flora, and their furry sidekicks, Dog and Snuffy, are planning to go hunting near the

Colorado-Wyoming border. Along the way they encounter two bad guys who are shooting buffalo and beating up an unarmed stranger. Caleb steps in to stop the mischief, and that's when he learns about a nearby community being threatened by a rancher looking to drive the settlers off their land. Caleb's crew heads into town to put a stop to the rancher's plans.

This book is just one of several published by Charles Ray in recent years. He is the author of numerous mysteries and Western series, as well as several leadership books. Ray served for 20 years in the U.S. Army and then 30 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, including as U.S. ambassador to Cambodia and Zimbabwe, before retiring in 2012 and beginning a new career as an author.



Cold Peace: A Novel of the Berlin Airlift, Part I

Helena P. Schrader, Cross Seas Press, 2023, \$23.95/paperback, e-book available, 516 pages.

Cold Peace is the first book of an intended trilogy about the Berlin Airlift, the Soviet-imposed blockade on the western sector of Berlin in 1948. Western governments either needed to withdraw from Berlin or find another way to sup-

port the 2 million civilians living in what came to be West Berlin, and they made the risky decision to deliver food and fuel by air.

Author Helena Schrader lived in Germany for 26 years, earning a Ph.D. in history from the University of Hamburg before becoming a Foreign Service officer in 2005. When commissioned by the History Press to write a book on the Berlin Airlift for the 60th anniversary, she began interviewing eyewitnesses to the event who lived in Berlin and the U.K., which inspired her to write a novel (or three) about the airlift. This first part covers the period from 1947 until the blockade in June 1948. It is intended to introduce all of the main characters and give readers a feel for what it was like to live in postwar Berlin.

Retiring from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2018, Helena Schrader now writes full-time from an island in Greece. As an FSO, she spent most of her career in Europe and Africa. Her last post was as an economic officer in Addis Ababa. She has published 18 historical novels; *Grounded Eagles* (2021), an anthology of three novellas set during World War II; and a nonfiction book, *The Holy Land in the Era of the Crusades: Kingdoms at the Crossroads of Civilizations, 1100-1300* (2022).



Beautiful in Death

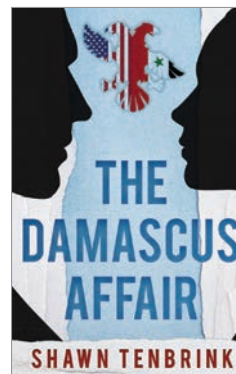
Caroline Taylor, Tuxtails Publishing, 2023, \$16.99/paperback, e-book available, 290 pages.

When Roxy Halstead finds business partner Mandy dead in the office, she knows she's going to be a suspect—not only did she dislike the lying, cheating Mandy, but Roxy has her own secret past, including a dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Army, that

would interest the police. But then Roxy's brother is murdered; she knows she needs help. She turns to Kane Llewelyn, a fit and handsome musician who lives in her building.

The story unfolds in a flurry of hidden flash drives, insulin overdoses, and armed intruders. Meanwhile, Roxy finds herself falling for Kane—if only his music weren't so terrible.

Caroline Taylor was in the Foreign Service from 1969 to 1972 as a secretary in Tel Aviv and Quito. She has since written numerous mysteries, including her most recent, *The Killer's Stepsister*, *The Pit Road War*, and *Juror Number 10* (all published in 2023). A member of Mystery Writers of America, Taylor lives in North Carolina.



The Damascus Affair

Shawn Tenbrink, Scoutswell, 2023, \$12.99/paperback, e-book available, 217 pages.

Dubbed Shawn Tenbrink's "debut novel," this book reads much more like a memoir. Tenbrink's protagonist is also named Shawn, and like the author, the character is a Foreign Service officer whose first overseas assignment is to Damascus, just after the start of the Arab Spring.

The novel elucidates what embassy life is like in a country embroiled in civil war, where the host government is at odds with the U.S. He describes everyday life, from learning to navigate traffic circles to meeting with the ambassador. Tenbrink also describes how Shawn falls in love with a Syrian woman, Amal, before ending on a cliffhanger: He departs Damascus as the violence heats up, leaving Amal behind and leaving the reader to wonder what will become of their relationship as Syria collapses.

An active-duty political officer with the State Department, Shawn Tenbrink joined the Foreign Service in 2010. He has served in Damascus, Muscat, and twice in Beirut. Currently the political and economic chief at the U.S. consulate in Casablanca, Tenbrink was also a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco from 2006 to 2008.



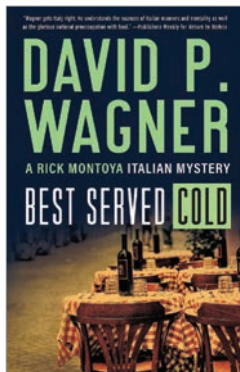
Mañana Is Yesterday

Irving Tragen, independently published, 2023, \$9.95/paperback, e-book available, 370 pages.

At 100 years old, retired Foreign Service Officer Irving Tragen embarked on a new challenge: writing his first novel. *Mañana Is Yesterday* tells the story of Leona, a woman from a wealthy Salvadorean family whose silence during a critical political meeting will move her country backward, unleashing a series of development errors.

The story delves into Leona’s childhood as she searches for a way to confront powerful relatives and fix her mistake.

Irving Tragen worked at the State Department and USAID for 33 years and spent another 14 at the Organization of American States, including nearly a decade as the executive director of the Inter-American Drug Commission. During his career, Tragen worked in all 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries, focusing on development and the fight against drug trafficking. Tragen holds a B.A. and a J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. His autobiography, *Two Lifetimes as One: Ele and Me and the Foreign Service*, was spotlighted in *The Foreign Service Journal* in October 2019.



Best Served Cold

David P. Wagner, Poisoned Pen Press, 2023, \$16.99/paperback, e-book available, 256 pages.

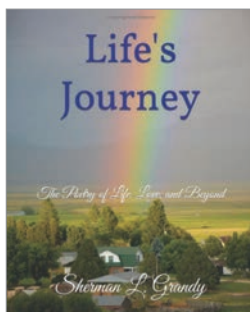
American Rick Montoya, an interpreter living in Rome, is working on a translation for a police case involving the mafia when an old college friend calls out of the blue. The friend, now a priest, is in Italy for a religious tour of Assisi, but the tour guide has gone

missing. Rick agrees to meet his friend and help lead the tour.

But when the tour guide is found dead, Rick finds himself helping the local police interview the rich and entitled tour group members—could one of them be the murderer?

David Wagner is a retired Foreign Service officer who spent nine years and three tours in Italy, never realizing that he was researching his future mystery novels. Other diplomatic assignments included Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Mary, live in Pueblo, Colorado.

POETRY



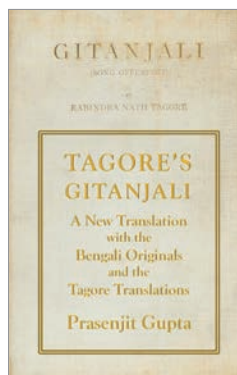
Life’s Journey: The Poetry of Life, Love, and Beyond

Sherman L. Grandy, independently published, 2023, \$18.99/paperback, e-book available, 125 pages.

Foreign Service Officer Sherman Grandy has spent the past five decades writing poetry from wherever

he’s been in the world. He was inspired to start after a chance encounter with a stranger in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in 1972, and continued to write through marriage, children, and new overseas posts. His wife, Kate, also contributed several poems to the collection. The poems are mostly spiritual in nature—Grandy is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who began his overseas journey with a two-year church mission in Brazil.

Sherman Grandy joined the Foreign Service in 2001 and served in Seoul, Baqubah, Baghdad, Islamabad, Manila, and Lagos before retiring in 2019. He is currently a consular fellow in Recife, Brazil. Grandy holds a bachelor’s degree from Brigham Young University and master’s degrees from Yale and the National Intelligence University.



Tagore’s Gitanjali: A New Translation with the Bengali Originals and the Tagore Translations

Prasenjit Gupta, Parabaas, 2023, \$24.95/hardcover, print only, 300 pages.

The original *Gitanjali*, a collection of poems by Rabindranath Tagore, was published in Bengali in 1910. Tagore himself translated 53 of the original

poems into English in 1912, and while he received the Nobel Prize for Literature for his translation of the collection, some critics noted that his translations were not always accurate.

In 2023, retired FSO Prasenjit Gupta published a new translation of the poems alongside the original poems and their original translations. Gupta also includes an afterword about the ethics of translation, arguing that “for a translation from a formerly colonized people’s language, such as Bengali, into the language of the former colonizer, English, it is a significant question whether the translator identifies as a member of the colonizing people or the colonized.” He calls his translation of *Gitanjali* “an act of political resistance.”

Prasenjit Gupta retired from the State Department in 2021 after serving in Chennai, Belfast, Colombo, Hong Kong, Kolkata, and New Delhi. He won a Fulbright Award in 1998 for his translations of Nirmal Verma’s fiction and a U.S. National Endowment for the Arts fellowship for his translations of Ashapurna Debi’s fiction. He holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Iowa.

POTPOURRI



Letters and Such...

Raymond Malley, Xlibris, 2022, \$16.99/paperback, e-book available, 198 pages.

Since retiring from the Foreign Service in 1983, Raymond Malley has been a prolific author—not just of books (this is his fourth)—but of letters to various editors, from the *Valley News* of Lebanon, New Hampshire, to *The Foreign Service Journal*, and beyond. In this book, he

collects letters, both published and unpublished, along with other written pieces from throughout his career.

The collection includes a February 2012 missive, “Dems Not Taking Advantage of Bush Mistakes,” another from 2015 about military bands, and several that were originally published in the *FSJ*, including “Merge USAID Fully into State” (November 2009). He devotes an entire section of the collection to letters on diplomacy, with another focused on foreign assistance, and still another on the military. The topics are wide-ranging: A 2017 letter asks of Afghanistan: “Do we really have to be forever engaged at great cost in a forlorn country halfway around the world to protect ourselves?” A 2018 letter questions the decision to create the U.S. Space Force.

Senior Foreign Service Officer Raymond Malley spent 23 years with the U.S. Agency for International Development, serving mainly in Asian and African countries. After retiring from the Foreign Service, he held executive positions with a global Korean industrial manufacturing group. His previous book, *Cold Waters: My Ship Adventures in the Arctic, Antarctica, and North Atlantic*, was included in the November 2018 *FSJ*'s In Their Own Write compilation. Malley and his wife, Josette, who retired from the World Bank, live in Hanover, New Hampshire, where they write, lecture, and teach part-time.



Birding Brazil

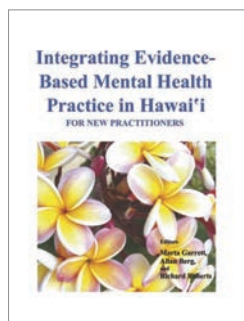
Scott Rauland, Blurb, 2022, \$88.08/hardcover, e-book available, 48 pages.

This slim e-book catalogs many birds unique to each of Brazil's six biomes, including the Amazon rainforest and

the Pantanal, the world's largest wetland area. Brazil is home to

more than 1,800 species of birds, but their important habitat is being destroyed by human activities in the region. Author Scott Rauland was able to photograph more than 800 species of birds during numerous trips throughout Brazil; this book features 100 of those species divided into chapters devoted to each of Brazil's biomes.

Scott Rauland spent 27 years with the U.S. Information Service and the State Department, serving in Baku, Berlin, Islamabad, Quito, Yekaterinburg, Frankfurt, Kabul, Kuala Lumpur, and Minsk before retiring in 2020 and following his spouse, Foreign Service Officer Frances Rauland, to Brasilia. Rauland spent his first two years of retirement studying and photographing the birds of Brazil. He and his spouse are currently based in Geneva.



Integrating Evidence-Based Mental Health Practice in Hawai'i for New Practitioners

Edited by Marta Garrett, Allan Berg, and Richard Roberts, BookBaby, 2023, \$99.00/paperback, print only, 400 pages.

This text is intended to give mental health practitioners based in Hawai'i a better understanding of evidence-

based practice and clinical outcome research that will guide them as they begin clinical work serving the culturally diverse clients in the state. It is intended for both students and new practitioners looking to better understand the unique cultural aspects of practicing in Hawai'i.

One of the book's three main editors, Richard M. Roberts, is the deputy cultural affairs officer and the American presence officer at the U.S. embassy in Brasilia. Since joining the State Department in 2006, he has served in Niamey, Tokyo, Seoul, Naha, and Brasilia. Before joining the Foreign Service, Roberts taught psychology for the University of Maryland Global Campus in Europe and Asia. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Memphis. Roberts has also co-authored three books on adult language learning, cross-cultural communication, and the relationship between language and aging.

Profits from the sale of this book are donated to the graduate student organization in the psychology department at Hawai'i Pacific University. ■

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WELCOMING REFUGEES

School Campuses as Sites for Resettlement and Integration

ISTOCK.COM/BSFOLLARD

The founder of Every Campus A Refuge describes efforts at colleges and universities nationwide to ensure refugees feel welcomed.

BY DIYA ABDO



Diya Abdo, Ph.D., is the Lincoln Financial Professor of English at Guilford College. A second-generation Palestinian refugee born and raised in Jordan, she focuses her teaching, research, and scholarship on Arab women writers and Arab and Islamic feminisms. Her book, American Refuge: True Stories of the Refugee Experience, was published by Steerforth Press in 2022 (see review on page 36). In 2015 Abdo founded Every Campus A Refuge, which advocates for housing refugee families on college and university campus grounds and supporting them in their resettlement. She is the recipient of the J.M. Kaplan Fund's Innovation Prize (2021), Campus Compact's Thomas Ehrlich Civically Engaged Faculty Award (2019), Gulf South Summit's Outstanding Service-Learning Collaboration in Higher Education Award (2017), and the Washington Center's Higher Education Civic Engagement Award (2017).

More than 110 million individuals are displaced in the world right now, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR). That number grows every single day. While the U.S. is a world leader in resettlement, less than 1 percent of refugees globally will ever achieve resettlement.

A June 2023 study by American Immigration Council shows that refugees contributed more than \$25 billion in taxes and had a spending power of more than \$68.6 billion in 2019, and “similar to other immigrant populations, refugees are more likely to start businesses than native-born Americans.” That same study shows that in 2019, entrepreneurs made up 13 percent of the working-age refugee population, compared to 11.7 percent of native-born Americans.

Given the global need for an increase in resettlement and that local communities can be transformed by the diversity, knowledge, skills, and contributions that newcomers often bring, how can we both expand resettlement *and* invest in refugees’ inclusion and belonging to ensure they feel welcomed and want to stay when they arrive in the U.S.?

To answer these questions, I will describe my own efforts on a college campus and how our work dovetails with the State Department's new Welcome Corps initiative.

Every Campus A Refugee Program

In 2015, as a professor of English at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, I was teaching students how to read and discuss poetry and prose. But when Syrian Aylan Kurdi drowned and his little body was found on the shore of a resort town in Türkiye that September, what I was trying to do in the classroom felt, suddenly, quite futile. What happens to human beings who are forced to leave in search of safety and security has always been personal to me, the daughter of Palestinian refugees, and certainly in a vocational and professional sense—it was there in the literature that I taught, the events I held on campus, and the student clubs I advised.

That summer, in reaction to the situation of many Syrians both in their home country and on their desperate journey to escape it, Pope Francis called on every parish in Europe to host a refugee family. I saw in his call an invocation to all small communities around the world to engage in radical hospitality, including U.S. colleges and universities. It was then I decided to found Every Campus A Refuge (ECAR).

ECAR, now a 501(c)(3), started as an initiative at Guilford College, a small, private liberal arts Quaker institution in North Carolina. We began by opening up our college resources, hosting refugee arrivals to Greensboro on our campus grounds and supporting their resettlement and integration in our midsize city. We provided free housing and utilities and access to college amenities, facilities, and resources, not least of which was community support. A dedicated cohort of student, faculty, and staff volunteers walked alongside our newest neighbors in their efforts to make a home for themselves in their country of resettlement.

We modeled ourselves on the Pope's inspiration, realizing that like a parish, a small city, we had all the resources needed to support a newly

arriving family (a campus-owned house, a cafeteria, a clinic, a library, a gym, even a farm). And we leveraged it all when we hosted refugees—including our musical instruments for a singer-songwriter, our international student club's soccer pickup games for one family's teenage son who loved playing the sport, and our art department's supplies and studio and then a gallery for a calligraphist (hosted along with his wife and three sons) who created artwork and then exhibited it on campus.

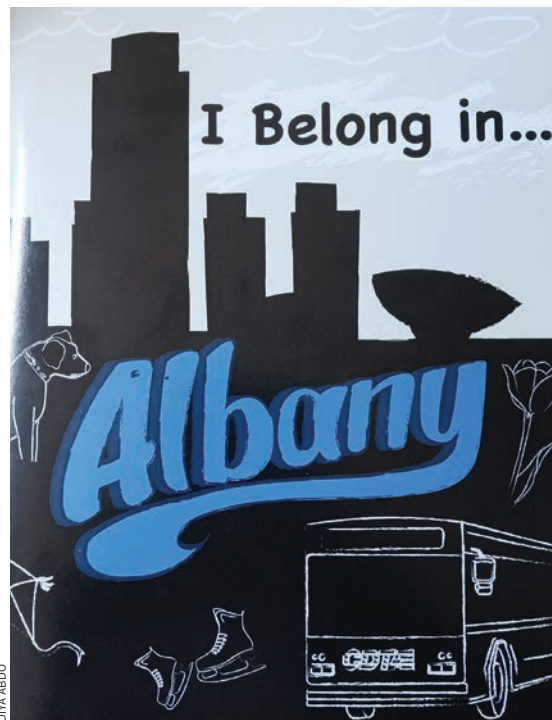
Since our first hosted guest, Cheps, arrived on a snowy day in January 2016, we've hosted nearly 90 refugees on Guilford's campus—families as large as 11 and single people alike from Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Venezuela, and Colombia. And inspired by the Pope, we called on other universities and colleges to do the same.

Years ago, when we first started ECAR at Guilford College, I quickly realized that my students were learning a lot by working alongside, and with, the refugee families we were hosting on our campus. It made perfect sense to institutionalize this learning by developing curricular and co-curricular programming that allowed students to do this work in ways that officially and formally supported their learning; so we started a minor (Forced Migration and Resettlement Studies) where students could earn credit in return for their work.

Through a recent study, published in the journal *Metropolitan Universities*, my colleagues and I found that students who participated in ECAR and took the minor felt "a positive impact on their career development," "gained a working understanding ... of the global refugee crisis" and its impact on "specific individuals and families over the long term," and "developed a long-term vision for transforming the social role of post-secondary educational institutions."

The State Department's Welcome Corps Program

In January 2023, something remarkable happened. The U.S. Department of State launched Welcome Corps, charting another path in welcoming refugees under



Jada Ruiz, a Russell Sage College student, designed a children's coloring book, titled "I Belong in Albany," to help children learn the English alphabet and iconic places in Albany, New York.

the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Until Welcome Corps, refugee resettlement and integration had happened through the U.S. resettlement agencies, nonprofit organizations that welcome and support refugees professionally. Under Welcome Corps, ordinary Americans can now privately and directly sponsor refugees, geographically broadening the scope of this work and grounding refugee support in community-based efforts—a crucial development in creating opportunities for direct community engagement with refugees to demystify and humanize a frequently mystified and dehumanized population.

In July 2023, the Welcome Corps went a step further and announced the launch of Welcome Corps on Campus, a new official education sponsorship program. This campus expansion to Welcome Corps allows individuals associated with colleges and universities across the country to sponsor refugee students approved for resettlement in the United States while pursuing their higher education. According to the UNHCR, refugee access to higher education is a devastating 6 percent compared to the global average of 41 percent. As part of a consortium led by the

Community Sponsorship Hub, ECAR the 501(c)(3) will be providing technical assistance, training, resources, and ongoing support to university and college sponsor groups as they support the academic success as well as the resettlement and integration of sponsored refugee students.

The Crucial Role of Diplomats and Educators Alike

Members of the foreign affairs communities, local and foreign governments, and academia have a crucial role to play in advancing deeper engagement with refugee issues at higher education institutions (in the U.S. and globally). They can reach out to their alma maters and other universities and colleges they are connected with about ECAR and encourage starting a chapter. They can also volunteer with existing ECAR efforts to take on some resettlement tasks. For example, in Stillwater, a local retired CIA officer was incredibly helpful in Oklahoma State University's efforts, using her organizational skills and drive to make sure every Afghan family hosted by OSU had sufficient food when they moved to town.

Diplomats in residence at universities and colleges could include ECAR-related efforts in their portfolios. During speaking tours, they could raise awareness in their speeches at higher education institutions about the refugee crisis and the ways in which universities and colleges partner with ECAR. If in a position to do so, they can also consider incentivizing higher education participation in ECAR and similar programming through grant funding, research opportunities, and educational programming.

Consider leveraging your own important networks and connections to impress upon higher education decision-makers in the U.S. and abroad the importance of this work. We all have an important part to play in transforming how we do higher education and how we do refugee resettlement, and how these two spheres can be innovatively and irrevocably linked.

The Value-Add

In my conversations with the leaders at resettlement campuses across the country, I was struck by the expansive value-add of the work. One campus leader described its effect as “collateral benefit”: supporting the Afghan women hosted on their campus and paying attention to their dietary and cultural needs fostered a change in attentiveness and response to all students' needs, especially international students.

For many resettlement campuses, this work aligns not only with efforts to internationalize university programming and partnerships but also allows participating students to hone their



AUTUMN HOLLIFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY

Hosted refugee Blaise Pascal performs on Guilford College's campus.

Ali Sadiq Jaafar Al-Khasrachi used the art supplies at Guilford College to practice his calligraphy and artwork.

intercultural skills, empathy, and compassion—a kind of “study abroad” at home. And with study abroad so expensive and inaccessible to students with jobs and families, says Jennifer N. Fish, professor and ECAR leader at Old Dominion University in Virginia, this is a truly “international immersion” experience that is “expansive” and meaningful while being suitable for students who cannot do something similar off-site due to a variety of limitations (transportation, etc.). For students preparing to work with diverse populations in their professions—as schoolteachers, nurses, and social workers—this kind of engagement is practical, experiential, and place-based.

Perhaps no better example illustrates the intersectional power of this work than one student’s project at Russell Sage College. In working with the families supported by her ECAR chapter, Jada Ruiz, an arts major at this small, private liberal arts institution in upstate New York, found that the children needed a little boost in their English language learning. Marshaling her graphic design skills, Jada created an English alphabet coloring book about Albany: “I Belong in Albany.” It not only teaches the children the English letters but also connects every letter with Albany (e.g., its special buildings, icons, modes of transportation), allowing the children to better understand their new home—where they belong.

ECAR Grows

For Washington State University’s Associate Vice President for International Programs Paul Whitney, having WSU join Every Campus A Refuge was a way to support Afghan allies and stemmed from his belief in the power of higher education and its impact in the world. It was the same for Associate Provost and Dean of Oklahoma State University’s Global Studies Program Randy Kluver, who reminds us that, especially for public and



DIVA ABDO

land-grant institutions, the “university is all about the prosperity of [their] community.” Supporting newcomers to one’s community is “part of helping this community prosper”; indeed, it is “an investment” in that community. Over the last year, both WSU and OSU have hosted a total of 80 Afghan evacuees on their campus grounds and are supporting them in their resettlement.

They represent what I believe is a natural evolution for higher education, developing “resettlement campuses”—higher education institutions that leverage their material and human resources to support refugee resettlement and integration while transforming the educational experiences of their students.

Resettlement campuses are growing around the country in response to several realities and needs. After years of decimation to the refugee resettlement program—funding decrease, attrition

Under [State's] Welcome Corps, ordinary Americans can now privately and directly sponsor refugees.

of agencies and staff, significant drops in refugee admission numbers, and undermining of resettlement infrastructure and support—we found ourselves face to face with nearly 80,000 Afghan evacuees who needed the kind of support we were no longer in a place to quickly and nimbly provide. But higher education institutions also found themselves facing other issues, including continued disengagement from students during and after the pandemic, inaccessibility of international and global programming (e.g., study abroad), and lack of relevance and attention to student needs.

Imagining the Possibilities

Imagine the possibilities for our alma maters, for the universities, colleges, and community colleges in our American towns and cities, where our family members study, where we teach and work, and on whose boards we sit.

And now imagine the possibilities for the world. There are nearly 25,000 institutions of higher education around the globe. And though they might be vastly different in significant ways, they are fundamentally the same in others: They are all communities, bound together by shared goals and values, occupying shared spaces, designed to support humans succeed.

With the current trends in forced migration and the threat of large-scale displacement due to climate disasters, any one of us, or our children, or their children, can become displaced. By creating resettlement campuses, we are planting and tending a garden that will feed future generations. We are building sustainable ecosystems that can support us in our darkest hour. ■



AUTUMN HOLLIFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY

Hosted refugees, students, faculty, staff, and community members of Every Campus A Refuge chapters at the ECAR 2022 Gathering.

ONCE UPON A TIME

CHARLES W. BLACKBURN/INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The U.S. Consulate in Martinique

After a storied history of nearly two centuries, the consulate in
Fort-de-France closed its doors in 1993.

BY SÉBASTIEN PERROT-MINNOT



Sébastien Perrot-Minnot, Ph.D., is an archaeologist, a lecturer in the Department of History at the University of the French West Indies, and a member of the Guadeloupe Historical Society. In addition, he is the honorary consul of Guatemala in Fort-de-France, Martinique, and an associate member of AFSA.

The author would like to thank Ambassador (ret.) John Hennessey-Nilan (acting consul in Fort-de-France in 1989), Lili Reineck Ott (daughter of Walter S. Reineck, U.S. consul in Fort-de-France from 1925 to 1929), Henry Ritchie (U.S. consular agent in Fort-de-France from 1993 to 2015), and Frédéric Vigouroux, curator at the University of the French West Indies Library, for their greatly appreciated help in the preparation of this article.

Thirty years ago, the U.S. consulate general in Fort-de-France was closed by decision of the State Department, evoking some emotion in Martinique and beyond: the United States had developed a special relationship with this territory of the French West Indies, where it had consular representation for more than two centuries.

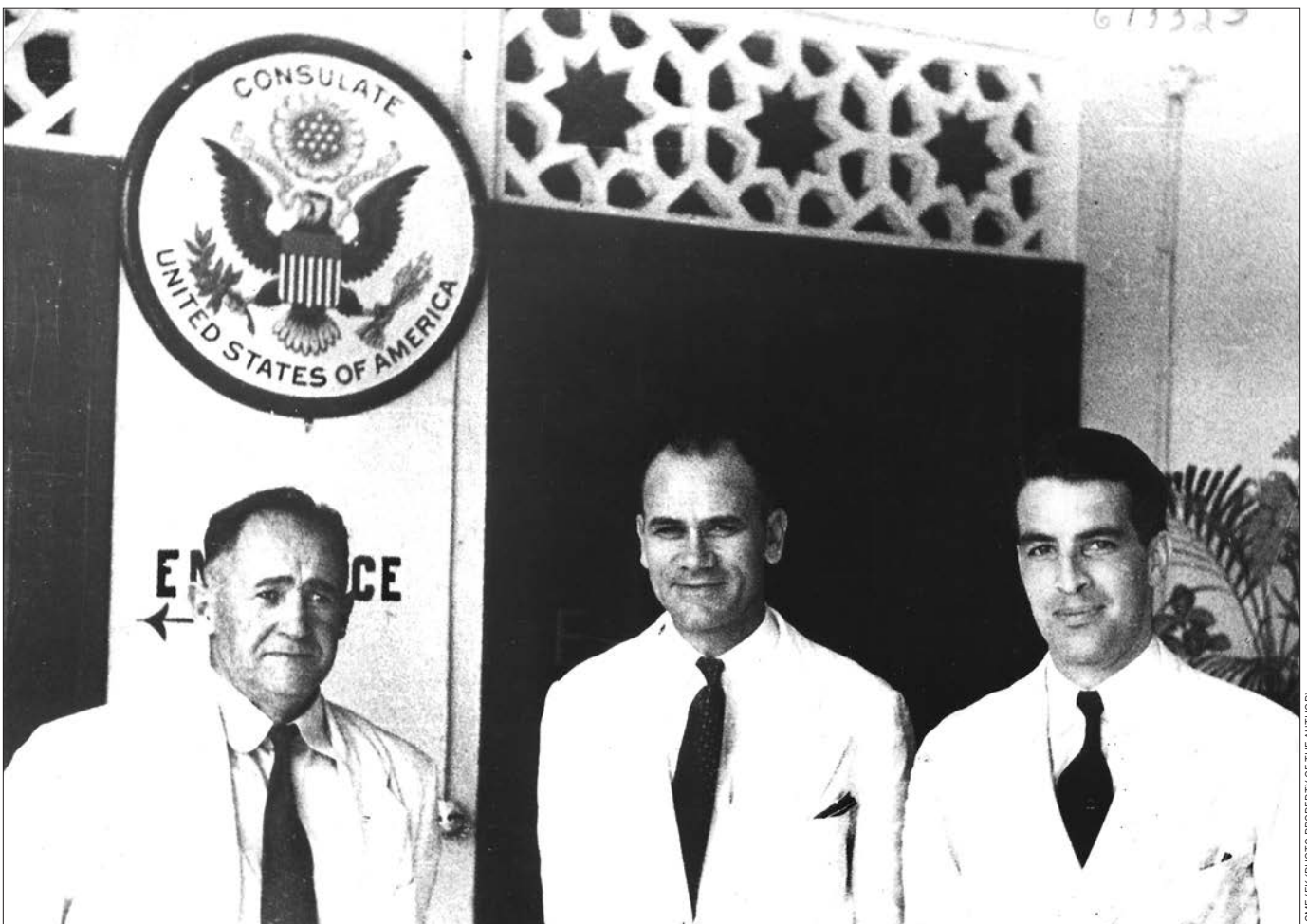
The U.S. consulate in Fort-de-France was located in the heart of the city. In 1949 the U.S. government acquired a beautiful art deco villa in Didier, in the heights of the city, for the residence of the heads of mission.

The U.S. consulate in St. Pierre was among the first 10 diplomatic and consular posts opened by the young North American republic.

The consulate was formally attached to the U.S. embassy in France, and its district evolved over time to finally include Martinique, Guadeloupe (with St. Martin and St. Barthélemy), and French Guiana. After World War II, the consular mission was elevated several times to the rank of consulate general, which it had when it was closed.

The State Department's April 1984 "Martinique Post Report" noted that the American community in Martinique was "small" and described the official functions of the consular staff as follows: "The principal officer has traditionally played a fairly visible role in local official, business, and cultural circles; ceremonial and representational responsibilities are demanding. In relation to its size, the Consulate General receives a significant number of U.S. Navy ship visits and individual visits of U.S. officials, which usually require official representation. The consul general has certain representational responsibilities; the vice consul has relatively few."

Positions at the consulate were highly valued, according to testimonies. John J. Maresca, for example, who was appointed consul general in 1977, spoke in his 2016 memoirs of a "dream-like assignment" and eloquently expressed the disappointment he felt when his assignment was revoked in extremis.



From left: Naval observer Commander Ernest J. Blankenship, outgoing Vice Consul Vinkler Harwood Blocker, and incoming Vice Consul Robert Sheehan, at the U.S. consulate in Fort-de-France, on July 18, 1941.

An Origins Story

Created by President George Washington in 1790, the U.S. consulate in St. Pierre, which was then the economic and cultural capital of the French colony of Martinique, was among the first 10 diplomatic and consular posts opened by the young North American republic. It was initially entrusted to Fulwar Skipwith, who served under difficult conditions in the midst of the French Revolution and left the island in 1794 as it began to be occupied by the British.

Later, the U.S. government appointed agents to represent its interests in the colony, which was returned to France in 1802. Yet it was not until 1815 that a consular presence was reestablished, with the installation of John Mitchell in St. Pierre. From then on, the U.S. consuls in Martinique succeeded one another in the “Little Paris of the Antilles” until 1902.

Disaster Strikes

On May 8 of that fateful year, Mount Pelée erupted, unleashing one of the worst volcanic disasters in modern history. The city of St. Pierre was destroyed, and nearly 30,000 people died, including Mayor Rodolphe Fouché, Governor of Martinique Louis Mouttet, and consular officials serving the interests of the United States, Great Britain, the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway, the Netherlands, Italy, and Belgium.

Among the victims were U.S. Consul Thomas T. Prentis and Vice Consul J. Amédée Testart G.; they were later honored by the Department of State, the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), American engineer and volcanologist Frank Alvord Perret, the U.S. embassy in France, and the Municipality of St. Pierre (see the May 2020 *FSJ*, “The Unlucky Consul: Thomas Prentis and the 1902 Martinique Disaster” by William Bent, and the November 2022 *FSJ*, “Memorializing the U.S. Consular Presence in Martinique” by this author).

With no news from his colleagues in Martinique, the U.S. consul in Guadeloupe, Louis H. Aymé, went to St. Pierre on May 10, 1902. He saw the general disaster and noted the disappearance of the American consular officers. A few days later, the American naval ships *USS Potomac* and *USS Cincinnati* reached the martyred city. Their crews explored the ruins of the consulate with



COURTESY OF LILI REINECKOTT

Walter S. Reineck, U.S. consul in Fort-de-France from 1925 to 1929.

the authorization of the colonial government of Martinique but did not manage to identify the bodies of Prentis and Testart. Under these circumstances, Aymé assumed the duties of acting consul in Martinique, setting up his office in Fort-de-France, the colony’s capital.

The May 8 disaster was big news in the United States, where it generated a broad movement of solidarity. The U.S. government provided prompt and substantial aid to Martinique, with the invaluable on-site assistance of Aymé.

In June 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed a new consul to Martinique: John F. Jewell, who took his post in Fort-de-France. Jewell’s first successors were Chester W. Martin (1906-1908), George B. Anderson (1908-1910, who died of disease while on assignment, during a stay in the United States), and Thomas Ross Wallace, who remained in office for a record 14 years (1910-1924).

The Two World Wars and in Between

The consulate was on alert during World War I, but the State Department did not identify any real threat in Martinique. During the 1920s, however, the American envoys faced hostility from the Martinican population because of persistent rumors announcing the sale of the island to the United States.

Despite this, they tried to promote trade in a context of global economic growth. The consul in Martinique from 1925 to 1929, Walter S. Reineck, noted the tourist potential of the Lesser Antilles. “In all probability, the West Indies will become more and more a winter playground for Americans and Canadians,” he declared in a speech delivered in 1928 or 1929, according to the Reineck family archives. In the following decade, with the active support of the consulate, Pan American Airways seaplanes began to fly to Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Martinique’s strategic interest for the United States increased dramatically in June 1940, following France’s unexpected defeat by Nazi Germany. France’s new political regime, the Vichy regime—which was officially recognized by the United States—embarked on a path of collaboration with the Third Reich. The government of Franklin D. Roosevelt feared that

Martinique's strategic interest for the United States increased dramatically in June 1940.

Germany would take advantage of the French territories in the Americas to carry out hostile actions against the United States and seize the gold of the Bank of France that had been sent to Martinique in June 1940.

A military occupation of Martinique, where most of the French armed forces in the Americas were concentrated, was considered by the Roosevelt administration. The plan was finally discarded, thanks to the “gentlemen’s agreements” concluded between Admiral Georges Robert, high commissioner for the French territories in the Western Atlantic (based in Martinique), and Rear Admiral John W. Greenslade, senior member of the General Board of the U.S. Navy, in August and November 1940. The “Greenslade-Robert Agreements” guaranteed the neutralization of French forces in America, the securing of the gold stored in Martinique, and limited U.S. surveillance of the island, with the U.S. agreeing, in return, to supply the French colony with food, fuel, and raw materials. These provisions considerably strengthened the role of the American consulate in Fort-de-France, to which a naval observer was now attached.

On Dec. 8, 1940, while conducting an inspection cruise in the West Indies aboard the USS *Tuscaloosa*, President

Roosevelt approached within about three miles of the coast of Martinique. He summoned the U.S. consular representative, Vice Consul Vinkler Harwood Blocker, and the naval observer, Commander Ernest J. Blankenship, to inquire about the situation in Martinique and Guadeloupe, and to relay specific requests to Admiral Robert. Roosevelt insisted, on this occasion, on the need to prevent any Nazi control and influence in these French territories.

The Greenslade-Robert Agreements, confirmed after Germany’s declaration of war on the United States on Dec. 11, 1941, were fairly faithfully executed by both parties. They were implemented with the essential assistance of the U.S. consulate, whose diplomatic activity was combined with intense intelligence and analytical work. The consular mission was also very busy with the European refugees who arrived in Martinique and wished to immigrate to North America. Appointed consul in Fort-de-France in 1941, and then consul general the following year, Marcel Etienne Malige (a fluent French speaker who was born of French parents who immigrated to the United States) played a crucial role in American policy toward Martinique and Guadeloupe at this time.

The panorama changed with the severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vichy regime in November 1942. Five months later, in April 1943, Washington denounced the agreements made with Admiral Robert, recalled Malige, and put an end to American assistance to the French West Indies, leading to a worsening of shortages in these territories. The consulate in Fort-de-France nevertheless remained open and was entrusted to a consular officer whose activities were to be strictly limited to “the protection of American interests” and exclude “any negotiations of a political character,” according to a State Department note dated May 1, 1943.

This situation was short-lived, however. In July, after Henri Hoppenot, a representative of the French Committee of National Liberation, arrived and took power in Martinique, Malige was sent back to Martinique, and the United States restored its aid to the French West Indies.

The Long Cold War

World War II was followed by the Cold War, which led the American consuls in Martinique—a French department since 1946—to pay special attention to the island’s social and “racial” problems, and their exploitation by the communists.

In 1946 Consul William H. Christensen wrote in a note to the State Department: “Hitherto the French had established a



Presidents François Mitterrand and George H.W. Bush at Habitation Clément, Martinique, on March 14, 1991.



The U.S. Consulate Office Building in Fort-de-France in 1983. This building, which still exists today, is located in front of the Saint-Louis Cathedral.

reputation as humanists where color was concerned. However, there is color prejudice in Martinique. Césaire, communist deputy [Aimé Césaire was also a famous writer and intellectual.—Au.], has made several appeals to electors by raising the color question. This appeal is based on the fact that the wealth of the island is concentrated in hands of whites whereas political power is entirely in hands of Negroes—in the case of Martinique, in the hands of negro communists.”

The consulate regretted at the time that the racial issue was being used by Martinican communists in their hostile propaganda against the United States, where segregation was still in effect. Washington could easily be seen as an ally of the economic oligarchy of the “békés,” the descendants of European colonizers who were worried about their future in the face of African Caribbean demands. In fact, in a 1946 report, Consul Christensen indicated that he had already been approached several times by white Martinicans who were asking for a U.S. military intervention in case of major unrest, and sometimes even for U.S. citizenship.

The Cold War crises in the Caribbean and Latin America had an impact on the U.S. consulate. In the tense atmosphere following the invasion of Grenada by a U.S.-Caribbean coalition in

October 1983, the consulate was given police protection. On Nov. 1, a bomb exploded nearby, slightly damaging the building that housed the U.S. mission and a Chase Manhattan Bank branch, but not injuring anyone. The Caribbean Revolutionary Alliance (“Alliance Révolutionnaire Caraïbe” in French), an armed pro-independence group, claimed responsibility for the attack. At the same time, however, the consulate also gained sympathy through

The consulate also gained sympathy through its economic, educational, cultural, and sports diplomacy.

its economic, educational, cultural, and sports diplomacy. In the 1950s and '60s, for example, it organized a very popular basketball cup with teams from Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Puerto Rico.

It should be added that the consulate participated in the organization of three summit meetings, which brought together French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and U.S. President Gerald Ford in Martinique in 1974 (to discuss mutual concerns in the international economic, financial, and monetary fields); President Giscard d'Estaing, U.S. President Jimmy Carter, British Prime Minister James Callaghan, and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Guadeloupe in 1979 (to discuss various international issues, in particular the Iranian crisis); and French President François Mitterrand and U.S. President George H.W. Bush in Martinique in 1991 (for post-Gulf War exchanges).

COURTESY OF HENRY RITCHE



This villa is where the head of the U.S. consular post resided, in the Didier suburb of Fort-de-France, 1993.



In the early 1990s, with the end of the Cold War, the French West Indies lost strategic importance. Besides, their American expatriate communities and trade with the United States

remained relatively modest. It was in this context that the State Department put the consulate general in Fort-de-France on a list of diplomatic and consular posts to be closed in 1993-1994 for budgetary reasons.

The consulate, then headed by Consul General Raymond G. Robinson, closed its doors on Aug. 1, 1993, despite the mobilization of Martinican elected officials and the French government to try to avoid such an outcome. Martinican Deputy André Lesueur deplored the closing in the French National Assembly on Oct. 18, 1993: “This decision, in addition to the fact that it obscures the historical dimension of relations with the United States, is highly prejudicial to the French West Indies.”

The United States did, however, wish to maintain a consular presence in Martinique, and in 1993 the State Department opened a consular agency attached to the consular section of the U.S. embassy in Bridgetown, Barbados. This agency is still in operation. ■



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AFSA Meets with Secretary Blinken



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Secretary Blinken with AFSA President Tom Yazdgerdi and AFSA State VP Tina Wong.

On Sept. 28, AFSA President Tom Yazdgerdi and AFSA State Vice President Tina Wong met with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, covering the top issues and priorities affecting Foreign Service members, including State Department appropriations in a time of fiscal constraint, the ambassadorial nominations process, and Foreign Service reform. ■

CALENDAR

Please check www.afsa.org for the most up-to-date information.

November 10
Veterans Day
AFSA offices closed

November 13-December 11
Federal Health Benefits
Open Season

November 15
12-2 p.m.
AFSA Governing
Board Meeting

November 16
Time TBD
Webinar: 2024 FEHB
Insurance & Benefits

November 23-24
Thanksgiving Holiday
AFSA offices closed

December 4
AFSA Scholarship
Applications Available

December 6
12-2 p.m.
AFSA Governing
Board Meeting

December 25
Christmas Day
AFSA offices closed

January 1
New Year's Day
AFSA offices closed

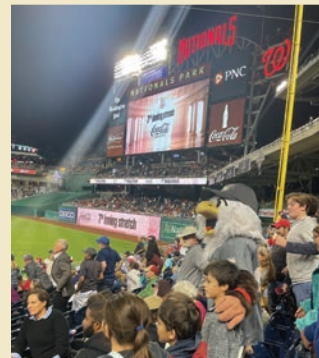
January 17
12-2 p.m.
AFSA Governing
Board Meeting

Washington Nationals Honor U.S. Foreign Service

Reviving a popular annual tradition for the Foreign Service community, AFSA and the Washington Nationals, a Major League Baseball team, hosted Foreign Service Night at Nationals Park on Sept. 22.

More than 400 members of the Foreign Service and their families attended to watch the Nationals take on the Atlanta Braves just hours before Tropical Storm Ophelia hit the region. Although the Nationals lost with a final score of 9-6, history was made when the Braves'

Continued on page 62



PHOTOS BY AFSA/DONNA GORMAN



Tackling Global Strategic Challenges as a Servant Leader

Leadership starts with listening, and understanding shared problems from the perspective of others.

—Secretary Antony Blinken, Sept. 13, 2023

As I listened to Secretary Blinken's seminal Brzezinski lecture at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies on Sept. 13, I reflected on the qualities of leadership needed to face our next century of global challenges.

The Secretary urged us to build, equip, upskill, and retain our cadre of Foreign Service members deployed to advance American diplomacy at this historic time of great power competition. To do this, I believe we must evolve from bosses and supervisors to "servant leaders."

The concept of servant leadership is as old as the stories in the Old Testament. The term itself was coined by former AT&T executive Robert K. Greenleaf in his 1970 essay, "The Servant as Leader," in which he described the best leaders as focused on serving others first. Although I rarely hear this term used to describe any department leader these days, I think it is important to dissect the idea of the servant leader and to consider striving toward

this model of leadership ourselves.

Imagine the revolution in the novel kinds of healthy, vibrant, and productive embassy, consulate, office, or unit culture we could build together by using this model. No matter what rank or role you play in our institution, modeling the universal qualities of a servant leader would greatly reduce workplace conflicts, increase productivity, encourage creativity, and make everyone happier.

As another Foreign Service officer mentor shared, "Good leadership allows us to spend less time competing with each other, and more time competing with China."

Harvard Law School's Program on Negotiation defines the Servant Leadership Theory, offering the following qualities of a servant leader:

Listening—a commitment to listening intently to others, coupled with periods of reflection.

Empathy—an effort to understand, empathize with, and accept others.

Healing—a focus on helping others overcome emotional wounds and aid in a search for wholeness.

Awareness—general awareness and self-awareness, which contribute to an understanding of issues related to power, ethics, and values.

Persuasion—in contrast to authoritarian leadership,

Modeling the universal qualities of a servant leader would greatly reduce workplace conflicts, increase productivity, encourage creativity, and make everyone happier.

convincing others based on the merit of arguments rather than on coercion or manipulation.

Conceptualization—the ability to think beyond day-to-day realities and dream big.

Foresight—ability to understand lessons from the past, present day realities, and the likely future consequences of any decision.

Stewardship—behaving with the understanding that one has been entrusted with running the organization for the greater good of society.

Commitment to the growth of people—the belief that people have "an intrinsic value beyond their intangible contributions as workers" leads to a strong commitment to individual growth.

Building community—a desire to create true community within the organization and other institutions.

With Deputy Secretary Richard Verma's timely launch of the department's first "learning policy"—which includes a core curriculum, 40 voluntary hours of dedicated learning, and expanded use of individual development plans—I ask our members to share stories and best practices of how they nurture these qualities

in themselves and within their teams.

To support this expanded learning, we should develop a resource pool to upskill our workforce not just in the limited sense of developing the responsibilities and skills for managing teams, but to equip our employees to lead people, both formally and informally, in ways that create forward thinkers and inspire each team member to pull others up throughout the ranks.

We need to create the kind of workplace transformation that moves away from a boss-employee relationship focused solely on achieving specific transactional goals or performance measures to a place where we are inculcating a culture of authenticity, listening to and seeing others from their perspectives.

While we are not yet there, AFSA is excited to be on this journey, partnering up with various parts of the department to retrain, reskill, and upskill our workforce and get closer to that vision. Write me at wong@afsa.org with your ideas and stories of servant leadership, and let's make this transformation happen, one day at a time. ■



It's Been a Minute—Time to Reorganize

Wait, really? Didn't we just do this? It's been a few years, but we're told it's now time to address the inefficiencies and overreach of the last reorganization; align bureaus with new presidential policy and initiatives; Administrator goals and views; and guide, lead, mold, bend, stretch, contort ... all staff hands on deck.

Now I fully support and implement all U.S. government foreign policy objectives and those of leadership, regardless of my personal beliefs or reservations. But do we really need to reorganize with every new administration and Administrator?

Since 2003 there have been at least four major reshufflings:

- Administrator Andrew Natsios oversaw the transfer of USAID HIV/AIDS programming to the newly created Office of Global AIDS Coordinator at the State Department, ceding budget, staff, and programming.
- Administrator Randall Tobias concentrated power in the Office of Foreign Assistance (F), a new State Department office, eliminating the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL) and removing USAID's control over its budget. PPL returned to USAID in 2010, while F lingers on at State.
- Administrator Rajiv Shah created and oversaw the implementation of USAID Forward, which radically changed the way USAID conducts

business and establishes new bureaus and offices, combining staff from technical and regional bureaus.

- Administrator Mark Green took on an agencywide restructuring that took nearly three years to complete and was favorably audited by the Government Accountability Office.

Under Green, the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (BFS) became Resilience and Food Security (RFS); the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the Office of Food for Peace (FFP) were forcibly married (sadly, the Office of Transition Initiatives, or OTI, was not the third member of this wedding and still operates in a separate bureau). The Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI) was created by combining the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA); Education, Energy, Environment, Economic Growth; and several smaller offices (Gender, Inclusive Development, Private Sector Engagement, and Faith-Based Initiatives).

And now, Administrator Samantha Power is re-reorganizing yet again. DDI is being split into two component parts: the new Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance and the new Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships, and Innovation.

The new Bureau of Resilience, Environment, and

Food Security (REFS) adds the "E" to the existing Bureau of RFS with the addition of the former DDI Center for Environment, Energy, and Infrastructure and the Office of Environmental Compliance.

REFS has seven centers and five offices—that's a mighty big bureau. It includes Feed the Future (FTF) Policy, FTF Office of Country Implementation, Center for Agriculture-Led Growth (not sure if that isn't duplicative, but not my call), Center for Nutrition, Center for Water and Sanitation, Center for Natural Environment, Center for Climate Positive Development (which is different from natural environment, perhaps?) and other offices.

As I write this column, I have reviewed two reorganization packages and expect a third soon. Reorganizations are not easy, and I fully appreciate the time (in this case, nearly a year) and energy spent.

A reorganization approval package includes: new detailed organization charts down to the team/division level, complete staff reconciliation between previous and new charts, redrafted position descriptions, a new cleared functional statement, and a congressional notification—internal clearance alone must take months.

Some bureaus created a core team and kept the effort internal; some hired a third-

party contractor for support; some sought extensive D.C. and field mission ideas and feedback; and some held things close. Regardless of how it was done, it's not cheap in terms of dollars, staff time, or morale.

AFSA's role is to ensure Foreign Service equities are safeguarded during this process. That means protecting current Foreign Service officer positions, titles, and ranks; identifying where FSOs can fill identified new and vacant positions; questioning the use of political appointees; and digging into the process and reasons for the reorganization. What makes this one better than what we have now?

Like many, I lived through the creation of F, USAID Forward, BFS, RFS, and DDI, and will get through this latest as well as future reorganizations. But as a colleague in another agency asked: "Why does AID do this? When do you get to just do your work?"

My answer: We always work. The noise around the reorganization doesn't stop our work and doesn't change our goal to improve the lives of millions.

You do have to wonder, though—how much more could we do if we weren't in a constant and continuous state of reorganization? ■

FS Night
Continued from page 59

Ronald Acuña became the first player in 17 years to join the “40-40 club” of players to post 40 home runs and 40 stolen bases.

Despite the loss, FS members had a terrific time catching up with old friends and dancing with Screech, the Nationals team mascot.

AFSA would like to thank the Washington Nationals team for making this event possible. Foreign Service Night at Nationals Park was first held in 2016 as part of AFSA’s strategic outreach initiative. ■



PHOTOS BY AFSA/DONNA GORMAN

AFSA Welcomes USAID’s Newest Members to HQ

On Aug. 28, AFSA hosted USAID’s newest Career Candidate Corps class. Randy Chester, AFSA’s USAID vice president, joined us in welcoming Class 37, along with USAID Representative Christopher Saenger and Sue Bremner, AFSA’s USAID labor management adviser.

It’s an impressive group! The 12 class members combined speak 10 foreign languages and have worked or studied in 58 countries. They include a cricket player, a former child model, and a yoga instructor. One class member won a blue ribbon for best homemade jam at the D.C. State Fair, another climbed Mount Kenya, and a third swam in Devil’s Pool at Victoria Falls.

Please join us in welcoming Class 37 to the Foreign Service. ■

NEWS BRIEF

USAID Monthly Meetups

Having begun their tenure this past August, AFSA’s USAID representatives—Vice President Randy Chester, Representative Christopher Saenger, and Labor Management Adviser Sue Bremner—arranged a series of virtual meetups for USAID Foreign Service officers to discuss progress and challenges in engaging with agency leadership.

These sessions serve as a platform for Foreign Service and Foreign Service Limited officers to share concerns, perspectives, and suggestions, and for AFSA to provide an update on priority issues.

The next meetup calls are open to all and will take place on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7-8 a.m. EST and again at 12-1 p.m. EST. Members can join the call via Google Meet or by phone. Visit <https://bit.ly/AFSA-USAID-calls> for links, phone numbers, and access PINs.

If you wish to participate but are unable, write to member@afsa.org or contact Randy Chester directly at chester@afsa.org with your concerns and suggestions. ■

AFSA Welcomes New Grievance Counselor

Erin Kate Brady joins the Labor Management team as AFSA's newest grievance counselor. In this role, Erin Kate supports AFSA members throughout the grievance process and appeals to the Foreign Service Grievance Board. Additionally, she conducts legal research on issues and policies affecting AFSA members.

Erin Kate holds a bachelor's degree in international business with a focus on business ethics and legal studies from



Erin Kate Brady

the University of Denver in Colorado. She also has a J.D. from the Catholic Univer-

sity of America, Columbus School of Law, in Washington, D.C.

While pursuing her legal education in the evening, Erin Kate worked on eBay, Inc.'s government relations team, where she focused on federal policies affecting small business sellers across the nation.

During law school, Erin Kate acted as a student attorney for the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, providing representation to low-income taxpayers in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service. Additionally, she was an SEC Legal

Scholar within the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Enforcement Division, supporting investigations for potential violations of federal securities laws. In her final summer of law school, she gained valuable international legal experience as a legal intern at Kubas Kos Gafkowsky in Krakow.

Erin Kate is originally from central Illinois and enjoys outdoor adventures. She recently took up pickleball and is hoping to explore more hiking destinations around the D.C. area with her dog. ■

New Associate Editor Joins the *Journal*



New FSJ Associate Editor Donna Gorman

Please welcome Donna Scaramastra Gorman, who is joining AFSA as associate editor for *The Foreign Service Journal* and is responsible

for AFSA News. If you think you've read this story before, you're right: Donna previously held the position from 2017 to 2019.

Donna is a writer whose work has been published in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Huffington Post*, and many other outlets. She is also the author of the book *Am I Going to Starve to Death?: A Survival Guide for the Foreign Service Spouse* (2015).

Donna and her recently retired spouse, Bart, along with their four children,

have previously been posted in Moscow (three times), Yerevan, Almaty, Beijing, and Amman.

"I've held so many great jobs in the past—assistant public affairs officer, human rights reporting assistant, CLO," says Donna. "But I

always loved being part of the *Journal* team, and I'm excited to be back."

We will miss former associate editor Julia Wohlers, who is on her way to join the newest A-100 class, but are thrilled to welcome Donna back into the fold. ■



AFSA Governing Board Meeting, September 20, 2023

The board met in person at AFSA headquarters, with some members joining virtually via a hybrid system.

The board voted to approve the Audit Report and Letter to Management unanimously. ■

Congratulations to the AAFSW & DACOR Award Winners

In mid-August, winners were announced for the 2023 Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) and the Champions of Career Enhancement for Eligible Family Members (CCE-EFM) Award, both sponsored by Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide (AAFSW), as well as DACOR's Eleanor Dodson Tragen Award.

Created in 1990 at the suggestion of Secretary of State James Baker and Mrs. Susan Baker, the SOSA Award recognizes remarkable volunteer efforts and activities performed while posted to a U.S. mission. This year's winners are as follows:

Mandy Brown (EFM in Doha, Qatar) for her work with Afghan refugees, partnering with a group of volunteers dubbed the "Doha Do-Gooders," and often using her own resources to purchase items she uses to teach women and children new skills.

Jerry Case (EFM in Dublin, Ireland) partnered with a local bike shop to launch the Good Bike Project, refurbishing more than 2,000 used bicycles and distributing them to displaced Ukrainian refugees across Ireland. This newfound mobility enables them to attend school and go to work.

George Cornick (EFM in Kampala, Uganda) for his volunteerism in mentoring youth at a local refugee shel-

ter, securing grant funding for a foundation that supports pediatric cancer patients, and organizing multiple clothing, food, and toy drives for Afghan evacuees and Ugandans in quarantine during an Ebola outbreak.

Daniela Garcia (EFM in San Salvador, El Salvador) for driving the community's support of children at the local orphanage, Mi Casa. She raised funds for a building expansion and led planning to create a safe home for pregnant teen orphans, many of whom have been victims of abuse. She also mapped out counseling to help the girls and is developing a training program to teach the soon-to-be mothers how to care for themselves and their babies.

Robert Gudenkauf (FSS) and **Kimberly Gudenkauf** (EFM) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, for their efforts to help the local animal population by creating a network of more than 80 volunteers, saving the lives of many animals. Through meetings with advocacy groups and government officials, they promoted the animal shelters and built support for a bill that would create Mongolia's first animal rights law.

William "Ed" O'Bryan (FSO) and **Alesia Krupe-nikava** (EFM) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, for breaking barriers for women and girls in the country through



their work with a global tech innovation nonprofit, Technovation Girls. From coaching local program leaders to lobbying the Turkmen government to allow girls to travel to the capital to take part in programming, this husband-and-wife team has enabled more than 400 girls to participate in Technovation Girls since 2022. In fact, two teams from the country progressed through a pool of 1,000 teams to reach the semifinals of the organization's global competition.

Honorable mentions: **Sarah Begbie** (EFM in Yerevan, Armenia); **Mikell Reed Carol** (EFM in Belgrade, Serbia); **Jason Coombs** (EFM in Colombo, Sri Lanka); **Danielle Muench** (EFM in Nairobi, Kenya); **Heather Nader** (EFM in Nairobi, Kenya); **Malia Skaret** (EFM in Asunción, Paraguay); and **Diane Young** (EFM in Nairobi, Kenya).

The CCE-EGM Award was developed to recognize those who go above and beyond their job descriptions to expand and elevate job opportunities and long-term career enhancement for Foreign Service family members.

Rona Jobe (EFM in Washington, D.C.) is this year's winner for her work supporting small businesses in the EFM and military spouse community.

The *Eleanor Dodson Tragen Award*, sponsored and administered by the DACOR Bacon House Foundation, honors a spouse or family member who has promoted rights, programs, and benefits for Foreign Service families, as did the late Mrs. Tragen.

This year, DACOR selected **Michelle Neyland** (EFM and Civil Service employee in Bucharest, Romania) to receive this award in recognition of her tireless work spearheading last year's successful campaign for pay equity legislation for Civil Service domestic employee teleworking overseas (DETO) positions. Her leadership addressing an issue that many dismissed as too difficult to fix demonstrates a new model for employee-driven change.

All awards will be presented to recipients at the annual AAFSW awards ceremony on Nov. 29, 2023, at the State Department. ■

Foreign Service Grievance Board Appointments

Congratulations to the retired Foreign Service members appointed by Secretary of State Antony Blinken to the Foreign Service Grievance Board for two-year terms starting Oct. 1, 2023.

As required by the Foreign Service Act of 1980, the candidates were jointly nominated by AFSA and the five agencies utilizing the Foreign Service personnel system.

Reappointed members are: Amb. (ret.) Jess L. Baily (State), Nace B. Crawford (State-DS), Gregory Loose (FCS), Wendela Moore (State), and Amb. (ret.) Luis G. Moreno (State).

New members are: Karen Hunter (USAID), Amb. (ret.) Eileen Malloy (State), and Amb. (ret.) Matthew Tueller (State). They replaced outgoing members Amb. (ret.) Bernadette M. Allen (State), Amb. (ret.) Frank Almaguer (USAID), and Pat Shapiro (USAID). AFSA thanks them for their service. ■

AFSA Comments on CDC “Dog Ban” Rulemaking

AFSA is advocating for change by submitting official comments to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s notice of proposed rulemaking on the importation of dogs and cats



into the United States, widely known as the “dog ban.”

In a comprehensive comment, AFSA proposes less burdensome importation requirements tailored for U.S. government personnel, including Foreign Service members. The comment also

offers concrete examples that highlight the adverse effects of the stringent dog ban rules on the Foreign Service community.

AFSA firmly believes it is imperative to address these

concerns and present alternative, more feasible dog importation criteria suitable for U.S. government employees.

To learn more about the association’s official position and proposed solutions, visit <https://bit.ly/AFSADogBanComment>. ■

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Architect of *Nation-Building*

James F. "Jim" Dobbins
1942-2023

BY FLETCHER M. BURTON

Nation-building—disavowed as a policy by Republicans and Democrats alike, sullied by failures in Afghanistan and Iraq, slighted as an overly ethnic term by European diplomats who favor “state-building,” yet honored more in the practice than in the breach after military interventions—lost its greatest explicator in James F. “Jim” Dobbins, who died on July 3 at age 81 (see also obituary on page 69).



Fletcher M. Burton, a former ambassador to the OSCE Mission to Bosnia, spent more than a decade of his Foreign Service career in nation-building deployments, working most closely with James Dobbins on Kosovo. He was the first civilian head

of a provincial reconstruction team (PRT), a prototype established in Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan, and later used in Iraq, where he served as the PRT leader in Kirkuk.

His obituary in *The New York Times* hailed him as the “world’s leading authority on nation-building.” This theme wound its way through many of the tributes. Yet readers might wonder about the nation-building scoresheet.

The *NYT* and *The Washington Post* obituaries do not cite any successes except Kosovo. And in its depiction, the *Post* called Kosovo an “outcome celebrated by the U.S. and its allies”—a bit of sophistry, a phrasing that Vladimir Putin could easily adapt to describe his swallowing of Crimea. Further, the tributes emphasize Dobbins’ withering criticism of U.S. actions, including nation-building, in Afghanistan and Iraq. Did the leading authority leave with too few prizes?

Readers will have to turn to Dobbins’ fine memoir, *Foreign Service*, to find a better reckoning of successes. For example, regarding the Balkans, he asserts: Bosnia pacified, Kosovo liberated, Croatia and Serbia democratized, Macedonia and Albania stabilized. A region transformed from the smoking ruins of Yugoslavia.

What made Dobbins so thoughtful in his defense of nation-building was his strategic cast of mind or, more precisely, his

comparative and historical approach. His many articles and op-eds invariably held up these two lenses. Thus, for instance, he would compare a country's progress to its neighbors of similar characteristics or, using both lenses at once, to its own earlier situation. Often, though not in the case of Afghanistan and Iraq, he would conclude that nation-building in a particular country was not perfect but not bad, and certainly not without its achievements.

Another hallmark of his, engraved in his thinking from work in the field: a realistic yardstick for progress, a feel for constraints, a disdain for utopian standards. Consider, for example, his censure of the “democratic evangelism” in George W. Bush's second inaugural address.

As a diplomat, as a seasoned practitioner of nation-building, Dobbins excelled in part because of his exquisite grasp of the specific evolution of a policy—for example, on the U.N. resolutions pertaining to the status of Kosovo. His legal mind could retain multitudinous details. This was useful for foiling attempts—for instance, from mischievous opposite numbers—to use obscure aspects of old documents to argue, sometimes speciously, on the issue at hand. The Sergey Lavrovs of the world had met their match.



James Dobbins, as U.S. Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, at a conference in Berlin, Germany, in May 2013.

Dobbins' magnum opus was the RAND series he co-authored on nation-building, a formidable structure of input-output analysis. Here I can speak from personal experience. When the first volume appeared in 2003, *America's Role in Nation-Building*, I was struck by the comparative and historical treatment and dazzled by the chart in the executive summary, a little graphic masterpiece of analysis involving seven countries, laid out on a time frame, from Germany to Afghanistan. After finishing the book, I resolved to spend the rest of my career in the principal countries of our nation-building: Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. (N.B.—And so it came to pass.)



James Dobbins (seated, at center), then U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, poses with Minister of the Chinese Embassy to the U.S. Lu Kang (on Dobbins' left), Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. Eklil Ahmad Hakimi (on Dobbins' right), and young Afghan diplomats during a ceremony at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 9, 2013.

What made Dobbins so thoughtful in his defense of nation-building was his strategic cast of mind.

My personal debt to him continued almost to his death. We corresponded over the years, chiefly on nation-building issues and more urgently from me on the looming Afghan implosion. I sent him a long appraisal of his memoir highlighting what I called its “zingers” (some of which can be found in the sidebar), and another long message on his review, sharp in its criticism but civil in its tone, of Michael Mandelbaum’s tendentious *Mission Failure*. Readers interested in the subject, but daunted by the multivolume RAND series, would do well to turn to that 2016 book review in *The American Interest*. The concluding

chapter in *Foreign Service*, called “Reflections,” is also Dobbins in best form, a meditative “Summing Up,” as Dean Acheson titled his own last chapter in his memoirs.

After he received my comments on his memoir, Dobbins proposed lunch to discuss further. We met in Washington on Dec. 29, 2017, as my diary records:

Hosted lunch for Jim Dobbins at the Cosmos Club. We discussed his memoirs. “My image of you the memoirist, the historian”—I led off as our meal arrived, salad for him, salmon for me—“is drawn from your Petersberg chapter [negotiating the settlement in Afghanistan]: You on the hill looking down, on the city of Bonn, on your time there as the DCM at our Embassy; the historian on Olympus.” He seemed amused, or puzzled.



Toiling in the field, pondering from the mountain, working at the State Department, writing at RAND—this combination made Dobbins an authority on nation-building. Better: a builder of nation-building, an architect and sometimes critic. ■

Excerpts from Works by James Dobbins

The whole history of Balkan diplomacy in the early 1990s demonstrated that buck passing rather than burden sharing was the default policy on both sides of the Atlantic.

—from *Foreign Service*, 2017

If the record of George W. Bush’s first term might be caricatured as policy without reflection, the Obama White House seemed committed to reflection without policy.

—from *Foreign Service*, 2017

Modern American presidents are chosen principally for what they promise to do for the economy, over which they have limited sway, rather than for how they propose to conduct foreign and defense policy, over which they have near total control.

—from *Foreign Service*, 2017

Nation-building is not principally about economic reconstruction; rather, it is about political transformation.

—from *America’s Role in Nation-Building*, 2003

It’s well past time to abandon the illusion of omnipotence and the temptation to unilateralism—bitter fruits of victory in the Cold War.

—from “*American Decline? We’ve Been Here Before*,” in *The Wall Street Journal*, 2019

Recent gains in peace and prosperity “are based on two basic, widely accepted norms of international behavior: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s territory, and thou shall open thy markets to all equally.”

—from “*History Ended in 1945*,” in *The Wall Street Journal*, 2018

Invading Iraq was probably the single worst decision in the history of U.S. foreign policy.

—from a book review in *The American Interest*, 2016

Nation-building is difficult, costly, time-consuming and likely to disappoint. ... [S]uch missions may nevertheless sometimes prove necessary. That is why I think it so important that we learn from our experiences.

—from a book review in *The American Interest*, 2016

■ **Harry C. Blaney III**, 85, a retired Foreign Service officer, died of kidney cancer in his Bethesda, Md., home on May 11, 2023.

Mr. Blaney graduated from Allegheny College (B.A.) in 1959 and Yale University (M.A.) in 1961. He also did graduate work and research at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

After joining the Foreign Service in December 1965, Mr. Blaney served twice in Brussels—at the U.S. mission to the European Communities and at the U.S. mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, where he was economic and science counselor.

Mr. Blaney was a White House staff member and special assistant to Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then counselor to the U.S. president. While at the White House, he followed a wide range of environment and energy issues and served as coordinator for the United States in NATO's Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society. He also worked as special assistant to Russell E. Train, then the chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.

From his 20-year career, Mr. Blaney is most noted for his work as a member of the policy planning staff of Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance, covering energy, nonproliferation, technology, and environmental issues, as well as the Law of the Sea.

After retiring in 1988, Mr. Blaney held two volunteer jobs. First, he was president and chief executive officer for more than a decade of the Coalition for American Leadership Abroad. This was an AFSA initiative that brought together some 50 nongovernmental organizations to support U.S. engagement in world affairs and the "150 Account."

Second, Mr. Blaney was a senior fellow at the Center for International Policy, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

He is survived by his former wife, Julia A. Moore.

■ **James Francis "Jim" Dobbins Jr.**, 81, a retired Senior Foreign Service officer and ambassador, died on July 3, 2023, from complications of Parkinson's disease.

Mr. Dobbins was born on May 31, 1942, in Brooklyn, N.Y. His father was a lawyer for the Veterans Administration, and his mother was a homemaker.

When he was 10, he moved with his family to Manila, where his father had been transferred. That experience, which involved weeks of first-class travel by train and ship, imbued him with a lifetime love for living abroad.

Mr. Dobbins returned to Washington, D.C., for his senior year of high school, then enrolled at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. During his senior year there, in 1963, he passed the Foreign Service exam, but he had already enlisted in the Navy.

After graduation, he served for three years aboard the USS *Bon Homme Richard*, an aircraft carrier supporting America's deepening involvement in Vietnam. He was on duty during critical moments in the clash with North Vietnamese forces near his ship in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964, which effectively opened the Vietnam War.

Mr. Dobbins joined the Foreign Service after his discharge and was assigned to Paris. At a party given by the U.S. embassy's Marine detachment, he met a Norwegian model, Toril Kleivdal. They married in 1968.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Mr. Dobbins took on a number of assignments, including ambassador to the

European Community, the forerunner of the European Union.

In 1993 he was asked to oversee the U.S. withdrawal from Somalia. He was later assigned to oversee all peacekeeping-related issues at the State Department, including the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide.

A stint as a special envoy to Haiti followed, during the U.S. intervention in 1994 and 1995. In the late 1990s, he held assignments involving postwar diplomacy in Bosnia and Kosovo.

His career almost derailed in 1999 when two members of Congress accused him of lying under oath while testifying about Haitian death squads. An internal investigation cleared him of that charge but concluded that he had been "reckless" in his choice of words. Amb. Dobbins claimed that the investigation's final report had been tweaked to please the politicians. He appealed and, in March 2001, received what he called "a sizable financial settlement," according to *The New York Times*.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he became the Bush administration's envoy to the Afghan opposition, played a key role at the 2001 Bonn conference from which Hamid Karzai emerged as the consensus candidate for Afghanistan's first president, and reopened the American embassy in Kabul on Dec. 16, 2001.

After retiring from the Foreign Service in 2002, Amb. Dobbins directed RAND's International Security and Defense Policy Center until 2013, when he returned to government service as President Barack Obama's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

He spent a challenging year in the post, negotiating over such issues as whether to keep American troops in Afghanistan after 2014 and the controversial swap of

five Taliban detainees for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl.

When Amb. Dobbins stepped down as special representative a year later, John Kerry, then Secretary of State, described him as “one of the finest Foreign Service officers of his generation.”

He returned to RAND, where he continued to turn out analyses and reports. In 2017 he published a memoir, *Foreign Service: Five Decades on the Frontlines of American Diplomacy* (Brookings Institution Press), which won the Douglas Dillon Award that year. He remained a prolific writer; just a few weeks before his death, despite the advanced state of his disease, he was one of the authors of a report on rebuilding Ukraine.

Amb. Dobbins is survived by his sons, Christian and Colin Dobbins; his brothers, Peter and Andrew Dobbins; his sisters, Victoria Dobbins and Elizabeth Fuller; and two grandchildren. His wife passed away in 2012.

■ **Michael Philip Evans**, 54, a retired Senior Foreign Service officer, passed away peacefully at home in Falls Church, Va., on Oct. 26, 2022, surrounded by his family.

Michael was born on May 16, 1968, to Mary Rose Reeder and Philip Burnham Evans in Athens, Ga. He grew up in Arlington, Va., and Morgantown, W.V., graduating as a National Merit finalist from Morgantown High School in 1986.

He matriculated at West Virginia University, where he was a member of the honors program and a resident adviser. Michael met his future wife, Gretchen Elizabeth Krantz, in his first semester German class, which began his family’s lifelong connection to the language and culture of that country.

During his sophomore year, he earned a Reserve Officers Training Corps schol-

arship and held first position on the order of merit list for academic excellence during his three years in the program. In 1990, he graduated summa cum laude as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society with a degree in history and a commission in the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant.

Following his marriage to Gretchen at Ft. Myer, Va., in August 1990, he was assigned to the officer’s basic course at the field artillery school at Fort Sill, Okla. He continued his training at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., earning certification as an advanced military linguist in German.

Assignments followed in Germany with the Third Infantry Division, first with the 5/41 Field Artillery in Schweinfurt, as a fire support officer for the 3/4 Cavalry, and later as the division’s military liaison officer in Würzburg.

Michael attended Advanced Officer Training at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., earned his airborne wings at Fort Benning, Ga., and finished his military career as an intelligence officer for the Third Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1997. Military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Airborne Wings, National Defense Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Army Commendation Medal.

In January 1998 Michael entered the U.S. Foreign Service as a consular officer. His first assignment, to Yaoundé, included such highlights as the eruption of Mt. Cameroon in March 1999; victory of the country’s men’s soccer team, the Indomitable Lions, in the 2000 Olympics; and a threat of expulsion from the country for consorting with political opposition.

Subsequent posts as a junior officer included Frankfurt, where his first son, Jack, was born, and Hong Kong.

Michael served as consular chief at the U.S. embassy in Accra, where he earned his first nomination for Consular Officer of the Year. Highlights of his four years in Accra include the birth of his second son, George, and serving as a control officer for President Barack Obama’s first visit to Ghana in June 2009.

Returning to Washington, D.C., in 2011, Michael earned a master’s degree at the National Defense University in 2012 and served in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research as the deputy director for terrorism, narcotics, and crime from 2012 to 2014.

His final overseas assignment was as consular chief at the U.S. consulate in Mumbai. Returning to Washington in 2018, he was promoted to the rank of Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service, and served as director of the Post Analysis and Support Division in the Bureau of Consular Affairs’ Office of the Executive Director, and deputy director of the National Vetting Center. There he was nominated a second time for Consular Officer of the Year for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic. He retired in September 2021.

Michael was a member of the German Catholic Mission of Washington, D.C., the American Foreign Service Association, the WVU Alumni Association, and Phi Beta Kappa. An avid hiker, camper, and outdoorsman, he belonged to the Izaak Walton League and the Appalachian Trail Club.

Michael was preceded in death by his son Henry David Evans in 2007.

He is survived by his wife, Gretchen, of Falls Church, Va.; sons Jack and George; his father, Philip B. Evans (and wife Daniele) of Le Pradal, France; his mother, Mary R. White (and husband Ralph) of Williamsburg, Va.; his brother Daniel J. Evans (and wife Kimberly) of Madison,

Wis.; his in-laws Col. William A. Krantz (and wife Alice) of Williamsburg, Va., Dr. William A. Krantz, Jr. (and wife Allison) of Morgantown, W.V., Heidi K. Boyd (and husband Jay) of Shepherdstown, W.V., nephews Alex, Jacob, and Ethan, and nieces Gabrielle, Lauren, and Lena.

He is also survived by the many members of his Foreign Service community, including friends, mentors, and Foreign Service nationals who served with him. Of particular note are the many younger FSOs whom Michael mentored and supported as they built careers within what he regarded as the most important and rewarding profession one could have.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Shenandoah National Park Trust to support his favorite place.

■ **Christine O'Connor Fulena**, 71, a retired Foreign Service specialist, died on Dec. 23, 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Born in 1951 in Ann Arbor, Mich., Ms. Fulena obtained a bachelor's degree in the performing arts from American University in Washington, D.C., and a paralegal diploma from Georgetown University. After a few months working on Capitol Hill, she joined the Foreign Service as an office management specialist in 1977.

Ms. Fulena's first assignment was with the U.S. Delegation to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (now the World Trade Organization) in Geneva, followed by assignments with the U.S. embassies in Bogotá, Port Louis, Brussels, and Mogadishu.

She was next posted to Washington, to the department's Near East and South Asia Bureau, and subsequently served at the Foreign Service Institute as an instructor. Then followed assignments with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, where, in 1995, Ms.

Fulena was named Foreign Service Secretary of the Year for her work in the Refugee and Migration Affairs office, and with the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

She then served in Port-au-Prince, Rome, Paris, and finally, again, with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

Ms. Fulena and her family retired in Geneva in 2017 after a 40-year career in the Foreign Service. During that time, she proudly served as OMS to six ambassadors at five posts in three different geographic regions.

Ms. Fulena's colleagues in the Foreign Service remember her as someone who made friends in the diplomatic community very quickly wherever she was posted. She was a solid, dependable team player, dedicated to and passionate about her work and about the Foreign Service, always willing and available to assist new arrivals at post if they had any problem, whether this was related to their work or was a personal problem such as their car breaking down after arrival at post.

In addition to Port Louis, where she met and married her husband, Poolust (Udai) Fulena, in 1983, and Brussels where her daughter, Yasmine Nicole, was born in 1986, Ms. Fulena had a vivid recollection of Bogotá—her second tour in the Foreign Service—because soon after her arrival there, the U.S. ambassador and several other ambassadors were taken hostage by guerrillas while they were attending an official reception.

She also remembered her assignment in the Near East and South Asia Bureau because Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Operation Desert Storm, and the subsequent peace process took place during that period, and her assignment to Geneva, where she launched the mission's

Thanksgiving luncheon for her counterparts at other embassies.

Outside work, Ms. Fulena enjoyed spending time with her family, touring museums, scuba diving, downhill skiing, and sculling.

She is survived by her husband; her daughter; three siblings: Valerie Clark, Amy O'Connor, and Christopher O'Connor; five nieces and nephews; and numerous in-laws in Mauritius.

■ **Douglas Gordon Hartley**, 89, a retired Foreign Service officer, passed away on July 14, 2023, in Scarborough, Maine, surrounded by family and friends.

Mr. Hartley was born in London on March 25, 1934. His parents, both American citizens, came to England in 1927 and lived near Egham, Surrey. With the advent of World War II, his father, Gordon Hartley, stayed in England and joined the Coldstream Guards.

He, sister Libby, and his mother (who was from Baltimore) sailed aboard a U.S. flag vessel, the *Manhattan*, to the United States where the family settled for the war's duration. He attended Gilman School.

In 1945 his father was demobilized, briefly returning to the U.S. before accompanying his son to England, where Mr. Hartley went to St. Leonard's elementary school in Hastings. He then went on to Eton College for four years, an experience that, while not always easy, shaped his life.

In 1948, when Mr. Hartley was 14 years old, his father died of a heart attack while on holiday in Italy. Mr. Hartley left England in 1951 to attend Harvard University, graduating in 1955.

In March 1956, he married Deborah Wait of Boston. That same year, he joined the U.S. Foreign Service and, over the course of a 30-year career, served in

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Washington, D.C., Copenhagen, Salzburg, Belgrade (twice), Milan, Rome, Athens, London, Salvador da Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro.

In 1974 he and Deborah divorced. In 1979 he married Sondra Otey, of Memphis, Tennessee, and she accompanied him to Salvador and Rio.

Mr. Hartley retired in 1986, but he continued to work at the State Department in Washington with several assignments to Haiti, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia, and Italy. In 2007 he retired from the work at State, and he and Sondra moved to Cushing, Maine, where they lived until Sondra's death in 2015.

After selling the Cushing house, in 2018 Mr. Hartley moved to Falmouth, a town near Portland, Maine. In the meantime, he and Ed Nef, a Harvard classmate, produced several films, the last of which told the story of Charles Fletcher Hartley, Douglas' uncle, who was killed at the Battle of Cambrai in France during World War I. The film was shown in Boston and Washington, D.C., and at the Columbus, Georgia, film festival.

Mr. Hartley continued to travel to visit his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who live in England, Brazil, and Dubai, as well as the United States.

In addition to French, Mr. Hartley spoke Italian, Serbian, and Portuguese in varying degrees of fluency. In 2012 he wrote his autobiography, *Much Have I Travell'd*. He loved all music, with an emphasis on classical, and he played the piano by ear and by note, performing at various assisted living facilities in Portland and Rockland, Maine. He also volunteered at Partners for World Health, a Portland-based organization that ships used medical equipment from U.S. hospitals all over the world.

Mr. Hartley leaves behind his children, Virginia Raymond, Sandra Stop-

ford, Charlotte Hartley, Richard Hartley, and Sibby Spencer, plus 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, he asked that donations be made to Partners for World Health and Doctors Without Borders.

■ **Michael Hornblow**, 83, a retired Senior Foreign Service officer, died on June 7, 2023, at his home at Galloway Ridge in Fearington, North Carolina.

Mr. Hornblow was born on Dec. 17, 1939, the son of Leonora Schinasi and movie actor Wayne Morris. In 1952 he was adopted by his mother's second husband, Arthur Hornblow Jr., and his surname was changed from Morris to Hornblow.

The family lived in Beverly Hills, where Arthur was a successful Hollywood producer and his mother, known as Bubbles, started writing the first of two published novels. As a child, Mr. Hornblow delivered the local paper to neighbors Jack Benny, Jimmy Stewart, and other Hollywood luminaries.

In 1958 Mr. Hornblow graduated from the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, N.J., and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in 1962 from Harvard College. While an undergraduate, he went with Crossroads Africa to Cameroon, where he met several diplomats assigned to the embassy in Yaoundé. He often said he decided then and there to be a U.S. diplomat specializing in Africa.

During his senior year at Harvard, he took the Foreign Service exam, passing the written part but failing the oral. Told that he needed "more seasoning" before applying again, he volunteered for the U.S. Army, serving three years in intelligence roles, mostly in Germany.

In 1966, while waiting to enter the U.S. Foreign Service, Mr. Hornblow was a social worker in New York City's Harlem

neighborhood. His first Foreign Service overseas posting was to the U.S. embassy in Kabul, which he described as being transformative. From 1973 to 1975, he was the principal officer at the then U.S. consulate in Khorramshahr, Iran.

Returning to Washington, D.C., in the fall of 1975, he met his future wife, Caroline Bailey, at a small dinner party hosted by a Foreign Service colleague, Dan Simpson, and his then-wife Margaret. They married in Washington, D.C., during Thanksgiving weekend in 1976 and began a life together that he promised would never be dull.

She accompanied him on his subsequent overseas assignments, the first of which was to Rome, where he served as the deputy U.S. envoy to the Holy See at the beginning of the pontificate of John Paul II.

In 1986 Mr. Hornblow was assigned to Krakow, becoming the post's first consul general when its status was elevated for the visit of Vice President George H.W. Bush. He returned to Poland in 1990 and served as deputy chief of mission (DCM) and chargé d'affaires in Warsaw, guiding the development and strengthening of post-Cold War relations between the U.S. and Poland. He also served at the U.S. mission to NATO.

In Washington, Mr. Hornblow served as deputy staff secretary at the National Security Council, as well as in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs and the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs.

After retiring in 1995, he had several short-term assignments, including as acting DCM to both the Holy See and to Oslo. He also worked as an assistant to the secretary of the Smithsonian and to the director of CHF International.

Once proficient in Farsi, Polish, Italian, and French, he was the recipient of the Commander's Cross of the Order of

Merit from the Republic of Poland and the City of Krakow Award for Meritorious Service.

Colleagues recall Mr. Hornblow as a committed mentor to junior officers and a fair and supportive supervisor. Over the course of his long and distinguished diplomatic career, his one regret was that he was never assigned to Africa.

He did, however, travel twice to Africa as a tourist with his wife. One trip included Rwanda where they visited U.S. Ambassador Michael Arietti, whose first Foreign Service assignment was to the consulate in Khorramshahr while Mr. Hornblow was serving there as principal officer.

In retirement, the Hornblows first lived in Washington, D.C. In 2002 they moved to Fearrington Village, where Mr. Hornblow became an active member of the Carolina Friends of the Foreign Service and was an associate editor of the online publication *American Diplomacy*. He was often asked to introduce movies from the Golden Age of Hollywood at various venues in Chapel Hill, which gave him an opportunity to share stories from his youth.

The Hornblows were indefatigable world travelers, by both land and sea. They enjoyed local cultures and collected artwork from many of the countries they visited. Harvard University asked him to lead two of their alumni trips, including one to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. On these trips, he shared his experiences and knowledge of the history and issues with fellow travelers.

Remarkable hosts at their beach house, Serendipity, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, the Hornblows generously welcomed former colleagues, family, and friends, sharing fond memories of life overseas while also discussing the events of the day or watching a movie. Many

recall their graciousness and positive spirit as they dealt with Mr. Hornblow's failing health over the past few years.

Mr. Hornblow is survived by his wife, Caroline, and an extensive network of family and friends.

■ **Donald L. Jameson**, 81, a retired Foreign Service officer, died on July 12, 2023.

Mr. Jameson was born on Jan. 6, 1942, in Ukiah, Calif., to Tom Jameson, the chief of the local fire department, and Ethel Jameson, a homemaker.

The eldest of three children, he developed an interest in world affairs at an early age and aspired to attend Stanford University, where his grandfather began studying but did not complete his degree due to service in the U.S. Army during World War I. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Stanford, Mr. Jameson completed a master's degree in international relations from the University of Pittsburgh.

Among the first Americans to serve in the Peace Corps after it was created by President John F. Kennedy, Mr. Jameson started his diplomatic career in Guinea, where he taught English to elementary and middle school students from 1963 to 1965.

In 1967 he joined the U.S. Foreign Service. For many years, his home library featured an autographed photograph of his Foreign Service orientation class standing in the White House Rose Garden with President Lyndon Johnson. He was first assigned to South Vietnam, completing a two-year tour in Go Cong and Chuong Thien provinces as part of the Civil Operations and Rural Support (CORDS) program.

Later, Mr. Jameson went on to spend most of his three-decade career focusing on Southeast Asia, including assignments

in Cambodia as political officer, in Indonesia as political officer (Jakarta) and U.S. consul-general (Surabaya), in Burma as political officer and acting deputy chief of mission (DCM), and in Wellington as chief of the political section.

In Washington, D.C., he served with the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs and was chief of the Southeast Asia branch at the Voice of America. Throughout these assignments, Mr. Jameson was greatly admired for the quality of his research and analysis and close familiarity with local political and social developments.

Mr. Jameson never shied from speaking truth to power, even when challenging conventional views in the administrations he served. Before the Khmer Rouge took power in Cambodia, Mr. Jameson dispatched an airogram, “Whither Cambodia,” arguing implicitly for a policy change.

His prescient report from the field had the rare distinction of being passed across the president’s desk; it so enraged Mr. Nixon that he sent back a rebuke to his ambassador saying, “I don’t want to ever again see such a message from your staff.”

Later, while Mr. Jameson served as acting DCM in Rangoon, his messages were singled out by the State Department for the Baker Award as the best worldwide reporting by any embassy.

He continued to provoke fresh thinking on foreign policy, even after his retirement from the State Department in 1993, including his crafting of a 2010 East-West Center study that ushered in a more realistic U.S. policy toward the Burmese regime.

Mr. Jameson met his wife, Narin, at the U.S. embassy in Phnom Penh, where she was a Foreign Service National local employee and he was a political officer.

They married in 1976. After his retirement, he regularly visited Cambodia with her and remained active within the Cambodian community in the United States, including as a member of the organization Friends of Khmer Culture.

An avid reader, Mr. Jameson also loved listening to classical music and traveling within the United States and internationally. He enjoyed discussing current affairs and history with friends. He took delight in advising a rising generation of young foreign policy scholars and students at his home in Bethesda, Md., where he and Ms. Jameson often hosted social gatherings.

Mr. Jameson is remembered by his many friends and family as a highly intelligent, thoughtful, generous person with a wry wit and a lifelong passion for learning.

He is survived by Narin, his wife of 47 years, sons Daniel and Michael Jameson, and his younger sister.

■ **Herman Kleine**, 103, a retired USAID Foreign Service officer, passed away on Aug. 24, 2023, at his home in Fairfield, Conn.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Mr. Kleine earned his undergraduate degree at the State University of New York in Albany before joining the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1945. After military service, he returned to school to earn a doctorate in economics at Clark University. He was recruited from Clark to help shape the Marshall Plan, the groundbreaking U.S. effort to rebuild Europe after World War II.

Dr. Kleine’s work led to a 20-year career with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where he held numerous prestigious positions, including USAID mission director in Ethiopia, USAID representative to the U.S. mission to the United Nations, and deputy mission chief in Brazil.

Dr. Kleine then served as assistant administrator of USAID’s Bureau of Latin American Affairs in Washington, D.C. In that role, he advised Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford on U.S. policy in Central and South America, managed transformational development initiatives, including the “Alliance for Progress,” and was declared by then-National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger a “misfit” for “writing readable reports.”

Dr. Kleine also earned a mid-career master’s degree in national security studies at the National War College, class of 1963. After government service, he worked at the InterAmerican Development Bank and at Georgetown University, where he was director of the Center for Immigration Policy and Refugee Assistance.

He also volunteered at the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Affairs. He belonged to Congregation Beth El in Fairfield, Conn., where the congregation offered him friendship, companionship, and support over the years.

Even as Dr. Kleine pursued his illustrious career, he was deeply devoted to his family.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Paula Kleine, and siblings, Harold Kleine and Pauline Levin.

Dr. Kleine is survived by his children, Joseph and Michael, and grandchildren Suzanne, Sarah, Dan, Harold, and Phillip.

■ **Mark S. Pratt**, 95, a retired Foreign Service officer, passed away peacefully on Aug. 12, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Pratt was born in Lynn, Mass., and raised in Salem, the son of Oliver Goodell and Merah Shrum Pratt. After graduating from Phillips Exeter Academy, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific theater during World War II. He graduated from Brown University, also attending

Harvard, the Sorbonne, and the Georgetown Walsh School of Foreign Service.

Mr. Pratt served for 35 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, including postings in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Vientiane, Paris, and Taipei, as well as Washington, D.C., ending his career as U.S. consul general in Guangzhou from 1986 to 1989.

He participated in the Paris Peace Talks ending the Vietnam War and played a key role in conceptualizing the Taiwan Relations Act and in carrying out its policy stipulations.

Upon retirement, he returned to Washington, D.C., and remained active with foreign affairs and China-related organizations.

He and his wife of 33 years, Dolores Rossi Pratt, were known for their erudition and scholarship, facility in foreign languages, knowledge and appreciation of food and wine, and support for local and national arts institutions, including the Studio Theater and Studio Acting Conservatory.

They contributed works of art to the Baltimore Museum of Art, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Peabody-Essex Museum, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Mr. Pratt was predeceased by his wife, Dolores, in 2020.

He is survived by stepsons, nieces, nephews, and many dear friends and colleagues from all phases of his Foreign Service career. ■



If you would like us to include an obituary in In Memory, please send text to journal@afsa.org.

Be sure to include the date, place, and cause of death, as well as details of the individual's Foreign Service career. Please place the name of the AFSA member to be memorialized in the subject line of your email.



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The Swedish Vasa Order of America

BY BEATRICE CAMP

Since 1960, the Vasa Order of America has selected a prominent U.S. citizen of Swedish descent as Swedish American of the Year. Honorees are invited for a 10-day visit to Sweden, where they are feted with lunch at the Foreign Office and a reception at Stockholm's city hall. Although the U.S. embassy has no official role, events like these afford the chance to highlight the Swedish roots shared by millions of Americans.

Recipients of the Vasa Order award over the last six decades have included Nobel Prize laureate Glenn Seaborg and astronaut Buzz Aldrin. During my time at the embassy, the award went to a General Motors exec, the president of the University of Minnesota, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court William Rehnquist—and department store owner John Nordstrom.

As the embassy information officer, I had a role in some of the festivities, including arranging a press conference in 1993 for Chief Justice Rehnquist. That proved troublesome—the Swedish journalists let me know they were disappointed in the way the conservative jurist deflected their questions, including those on abortion.



Beatrice Camp's Foreign Service career took her to China, Thailand, Sweden, and Hungary, in addition to Washington, D.C., assignments at the U.S. Information Agency, the State Department, and the Smithsonian Institution.

The selection of John Nordstrom yielded better results, albeit with its own problem. While the annual program hosted by the Vasa Order and its Swedish counterparts covered 10 days, Nordstrom



insisted he and his wife, Sally, had only three; it was imperative he get back to the U.S. to open two new stores. Although the organizers weren't happy with what they saw as a stereotypically overbooked American who couldn't spare the time to explore his heritage, they acquiesced to a condensed schedule.

Given the opportunity to accompany the honoree in 1992, I was fascinated to watch John Nordstrom's interest in and knowledge of Sweden grow even in that limited amount of time. At the first night's banquet, his brief, bare-bones toast noted that his grandfather had left Sweden by boat for the United States, where he started a shoe store. By the third night, Nordstrom was waxing longer, adding ever more details to the family tale. The Swedish hosts knew how to feed the flames, turning up documents such as the boat manifest showing his grandfather's departure from Gothenburg for the United States.

And it turned out the department store owner had an interesting heritage story. Grandfather Johan Wilhelm Nordström immigrated to the United States in 1887 at the age of 16. Arriving in America with \$5 to his name (as we heard at every toast), he worked his way across the continent. Taking jobs on railways, in mines, and at

lumber camps and shipyards, he eventually arrived in Seattle, Washington, in 1896.

After reading about the discovery of gold in the Klondike, Johan Nordström headed to Alaska to make his fortune. Not finding it there, he returned to Seattle, where he and a friend opened a shoe store: Wallin & Nordstrom. From that first shoe store grew the retail empire we know today.



The 1992 Nordstrom visit coincided with an annual reenactment of a U.S. Civil War naval battle between the Union ironclad vessel the *Monitor* and the Confederate *Merrimack*. Staged on a lake in Sweden, the reenactment commemorates Swedish engineer and immigrant John Ericsson, who designed the *Monitor* in 1861. (In Washington, he is remembered with a statue in West Potomac Park.)

Watching this American historical event re-created with impressive fire and noise on a Swedish lake was memorable. It helps that the Swedes are masters of explosives—their history includes the inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel, as well as the Bofors guns that were used by both sides in World War II. The faux battle was a highlight of the Nordstroms' visit to the land of their ancestors.

During his *tacktal*, or thank you toast, at the final banquet, John Nordstrom was so taken by this newly deepened knowledge of his Swedish heritage that he announced a plan to add two dots over the "o" in "strom" at the new stores, to read "Nordström." I checked the store fronts for several years, hoping to find the accent mark. It never happened. ■

LOCAL LENS



Hagia Sophia, or “Holy Wisdom,” has been standing on this spot in Istanbul since the fourth century. Rebuilt by the Byzantine emperor Justinian the First between 532 and 537 CE, Aya Sofya (in Turkish) was the largest cathedral in the world until the Seville Cathedral was completed in 1520. It served as an Eastern Orthodox Church and later Catholic Cathedral until the fall of Constantinople in 1453, when it was converted into a mosque. It remained a working mosque until the establishment of the Turkish Republic and was a museum from 1935 until July 2020 when it was reclassified as a mosque once again. ■

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Joining the Foreign Service in 2011, Dave Panetti has served in Port-au-Prince, Chisinau, Baghdad, and Istanbul. He is currently posted to Leipzig. He took this photo of the UNESCO World Heritage Site in March 2021 using an iPhone 11.

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