The Power of Public Diplomacy: Leading Today’s Challenges. The First Three Feet

Ambassador Jean Manes will speak at the Mon., Feb. 24, 2020, PDAA luncheon. She will focus on the challenges facing today’s public diplomacy practitioners.

Manes is currently the deputy to the commander and foreign affairs advisor at U.S. Southern Command in Fort Lauderdale, Fl. She previously served as ambassador to El Salvador and principal deputy coordinator at the former Bureau of International Information Programs. She has an extensive background in public diplomacy, serving as the Counselor for Public Affairs in Kabul, staff director of resources in the office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, and cultural affairs officer in Brasilia. She is a graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and holds a master’s degree in International Administration from American University.

Amb. Manes received the PDAA Public Diplomacy Achievement Award in 2012.

The discussion will take place on Mon., Feb. 24, from 12:00 to 2:00, at DACOR-Bacon House, 1801 F St. NW.

To register, please complete the form on page 7 of the newsletter or register on-line at pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org. Deadline is Feb. 20.

Honorary PDAA Membership for Roth Awardees

PDAA has awarded honorary one-year memberships to winners of the 2019 Roth Endowment awards.

Among the recipients:

+ Nicole C. Bayer, an FSO, for her work in expanding the scope and reach of cultural and educational programs in Madagascar by increasing programming in the local language and engaging alumni and new audiences through live-streaming as well as highly creative workshops, exhibits, film, and music programs.

+ Helen Reidy, an LES (FSN), for her outstanding leadership, mentoring, and growth of Mission Australia’s EDUCATION USA program that now serves as the key to youth engagement and builds a lasting legacy of goodwill toward the United States.

+ Yolanda Robinson, a domestic support staffer, for her superb judgement and problem-solving in service of cultural and educational programs as Budget Director in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, while gaining the respect and admiration of interlocutors in the Department, on Capitol Hill, and at the White House.

+ Penny Egan received this year's Emeritus Award for career excellence in international cultural and educational diplomacy, with special emphasis on administrative ingenuity and the principle of bi-national funding.
President’s Notes

Happy New Year everyone! It doesn’t take much of a crystal ball to predict that the year 2020 will be eventful, probably tumultuous. We on the PDAA Board have our eyes and ears tuned in to developments that may affect public diplomacy and will work to bring you programs and information that we hope will enlighten and elevate.

Closely collaboration with the Public Diplomacy Council (PDC) is a major step to that goal. The joint working group, which I chair, has over the past couple of months explored issues of mission, IRS tax status, programs, and membership. Where we can take immediate steps, we do. We recently created a joint program committee to look at and enhance the quarterly DACOR luncheons and the first Monday programs, which PDAA co-sponsors with PDC and the University of Southern California. As part of our exploration into membership, PDAA and PDC are moving to a shared web-based tool, Member Planet. We plan to initiate more email communication with you using this tool.

And, I am happy to announce that PDC President Sherry Mueller has accepted the invitation from the PDAA Board to fill the Board seat vacated by Jan Brambilla. We welcome Sherry as I take my position as a member of the PDC Board. We wish Jan continued progress as she focuses on managing the unanticipated health issues that required her to pull back from her PDAA commitments.

We will be sharing working group progress and recommendations with you. In the meantime, your feedback is critical to us. Please feel welcome to share your thoughts with me (fischman@comcast.net) or anyone else on the Board (admin@publicdiplomacy.org).

I look forward to seeing many of you at our First Monday programs. Join us as well for Ambassador Jean Manes’ presentation at the February 24 luncheon at DACOR. Please see the front-page item in this issue for more on Jean’s program.

Finally, we were all saddened by the loss of our good friend, Ambassador Linda Jewell. Please see the appreciations for Linda elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website, pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org.

All the best…

Joel

The View From the Field

Since I wrote my first PDAA column last fall, I’ve been managing the planning for the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum’s upcoming symposium April 16 and 17 as well as practicing for the Santa Fe Concert Band’s annual holiday concerts. By the time this column is out, the holiday concerts will be over and the spring concert will be on the radar screen with its new – and often challenging - music.

Both groups contribute to the Santa Fe community and attract people with similar interests. This is a small city of about 82,000 inhabitants, but it’s the state capital with a proud 400-year-old history, a well preserved historical district, a multicultural population with some of the best scientists and artists in the world, and a vibrant cultural scene.

SFWAF is a small, 501(c)(3) volunteer, largely self-funded, non-affiliated organization that hosts 5-6 lunch programs per year plus the two-day annual symposium on world affairs of current interest. This year’s symposium, “The Warming World: Rising Temperatures, Rising Tides, Rising Turbulence,” will focus on social, economic, and national security effects of global warming. This major effort, in which several former USIS and State Department colleagues are involved, is our flagship event. The symposium description is on our website and we will soon be announcing speakers’ names and topics. Our two major cosponsors are the Santa Fe Community College, where the symposium is held, and the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Colorado in Boulder. We also thank PDAA, PDC, AFSA, and the New Mexico Fulbright Association for their (we hope) continue support to New Mexico university students to make it possible for them to attend and participate in the symposium.

It’s a challenge to create a new organization. It’s been a slow step-by-step process, but we concentrate on what we do best and that is to provide consistent high quality foreign affairs programs in Northern New Mexico. For more information about SFWAF, please visit our website and/or email me at kushlis@msn.com. And, as usual, if you have suggestions you’d like me to share with the PDAA Board in order to meet the interests of those of us beyond the beltway, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Pat Kushlis retired from USIA and represents PDAA members who live outside of the Washington, DC, area.
REMEMBERING LINDA JEWELL

Bob Chatten was the first to submit a remembrance of Linda Jewell. His poignant memory of his friend is on the PDAA website. In addition to his remembrance, we received three additional messages, which are printed below.

I first met Linda Jewell and her husband, John Walsh, in 1978 in Jakarta, Indonesia. They were on their first Foreign Service tour with the U.S. Information Service. I was in Jakarta as a Foreign Service Information Service. I was in Jakarta as a Foreign Service tour with the U.S. Information Service. I was in Indonesia as a Foreign Service tour with the U.S. Information Service. I was in Jakarta as a Foreign Service tour with the U.S. Information Service. I was in Jakarta as a Foreign Service tour with the U.S. Information Service. I was in Indonesia as a Foreign Service tour with the U.S. Information Service. I was in Jakarta as a Foreign Service tour with the U.S. Information Service.

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As a fellow woman FSO, Linda was my role model. She was smart, dedicated to her work, and shared some fascinating excursions to different parts of Indonesia. I learned from John and Linda about the work of USIS and the challenges and rewards of being a “tandem couple.” I was searching for a purpose and a career, and it sounded like exactly the kind of work I would be interested in. I took the Foreign Service exam and in 1980, I entered the Foreign Service—the U.S. International Communication Agency, as USIA was called at that time. John and Linda and my husband and I never served together again, but we saw each other between postings and on Washington assignments. In 1992, when my husband died suddenly, Linda and John became my support network. They invited me over for dinner on a regular basis. We were all in language study that year: Linda and John in Polish and I in Thai. Linda called me on a weekly basis to see how I was doing and share stories of the challenges of learning a “hard language.” I looked forward to those calls: they provided a lifeline.

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Linda’s death is an immeasurable loss to her family, to her colleagues, friends, and people who will never know her. One of the smartest people I have ever known, she could have been an intimidating mentor to a clueless new Foreign Service Officer (me), but she was the best mentor anyone could have, not only professionally, but personally. Her integrity, intelligence, wit, generosity, empathy, leadership, courage, and grace only scratch the surface of who she was. Like her, I was a mother of small children, sometimes struggling to balance work and home; she exemplified, for me, how to sort out priorities, and be an engaged parent and human being, while working for the Department of State. She was a legendary manager and supervisor—humane, effective, hard-working; and she set the standard against which I measured all the managers I ever worked for, and the standard which I tried to emulate when it was my turn to manage.

Her work after retirement benefitted many, and her volunteer activities were helping to mitigate the cruelty of the current administration’s immigration policies.

We will miss her enormously. Thank you, dear friend, for making a difference in the world.

—Susan Domowitz

This photo shows Linda Jewell doing what Foreign Service Officers do best. In 2007, we were working hard with the Ecuadorian military to close off their northern border with Colombia to FARC activities. At that time, the FARC was actively using Ecuadorian territory for all kinds of logistical and support activities. Amb. Jewell, seen here in front of a US transport aircraft, accompanied us right up to the border, where we toured Ecuadorian military facilities and listened to commanders brief how they were organizing to control activities within their assigned areas. It was the first time ever (as far as we could tell) that a US Ambassador visited a “hot” area and all the Ecuadorian Army commanders were impressed, to say the least. This was the Amb. Jewell I admired and was privileged to serve alongside.

—Mark S. Wilkins

(Col. Wilkins served twice with Amb. Jewell: Once in Costa Rica when she was the Chargé d’Affaires for an extended period of time, and again in Ecuador, where he served as her Defense and Army Attaché.)
USIA In Jeopardy? It’s A Case For Poirot!

By Domenick DiPasquale

The October PDAA newsletter’s article about USIA’s “resurrection” in a crossword puzzle, and the ensuing public knowledge – or lack thereof – that it generated about the Agency led this author to delve further into USIA’s presence in the American psyche and popular culture. It brought to mind one of the knocks against USIA even in its heyday: that while the Agency was able to “sell” America abroad, it really didn’t do so here at home and thus lacked much of a natural constituency.

After the October newsletter appeared, renowned USIA Wireless File reporter Ed “Fast Eddie” Scherr (so titled because of his blinding speed writing up for the File the daily State Department press briefings) alerted me to more instances in popular culture showing how little known the Agency’s work seemed to be understood stateside. Pointed in the right direction by Ed, and with a little research on Google, it was easy to find two instances of USIA befuddling the usually razor-sharp contestants on the iconic game show Jeopardy! one way or the other.

On Jan. 10, 2007, a Double Jeopardy category was devoted entirely to the legendary Edward R. Murrow. The $400 question: “In 1961, Murrow left CBS to become director of the U.S.I.A., this Agency.” Seems simple enough – “let’s see, the U.S. must mean United States, and A is Agency…” One contestant did get it right, but because he forgot to phrase his reply in the form of a question, it counted as a wrong answer. (And in the show’s typically clever word play, the next two categories following Murrow were “Good Knight” and “Good Luck”).

Even more interesting, however, was what happened on Jeopardy! during the Feb. 19, 1990, game. In the first Jeopardy round, the category was Communication, and the $400 question this time was, “It’s the broadcasting service of the U.S. International Communication Agency.” It was, as they say in Jeopardy-speak, a triple stumper, with not a single contestant buzzing in…but in fairness to the three contestants, the Jeopardy Clue Crew seemed to have been caught in one of those Star Trek time warps, since the name USICA had disappeared eight years earlier when the Agency reverted to its traditional moniker of USIA in 1982.

And speaking of time warps, even “the cousins” across the pond seem to have fallen victim. Poirot, the long-running series airing on PBS about the

(Continued on page 7)
Memories of J. William Fulbright

Editor’s Note: Dr. Sherry Mueller was recognized as a member of the 1946 Society at the 2019 Fulbright Association Conference held in Crystal City October 24-26. The 1946 Society is named after the year when the scholarship program was established following legislation introduced by Senator J. W. Fulbright. At the ceremony recognizing her, Dr. Mueller recalled her memories of Sen. Fulbright.

It is a privilege to have this opportunity to share my recollections of Senator Fulbright. He and the values he embodied, and so artfully embraced, are certainly the reasons I joined the 1946 Society and support the impressive work of the Fulbright Association.

In the early 1980s, I was working for the Institute of International Education. My staff and I were asked to design and implement the first Fulbright Enrichment Seminar for 180 Fulbright graduate students from around the world. Working closely with USIA, we orchestrated a three-day seminar in Washington, DC. The highlight of the seminar (and others that followed) was the Friday luncheon where Senator Fulbright spoke and interacted with each student. That was the beginning of my friendship with him and his second wife, Harriet, that lasted until he passed away in 1995. However, my admiration for him and his impact on my long career implementing exchanges endures to this day. As I teach Cultural Diplomacy at the AU School of International Service, I try to make sure my students appreciate his profound wisdom and enduring legacy. I just visited with Harriet last Saturday and convey her warm greetings to you all. As you may know, she is moving to Chapel Hill, NC, to be closer to one of her daughters.

Once, I asked Senator Fulbright what he considered his greatest accomplishment in addition to the Fulbright Program. He responded by explaining how he was one of the only American leaders who would hang out with the Soviets when they were in Washington, DC. Once he accompanied Foreign Minister Gromyko to a performance of the Bolshoi Ballet at Constitution Hall. He told me that he was embarrassed that the stage was too small and concluded that the Nation’s Capital needed a proper center for the performing arts. He and others worked to establish one, but it was only after President Kennedy was assassinated that they could muster the necessary support in Congress for the Center for the Performing Arts – by naming it after President Kennedy.

In 2012, the President of Friendship Force International invited me to give the keynote address at their World Conference in Hiroshima. The theme was “Peace Through Friendship” – a challenging topic for an American to tackle in the city that was once decimated by our atomic bomb. As I prepared my speech, I remembered that Senator Fulbright had received the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a foreigner – The Order of the Rising Sun. So after talking about the wonderful long-lasting results of the Japanese gift of 3000 cherry trees to the United States 100 years earlier in 1912, I invoked the Senator by noting that I was fortunate to become friends with him and that he founded America’s flagship scholarship program in 1946 because he believed we must do everything possible to prevent the horrors of World War II from recurring. I reminded the primarily Japanese audience that one of the many honors he received was “The Order of the Rising Sun” and quoted this passage in his book The Price of Empire:

“The only thing that gives me hope is . . . the belief that international relations can be improved, and the danger of war significantly reduced, by producing generations of leaders . . . who through the experience of educational exchange will have acquired some feeling and understanding of other people’s cultures . . . . It is possible that people can find in themselves, through intercultural education, the ways and means of living together in peace.”

That is the reason I joined the 1946 Society. It gives me hope in these turbulent times. My thanks to each of you for your pivotal role in preserving and extending the legacy of Senator Fulbright.

Sherry Mueller is President of the Public Diplomacy Council and a member of the Board of Directors of PDAA. The sketch of Sen. Fulbright that accompanies this article was presented to Dr. Mueller by a South African participant in one of the Fulbright Enrichment Seminars she helped organize.
Jacqueline Mendels Birn, 84, died October 20 in Bethesda, MD. Birn worked at the Foreign Service Institute from 1978 until her retirement in 2007. She was married to Richard Birn, a Foreign Service officer who died last spring, and had accompanied him as a spouse to his posts in Helsinki, Hong Kong, Washington, Toronto, Malta, and Mexico. At FSI, Birn was a French language and culture instructor. Born in Paris in 1935, she trained at the Conservatoire de Musique de Paris and later obtained a degree in organic chemistry. She was an accomplished cello player who played principal cello with the McLean Symphony Orchestra. Birn was the author of A Dimanche Prochain, a memoir of survival in World War Two France. In it, she told how her parents were able to leave Nazi-occupied Paris with their children, hidden by a Catholic couple in Free France. After her retirement, Birn became a Survivor volunteer with the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, where she spoke about her wartime experience to a variety of students and adults.

Natalia “Natasha” Clarkson, former VOA Russian Service Chief, passed peacefully December 3 in North Bethesda, MD, at age 87 after a brief illness. She was born in 1932 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, where her family had settled to escape the Russian revolution. Clarkson immigrated to the United States in 1953 with her parents. She worked in Washington with the Russian service of VOA as a writer and broadcaster before becoming chief of that service in 1985. One notable moment happened when she interviewed Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn and his wife during their exile in Vermont. The Solzhenitsyns insisted that Clarkson stay in their house, arguing that “a Russian lady shouldn’t be alone in a hotel.” Following her retirement from VOA in 1997, Clarkson guided Russian delegations who were visiting Washington to understand the American system of government. She also continued her lifelong passion as an accomplished painter, and in 2017 published her memoir As I Remember.

Barbara L. Dorset, 89, died August 6 in Sarasota, FL. Dorset began her career with the U.S. Army at the Pentagon and then worked at the CIA. During her time at USIA she was posted to Bonn and Rabat, Morocco, prior to joining the State Department as a Foreign Service specialist in Valletta, Malta. Dorset then accompanied her husband, a Foreign Service officer, on tours in Accra, Ghana; Monrovia, Liberia; and Bonn. Dorset retired after 22 years of service in 1983 and worked several years at a law office in the Washington, DC, area. Dorset is survived by her husband, Charles, and their two children.

Walter Alexander Kohl, 97, died August 10 in Bethesda, MD. Kohl served as the Voice of America diplomatic correspondent and worked closely with Secretaries of State William Rogers and Henry Kissinger as they traveled in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe. He also served as Embassy press attaché in Germany, information officer in Greece, public affairs counselor in Vienna, and director of USIA’s Foreign Press Centers in Washington, New York, and Los Angeles. After retiring from the Senior Foreign Service, Kohl went on to direct VOA’s German language broadcast operation. In retirement, he also established the Washington-based international communications firm Inter-Intel-Info Inc. Kohl is survived by a son, Thomas.

Linda Jewell, 66, a retired U.S. Foreign Service officer and former Ambassador to Ecuador, died of cancer November 18. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Foreign Service officer John Walsh, and their two children.

Jewell began her Foreign Service career with the U.S. Information Agency in 1976. She served in cultural and information roles at embassies in Jakarta, Mexico City, New Delhi, and Warsaw. After USIA was consolidated with the State Department in 1999, Jewell was assigned as Deputy Chief of Mission in San José, Costa Rica. She then served as Ambassador to Ecuador from 2005 to 2008.

In the course of her Foreign Service career, Jewell was commended for her efforts to combat human trafficking. She received the Department of State Superior Honor Award as well as the Honorato Vasquez Order of the Ecuadorian government. In retirement Jewell was actively involved in promoting U.S. public diplomacy through various organizations, including the Public Diplomacy Council. She also volunteered her time to assist ICE detainees.

Patricia Ann Woodward, 91, died November 16 at Sibley Hospital in Washington, DC, following a long battle with cancer. After working in Hollywood for over 10 years, Woodward came to Washington in 1962 during the Kennedy Administration and became a special assistant to Roger Stevens, Jr., who had been appointed by Edward R. Murrow to head USIA’s Motion Picture service. Woodward’s USIA career spanned more than two decades. In 1973, she was assigned as Information Officer in Geneva, where she worked to place U.S. documentary films on Eastern European television stations. Her office was also tasked with organizing the huge international press center each time Secretary of State Henry Kissinger met in Geneva with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. Back in the United States, Woodward was one of the organizers of the first American film festival in China, with Chinese audiences viewing American feature films for the first time in 45 years. After retiring in 1983, she volunteered at Common Cause and at the Phillips Collection in Washington.

RFE/RL President Jamie Fly welcomed the Murrow Award, one of the most respected journalism prizes in the world: "This award is just the latest example of RFE/RL’s work and journalists receiving significant recognition as we advance our mission of delivering the truth to our audiences about topics that are often neglected by other media outlets."

Editor-in-Chief Daisy Sindelar said she was “very proud to be in New York receiving RFE/RL’s first Murrow Award. From Russia’s energy empire to corruption in Ukraine and rare glimpses of Uzbekistan, RFE/RL covers some of the world’s most important stories. Our talented journalists combine unforgettable images with maximum impact in all 22 countries where we work."

Murrow Awards are presented to organizations, based on a specific body of work submitted for judging to the RTDNA. RFE/RL submitted eleven examples of exceptional news reporting and journalistic skill. To read more about the eleven examples, see the RFE/RL website https://pressroom.rferl.org.

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PDAA February 24, 2020, Luncheon Program
DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC

Deadline for reservations: **February 20, 2020.** See page 1 for program details.

Please complete the form below and mail with your check, payable to PDAA, for $35 for members and guests, and $42 for non-members. Or pay online at pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org.

Number of members/guests _____ x $35  Number of non-members _____ x $42

**PDAA membership for 2020: Check your mailing label for renewal status**

If your mailing label says [2019] it is time to renew your membership for 2020.

Membership type, please check one:
- DC-MD-VA local membership ($50 annually): _____ New _____ Renewal
- Other membership ($35 annually): _____ New _____ Renewal

Please complete the form below and mail your check, payable to PDAA, or pay online at pdaa.publicdiplomacy.org.

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*Also a member of the Public Diplomacy Council

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