

LAFF

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

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New Appointments

Mary E. McClymont, who served two tours of duty with the Ford Foundation in executive positions, has been named president of the Public Welfare Foundation, a private foundation in Washington with a \$450 million endowment and an annual grantmaking budget of \$20 million.

McClymont began with the Ford Foundation in 1988 as a program officer and concluded her initial service in 2000 as senior director of the Peace and Social Justice Program. She returned from 2006 to 2008 as vice president of the Foundation for Peace and Social Justice.

Mary is member of the advisory committee of the LAFF Society. She served most recently as executive director of Global Rights, an international organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable populations, including women and racial and ethnic groups. Previously she was president of InterAction, an alliance of U.S.-based international development and humanitarian NGOs.

Alison R. Bernstein, who joined the Ford Foundation in 1982 as a program officer and was subsequently promoted to program director and then vice president, will become director of Rutgers University's Institute for Women's Leadership as of July 1, 2011.

Founded in 1991, the institute explores national and international leadership issues while advancing women's leadership in education, research, politics, science, the arts and the workplace. It functions as a consortium of eight units at Rutgers: Douglass Residential College, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, the Center for American Women and Politics, the Institute for Research on Women, the Center for Women's Global Leadership, the Center for Women and Work, the Institute for Women and Art and the Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics.

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A WALK IN HEBRON



Israeli army jeep patrols Shahuda Street.

by Will Hertz

Let me share with you a mind-blowing experience in Hebron, 19 miles south of Jerusalem in the West Bank. It will give you some idea of what life is like in the Occupied Territories for both Palestinians and Israelis.

In November I was one of 22 Americans and Canadians taking an eight-day tour sponsored by the New Israel Fund (NIF). The NIF is the leading organization advancing democracy and equality for all Israelis without regard to religion, race, gender or national identity. Founded in 1979, it has granted over \$200 million to more than 800 organizations, and its action arm, SHATIL, with a staff of 100 professionals, advises and trains NGOs in organizational growth and management.

Since 2003, NIF and the Ford Foundation have been partners in a program, the Ford Israel Fund, to support civil society,

human rights and social justice organizations in Israel. Ford has granted a total of \$40 million for the program, which is directed by Aaron Back, from 1995 to 2003 a FF program officer in Human Rights and now a member of the LAFF Society.

Focused on the work of NIF's grantees, the tour was both a disturbing and encouraging experience. Disturbing because Israel's political and social fabric is being torn apart by divisive and increasingly bitter conflicts among its varied ethnic groups. Encouraging because of the number of courageous and farsighted people and organizations who are struggling to find solutions to Israel's problems.

The high point – or perhaps the low point – of the tour was a 90-minute walk in Hebron, with 165,000 people the largest city in the occupied West Bank. Hebron is historically notable for containing the traditional Tomb of the Biblical patriarchs and matriarchs venerated by three religions. In recent years, *continued on page 2*

A Walk in Hebron

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however, it has become a microcosm of the Israel-Palestine conflict – a bloody and strident battleground between the Palestinians and 500 Jewish settlers and a stubborn challenge to the Israeli military authorities.

Our visit to Hebron was arranged by a controversial NIF grantee, Breaking the Silence. Founded in March, 2004, this is an organization of combat veterans who have served in the Israeli military and now report to the Israeli public on the everyday life in the Occupied Territories and its traumatic impact on Israeli servicemen. Our tour guide was Mikhael Manekin, a former army lieutenant and now co-director of Breaking the Silence.

Our bus parked in the municipal parking lot across the road from the Tomb of the Patriarchs. When I visited the site 30 years ago the parking area was congested by tour buses; this time we were one of only two buses. Tourists are discouraged by Hebron's reputation – at times the Israeli settlers provoke the indigenous Palestinian population with physical violence and property damage, and the Palestinians

The LAFF Society

*c/o Nellie Toma
PO Box 701107
East Elmhurst, NY 11370*

*E-Mail: treasurer@laffsociety.org
www.laffsociety.org*

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Above: Mikhael Manekin explains restrictions on Palestinian residents.

Israeli authorities have banned all Muslim vehicles and foot traffic, and we saw no other pedestrians and only an occasional army vehicle and bus destined for another part of town.

respond by throwing rocks.

To control the situation, the Israeli government has divided the city into two primary zones, H1 and H2. H1 is mainly under the administration of the Palestinian Authority although the Israeli army reserves the right to enter at any time. H2, which includes the Old City, the Tomb of the Patriarchs and several Israeli settlements, is under the control of 450 Israeli soldiers and is dotted with roaming Israeli army jeeps, armed checkpoints and watch/sniper towers.

In February 1994, an Israeli physician living in one of the settlements opened fire on Muslims at prayer in the mosque at the traditional burial sites, killing 29 before being killed himself. While the Israeli Government condemned this event, it imposed on the 120,000 Palestinians living in H2 curfews and restrictions of movement that are among the harshest in the Occupied Territories.

Our visit to Hebron was not to see the traditional burial sites but to walk down Shuhada Street, a wide thoroughfare that cuts through the heart of the old Muslim sector. A half mile in length and connecting the parking area with the municipal bus station, the street was once full of urban life, with shops, restaurants, coffee houses and Hebron's congested fruit market. Now Israeli authorities have banned all Muslim vehicles and foot traffic, and we saw no other pedestrians and only an occasional army vehicle and bus destined for another part of town.

Now picture this: The street is lined on both sides with two and three-story buildings. However, all of the ground floor entrances and store fronts have been blocked by heavy metal plates covered by a graffiti of hand-painted Stars of David and offensive anti-Muslim slogans ("Spill Arab Blood" and "Death to the Arabs"). We also photographed two signs in three languages – Arabic, Hebrew and English – claiming that the houses were once Jewish-owned but had been stolen by the Palestinians before the Israeli occupation.

But it is not a ghost town. The upper floors of the buildings are inhabited by Muslim families who are forced to gain access from the rear, often crawling over roof tops or up rickety ladders from the ground behind the structure to its second floor. Further, the windows on the Shuhada Street side are barricaded by heavy metal grills installed by the residents to prevent Israeli street gangs from throwing stones to break the window panes.

At one point, the buildings are interrupted by the wall of an old Muslim cemetery. The cemetery's traditional main entrance is unused since no Muslims can gain entry from Shuhada Street. Instead, Muslims visit the graves through a rear entrance. For the inhabitants of the buildings next door or across the road this means taking a circuitous route from their rear access to the rear entrance of the cemetery – a walk of at least a mile.

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The only sign of life on Shuhada Street is an old Yeshiva (Hebrew school) next to the bus station, protected by a stone wall and two policemen sitting in a jeep. It was late morning when we were there, but we saw no one going into or out of the Yeshiva.

According to B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories and another NIF grantee, the situation on Shuhada Street is part of a larger community-wide problem.

Over the years, B'Tselem reports, Israel established a number of settlements in and around the Old City of Hebron, which had traditionally served as the commercial center for the entire southern West Bank. To protect these settlements, Israeli law-enforcement authorities and security forces have imposed a regime intentionally and openly based on the "separation principle." The result is legal and physical segregation between the Israeli settlers and the Palestinian majority, severe restrictions on Palestinians' movements, and the authorities' systematic failure to enforce



law and order on violent settlers.

This policy led to the economic collapse of the center of Hebron and drove many Palestinians out of the area. A B'Tselem survey in 2006 revealed that at least 1,014 Palestinian housing units – 41.9 percent of those in the relevant area – had been vacated by their occupants. Further, 1,829 Palestinian commercial establishments – 76.6 percent of the total – were no longer open for business.

Recently, however, Shuhada Street has become a rallying point for Palestinian activists who occasionally defy the Israeli authorities with a demonstration. Thus on February 25, 2010, according to the

Palestine Monitor, an English language blog reporting on life under the occupation, "more than 250 Palestinian protesters, joined by dozens of Israeli and international activists, braved foul weather conditions to demonstrate against the street's closure."

Protesters marched "holding flats and posters, chanting slogans for the re-opening of the street.... As the protesters arrived at

the southern entrance, Israeli Army fired sound grenades and tear gas canisters, dispersing the crowd. A few elderly protesters fainted and were evacuated by ambulance. Dozens were treated for teargas inhalation. Organisers reported 5 Palestinians were hospitalised."

After our walk down Shuhada Street, we *continued on page 8*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has now been a full year since I assumed the LAFF presidency, and I am delighted with the progress we have made in strengthening our volunteer governance structure and in developing a communication strategy that will fulfill LAFF's promise of providing a strong social and professional network for former Foundation employees.

The governance arrangements we reported in the last newsletter are now in place, and the communication task force continues to meet with the newsletter editors and the website team to implement the dovetailed communication strategy we also reported on then. We hope to launch a new interactive website over the next several months that will contain a set of user-friendly features that the membership indicated as desirable in the survey we conducted some months ago.

Four important pieces of business remain on the current agenda:

1. New Members. We want to make certain that every departing Ford employee is aware of LAFF's welcome and the benefits that membership provides in opening opportunities for social and professional contacts among colleagues. As we near 500 members, the opportunities for close-in networking are immense, not in the magnitude of a facebook, but through the intimacy of LAFF's regional affiliates and its program activities.

2. The Chapters. We want to strengthen and expand the chapters and develop an attractive set of programs around subjects of interest to the membership. I recently wrote to our current chapter leaders in Bangkok, Beijing, Boston, Cairo, Manila, New Delhi, New York and Washington, D.C., encouraging them to reach out to new members and asking them to keep us informed of their events and interests.

Further, to resolve a long-standing problem that international chapters have with paying dues in dollars, the Executive Committee has recommended that those chapter members establish their own local dues structures and use the revenues for local activities.

Sheila Gordon, now a member of LAFF's Executive Committee, has relinquished her leadership role in the New York chapter, and a local committee has been established, with **Janice Molnar**

and Michael Seltzer at the helm, to manage the chapter until a new head is selected. We hope the clusters of members in other regions of the U.S., particularly in the South and West, and in other countries with longstanding field presence, will consider forming local chapters.

3. Annual Reunion. Advisory Committee member **Janet Maughan** has agreed to chair a program committee to help develop New York events including the annual reunion. Janet has developed some interesting ideas which she is working through with the New York chapter and I hope we soon will be able to announce a Spring 2011 event.

The Foundation has invited us to hold the 2011 Reunion on 43rd Street as part of Ford's 75th anniversary commemorations. We are working on dates with Marta Tellado, the Foundation's Vice President for Communications, and Janet will be establishing a reunion program committee to come up with substantive suggestions for the program. As always, we invite your input and will welcome any ideas you might have.

4. Relationship with the Foundation. As the reunion invitation suggests, LAFF's relationship with the Foundation continues to evolve in a positive way. I have met twice with Marta, whom Luis Ubiñas has designated as the Foundation's liaison to LAFF and who is extremely interested in and encouraging of LAFF's development and activities.

In addition to the 75th anniversary commemorations, we have discussed linking the new LAFF and Foundation websites and other ways in which former staff can continue to contribute to the work of an institution that has been important to each of us in so many ways and that continues to play an important role in national and global philanthropy.

In closing, as I prepare for the Forman family's winter sojourn in Brazil, I want to belatedly wish each of LAFF's members a happy and healthy holiday season. Recently I attended a day-long seminar on Immanuel Kant's essay, *Perpetual Peace*, and can think of no better goal for us all to strive towards in the years ahead.

With all good wishes, **Shep**

Gary Sick on WikiLeaks

Gary Sick, *Foundation deputy director for International Affairs from 1982 to 1987, served on the U.S. National Security Council under Presidents Ford, Carter and Reagan as an expert on Iran. He is now the executive director of the Gulf/2000 Project at Columbia University. This comment on the impact of the WikiLeaks appeared on his widely read blog "Gary's Choices", at garysick.tumblr.com.*

Despite all the headlines and breathless analysis, the WikiLeaks dump of U.S. State Department cables has thus far had surprisingly little effect on U.S. policy or diplomacy. The limited sample released to date – reportedly only about one percent of the total archive – can be divided into three broad categories:

Ho Hum. The overwhelming majority of the cables merely show American diplomats going about their work in a manner that would be familiar to their counterparts anywhere.

Titillating. A few of the cables lift the veil of privacy and permit us to see the unadorned and unguarded comments of various leaders, the unvarnished evaluation of those leaders by U.S. diplomats, and assorted gossip.

Harmful. A tiny handful of the cables reveal the terms of secret deals or secret understandings, some of which may do real harm.

The first category could be instructive to those (like Julian Assange) who imagine that governments spend their time concocting conspiracies. Instead, they seem to be delivering messages, learning about their host country, and reporting back to Washington in clear prose, untinged by ideology or nefarious purposes. This category is also useful for educational purposes, to show students and future employees of the State Department what they might actually be doing. Most of these cables could probably have been released with minimum deletions within a few weeks if anyone so requested under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. As readers of the National Security Archives know, in the U.S. system, it is not necessary to wait 25 years.

The voyeuristic qualities of the second category insure that these cables will get

pride of place in the reporting. But, apart from their entertainment value, did they tell us anything we did not already know?

The “harmful” cables, though few in number, are another matter. One example: U.S. diplomats, after extended negotiations, persuaded the leaders of a Middle Eastern country to agree to sell back their shoulder-fired antiaircraft missiles. These missiles are exceptionally dangerous since they are highly mobile, require little training, and can be used by terrorists in the vicinity of airports to bring down commercial (or military) aircraft. The local government’s only condition was that the transaction remain secret. The release of this cable before the transaction was complete risked upsetting the agreement, which was beneficial to both parties and to the potential security interests of many countries. Did anyone think about that before releasing this cable? When is some information vigilante going to shine a spotlight on the inner workings of WikiLeaks itself?

Should I be astonished to learn that Sunni Arab leaders have the lowest possible regard for their Persian revolutionary neighbors? Who would have believed it?

That raises the question of what WikiLeaks thinks it is doing. Assange’s Manifesto includes the word “conspiracy” thirty-three times in a piece about as long as this one. Conspiring is what he thinks governments do. In fact, he seems to think that is all they do. And WikiLeaks, he says, by exposing their linkages, will make it impossible to hide all these conspiracies.

Surely it is then fair to judge what WikiLeaks has accomplished thus far by asking how many conspiracies it has exposed to the sunlight of public scrutiny. I cannot claim to have read all the cables released so far, though I have tried to read all of those dealing with my research area of the Middle East and Persian Gulf, and I have followed news reports of the releases on a daily basis. I am hard pressed to identify even one real conspiracy.

Instead, I would argue that the value of these leaks is in providing some confirma-

tion of things we already had ample grounds to suspect. We are given very specific evidence that the government of Yemen is prepared to lie openly about U.S. missile strikes on its territory, claiming that these strikes were conducted by the Yemeni, not the U.S. military. Like Claude Rains in Casablanca, I am shocked, shocked to learn of such hypocrisy.

Should I be astonished to learn that Sunni Arab leaders have the lowest possible regard for their Persian revolutionary neighbors? Who would have believed it? But there it is in their own words, urging the United States to cut off the head of the (Persian) snake, and even to deploy U.S. ground forces into Iran if necessary to get the job done. And Egypt wins high marks for energetically blocking the efforts of Iran to smuggle weapons to Hamas, using a supply line that runs through Sudan. Further afield, Russia thought that the U.S. missile defense plans in Europe were directed not at Iran but at them; it turns out the Poles agreed and that is why they welcomed the plan.

None of these revelations should come as a surprise to any attentive reader of print and electronic media. Instead they reinforce or confirm what had previously been mere allegations, suspicions, and, yes, leaks. Vivid

language and a first-hand account add to the story but do not substantially change the story itself.

There were, nonetheless, some surprises. A theme that is prevalent in all these diplomatic cables is the working assumption by the various host countries that the United States can solve their problems for them. Those Arabs berating Iran had no plans of their own for dealing with their lowering neighbor. Rather, they merely seemed to be venting in the hopes of persuading the Americans to do something, anything, to solve the problem of Iran’s growing influence in the Persian Gulf. Publicly, however, they opposed such action. As the Prime Minister of Qatar memorably remarked: “They (the Iranians) lie to us and we lie to them.” Still, at the same time in other conversations Arab leaders and government officials were wringing their hands –

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DECEMBER 16, 2010

Why I won't help post bail for Julian Assange

Michael Moore explained on MSNBC his decision to post bail money for Julian Assange, primarily on the grounds that the world needed to shine a light on the lies concocted by governments to lead their countries into war. He cited the Gulf of Tonkin lie, which had to wait for years to be exposed by Daniel Ellsberg, and the false claim of WMD in Iraq, among other things.

I admit that I start my day by checking the WikiLeaks website to see what new revelations await there. So why am I not tempted to put up some bail money of my own?

Yesterday I participated in a panel about WikiLeaks at Columbia University. One of the major issues that was raised (but far from settled) was whether WikiLeaks' activity should be considered journalism and whether Assange should be regarded as a legitimate publisher, like The Guardian or Le Monde or The New York Times.

That, it seems to be, goes to the very heart of this controversy. If WikiLeaks be journalism, and if Assange is a publisher, should we all not get behind him totally — regardless of whether or not you think he is really being prosecuted for sexual crimes — purely in the interest of freedom of expression?

I do not believe that WikiLeaks is practicing journalism. I regularly read the latest revelations from the National Security Archive, which releases U.S. government memos and cables, some quite contemporary, that they have acquired through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Although that information is informative and enormously useful to me in my work, I do not regard it as journalism. They didn't write the documents; they merely served as an invaluable facilitator and conduit for materials produced for other purposes by the US government.

Am I incorrect in my assumption that responsible journalists write copy, not just reissue other people's writings or, judging from the quality of Assange's writings that I have seen, which might best be described as semi-incoherent conspiracy theorizing, perhaps we are fortunate that he lets other fingers do the walking.

Further, I do not believe that Assange is any more a publisher than any casual blogger. We can all go on the internet and blaviate or send links to other people's blaviating, but that does not endow us with some sacred immunity for our words or actions.

Let's be clear: I am entertained each morning to see what WikiLeaks has chosen to release, and I will probably use at least some of those materials in my class in the spring. However, I do not believe that Assange went to the trouble of pursuing huge collections of State Department cable traffic and released it at risk of his own freedom just to entertain me or to enlighten my students about the workings of international diplomacy.

publicly and privately — that military action would lead to a “catastrophe.”

So they seemed to be saying to their American colleagues: “I will hold your coat in private while you take action that I publicly deplore, and when it produces a catastrophe I will say that I told you so.”

Perhaps the biggest impact of the WikiLeaks cables, however, has been on the domestic politics of their host countries. A diplomat on the party circuit hears that the prime minister of Turkey has secret Swiss bank accounts. Many people have no doubt heard the same story, but when the Americans say it in print it appears to be validated. So it becomes a major element in Turkish party politics. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi never leaves home without a voluptuous, blonde Ukrainian nurse. The daughter of the president of Kazakhstan is the single most hated person in the country because of her rapacious business dealings and raucous life style. All of this high-level gossip, previously only fodder for the cocktail circuit, becomes fact because the Americans say so.

One of the many ironies of the WikiLeaks saga seems to be the inadvertent confirmation that the United States is truly the indispensable nation. It is the political refuge of last resort. It is the ultimate truth-teller. Its political clout reverberates in the politics of its host nations. And all of this just at the moment when Americans are being told by their own pundits that their day of imperial dominance is over. Apparently not quite yet.

What a bitter pill for Mr. Assange. ■

New Appointments

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Bernstein served as Director of the Education and Culture program at the Foundation from 1992 to 1996 and then as vice president for the Education, Creativity, and Free Expression Program until 2010. She currently holds the William H. and Camille Cosby Endowed Chair and is professor of humanities and women's studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga.

Akwasi Aidoo, head of the Foundation's offices in Senegal and Nigeria from 1993 to 2001, has been named chair of the Resource Alliance, an international NGO based in London and specializing in building the fund-raising capacity of non-profit organizations worldwide.

Resource Alliance is the organizer of the annual International Fundraising Congress, which in 2010 took place in the Netherlands and drew participants from more than 55 countries.

Aidoo is also the founding director of TrustAfrica, a grant-making foundation dedicated to security, democratic governance and equitable development in Africa. TrustAfrica, headquartered in Dakar, Senegal, grew out of the Special Initiative for Africa, launched in 2001 under the aegis of the Ford Foundation. During its pilot phase, TrustAfrica conducted a series of workshops that drew 160 participants from across the continent and led to exploratory grants for 20 projects.

Irma McClaurin, program officer for education and scholarship at the Ford Foundation from 2005 to 2007, has been named the 15th president of Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Founded in 1865, Shaw is the oldest historically black college in the South. Affiliated with the Baptist church, Shaw is a co-educational institution awarding degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Before joining Ford, Irma was Mott Distinguished Professor of Women's Studies at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. After leaving the Foundation, she was associate vice president for academic administration at the University of Minnesota and executive director of its first Urban Research and Outreach Center in north Minneapolis.

Rita Soni, a founding team member of the Foundation's International Fellow-

ships Program, has been named chief executive officer of the NASSCOM Foundation, the social development arm of India's Information Technology Industry body. In that position, she will “build strategic relationships and establish effective linkages between industry, non-profits and government to contribute to the cause of social development.”

Rita was born and raised in the U.S., earning a bachelor of electrical engineering degree at the Stevens Institute of Technology and a master of international affairs degree at Columbia. She then moved to India, with positions at the American India Foundation and the YES Bank, a private entity, where she spearheaded a pioneering business approach to corporate social responsibility.

David Winder, the foundation's representative for Mexico City and Central America and then in Southeast Asia from 1980 to 1992, has taken over as CEO in America for WaterAid, an international NGO based in the United Kingdom. After serving in a number of international advisory and consultancy assignments, he was most recently director of special projects for the Synergos Institute in New York.

Established nearly 30 years ago, WaterAid brings safe water, sanitation and hygiene education to low income communities in Africa and Asia working in partnership with local NGOs and government. By 2015 its goal is to reach a further 25 million people and to influence the policies and practices of governments and service providers to reach a further 100 million. ■

LAFfers INVITED!

LAFF members are invited to attend a briefing on **Understanding Muslim America** sponsored by Philanthropy New York on February 14 at the organization's 79 Fifth Avenue office between 15th and 16th streets. The speakers will include Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf of the Cordoba Movement, sponsors of the proposed Muslim Cultural Center near Ground Zero, and Fatima Shama, NYC Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs.

The program, starting at 8:30 am and running through 11 am, is being co-sponsored by the Open Society Institute, Trinity Church Grants Program, North Star Fund, New York Foundation and Daphne Foundation. Philanthropy New York was formerly known as the New York Regional Association of Grant Makers.

Author! Author!

Mary-Camper Titsingh, secretary-treasurer of the LAFF Society from 1995 to 2008, has embarked on a new career in her retirement. Although in her mid-80s, she is a first-time published author!!

Mary was born in the Netherlands, but escaped from Nazi Germany with her parents at the start of World War II. As the last person to carry the name Titsingh, she dreamed of writing the story of Isaac Titsingh, an 18th century member of her family who was the only European to receive audiences with all three of the major rulers in the Far East – those of Japan, China and India. Conforming to Asian court etiquette, Isaac opened valuable trade relations with



these countries on behalf of the Dutch East India Company, thus enriching Holland with their wealth of raw materials, tea and porcelain.

While Mary worked as an investment research librarian at the Ford Foundation from 1971 to 1989, she traveled in Asia, researched Isaac's role in maritime and royal court records and contemporary accounts, and read the books that he wrote about Asian culture and

Isaac Titsingh, was the only European to receive audiences with all three of the major rulers in the Far East.

customs to educate his European contemporaries. She pursued this interest further after her retirement from Ford.

The result of these years of effort was the publication in October of Mary's biographical novel about Isaac, *The Man Who Kow-Towed*.

"Isaac Titsingh," she said, "was a man of extraordinary vision who understood how to transcend cultural barriers to achieve the open markets that the Dutch trading company – and the world in general – needed to prosper and grow. I am honored to share his legacy with my Dutch and American family members and those interested in global trade."

For more information about the book or to acquire a copy, visit www.petruscamper.com/titsingh. ■

THE BACKGROUND STORY

by Bud Harkavy

The New York Times recently announced that Dr. Robert Edwards, a reproductive biologist at Cambridge University, had been awarded the 2010 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work in perfecting the process of *in vitro* fertilization. The Foundation's role in supporting Dr. Edwards may be of historical interest.

As a promising young scientist, Edwards joined Cambridge in 1963 as the Ford Foundation Research Fellow in its Department of Physiology. The Foundation provided a stipend of \$6,000 a year for five years to cover his salary. In 1968 the Foundation made a second grant to Cambridge to endow a tenured Readership in Reproductive Biology for Edwards, now an established investigator. The grant, for \$240,000, provided sufficient income to cover his salary and research expenses.

The Foundation hoped that Edwards' fundamental research would lead to the development of a safe and effective contraceptive vaccine to help advance world-wide family planning. This goal was not realized,

but Edwards began a historic collaboration with Dr. Patrick Steptoe, a British gynecologist specializing in extracting eggs from infertile women via laparoscopic surgery.

After 20 years of trial and error, Edwards and Steptoe perfected the process



of *in vitro* fertilization in which the mother's eggs are mixed with the father's sperm outside her womb and then reinserted to achieve a

healthy conception. Starting with the birth in 1978 of Louise Joy Brown, a five-pound, twelve ounce girl, some 4 million babies have been conceived through *in vitro* fertilization.

Dr. Steptoe died in 1988, and under the Nobel rules, could not be considered for the award posthumously. *The New York Times* noted sadly that Edwards, now 85 years old, is unable fully to appreciate the honor since his short-term memory has failed. ■

In Memoriam

Peter Gubser, who worked as a Foundation program officer in Lebanon and Jordan from 1974 to 1977 and then served for 30 years as president of American Near East Refugee Aid, died September 2 at age 69 in Bethesda, Maryland. ANERA is a Washington nonprofit agency that offers economic, educational and nutritional aid to Palestinian and Arab refugees in the Middle East.

As president, Gubser helped turn a \$1 million start-up organization into a \$35 million sustainable NGO. Among other efforts, he established a program to provide milk to thousands of preschool children in the Gaza Strip and funded the construction of educational centers at West Bank colleges to offer training in business management. He also helped fund the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, an educational organization to improve American knowledge of the Arab world.

Gubser wrote several books and articles on social and economic conditions in the Middle East.

In 2009 he published a major biography of Saladin, the 12th century Islamic leader who fought against the Christian Crusaders. A paperback edition of *Saladin: Empire and Holy War* is now available from Gorgias Press and is available at www.middleeastbooks.com.

Bernard J. James, a Foundation consultant in higher education in East Africa in 1966-67, died in September in Milwaukee. A professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, James was assigned to help create a federated University of East Africa out of colleges in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. The University was intended as an independent external college of the University of London, but in 1970 it was split into three independent universities – University of Nairobi, University of Dar es Salaam and Makerere University in Kampala. On his return to Wisconsin, James was more successful in creating the Milwaukee Community Development Agency. ■

The LAFFing Parade

In October the Ford Foundation celebrated its 50th anniversary in Nigeria with the formal opening of a new \$3.5 million building and by announcing a \$1 million program of Jubilee Transparency Awards for Nigeria.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony, overseen by **Adhiambo Odaga**, Ford's representative, took place before 150 invited guests, including Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan and Ford President **Luis A. Ubiñas**. Also attending were five past staff members of the Lagos office – **Akwasi Aidoo** (former representative), **Babatunde Ahonsi** (former senior program officer), **Felicia Okonkwo** (former executive assistant), and **Patricia Ukato** and **Tony Olaghere** (former administrative assistants).

The Foundation's new building will house its West African grant-making operations and accommodate conferences, grantee meetings and special events. The ten Jubilee Awards of at least \$100,000 each will recognize outstanding initiatives that promote transparency, good governance and integrity in Nigeria. The awardees will be selected by a panel of respected civil leaders based on an open competition.

Orville Schell, who worked as a training associate in the Foundation's Indonesia Office in 1964-66 and then went on to a distinguished career in journalism and higher education, has been named by the Asia Society as the director of its new Center on U.S.-China Relations. Based in New York, the center will conduct original research, distribute timely information and comment on critical issues, and engage key Chinese and American leaders in critical dialogue.

The author of 14 books, nine of them on China, Schell had recently been Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley. Over the years he has been a frequent contributor to *The New York Review of Books*, *TIME*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Newsweek*, and *The New York Times*. He is currently working on a new book, an interpretation of the last 100 years of Chinese history.

Three LAFF members – **Gerry Salole**, **Barry Gaberman** and **Barbara Phillips** – were presenters at the 1st Pan African Assembly of the African Grantmakers Network in November in Nairobi. Gerry, who was the Foundation's representative in South Africa from 1999 to 2005, is now chief executive officer of the European Foundation Centre

in Brussels. Barry, who retired as senior vice president of the Foundation in 2006, is now vice president of LAFF. Barbara Phillips, Foundation program officer in Human Rights from 1999 to 2006, is now chair of the American branch of the African Women's Development Fund.

In her remarks, Barbara spoke of the role of the growing number of American affiliates of organizations in the developing world. "At AWDF-USA," she said, "we know that everything we do, everything we say, every campaign we launch must embody and reflect without compromise the African feminist principles of AWDF – a belief in the personhood of African woman and their human rights and our commitment with AWDF to building a world of social justice, equality and respect for women's rights."

Barry also spoke in Sydney, Australia, at an event hosted by the Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Investment and Philanthropy at Swinburne University. Speaking under the title "Preparing for the next decade of philanthropy – what the past tells us the future holds," he emphasized the shift away from "charity" to a more strategic approach. He identified Ted Turner's \$1 billion grant to seed the United Nations Foundation as a key turning point in the history of philanthropy, and also cited Warren Buffet's investor-style decision to devote his wealth to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation rather than create his own foundation.

With its current production at the Kreeger Theater in Washington, the Arena Stage has launched a national tour of *Let Me Down Easy*, a one-woman production conceived, written and performed by **Anna Deaver Smith**, who was the Ford Foundation's first artist in residence in 1997. The play has already been performed at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Second Stage Theatre in New York.

The play was inspired by Anna's work as a visiting professor at the Yale School of Medicine, and is intended to show the fragility of the human body, the resilience of the spirit and the price of care. "To write *Let Me Down Easy*," she says, "I interviewed over 300 people on three continents. My goal was to learn as much about a person as possible by studying the way they speak."

Ruth Mayleas, who directed the Foundation's revitalized arts program from 1982 to 1991, is editor of *Women in Theatre Magazine*, published by the League of Professional Theatre Women. The magazine is the

successor to *ROUNDUP*, started by Ruth ten years ago to cover the League's events and activities. In addition to this coverage, the new magazine will cover events and organizations of interest to women in the wider world of the arts and is being broadened to include more features. Before joining Ford, Ruth headed the Theater Program at the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mallika Dutt, former program officer for human rights in the Foundation's New Delhi office, is the founder and CEO of Breakthrough, a new international human rights organization. Focusing on problems in India, Breakthrough will use the power of popular culture, media and community education to transform public attitudes and advance equality, justice and dignity. Born in India, she received degrees from Mt. Holyoke College, NYU Law School and Columbia. She has also served as associate director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers.

Roland Anglin, who worked for the Foundation from 1991 to 1999 in Urban Poverty and Community and Resource Development, is the author of a new book, *Promoting Sustainable Local and Community Economic Development*. Roland is Executive Director of the Center for Race and Ethnicity, a university-wide center at Rutgers and director of the Initiative for Regional and Community Transformation at the Edward J. Blaustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

The new book maintains that the U.S. has evolved a coherent people-and-place development policy over the last 40 years to address poverty and blight. Its many strategies (promoting access to capital, workforce development, local school reform, environmental sustainability) should be housed under the banner "local and community economic development" and effectively networked on a local and regional level. ■

STEPPING DOWN

Barron M. Tenny retired from the Ford Foundation at the start of 2011 as Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel. Known as "Buzz", he joined the Foundation in 1983 as special assistant to the president and was elected an executive officer in 1984. He will continue his many outside interests, serving as vice chair of the Foundation Center and as a board member of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, the International Fellowship Fund and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund.

A Walk in Hebron

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learned more about Breaking the Silence and our guide, Mikhael. The organization is a group of combat veterans whose purpose is to stimulate debate about the price paid by young soldiers facing a civilian population on a daily basis and engaged in the control of that population's everyday life. They cover such situations as Israeli abuse of Palestinians, looting, destruction of property and draconian restrictions on Palestinians'

These testimonies are brutally honest about the impact of the experience not only on the Palestinians but also on the young impressionable soldiers.

In addition to NIF, Breaking the Silence has been funded by grants from the British, Dutch and Spanish governments, the European Union, and various private sources such as Oxfam-Britain. On the other hand, the organization has been condemned by various right-wing groups, and Prime Minister Netanyahu has complained to the British government about its funding an opposition

the Occupation for both the Palestinians and the Israeli military.

LAFF readers are invited to comment. ■

One of their most compelling techniques is the collection and publication of "testimonies" from more than 700 ex-soldiers who served in the West Bank and Gaza.

movements. Their activities include lectures, house meetings, photographic exhibitions, and tours such as ours to Hebron.

One of their most compelling techniques is the collection and publication of "testimonies" from more than 700 ex-soldiers who served in the West Bank and Gaza. Each of us on the tour received a book of such testimonies by women soldiers and a DVD "Israeli Soldiers Talk about Hebron."

group within Israel.

Mikhail was born in New York, and at the age of 12 he migrated to Israel with his family. In November, 1998, he was recruited by the Israel Defense Forces and served four years in the infantry as a platoon commander in Gaza and the West Bank. After some soul searching, he told us, he joined Breaking the Silence in the conviction that it was time to confront the terrible human cost of

Wanted: Dues and Contributions

We plan to launch a new interactive website over the next several months that will continue the newsletter and also contain a set of user-friendly features. However, this new format will continue to need a continuous flow of contributions from LAFFers—news of their activities, recollections of their Foundation days, comments on the nation and the world, or coming LAFF events.

We're particularly interested in items of one to three pages. And attach a picture or two if that is appropriate. Please send copy for the next issue to **John LaHoud** at jlahoud25@hotmail.com.

2011 DUES ARE NOW DUE. To continue the newsletter and program other activities, we count on timely payment of members' dues of \$55 for three years, \$150 for ten years and \$250 for life. Please send dues to **Nellie Toma** at the address below. If you need individual financial or other arrangements for dues payment, please contact Nellie at treasurer@laffsociety.org. Overseas chapters set their own dues structures for former locally-appointed staff members.

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