

# THE LAFF SOCIETY

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

Winter 1997

No. 14

## The Edifice Contest...Cont'd

As noted in the last issue, 1997 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Foundation building on East 43d Street, which is being marked by a contest "for the strongest (favorable or unfavorable) memories of the building, odd moments, reactions, etc." The first three entries have been received from **Marjorie Martus**, former Education staff member, and **Arthur Trottenberg**, former Vice President for Administration, now resident in Cambridge, Mass. (335 Harvard St. #3), from whence he was summoned to join the Ford Foundation, **Suzanne Foldes**, and **Nancy Dennis**.

Marjorie writes,

*Some time after the building was in full use, a tilt in the structure was discovered in the southwest corner, the corner on which occupants of many floors had situated their file cabinets. Of course the architects hadn't expected that files would pile up in that location. It was necessary to resituate some file cabinets. I don't recall that it required any structural shoring up. Just another example of the weakness in architect-user collaboration.*

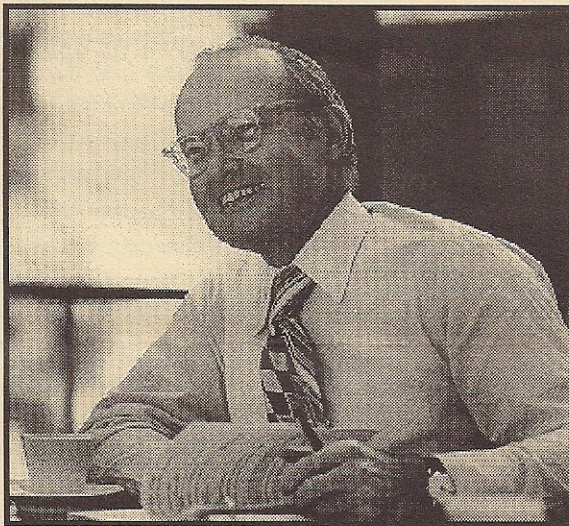
Arthur's tale:

*Christina Ford, Henry II's wife, had been harranguing the Board of Trustees to provide a memorial in the building to the Ford family. The Board commissioned Christina to*



## A LAFF-In Success

The second LAFF Society reunion, on October 24, was a sparkling success. Attendance was slightly under the first event in 1993—115 compared to 140, but the evening was special in other respects. Foremost was a series of warm tributes to **McGeorge Bundy**, who had died five weeks earlier. **Oscar**



McGeorge Bundy

**Harkavy**, LAFF President, welcomed the guests and introduced **F.Champion Ward**, who in the absence of **Harold Howe II**, who could not attend because of illness, read the eulogy Howe had given at the service for Bundy in Manchester, Mass., the Bundy family homestead (See page 4).

Light-hearted and deeply affectionate tributes were given by **Howard Dressner**, **Anita Miller**, **Francis Sutton**, **Mitchell Sviridoff**, and **Marshall**

**Robinson**, all of whom served during the Bundy years. We were all delighted that **Mary Bundy** attended.

**Jane McCarthy** was co-chair of the event along with **Bud Harkavy**, and

(cont. on p. 6)

*undertake the project. She engaged an Italian sculptor to produce a mural. After two years, the mural, painted on plaster, arrived in New York. Measuring more than 15 feet, it arrived in a huge packing case. A few of us viewed it with horror. Henry II was pictured accurately and realistically. He had sat for the mural. However his father and grandfather clearly appeared much younger than Henry II! Since both were dead the artist had to work from photographs and news clippings many*

*years earlier. The effort, to say the least, was bizarre. We all agreed the mural was not to see the light of day. It was replaced in the packing crate and buried against a basement wall and behind a barrier of packing cases. To my knowledge it has never been seen since. For a long period I continued to receive telephone calls from Italy asking when there would be a public opening. Hence the "Mystery of the Missing Mural."*

This is now a thrice told tale. In

(cont. on p. 2)



### The LAFF Society

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

President, Siobhan Oppenheimer Nicolau  
Vice President, Emmett Carson  
Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Camper-Titsingh

#### Coordinating Committee

Robert Androvette  
John Bresnan  
Faith Coleman  
Willard J. Hertz  
Harold Howe II  
Jane McCarthy

Editor, Richard Magat  
Graphic Designer, Ruth Neumann

## The Edifice Contest

(cont. from p. 1)

Letter No. 8, Summer 1994, p. 4,

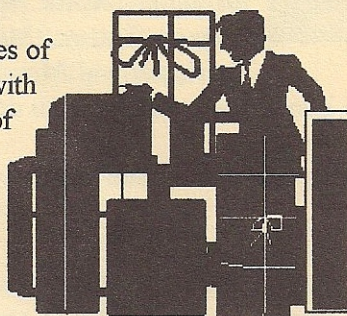
**Willard J. Hertz** commented at length on the origin and dis-position of the fresco, and **Charles Di Stefano** described the

technical difficulties of dealing with the heft of the object. In the next issue No. 9,

Fall 1994, p. 2, "the latest word... is that it remains in the Foundation building!", which now appears to be confirmed by Trottenberg.

Suzanne, asking whether the Foundation will be less of a "man's world" now that it has a woman president, recalls,

*When I first stepped into a bathroom in the new building in 1968, it was clear to me that only men had a say when this place was planned.*



Nancy recalls:

*I treasure memories of serving as Fourth Floor Flower Coordinator (for the brief period in which arrangements of fresh flowers were distributed on Monday mornings). The responsibilities entailed spacing the flowers along the file islands at pleasing intervals without antagonizing those*

*whose file islands suffered from the ignominy of being blossom-less. Happily the era of fresh flowers was short-lived.*

But what of other recollections? Who can tell any stories of the garden, the library, the Christmas caroling and bell ringing, the pool, the abortive running track?

## The LAFFing Parade

Cobblehill Books, a division of Dutton Children's Book, has issued a catalogue of **Brent Ashabrenner's** books: *The Time of My Life: A Memoir* (1990), A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Ager; *Land of Yesterday, Land of Tomorrow: Discovering Chinese Central Asia* (1992), *Still a National of Immigrants* (1993), and *A New Frontier: the Peace Corps in Eastern Europe* (1994), described by the *School Library Journal* as "A careful, accessible treatment of a critical subject." Ashabrenner and his wife, Martha, lived in Williamsburg, VA.

**Suzanne Foldes** traveled to Hungary in 1995 and gave old friends and relatives a "pep talk on volunteering." Then she participated in an Elderhostel in Sorrento, Italy, toured Florence, and attended a Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake, Canada.

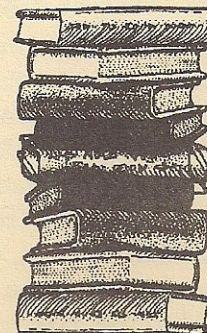
**James R. Himes** is Director, UNICEF International Child Development Center, Firenze, Italy.

An oral history book honoring **Elizabeth Paschal** (Education, Fund for the Advancement of Education), was introduced by the West Bay Wellesley Club in Palo Alto, California, November 10. Titled *Elizabeth Paschal, Pioneering Career Woman: New Deal Labor Economist, Social Security Administration Program Chief, Ford Foundation Executive*, was prepared with the help of the Regional Oral History Office, University of California. Elizabeth was in the Wellesley Class of 1924. Contributions to the project (\$150 suggested) may be sent to the West Bay Wellesley Club, c/o Erna Arneson, Treasurer, 1129 Yorkshire Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014.

**Alice O'Connor** has joined the Department of History at the University of California at Santa Barbara (e-mail aoccor @ humanities.uscb.edu). Her article on the Foundation's Gray Areas program, "Community Action, Urban Reform, and the War Against Poverty," was published in the July 1996 edition of *The Journal of Urban History*.

**George Rosen**, who served in India on a Foundation-funded project at the MIT Center for International Studies (1955-1960) and on the Foundation staff in Nepal and Calcutta, has written a new book, *Economic Development in Asia*, available from Avebury Publishing Brookfield, VT, 1(800)535-9544.

**Ivy F. Steber**, who retired from Governance and Public Policy in December, 1994, has moved (47 Lapis Circle, West Orange, N.J. 07052), where she is volunteering in the public schools.





**Theodore Smith** (International/Asia) is now working for the Kendall Foundation in Boston, which is concerned with environmental matters.

**James W. Trowbridge**, who began as a training associate in 1963 and has had various assignments for the Foundation through 1996, has been named executive vice president of the Americas Society in New York and its affiliated business association, the Council of the Americas with a new office in Washington, 1310 G St. NW.

Moved: **Cesar Perales**, Deputy Mayor, Human Resources, City Hall, N.Y. 10047. **Ronald Gault**, First BostonCorp., 12 E. 49<sup>th</sup> St. New York 10017.

## Missing Persons

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the following, whose addresses have been returned to us by the Post Office? (Last known addresses are noted).

**David M. Davis**, 4508 Baymar Dr., Apt.302, Raleigh, NC 27612.

**Peter Frumkin**, 5434 S. Ridgewood Ct. 2W, Chicago, IL 61615.

**Kathryn Mitchell** 17 Cirus Ave. S., Clearwater, FL 34625.

## Dues Day

Showing the way for the Government (and most families), the LAFF Society balances its budget. We have a surplus, though it's nothing to cause inflation, since it's in the low four figures. In fact, it's lower than it's been in quite a while, since we were optimistic on costing out the reunion. We charged \$65 per person, but the actual cost was \$72.

So-o-o-, please get up to date on your dues. (The mailing label shows the last year for which you paid your annual \$5).

And, of course, additional contributions are always welcome.

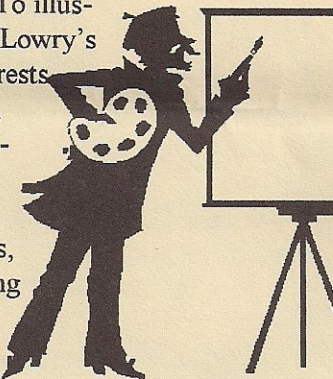
## Portrait of Lowry

Umpteen years ago the noted American artist Will Barnet painted a portrait of W. McNeil Lowry, who directed the Humanities and the Arts program. To illustrate Mac Lowry's broad interests

in the arts, Barnet pictured him with the four muses, representing music, dance, the graphic

arts, and the theater. Barnet, whose work hangs in a number of museums, considered the portrait a major opus.

Lowry and Barnet were close friends, and the picture remained for many years with the Lowry family. After Mac's death, however, his wife Elsa and Barnet sought a permanent location for the portrait, and a number of sites were considered and discarded. Eventually, the solution was provided by New York's Century Association, where Mac was a long-standing and dedicated member. The picture now hangs in the library of the Century's Stanford White-designed building at 7 West 43d Street.



## Media Expansion?

Now that The LAFF Society has a trio of editors in rotation (Will Hertz, Dick Magat, and Bob Tolles), we may expand to three issues a year instead of the two pattern. Whether we do so depends on you, dear readers. We will expand if we receive enough news, comments, essays, etc. from you. Please set pen, quill, typewriter or word processor to the task.

## Tribute from Within

The following memorandum was circulated to the Foundation staff by Susan Berresford:

We are saddened by the news of McGeorge Bundy's death. As President of the Foundation from 1966 to 1979, Mac provided distinguished and courageous leadership as it undertook program activity in a variety of fields in the U.S. and overseas.

Those of us who worked with him knew him to be a person of extraordinary intellect, commitment to public service, and philanthropic creativity. His curiosity, his candor, his high standards for our work, and his love of debate strongly influenced the Foundation's culture and practice. He continued to pursue a range of important public policy and philanthropic interests after his retirement from the Foundation.

Much of the work that the Foundation is engaged in today builds on his major contributions. We recognize and value McGeorge Bundy's legacy at the Foundation, and we extend to Mary Bundy and her family our profound sympathy.



## McGeorge Bundy: "A man for all seasons."

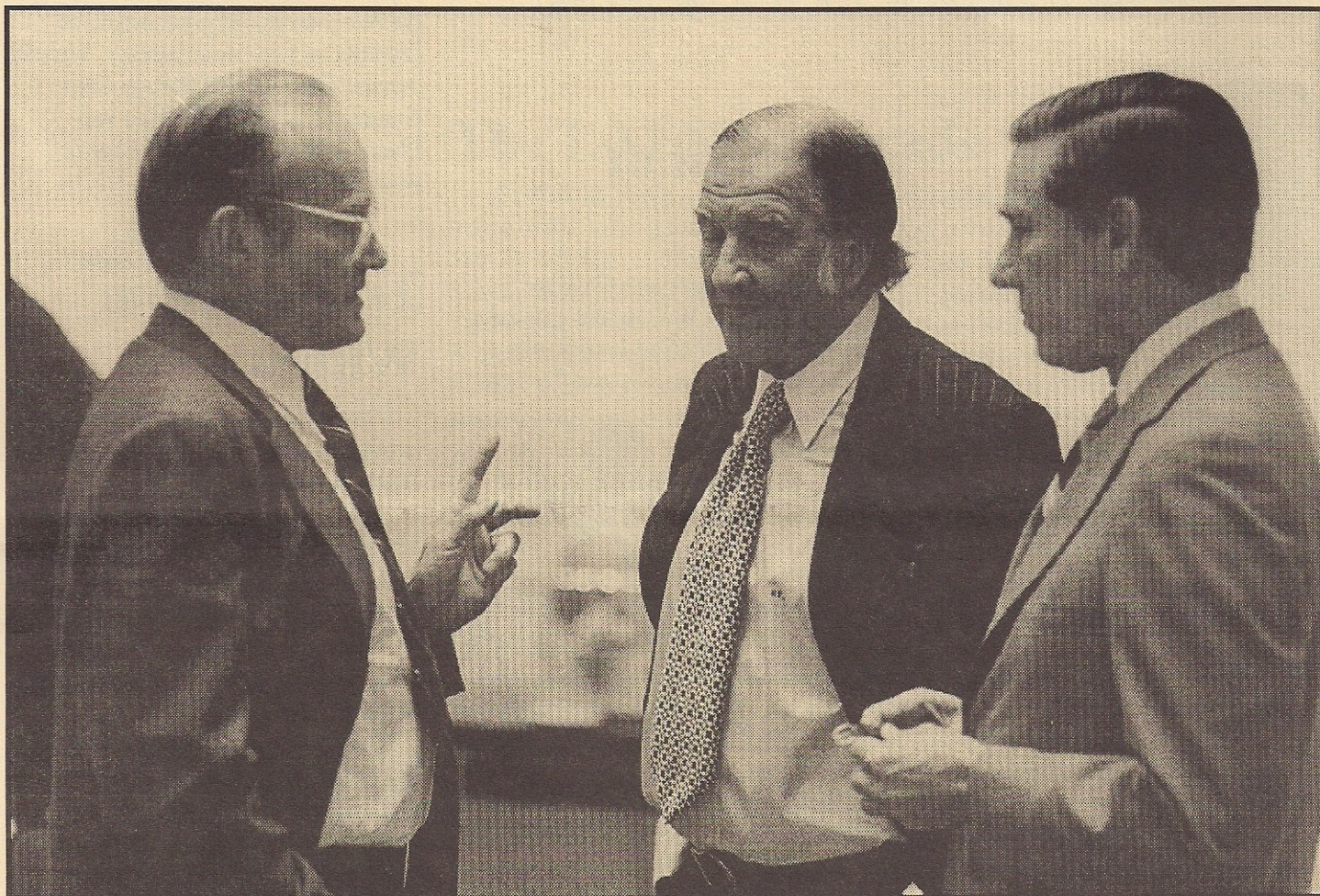
The following remarks were made by Harold Howe II at a service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beverly Farms, Mass. Sept. 20, 1996:

"The only serious shortcoming I

tains. Mac was bored, and to prove it he went to sleep and snored while the Secretary was speaking

"In school and college and other arenas, Mac collected numerous prizes.

twentieth century Harvard. What greater distinction could there be? Although his contributions to Harvard were legion, his greatest achievement in Cambridge was persuading Mary to



*McGeorge Bundy discusses a point with Henry Ford II, grandson of Henry Ford and for many years a member of the Board of Trustees, and Alexander Heard, former chairman of the Board.*

have discovered in Mac Bundy during sixty years of friendship is his total lack of interest in the great outdoors. For picnics, he preferred verandas to beaches. Shortly after World War II, I spent an evening with Mac and Henry Stimson, with whom Mac was writing his first book. After dinner, Secretary Stimson regaled us with tales of wild animal hunting in the Rocky Moun-

He was very modest about such decorations. He may have been encouraged in this humility by both older and younger sisters and brothers, who were just as smart as he was—some perhaps more so.

"Mac's alma mater, Yale University, takes great pride in his certain presence on any short list of professors and deans who helped to fashion

marry him, a pursuit that required more time and effort than he expected.

"The major crosscurrent in Mac's life, created by five years as advisor to two Presidents on international affairs, brought a mixture of great achievements, deep frustration, self examination, and a long-term commitment to a peaceful world. A hundred years from now, these matters will still be debated.



I will make no attempt to resolve them here. It must be said, however, that many people with varied viewpoints hold positive views supporting Mac's integrity, even as they question his judgments. Furthermore, Mac's capacity to live and work and contribute to the public good remained firmly in place as he moved from the White House to the Ford Foundation.

"Mac ruled the Ford Foundation as a benevolent despot; he did so in a manner that kept the Trustees of that enterprise supportive of his leadership, yet slightly nervous. As one of his minions at Ford, I delighted in his capacity to keep himself informed on endless details and at the same time to trust his colleagues with significant decisions. Mac was the rare top-level executive who welcomed visits from associates wanting to tell him he was wrong about something. His response was always, 'Sit down and tell me why.'

"The great contribution of Mac's wordly adventures leaves out his abiding personal commitments to family and friends. Many of you here are aware that the level and quality of repartee in Bundy gatherings are without challenge. Mac was a major contributor to that atmosphere of charming and light-hearted exchange. A list of Mac's attributes on this front would have to include the following: never pompous, always open to helping others, excessively generous, a good listener and a mixture of joy and caring in human relationships.

All of us here today, particularly Mary, their four children and their wives and the grandchildren have suffered a great loss. At the same time, we are uplifted by the remembrance of McGeorge Bundy. In my sixty years of friendship with him, I can't remember his mentioning the hereafter, but wherever his spirit is now, it is a better place for his presence."

Doc also spoke at a service for Mac Bundy at St. James Church in New York City on November 8, at which a bell tolled 77 times "in thanksgiving for his earthly life." The bell ringing is a custom at St. James, but former colleagues will also remember that he was a fervent bellringer at Christmas observances in the garden of the Foundation building.

His sons William and James read Bible passages, and son Stephen spoke movingly of him as a father, husband, and grandfather. A reflection was also delivered by a friend and colleague, Francis M. Bator, professor emeritus of Harvard.

## Setting the Record Straight

Reacting to what many felt was a one-dimensional obituary in *The New York Times*, the five program vice presidents who served under Mac Bundy—David E. Bell, Harold Howe II, Marshall Robinson, and Mitchell Sviridoff, wrote a letter to the editor, of which the *Times* printed only half. The full text, slightly edited, follows: Your obituary has a number of shortcomings. The account of Bundy's participation in international affairs is narrowly focused on Vietnam. There is no adequate recognition of his significant contribution to dealing with the atom bomb. His concern for population control and his work in that field are not even mentioned.

As former vice presidents of the Ford Foundation, we found your portrayal of Bundy's presidency of the Foundation as mainly a squabble over decentralizing New York's schools and a time of fiscal irresponsibility inadequate to the point of caricature.

Under Bundy's leadership the Ford Foundation initiated or was pivotal in

major advances here and in countries abroad. A partial list includes public broadcasting, civil rights, energy conservation policy, major support to black colleges and to minority education and scholarship at all levels, public interest law and expansion of voting, establishment of agricultural research centers in developing countries, the Police Foundation, support for grassroots leaders in poor areas of the United States, establishment of community development corporations, and international, urban, and women's studies in American research universities.

Apart from these specific programs, Bundy worked out, with Board chairmen McCloy and Stratton, clear and productive roles... that enable the Board to function searchingly at the policy level and the staff to exercise full initiative once policy was set. Also, the Board was diversified to include women, minorities, and Third World citizens, and the Foundation was saved from creeping self-extinction by a strict curtailing of annual outlays.

Finally, we must say something about Mac Bundy's administrative and personal style and the remarkable context they provided for his associates... One officer, as he left the Foundation, said that he had never encountered a large institution that was "so free of intrigue" as the Ford Foundation's in Bundy's time. A second attributed "this happy state" to "the quality and constructive motivation of the Foundations's staff, the seriousness of a distinguished Board... and to Mac Bundy's candor, openness to the views of colleagues... and exacting fair standards."

... Mac Bundy was caring, but never self-righteous, serious but never pompous, amusing but never frivolous—excellent qualities in a chief executive and friend. We will miss him sorely.



## *A LAFF-In Success*

(cont. from p. 1)

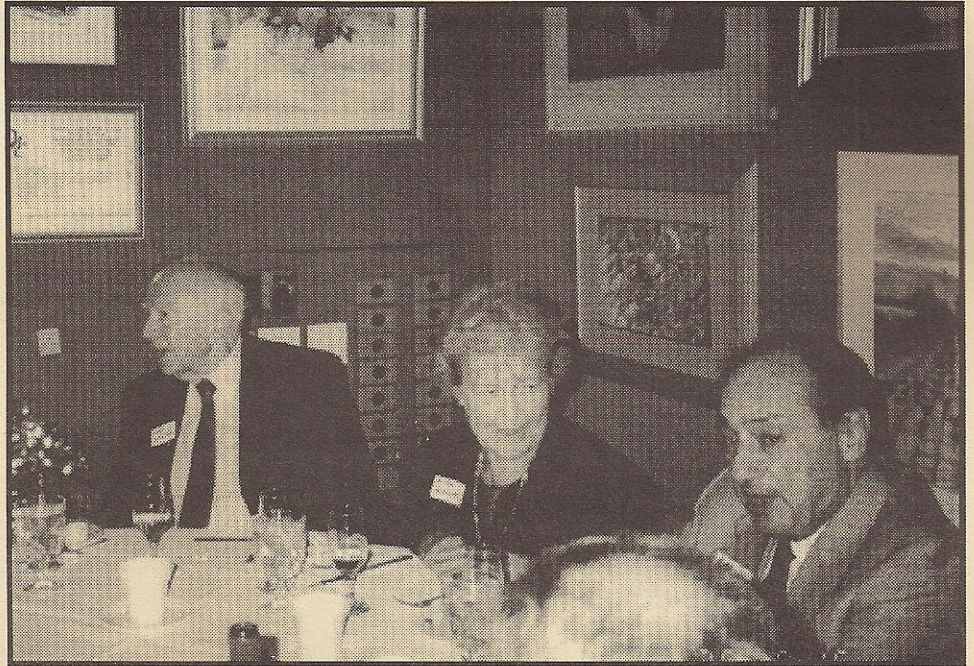
Mary Camper-Titsingh pitched in energetically. The farthest traveler to the reunion was **Marjorie Martus**, former education program officer, who lives in Menlo Park, California.

Typical of reactions of alumni who attended for the first time was that of **Doris Keniry**, who retired from Rights and Social Justice in 1995. "I never expected to see so many old friends," she wrote afterward. LAFF regulars need no reminder that the event was historic, but its place in history may have been insured by the presence of **Waldemar Nielsen** (European Affairs), whose three books on foundation philanthropy are prominent in the literature on the subject.

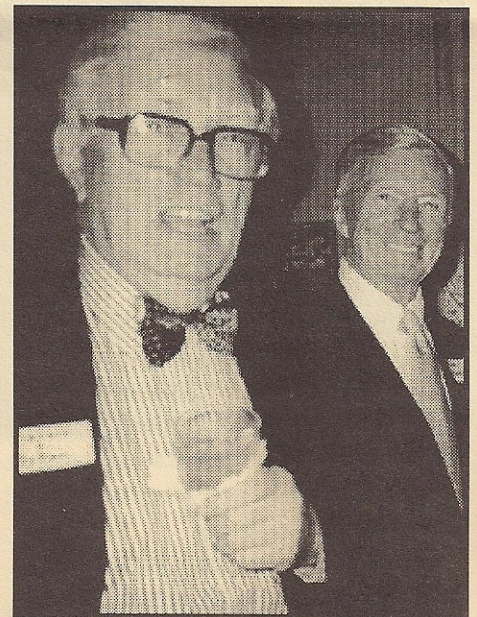
A toast was raised to the memory of Ed Meade, co-founder of The LAFF Society, who was master of ceremonies at the first reunion (Note that in addition to the Edward J. Meade Jr. Fellowship Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, contributions in Ed's memory may also be sent to the Edward J. Meade Scholarship at Jersey City State College, 2039 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, N.J. 07305).

Among innovations this time around was live music—a duo of flute and folk harp who were spotted playing in the lower level of Grand Central Station and so charmed Dick Magat that he recommended signing them on for the LAFF Gala. They played wonderfully during the cocktail hour until the din of the assembled drowned them out.

A comedy of errors accompanied the reunion. It began last year when the initial announcement of the event had the wrong date. Then came the invitations, with the correct date, but with Bud Harkavy's name misspelled as well as was the address of the National



*A reunion sampler. Above left to right, Louis Winnick, Mrs. Winnick, and Mitchell Sviridoff. Below left, Anita Miller and Basil Whiting. Below right, Francis Sutton Jack Bresnan, and John Cool.*



Arts Club. Then it turned out that the hotel with which The LAFF Society had negotiated a special rate the last time 'round for out-of-town guests was no longer offering the rate despite the invitation saying so. Finally, the day before the event the Club phoned

to say there had been a mixup and that we would have to share the space with another group they had booked. So LAFF members arrived to find the Club's main room occupied by a fundraiser for the Mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey. The Club's staff hastily





Left to right, *Leslie Gottlieb, Doris Kenniry, Ursula Kreutzer, and Carolee Iltis.*

set up another room for LAFF, which was just as well since, though we outnumbered the Jersey City contingent, person-for-person they had us outweighed. Because Mayor Rudolf Guiliani was a co-sponsor of the fund-raising event, a group of Puerto Rican activists had set up a picket line outside the club to protest his cuts in human services. (Oh, yes, the Jersey City bunch also had music, albeit a single oversized harp).

Withal, it was a successful, tasty and touching evening. LAFF reunion II coincided with the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Arts Club. The Club's Gramercy Park digs are a National Historic Landmark, and to this historic status, the LAFF Society has added its unique fillip.

## We Happy Many

The following attended the LAFF Society reunion dinner:

Carol Arnold  
Elinore and Bernard Barber  
Whitman Bassow  
Jane Becker  
Alice Boyce  
Diana Bradshaw  
John and Barbara Bresnan  
Mary Bundy  
Mary Camper-Titsingh  
Joan and Mary Carroll  
Mariam Chamberlain  
John Cool  
Patrick Corrigan  
Henry Dart  
John Doran  
Howard and Sonia Dressner  
Robert Drysdale  
Eleanor and Arthur Epstein  
Paul Feinberg  
Reuben Frodin  
Robert Goldman  
Jane Goodman (Mrs. Joseph Sweet)  
Sheila Gordon  
Leslie Gottlieb  
Mary (Harding) and Roger Hannon-Haley  
Bud and Fran Harkavy  
Iris Harris  
Anne Hartnett  
Bill Herman

Willard and Annette Hertz  
Carolee Iltis  
Sanford and Helene Jaffe  
David H. Jandorf  
Arlene Feder Juter  
Terrance and Joette Keenan  
James A. Kelly  
Doris and Jack Keniry  
Moselle Kimbler  
Daphne Klein  
Harold and Ruthe Klein  
Nathalie Kravtchenko  
Ursula Kreutzer  
Starry Krueger  
Marie LaBue  
Richard Lacey  
Dand and Joyce Lore  
Roberta Lynch  
Richard and Gloria Magat  
Alice Maloney  
Jane McCarthy  
Nancy McCarthy  
David T. and Janice McDonald  
Sheila Avrin McLean  
Marjorie Martus  
Anita Miller  
Susan Newman  
Waldemar Nielsen  
Sally J. Oleon and H. David Jandorf

Harrison Parker  
Pat Rae  
Betty Richman  
Marshall and Flavia Robinson  
Tom and Rosalie Robinson  
Michael and Karla Rubinger  
Peter Ruof  
Terry Saario and Lee Lynch  
Marcia and Henry Saltzman  
Laurice Sarraf  
Elisa Scatena  
Ralph Schwartz  
Richard Sharpe  
Rocky (Eugene) and Judy Staples  
Donald Stewart  
Oona Sullivan  
Francis X. Sutton  
Mitchell Sviridoff  
Pamela Tice  
Robert Tolles  
Greg Tonning  
James Trowbridge  
Evelyn Bush Walsh  
F. Champion Ward  
Abe Weisblat  
Basil Whiting  
Louis and Wilma Winnick  
Thomas Wolf  
Nancy Zimmerman



## Changing of the Guard

Newly elected president of The LAFF Society is Siobhan Oppenheimer-Nicalau, succeeding Oscar Harkavy, who has served since 1994. The new vice president is Emmett Carson, succeeding Harry Dodds. And continuing as secretary-treasurer (a treasure herself) is Mary Camper-Titsingh. Nicaolau served the the National Affairs Division, in charge of programs for Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian-Americans. She presently directs the National Film Archive of Philanthropy and chairs the Hispanic

Policy Development Council. Carson was a researcher scholar at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, in Washington, before joining the Foundation. Since 1995, he has been president of the Minneapolis Foundation.

## In Memoriam

The following notice appeared in *The New York Times* Sept. 18:

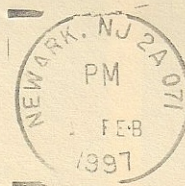
BUNDY, McGeorge-The LAFF Society (Life after the Ford Foundation) mourns the death of a leader and friend. He cared for the people whose lives the Foundation sought to better.

## Directory Assistance

A new Directory of LAFF Society members is in preparation. The first was published in 1994. Please let us know if you do *not* wish to have your name and address included. For the rest, please let us know if you wish to have e-mail and/or fax numbers included with your address.

The cost of the Directory, sharply reduced from the first edition, will be \$3. Please send orders to Mary Camper-Titsingh, 531 Main St., Apt. #1110. New York, N.Y. 10044.

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



Mary Camper-Titsingh (p-96)  
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