

LAFF

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

Spring 2008 / No. 54

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Blessings from On High

I am delighted to report that I met recently with Luis Ubiñas, new President of the Ford Foundation, and found him interested in and strongly supportive of LAFF. He referred to McKinsey & Company's highly organized alumni association, his active participation, and the value he saw in a closer relationship between the Foundation and LAFF.

Specifically, he graciously offered to provide space at the Foundation for meetings of LAFF, to explore ways of giving departing employees information about LAFF, and to have Foundation publications

distributed to our members. He also agreed to speak to LAFF members when an opportunity arose.

At Luis' request, I met subsequently with Marta Tellado, Vice President of Communications, who kindly agreed to be our direct link with the Foundation and to follow up on the President's generous offers.

Meanwhile, our new directory will be e-mailed to members this month. For those who prefer hard copies, please complete the attached form on page 2 and return with a check to Mary Camper-Titsingh.

Peter F. Geithner

OBAMA—THE FORD CONNECTION!



(FOR THE SEN. CLINTON CONNECTION, SEE PAGE 3)

Had she lived (she died in 1995 at age 52), Ann Dunham Soetoro, the mother of Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama would have been a Ford Foundation alumna. Dunham served as a program officer in the Foundation's Jakarta office from 1981-85.

One of her co-workers there, Terence Bigalke, recalls that she fostered social activism in Obama and her other children through her work on behalf of the world's poor. "She had such a strong concern for people who were in difficult circumstances economically," he says. That concern led her to study the underground economy of Jakarta street vendors. When she returned to Hawaii for graduate studies in anthropology, she wrote an 800-page Ph.D. thesis on Indonesian blacksmithing. She also taught English to Indonesians.

Bigalke runs the Education Program of the East-West Center.

Her influence "is very, very deep," recalls Congressman Neil Abercrombie's of Hawaii, who attended university with her and her future husband, Barack Obama Sr., the son of a goatherder. Senator Obama's eclectic views of the world are a direct reflection of his mother," Abercrombie added.

Kim Chapman, who has written a profile of her, says that Senator Obama "displays a *continued on page 2*

(Never in the 16 years of publication has the LAFF newsletter been scooped, but on occasion we have scooped others. A mixture of both occurred in the story above. It was written at the end of February but not published until now. On Sunday, March 14, The New York Times ran a front-page story, continued on a full page inside the paper, with wonderful photographs, headlined "The Free-Spirited Wanderer Who Shaped Obama's Path." Like our own story, it chronicled the life of Barack Obama's mother, though in much greater detail. We recommend it to our readers, notwithstanding a bit of sadness at being the victim of a semi-scoop).

The LAFF Society

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The LAFFing Parade

Oleg Lobanov, who served in the Humanities and the Arts program from 1969 to 1975, reports on a successful three-year consulting relationship with Catholic Relief Services during which fund-raising increased 50 per cent. CRS had not had a major capital campaign, and now has one that exceeded \$100 million. Also, the number of small gifts has doubled.

Add to those who attended the 90th birthday celebration for **Lowell Hardin**, reported in the last issue of the newsletter: Peter J. Matlon, consultant for the Middle East & Africa program, and Thomas W. Hertel, summer intern in Botswana, assistant program officer, and consultant on landlessness and rural employment.

Author! Author!

Whence cometh the material for the LAFF Society newsletter? Not from the Associated Press, nor Reuters, nor Bloomberg News, nor CNN. It comes instead mainly from you, Dear Reader. So please send us news or recollections of your own career and those of your colleagues, or commentaries that you think would be of interest to your colleagues. And note: in more than 15 years of publication the LAFF newsletter has yet to run a poem!

We are accepting your journalistic and/or literary contributions now and for the next few weeks. Send them to the next newsletter editor, Robert Tolles, tollesnwc@aol.com or 91 Bickford Lane, Greenwich CT 06840. (203) 972-6627.

Obama

continued from page 1

penchant for defying convention and forging his own path. Those who knew Dunham well trace this back to her arrival in Hawaii after high school in Seattle. (She was born in Kansas) Obama's half sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, recalls, "She certainly gave us her open-mindedness and our desire to challenge ourselves with new vistas and perceptions."

Obama himself has written, "What is best in me I owe to her." Dunham and her first husband, divorced when he left to study for a Ph.D. in economics at Harvard. She sent the future Senator at age 10 to live with his maternal grandparents in Hawaii. A friend recalls, "Ann saw first of all that he was so bright that he needed to be challenged by a good school. She also hoped that maybe he'd meet a few blacks while there, because he was not meeting them in Jakarta." So Obama attended the prestigious Punahou School, whose alumni also include America Online founder Steve Case.

Returning to Indonesia, Obama Jr. began taking a caretaking role for the family, says his half-sister. "He was very much the patriarch as a young person. Our mother was

incredibly strong, but also incredibly sensitive. She would cry easily. He was always protective of her."

Friends say Dunham found her calling through her work, which evolved from studying batik and ironwork to obtaining microfinancing for craftspeople, especially women, in rural areas of developing countries.

"She was a scholar who was one of the first to see about microbanking," Congressman Abercrombie says. In 1986, Dunham did a one-year development project for the Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan, followed by stints at People's Bank of Indonesia and Women's World Banking in New York. She also did consulting work for the World Bank and USAID.

Alice Dewey, an anthropologist (and granddaughter of the philosopher John Dewey), who knew Dunham in Indonesia and Hawaii, said "she was getting to pretty high-powered positions, working in world organizations as an expert, but she always liked the people at the bottom." She adds, "Dunham would have delighted in her son's ascent to the highest reaches of U.S. politics. She'd be saying with a little chuckle, 'Here's one of our own,' and 'He's going to show them.'" ■

ARREARS BULLETIN

Some 100 LAFF Society members are behind in their dues, some as far back as the year 2000. This shortfall makes it difficult, to say the least, to continue running our organization and issuing this newsletter, so please pay your arrears, or as much of them as you can.

Dues are \$10 for one year, \$25 for three years, \$50 for 10 years, \$100 for life. You can tell how far behind you are by checking the year on the newsletter mailing label.

Send checks to Mary Camper-Titsingh, Secretary-Treasurer, at 531 Main St., Apt.1110, New York, NY 10044.

THE LAFF SOCIETY DIRECTORY

Please send ___ printed copies of the 2008 LAFF Directory to me at the following address:

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Street or P O Box:

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My check for \$ _____
(@\$10.00 each-\$15 for copies mailed outside the U.S.)
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March 2008

The Hillary Clinton Connection

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's connections to the Ford Foundation stretch back to her days as a law student and continued intermittently through her White House days and service in the U.S. Senate.

At Yale Law School, she interned with Marian Wright Edelman, a prominent civil rights leader who founded the Children's Defense Fund, a major Ford Foundation grant recipient. After graduation Ms. Rodham advised the CDF in Cambridge and joined the Nixon impeachment inquiry staff advising the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

She was chairman of the Children's Defense Fund from 1986 to 1992. During her tenure she played a major role in the negotiation of a \$2 million Foundation program related investment for the CDF headquarters project.

Sen. Clinton has often been at the center of controversy and the object of scorn by

conservative critics. One of these, Gil Troy, a historian at McGill University, received Ford grants in 1990 and 1994 and wrote the book *Hillary Rodham Clinton: Polarizing First Lady*.

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Sen. Clinton's association with Ms. Edelman continued, in part through Ms. Edelman's husband, Peter, who was one of eight members of the slain Robert F. Kennedy's staff who received Foundation fellowships following the assassination. Edelman, who served on the staff of the Clinton White

House, later became chairman of the Board of the Public Welfare Foundation and contributed \$1500 to Ms. Clinton's Senate campaign. Marian Wright Edelman gave \$1000. Ms. Clinton's association with foundations included membership on the board of the liberal New World Foundation.

In 1997, Mrs. Clinton presented awards to winners of a competition by Ford Foundation grantee Reading is Fundamental for developmental programs. In turn she has received innumerable awards from Ford grantees, e.g. the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. She also won a Congressional Leadership Award earlier this year from the Instituto Laborial de la Raza.

Raul Yzaguirre was the founder of the organization that launched the Ford Foundation's entry into funding of Mexican American causes. He became president of the National Council of Raza, a major Ford recipient, and in 2007 was named co-chair *continued on page 6*

In Memoriam

Amy Sloane Vance, Program Officer on women's rights in the Human Rights and Governance Program from October 1980 through July 1986, died in March after a long struggle with cancer. She was a lawyer and advocate for the poor and needy. A native New Yorker, she spent her entire professional life in New York City after graduating from Mt. Holyoke College and Fordham School of Law. She practiced law at the Carter Ledyard law firm before joining the Foundation. She then spent more than 20 years working for the New York State Office of Court Administration, most recently as Deputy Counsel to Chief Judge Judith Kaye, before retiring in 2007. An active member of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, she was also Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. She had a strong interest in health care ethics, serving on the Mt. Sinai Hospital Institutional Review Board. The daughter of former Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, she is survived by her mother, Grace Sloane Vance, three sisters, Elsie Vance Askar,

Camilla Vance Holmes and Grace Roberts Vance, her brother, Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., a nephew and niece, Simon and Clare Vance, step-nephew Kemal Askar, sister-in-law Peggy Vance, and brothers-in-law Attila Askar and William Holmes. Any donations may be sent to the Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center in memory of Amy Vance, P.O. Box 27106, New York, NY 10087.

Robert P. Greene, who served in the Jakarta office from 1969 to 1972, died in Florida in December. After the Foundation, he joined the Alfred P. Sloan School of Management at MIT as Associate Director for Administration, Systems Dynamics Group.

Richard A. Catalano, who served in the Office of the Secretary and the International Relations and International Affairs programs, died in November at the age of 73 of cancer after several years of declining health. His career in education and nonprofit organizations included work for National Educational Television and the Educational Broadcast-

ing Corporation. He also served as acting dean of Pace University's School of Law, vice chancellor of the City University of New York, vice president of the University of California, and deputy director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

In his later years he practiced Zen meditation and studied Buddhist teaching. He served on the board of directors of San Francisco Zen Center and the Zen Hospice. He was lay ordained.

Catalano was graduated from Bowdoin College and received an M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law at Tufts University and his J.D. from George Washington University in 1963. He is survived by a sister, Michele Brown, and his former wife, Janet Sternburg. Donations may be made to the San Francisco Zen Center.

The death of **Norman Reynolds** was noted in the last issue of the newsletter. Received later was an obituary in the *Mail&Guardian* of South Africa, written by a colleague, *continued on page 6*

“Energy Purgatory”

The companionship was warm and the Indian curry mouth-watering at the January 16 meeting of the LAFF Boston chapter, but the discussion was deadly serious.

The speaker at the session, held at the Oxfam America office, was Robert L. Pratt, senior vice president for climate change/energy at the Henry P. Kendall Foundation.

Ted Smith, Kendall executive director and Ford representative in Indonesia in the 1970s, introduced Pratt.

Kendall devotes its entire grantmaking budget to climate change/energy programs and projects.

Recent studies of energy and global warming trends, he told 18 LAFFers and their guests, indicate that the energy crisis is far worse than past reports and estimates have suggested. If present trends continue, he asserted, in 2020-2050 the world will reach “energy purgatory.” This is a term for the point of no return when energy shortages and global warming will be beyond reversal or correction.

These conditions would have a devastating effect on world food production, housing, water supply, sanitation, transportation and other living essentials.

While technological and other measures now emerging may reverse these trends and offset these shortages, Pratt continued, their implementation will require strong political leadership, considerable sacrifices and substantial changes in life style in the United States and worldwide.

On the positive side, Pratt cited a large number of possible changes in life style or technology that could reverse these trends. He compared the country’s situation today with that in World War II, which required such major changes as the government-mandated conversion of auto and other plants to armament manufacture, centralized planning of scarce resources, and consumer rationing.

The fastest payoff, Pratt continued, would be to adopt and expand ways already known of *making more efficient use of existing energy resources*. The trend toward such measures will accelerate, Pratt predicted, as the cost of petro-fuels and electric power continues to escalate.

Nearly 40 percent of the nation’s green-

house gas emissions comes from the generation of electric power. Pratt proposed increased ‘cogeneration’ of hot water, steam cooling, and air conditioning as byproducts of power generation. Such cogeneration produces electricity and these energy attributes at 65-85 percent efficiency as opposed to central generation facilities that average 35%, often as low as 27-29 percent efficiency when one accounts for transmission losses.

Another 32 percent of greenhouse gas emissions comes from transportation. In that area, he urged expanded use of mass transportation, both urban and long-distance, to replace auto and truck usage. Auto and truck fuel consumption could also be sharply reduced through the rapid introduction of far more energy efficient vehicles, hybrid and plug-in hybrid designs, and utilization of advanced biofuels.

Power consumption reduction in industry (18 percent of gas emissions), the home (6 per cent), and commercial usage (4 percent), Pratt continued, could be reduced through existing opportunities for efficiencies in lighting, electronic equipment, appliances, heating and air conditioning, water supply and waste treatment.

Over time, new sources of renewable

energy—solar photovoltaic and hot water installations, windfarms and biomass installations—will play an increasingly important role. Such ‘renewable sources’ now account for 18% of the world’s energy consumption though less in the U.S. Wind power is the fastest growing large electricity source, with approximately 21,000 Megawatts added world-wide in 2007, a 28% increase over 2006. Grid-connected solar photovoltaics is the single fastest generation technology in the world, with 50% annual increases in both 2006 and 2007.

Smith and Pratt urged foundations to become more active in the field of energy/climate change, in cooperation with business, to maximize the impact of their limited grantmaking resources. One thing even local foundations can do is to activate local and regional initiatives as national models of what can be done at the community level.

They cited as an example the Cambridge Energy Alliance. Launched in March 2007, a \$100 million, massive energy efficiency project whose goal is to reduce peak demand for electric power by 40 to 50 megawatts in five years. The project involves large Cambridge employers, hospitals, universities, schools, housing providers, small and medium-size businesses, and home owners. The organizing committee includes the city, Harvard and MIT, Chamber of Commerce, and representatives of various community organizations. ■

A TALE OF THRIFT

In February, *The New Yorker* published a long profile of the Wall Street billionaire Stephen Schwartzman, titled “The Birthday Party” and subtitled, “How Stephen Schwartzman became private equity’s designated villain.” The piece recounted his rise to founder of the firm Blackstone, which manages assets of \$88 billion. It also described Schwartzman’s displays of wealth, such as lavish homes and a private jet. The culmination of his excesses was Schwartzman’s \$5 million 60th birthday party in 2007, in the cavernous Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue. A party planner transformed the armory into a replica of Schwartzman’s thirty-five room, \$37 million triplex Manhattan co-op, with replicas of his art collection and a full-length portrait of him. Dinner, for 1500 guests, was served

in a *faux* night-club setting, with orchids and palm trees. They dined on lobster, filet mignon, and baked Alaska.

The article caught the eye (and ire) of Ford alumnus **Richard Magat**, who recalled that in 2003, The LAFF Society staged a reunion at the very same Armory for considerably less than \$5million—\$6300 to be exact, for 130 people. The LAFF gathering took place on the Armory’s fourth floor mess, not the vast drill floor of the Schwartzman party. The \$65 per person tab covered drinks, a tasty buffet and the rental. Entertainment was *gratis*, provided by the Schuyler String Quartet, a talented nonprofessional ensemble.

Magat fired off a letter to *The New Yorker*, chronicling our thrifty ways. It was not published. ■

Danny Newman, Promoter for all Seasons

They were unlikely partners. Danny Newman, who died in December at the age of 88, was a veteran theatrical press agent and manager, owner of three motion-picture theaters, producer of a pioneer celebrity radio show, and promoter of drive-in movie theaters.

W. McNeil Lowry, who died in 1993, was a vice president of the Ford Foundation and creator of its Humanities and Arts division. A former college teacher of English and journalist, Lowry was an aesthete. He edited *Accent*, a literary journal, and contributed to *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Progressive*, and *Antioch Review*, among others.

Aware of Newman's prowess in building audiences for opera, theater, ballet companies, and orchestras, Lowry in 1961 persuaded him to leave commercial show business

"Danny has done more for performing arts in this country than ten foundations. His extraordinary achievements will be written in the history of the performing arts of our time."

and focus on nonprofit professional arts.

On behalf of the Foundation for twenty years, Newman pioneered the use of subscriptions to building audiences for theatre, opera, symphony, ballet, and performing arts centers. Subscriptions entice people to buy several tickets at a time and fill seat and company coffers. His techniques were recounted in *Subscribe Now! Building Arts Audiences through Dynamic Subscription Promotion*, a book published in 1977. It is used in 31 countries and has been printed in 10 editions. Studs Terkel wrote the foreword for another of his books, *Tales of a Theatrical Guru*, published in 2006.

He was described as the greatest post-war



arts patron in the United States by William Mason, general director of the Chicago Lyric Opera, of which he was a founding staff member. Lowry said of Newman, "Danny has done more for performing arts in this country than ten foundations. His extraordinary achievements will be written in the history of the performing arts of our time."

Newman was schooled in the Yiddish Theater and became a publicist for top vaudeville acts, including Laurel and Hardy, Jimmy Durante, and fan dancer Sally Rand. Over the years Newman was an actor, script writer, modern-dance impresario, vaudeville, radio, television and legitimate theater publicist, advance agent, house manager, general manager, and producer.

Newman didn't invent subscription sales, but he promoted a dramatic increase in the use of the technique through seminars and visits to artistic institutions throughout the country and as distant as Yellowknife in Canada's Northwest Territories, and through his book. A profusion of professional nonprofit theaters sprang up wherever he broadcast his message.

He created subscriberships for more than 500 performing-arts companies. Many of the new subscribers also became contributors. He spread his techniques through a dozen European and Asian countries.

In World War II he fought in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He was a highly decorated survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. He was knighted by the Italian government, received the prestigious Gold Baton Award of the American Symphony Orchestra League and many other honors. ■

No Tax Travail

A shudder ran through the administrative structure of The LAFF Society when the *New York Times* recently ran a story headline "I.R.S. Moves to Weed Out Deadwood Charities." It described a new form that "even the tiniest nonprofit, like garden clubs with a few hundred dollars of income, a year" must file. The new rule, conceived by Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Republican of Iowa, is designed to make it easier for the government to police nonprofits' finances and identify abuses.

The LAFF Society quickly consulted its *pro bono* attorney Paul Feinberg, an alumnus of the Foundation's Office of Secretary

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and General Counsel. He is now with a prestigious Cleveland law firm. Paul told us to relax. "We took the position when LAFF was founded in 1993 that it is a social club," he recalled, not a 501c3 charity, "so no tax exemption application was filed." This was verified in a letter from Joyce Marto, Chief, Collection Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, as follows: "Based on your information, we agree that you are no longer required to file this tax return." But officialdom never quite lets go. She concluded as follows: "We are taking no further action at this time, but we may need to contact you again if other tax matters arise." Thankfully, none has, so we can safely hold on to our assets, which are \$6,151.97. (See Financial Report, p 8, LAFF newsletter No. 53, Winter 2008.)

This also serves as a reminder that members should not claim a deduction for their dues. (Especially, of course, LAFF members who are delinquent in their dues of whom there are a hundred, some going back years.)

It would be swell if they joined their brothers and sisters in paying up. ■

Clinton

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of Sen. Clinton's presidential campaign.

Her advocacy for the poor harks back to her admiration for the Chicago grassroots reformer Saul Alinsky, about whom she did her senior thesis at Wellesley. According to one account, Alinsky offered her a job after she graduated, but she chose Yale Law School instead.

As Senator from New York State, Ms. Clinton lauded a Ford Foundation collaborative plan with the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and Central New York to transform the region's urban centers. The Foundation made a \$350,000 grant for the project. Sen. Clinton said, "the Foundation's pledge of support for this community and this initiative is a strong sign that Syracuse and Central New York are thinking creatively about their future. Our community's leadership is aligning behind common goals—like the redevelopment of vacant buildings in our urban core. Working together we can attract the support of partners like Ford (who) can help us complete the transformation of our region's economic

and social fabric."

Her interest in legal affairs continued at several points in her career. In 2003, for example, she co-authored a paper on congress, the courts, and the Constitution that was featured in a panel at the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race and Ethnicity, which the Ford Foundation supported.

In 1988 Clinton, then an attorney and the wife of the governor of Arkansas, was a member of a commission chaired by Harold Howe II, a vice president of the Ford Foundation. The commission issued a report titled, *The Forgotten Half*. It reflected Howe's view that most school reform efforts aimed at children in poverty were far too narrow and that much more money and effort should be directed toward providing poor children with the opportunities both outside of and inside school that they do not get.

A 2004 editorial in *Business Week* said that Sen. Clinton was impressed by the Foundation's support of microenterprises and institutions that lend and invest in poor communities around the world. ■

In Memoriam

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Marjorie Jobson, from which the following is excerpted: "He dedicated his life to envisioning, advocating for and implementing economic rights-based programs that restore the local economies of communities, in processes that reclaim African traditions of mutual care and that bring just economic growth. His innovative Sustainable Community Investment Programme has created roadmaps whereby all South Africans, trapped through historical processes of systematic disempowerment and exploitation, might take steps toward establishing working local economies in which cash circulation is raised up to 400%. In the private sector, Norman pioneered processes of democratic employee ownership. Norman has left footprints in the hearts and lives of many people. He never tired of responding to requests from rural communities. He committed his enormous intellect, his passion and his time to the cause of economic justice and human dignity." He is survived by his former wife, Prof. Pamela Reynolds, his partner Lucy Thornton, his brother, Lance Reynolds, and four daughters.

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