

Upcoming Programs

Monday, Sept. 14, 2020

Via Zoom

Topic: Covering Foreign Affairs in a Changing World

To reserve a place and to receive long-on information, please RSVP. See Front-Page article.

Oct. 5: "View from Abroad: International Journalists Discuss the 2020 Election," a panel focusing on international coverage of the U.S. elections.

Nov. 2: Silvio Waisbord, the new dean of the GWU School of Media and Public Affairs. He will discuss his vision for the school and the state of play during the pandemic.

Nov. 16: Michael McCurry, political strategist, polling expert, and former White House Press Secretary, will talk about the results of the elections.

Dec. 7: Robert Daly, Director of the Wilson Center's Kissinger Institute, on China and the United States.

PDAA membership for 2020

If your mailing label says [2019], it is time to renew your membership. Use the form on page 7 or renew [online](#).

This issue of the Newsletter tells the story of this year's winners of the **PDAA Awards for Achievement in Public Diplomacy**. Please consider making a contribution to the awards fund.



PDAA Today

Public Diplomacy Association of America

Paul Richter and Karen Tumulty to Discuss "Covering Foreign Affairs in a Changing World" on Sept. 14

Well known journalists Paul Richter and Karen Tumulty will speak at the First Monday Forum on Sept. 14, 2020, on the topic of "Covering Foreign Affairs in a Changing World." Richter, who is also the author of a new book, [*The Ambassadors: America's Diplomats on the Front Lines*](#), most recently covered the State Department and foreign policy for the LOS ANGELES TIMES. He previously covered the Pentagon, the White House, and the New York financial institutions. A native of Minneapolis, he graduated from Clark University.

Tumulty is a political columnist for THE WASHINGTON POST. She previously worked for the LOS ANGELES TIMES and TIME Magazine. She has received numerous awards for her Congressional and diplomatic coverage and is a frequent guest on national television. She is a native Texan and graduated from the University of Texas; she holds an MBA from Harvard Business School.

The program will be conducted via Zoom. To register, please go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LB02BaVXR5jsDGB8tM-dA.

PDAA Honors Outstanding Public Diplomacy

By Domenick DiPasquale

Whether engaging difficult-to-reach audiences in the Middle East, countering Russian disinformation in the Baltics, or resetting a historically contentious bilateral relationship in Africa, the recipients of the 2020 **PDAA Awards for Achievement in Public Diplomacy** used a mix of outside-the-box thinking, deep understanding of their audiences, and superb leadership abilities to demonstrably advance U.S. foreign policy objectives.

"This year's winners have shown particularly impressive ingenuity, given the conditions they are working under," said PDAA President Joel Fischman. "Budgets are woefully inadequate, and many officers and Locally Employed Staffers have had to carry on virtually, at a distance, because of security concerns and, now, the corona virus. Their creativity, perseverance, and commitment to their goals bode well for the continuing high standards of our profession."

The four winners are:

- ✓ **Zennia Paganini**, Public Affairs Officer, Yemen Affairs Unit (based at Embassy Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)
- ✓ **Public Affairs Section**, Embassy Luanda, Angola

- ✓ **Meghan Luckett**, Assistant Public Affairs Officer, Embassy Vilnius, Lithuania
- ✓ **Riad Yazbeck**, Cultural Affairs Specialist, Embassy Beirut, Lebanon

The ongoing multi-year civil war between the central Yemeni government and insurgent Houthi forces led to the relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2015. Working from this embassy in exile, PAO Zennia Paganini singlehandedly has maintained American influence and a 'virtual' presence not only among Yemenis still in country, but also among the Yemeni diaspora scattered throughout the Middle East.

With a majority of Yemenis younger than 30, Paganini created an initiative called MAP – Make a Place for Yemeni Youth – that works to educate diaspora youth, support Yemenis' economic empowerment, and strengthen the country's civil society institutions. Evidence of the effectiveness of this and other youth-oriented programs was found in an unlikely place: the front page of the Houthis' official newspaper, showing Paganini with youth contacts and journalists in Riyadh and Cairo under a banner headline reading "What Are the American Embassies Planning?!"

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PDAA President
Joel Anthony Fischman

President's Notes

In my last letter to you, written in April, I noted that it had been a month since many of us began quarantine. We expected that it would continue for a few months but did not foresee how prolonged a period it would be. It is now apparent that we will not see large in-person gatherings for the rest of 2020. So, at least through December, if not beyond, all our program offerings will be digital, using teleconferencing formats.

Yes, we miss the opportunity to press the flesh, shake hands, and catch up. Fortunately, we have benefited from close coordination with the Public Diplomacy Council (PDC) and the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy. The Zoom sessions and webinar programs that we have jointly developed have been well attended and have generated lively discussion.

By the time you have read this, we will have presented the August 3 First Monday, featuring former VOA Director Geoff Cowan celebrating the centennial of the legendary Willis Conover. We all reveled in the power of Conover's broadcasts carrying the sound of jazz, of America – and of freedom. This was an opportunity to recall some of the best in the public diplomacy record.

Some of our programs look back.

some go forward. Here is what we have lined up for the rest of this calendar year.

✓ **September 14:** The September FIRST MONDAY forum, delayed one week because of Labor Day, will feature Paul Richter and Karen Tumulty, well-known journalists who are married, on the topic of “Covering Foreign Affairs in a Changing World.” Richter, who is also the author of a new book, [The Ambassadors: America's Diplomats on the Front Lines](#), most recently covered the State Department and foreign policy for the Los Angeles Times. Tumulty is a political columnist for The Washington Post.

✓**October 5:** The October FIRST MONDAY program will be "View from Abroad: International Journalists Discuss the 2020 Election," a panel focusing on international coverage of the U.S. elections.

✓**November 2:** The November FIRST MONDAY forum will introduce Silvio Waisbord, the new dean of the GWU School of Media and Public Affairs. He will discuss his vision for the school and the state of play during the pandemic.

✓ **November 16:** Michael McCurry, political strategist, polling expert, and former White House Press Secretary, will talk about the results of the elections. This is a time we would normally be having a DACOR luncheon gathering.

✓ **December 7:** *The December*

FIRST MONDAY will feature Robert Daly, Director of the Wilson Center's Kissinger Institute on China and the United States.

We are all aware of the eventful period we are living through and will be alert to additional opportunities for public diplomacy-related programming.

In the meantime, the working group (WG) looking at future PDAA/PDC coordination, now known as the Public Diplomacy Coalition WG, continues its work. Members of the WG have been talking informally with PDAA and PDC members, just to gather further views before making a recommendation to the two Boards. If you want to talk to any of us, feel free to contact me (fischman@comcast.net). I will share comments with the other members of the committee, Jan Brambilla, Brian Carlson, Tania Chomiak-Salvi, Joe Johnson, Greta Morris, and Sherry Mueller.

I am writing this having just watched the televised funeral of Rep. John Lewis, with three former presidents speaking. It was a reminder of the moral strength of our nation that has attracted so many of the world's people to U.S. values and energized the practice of public diplomacy. May it forever be our strength.

Stay safe and stay well.

Joel

Outstanding Public Diplomacy Initiatives, continued



(Continued from page 1)

A historically contentious quarter-century relationship between the United States and Angola formed the backdrop for the work of PAO Deneysel Kirkpatrick and her seven Locally Employed Staffers at Embassy Luanda. Kirkpatrick and her staff broke new ground in strengthening the Embassy's relations with the Angolan government and opening new avenues of bilateral cooperation.

The initiative by Embassy Luanda's Public Affairs Section centered on the 2019 commemoration marking the 400th

anniversary of the first African slaves arriving in the present-day United States. Programs ranging from a hip-hop artist to a cooking demonstration by a South Carolina chef to national television coverage of performances by the U.S. dance troupe Step Afrika! highlighted the two nations' shared cultural heritage. The presence of the Angolan vice president and six cabinet officials at Step Afrika!'s final performance garnered major media attention.

This public diplomacy initiative also strengthened the potential of long-term institutional relationships. The president of

Angola created an inter-ministerial commission to mark the 400th anniversary; a task force was organized to identify possible projects to be supported by the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation; and an International Visitor program built institutional linkages between the Angolan Ministry of Culture and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture.

A relentless Russian campaign has targeted Lithuania with disinformation intended

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The recipients of this year's Awards for Achievement in Public Diplomacy were featured in a Virtual First Monday program on May 4, 2020. To view the recording, go to <https://vimeo.com/414943292>

Mark Jacobs: Life After the Foreign Service

Time: in my active-duty days it was the thing I needed most, and the thing I had the least of. In the early 90's I was serving as PAO in Asunción. For long stints I was also the acting DCM. I was the president of a school board in crisis, which took up as many as 20 hours of my time in a given week. My wife and I were raising three kids. At the same time, I was writing a novel ([Stone Cowboy](#)). I wrote in the doctor's office, when I took the kids for a check-up. I wrote at night, and in every moment I could steal from days and duties that demanded all my time.

The higher I went in the Foreign Service, the more of my time the job required. Back in Washington in the late 90's, after thirteen years straight overseas, I wrote much of a novel ([A Handful of](#)

[Kings](#)) on the VRE train commuting to Washington. I wrote longhand in notebooks with stiff covers and made my first edit transferring the day's haul onto the computer.



Mark Jacobs performing with his band.

It's different now. I left the Service when I realized that it was no longer possible to do a good job at both of the

things that mattered to me. These days, I get up early and read the papers, a habit inculcated from my IO days; in Bolivia, I remember reading eleven papers, including those from important cities around the country. My wife Anne and I drink mate, a habit we picked up in Paraguay as Peace Corps volunteers. And then I go to work. I write. I write all morning, and often into the afternoon. I have the luxury of time to think about what I wrote yesterday, what I will write today. I have the time to take notes and go back to the notes. There are days and moments when I miss life in another country. That part of the job never got old. But on balance, I'm happy with the trade I made. I have the time I need.▯

Mark Jacobs is a retired Foreign Service Officer and a member of the Public Diplomacy Association of America.

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to stoke nostalgia for its Soviet past, drive wedges in Lithuanian society, and portray the country as a failed state rather than the modern democratic success story it is. Assistant PAO Meghan Lockett played a central role in Embassy Vilnius's efforts to successfully counter this false narrative and remind Lithuanians, especially the younger generation, of the inspirational role their country played in unshackling other captive Soviet bloc nations.

She convinced the nation's public broadcaster, LRT, to join the Embassy's multi-dimensional "Courage To Be Free" campaign, immediately boosting that campaign's visibility and impact.

Lockett also shepherded a major

component of that campaign, an open-air concert attended by thousands in downtown Vilnius' Lukiškių Square to mark the fall of the Berlin Wall 30 years earlier. Through repeat broadcasts and online access, the concert was ultimately viewed by 800,000 Lithuanians – more than a quarter of the country's entire population.

Riad Yazbeck, the senior cultural affairs specialist at Embassy Beirut, capitalized on his personal connections in Lebanon's Shia community to advance not just public diplomacy initiatives but also the Embassy's political reporting on this major player in Lebanese politics – the sect considered most at risk for violent extremism due to the influence of Hizballah and Iran over many of its members. Yazbeck's reporting on this issue was

cited in a Presidential Daily Brief.

When months-long civil unrest erupted in Lebanon in 2019, Yazbeck's network of contacts among the Shia allowed him to collect extensive information about Shia participation in the protests despite Hizballah restrictions.

With this analysis showing there had been misconceptions about Lebanon's Shia population and its degree of allegiance to Hizballah, Yazbeck then instituted a greater degree of interaction between the Embassy and the Shia through an English language training program he manages. The program is aimed at women in at-risk communities and includes components on entrepreneurship, public speaking skills, and combatting gender-based violence.▯

الاحتلال السعودي يشن قاعته العسكرية في جزيرة "أزور" اليمنية
 اغتيال شيخ قبلي ومرافقه بخسروم وشهيدان بين فسادات النزاع في الجبهات الحدودية
 سفير اليمن بطهران يلتقي سفير موزمبيق والظاهر بأعمال السفير الليبي بطهران
 البعثة الأمريكية في اليمن
 الدعوة لفتح الأسرى: أكثر من 1200 محتجز في مدينة مأرب معظمهم مرضى وطالبو حق



PAO Zennia Paganini of the Yemeni Affairs Unit was one of the recipients of this year's **PDAA Awards for Public Diplomacy Achievement** (see article on page one). Above is a reproduction of the front page of the Houthi newspaper headlined "What Are The American Embassies Planning?!" Paganini is on the left and Yemen Affairs Unit Ambassador Christopher Henzel is on the right.

PDAA Board Meeting May 13, 2020

On May 13, the Board held its second virtual meeting, via Zoom. President **Joel Fischman** expressed the Board's compliments to Awards Committee chair **Judith Baroody** and the members of the committee for the excellence of this year's awards program and for the committee's choosing awardees who showed ingenuity and creativity while working with reduced budgets. Judith shared the plaudits with colleagues **Tom Miller, Elizabeth Thornhill, Claude Porsella, Dominick DiPasquale, Jon Schaffer, and Chandley McDonald**, and noted the cooperation the program received from R/PPR, which sent out the announcement and results cables.

2021's Awards brunch will be on May 2 at the Army and Navy Club; tickets will be priced so that the event will be self-financing, rather than requiring a subsidy from general Association revenues. Treasurer **Mary Jeffers** noted that the DACOR luncheons are also pay-as-you-go.

Program Committee chair **Joan Mower** noted that COVID-19 restrictions had scrambled the events calendar and that journalists Karen Tumulty and Paul Richter, originally scheduled for the April 20 DACOR lunch, have been

rescheduled for September. Plans are also underway for a program to analyze the 2020 election results. The Board voted to upgrade PDAA's virtual events capability by obtaining a month-by-month Zoom Pro account.

PDAA membership stands at 306 – including 78 life members -- after 79 names were removed from the roster for non-payment of dues, Membership Committee chair **Cynthia Efird** reported. She said dues reminders were being emailed to those who have not yet paid 2020 assessments. The Board acknowledged that the current system of dues collection needs to be updated; Cynthia, Mary, and **Michael Korff** will explore possibilities for a system that rationalizes dues deadlines and reminder notices.

Communications chair Michael Korff called attention to PDAA's new [Facebook page](#) and pointed out its potential as a medium for program and other information.

Cynthia observed that current Board members were eligible to serve an additional two-year term, and suggested that current Board membership be retained, and that Claude Porsella, currently an *ex officio* member, continue as a full member. The Board agreed. **Bill Wanlund** said he would not be continuing as secretary, although he will remain on the Board; **Dominick DiPasquale** agreed to take over the position, with Bill as backup. Mary said she would not be able to continue as treasurer

after next year and asked for volunteers or suggestions for a replacement. The new treasurer needs to be familiar with its requirements and procedures from the beginning, Mary said, so her successor should be identified sooner rather than later.

Current Board members and their terms:

Board Members Continuing (Terms expire June 2021): Judith Baroody, Pat Kushlis, Joan Mower, Dominick DiPasquale, Sherry Lee Mueller.

Board Members Terms Renewing 2020 (Terms expire June 2022): Amb. Cynthia Efird, Joel Fischman, Mary Jeffers, Bill Wanlund, Michael Korff.

Board Members Terms Beginning 2020 (Terms expire June 2022): Claude Porsella, Amb. Greta Morris.

Joel said the PDAA-PDC joint working group is currently discussing finances as the last of the major topics before shifting to considering a recommendation for merger or some form of close relationship short of merger. That recommendation to the two boards will include elements on mission, membership, and finances. Part of the working group's discussions is a dues structure that would enable membership retention and growth. Joel also noted there is little redundancy between the programs of the two organizations.✶

To contact officers and Board members, write to admin@publicdiplomacy.org.

Book Review

By Judith R. Baroody

[Memories of Tuna Fish](#) is a collection of short stories published in April 2020 by Howard Cincotta, a former writer and editor with USIA and the State Department, and author of [Climbing the Rain](#). The stories, which take place across the world, from the Middle East to Eastern Europe to the suburbs of Virginia, are intimate tales of personal growth and the complexities of relationships.

In the title story, Howard recalls how tuna fish figures into important moments in his life, such as when he was working at an Aleutian Island cannery or taking refuge from anti-war demonstrations inside a Berkeley library. A number of stories are about family, such as "How I Made My First \$200 Million," told from the standpoint of a young man who leveraged his father's demented visions into an app that made him rich. Some, such as "The Flow," about a blocked writer's deal with the devil, are down-

right funny. Others, such as "The Riga Lovers," about a Strong Man weightlifter's Internet encounter with a Latvian model, are poignant accounts of memorable characters searching for love.

The fourteen stories are highly readable, relatable accounts of how families break and mend, how landscapes change from the familiar to the strange and how solace can be found in the most unexpected settings, all told in 188 pages of vibrant prose.✶



Stories by
Howard Cincotta

In Memoriam

Mary E. Boyken, former editor at **AMERICA ILLUSTRATED**, died peacefully in Monterey, CA, on June 2 at age 90. A graduate of Stanford University, she worked for TIME Magazine in New York in the early 1960's. She then moved to Washington as an editor for USIA's **AMERICA ILLUSTRATED** magazine, published in Russian and Polish and the only U.S. periodical allowed for sale in the Soviet Union. In the mid-1980's, Boyken became the founding deputy editor of **DIALOGUE**, USIA's award-winning flagship magazine distributed worldwide in more than 20 language editions. When she retired to Carmel, a long-held dream, Boyken continued to be active with world affairs and edited the newsletter *Passport*.

Alan Carter, a former USIA Career Minister, 95, passed away peacefully on January 25 in New Hampshire. Born in Rochester, NY, in 1923, he was a broadcaster at WNYC and a producer/director at NBC in New York. At USIA, he held several senior positions and served tours in Pakistan, India, Japan, and Vietnam. Carter was one of the last evacuees from the U.S. Embassy in Saigon in 1975. He was the recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Public Diplomacy, and he also received the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation from President Ford for his work on resettlement of Indochinese refugees.

Andrew Falkiewicz, 91, passed away on May 16 in Washington DC. Born in Poland in 1923, he and his family were deported to the Soviet Union in 1939 following the Soviet occupation of that country. He was later released by

the Polish Army and went to Great Britain, where he continued his education. After Falkiewicz moved to the United States, he completed the diploma program at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, served two years in the U.S. Army, and joined the U.S. Information Agency. He entered the Foreign Service in 1960, serving in Bonn, Saigon, Prague, and Moscow. Falkiewicz was also deputy press secretary to President Nixon, an assistant director of USIA, and assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence. He temporarily left public



Michael Kristula (standing) while a hostage in Bolivia. See his recollection on page seven. (Photo courtesy of LIFE magazine)

service to work for Philipp Morris International, and was later a director of the National Security Council during the George H.W. Bush presidential campaign.

Richard Firestone, 73, former Voice of America Webmaster, passed away July 29, in Ellicott City, MD. Before joining VOA, he was the first long-term Director of National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, also serving as its producer. Following that, he became producer of live events for NPR. For nearly twenty years at VOA he was the webmaster and producer of live sporting events. He covered many summer and winter Olympics, starting with L.A. in 1984. When he left VOA, he worked on Federal government contracts to provide web and database support to the

National Weather Service's Environmental Model Center. While in the U.S. Air Force, he was with the flagship TV station of the American Forces Thailand network in Korat, Thailand, as broadcaster and producer. In his retirement, he traveled the world. A member of the National Association for Amateur Radio, Richard will be remembered for his warmth, friendliness and sense of humor.

Mohamed Ghuneim, 90, former director of the VOA Arabic Service, died May 17 in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Born in Jaffa, he reported for many years from the Middle East, covering among other events the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli conflicts, the Iran-Iraq war, and the liberation of Kuwait. Ghuneim was posted in Beirut, Rhodes, Amman, and Washington. Among his experiences was being detained for 12 hours in Syria in 1987 and interrogated about his contacts in the Middle East. The Syrian government later apologized, stating that it was "a mistaken identity." In Washington, Ghuneim managed VOA Arabic's staff of 40, which benefited from his long experience reporting in the region. He received numerous VOA programming and distinguished service awards.

Michael A. Kristula, 98, a former Foreign Service Officer who served with USIA for 27 years, died March 27. Given his interest in motion pictures, part of his life could have made a good screenplay. Kristula was a successful industrial film editor when he accepted an offer to work at USIA. His first post was Dacca, then part of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. In his next post of Bolivia, he worked on Alliance for Progress programs launched by President Kennedy. In February 1963, Kristula and three embassy colleagues went to a small mining town to present a check for the construction of a new school. They were kidnapped by members of the miners' union, who wanted the release of two of their jailed leaders. Miners' wives, armed with guns and strapped with explosives, guarded the four captives in a room above a space holding 50,000 sticks of

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dynamite. After the captives' release, which was front-page news in the NEW YORK TIMES, Kristula was honored at a White House ceremony in the presence of President Johnson. Fortunately, his other assignments in Poland, Mexico, and Colombia were quieter. Back in Washington, he played an important role in the development of the Worldnet Television and Film Service. After retiring, Kristula worked with the International Media Fund before moving with his wife Harriett to West Grove, PA, to be closer to their daughter.

John Anthony Matel, 65, of Vienna, VA, passed away on June 22. He served in Brazil, Norway, Poland, and Iraq. His proudest accomplishments included working with Iraqis to rebuild their communities after ousting al-Qaeda in Anbar Province, and sending more than 26,000 Brazilian students to study STEM fields at top American universities. His career in diplomacy included broadening experiences as president of the Fulbright Commission in Brazil, senior international advisor at the Smithsonian Institution, and State Department Fellow at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy. After serving 32 years as a diplomat, Matel became a self-professed conservationist. He purchased his first forest land in 2005 near Lawrenceville, VA, and as a landowner, certified tree farmer, and naturalist, he managed nearly 500 acres of Virginia forest for timber, wildlife, and water quality. He actively served on boards for the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation and the Forest History Society. (Read [Christopher Datta's recollection of John Matel](#) on the PDAA website)

Eugene Pell, 83, former Director of VOA and RFE/RL, died quietly on April 7 at his home in Virginia after a three-year battle against cancer. The son of an early pioneer in radio, Pell graduated from Harvard and received an M.S. from Boston University after serving three years in the Navy. He began his professional career in 1963, working for several Boston TV stations. Pell moved to Westinghouse Broadcasting Company in 1969, and joined NBC News in 1978, where he served as a correspondent in Moscow and at the Pentagon. In 1982 he was recruited by Presi-

dent Reagan to modernize technology and programming at the Voice of America. Pell was appointed VOA Director three years later. That same year, the Board of International Broadcasting recruited him to become President/CEO of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The organization was credited, under his eight-year leadership, with helping end the Cold War. In 1993, Pell returned to his first love of broadcasting, writing and hosting a weekly program for Radio America. In 1998, he and his wife Susan retired to Madison County in Virginia, where they were very active in their community. Pell's legacy continues through the oratory competition he endowed for Madison County high school students. [Read more about Gene Pell on the PDAA website.](#)

Robert A. Powers, 88, passed away on June 8. At a young age, he studied music, once even getting a gig with Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey. Powers joined USIA in 1959 as a printing plant supervisor in Manila. His second post was Beirut, where he ran the embassy evacuation during the 1967 Six-Day War. Later assignments took him to Vietnam, Mexico, and Chile. Powers was PAO in Panama during the turnover of the U.S. Canal Zone to Panama. He later took a sabbatical from USIA to work with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) peacekeeping mission overseeing the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. After Powers returned to USIA, he headed the Regional Program Office in Vienna, witnessing the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. In retirement, he joined a writers group in the hope of writing his memoirs, but age and cancer prevented him from doing so.

Nancy Smart, 81, former VOA Editor, died April 9, 2020. Smart grew up in Williamstown, MA, and graduated from Smith College in 1961. For 35 years, she worked at Voice of America, where she helped bring major stories to VOA's international audience. As head of Special Events, she oversaw many political conventions, presidential elections, and inaugurations. She was a mentor to many VOA reporters, and very much appreciated by her colleagues. One of them wrote after her death: "Nancy was a special human being. Her last name furnished an apt description." During her free time, she loved horse riding. She rode in 100-mile

endurance horse races and was active in the Port Tobacco River Conservancy and Smarter Growth Alliance for Charles County.

Shirley Queen passed away on July 24 after a brief illness. Queen (formerly Shirley Graham) was a program assistant in the Office of Global Educational Programs for over 20 years, supporting EducationUSA and Open Doors, acting as the contracting officer representative, and assisting the office across many programs. She served with the federal government for 38 years in total, beginning with the Federal Bureau of Investigation before joining USIA in 1987 and moving to the Department of State after USIA's consolidation in 1999. Her colleague Marie Royce wrote: "Confident and forthright, Shirley brought a keen sense of irony and humor to her daily work and was a great friend and colleague. She will be sorely missed by her team and the Bureau."

Yale Wolf Richmond, 96, a writer and Foreign Service Officer, died of natural causes on March 22 in Chevy Chase, MD. Richmond served in Germany, Laos, Poland, Austria, and the Soviet Union. For his service in Laos, he received USIA's Meritorious Service Award. At his retirement from USIA in 1980 he was deputy assistant director for Europe. As a specialist in educational and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Richmond established the Fulbright program in Poland in 1959 and negotiated 14 intergovernmental agreements with the Soviet Union and Eastern European nations promoting exchanges in education, culture, science, and technology. For his work in Poland, he was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. Following retirement, Richmond was a staff consultant to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the U.S. Congress, as well as a senior program officer at the National Endowment for Democracy. Drawing on his 30-year ca-

Please send obituaries and Appreciations to
Member News Editor Claude Porsella
admin@publicdiplomacy.org.

For suggestions on what to include, see [Obituaries: Memories of You](#) on the PDAA website.

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reer as a cultural officer helping foreigners understand America and its people, Richmond wrote 11 books to help Americans going abroad for work or study to better understand the culture and people of other countries. (Read Ambassador [Robert Gosende's appreciation of Yale Richmond](#) on the PDAA website)

(We occasionally receive notice of the passing of some of our former colleagues well after the event. We are grateful to Roger Von Rotz of Modesto, CA, for alerting us to the death of George Edwin Wishon.)

George Edwin Wishon passed away peacefully at his home in

Washington, DC, on Jan. 12, 2017, at age 87. He joined USIA in 1952 and served until retiring in 1986. During his

34-year career as a USIA cultural affairs officer, Wishon was stationed in Tunisia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and

ciation in Ankara, the American Joint Service in Tripoli, and the Hellenic-American Union in Athens. Highlights of Wishon's career included writing a text-

book on English for foreign students, *Let's Write English*, in collaboration with Julia Burks. He was director of two English-language teaching centers in Cairo and Alexandria, where he also administered the Fulbright Exchange Program. Wishon was awarded the USIA Meritorious Honor Award in 1965. During his retirement in Washington, DC, he pursued his love of the arts, continually took courses to improve and enhance his own artistic skills, and was an avid supporter of the local arts community in Alexandria, VA. □

Tea and Liver Paté:

"It was the third day of being held hostage at the Siglo XX-Catavi Mining Complex in Bolivia, along with three other Americans and 17 European and Bolivian mining officials. Our kidnapping had turned a simple humanitarian mission into an international incident. Bolivia teetered on the brink of civil war. Life-threatening questions consumed me, but so did hunger. We had started the Alliance for Progress mission on December 6, 1963, to help fund construction of a school for the miners' children. Unfortunately, we were caught in the proverbial wrong place at the wrong time, becoming barter for arrested union leaders. The hostage meals were sparse and infrequent. Against all odds, I cautiously requested a late afternoon snack. The surprised response was, 'What would you like?' Out of desperate need for some civility amidst our squalor, I requested tea and liver paté on toast. Naturally, I expected to hear, 'You'll eat what you get.' But the Bolivian miners were determined to maintain their self-proclaimed reputation as seekers of social justice, not terrorists. Somehow they located the liver paté. Tea and liver paté became my afternoon snack throughout the ten-day ordeal." Michael Kristula, in [United States Information Agency: A Commemoration](#), published by PDAA.

Greece. He also served at the American Cultural Institutes in Santo Domingo and Guatemala, the Turkish-American Asso-

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

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

Membership type, please check one:

- DC-MD-VA local membership (\$50 annually): _____ New _____ Renewal
- Other membership (\$35 annually): _____ New _____ Renewal

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

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