



USAID Alumni Association

January 2024 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

UAA ended the year with Board and Executive Committee meetings to confirm the budget and implementation plan for 2024. UAA is doing well: the mentoring program is growing, with training for mentors and mentees coming up later this month; collaboration with USAID continues to expand as do our relationships with regional affinity groups; and UAA membership is increasing. Further, UAA members enjoy our growing variety of social events, as well as our joint presentations with DACOR (see the report in the Development Dialogues section below on the December 4 session with former USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission Directors.) The new year will present many challenges, but it's beginning with promise!

The two Board Co-Chairs, Roberta Mahoney and Ken Yamashita, are pictured below with the full Board and our Treasurer, Carol Dabbs.



Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

NEW! On Friday, January 19, 2024, there will be a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue (hybrid) lunch at DACOR featuring Dr. Axel van Trotsenburg, the World Bank's Senior Managing Director. He will speak on **"The World Bank and the Multilateral System – What Lies Ahead?"** To register for this event please [click here](#)..

NEW! On **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**, Ms. **Jeanne Bourgault, President and CEO of Internews**, will speak at a Development Dialogue (hybrid) lunch at DACOR about **"Challenges Facing the Press Around the World in the Disinformation Age"**. Please watch for further details as we get closer to the dates of this event.

What's New

In Memoriam: William "Bill" Theodore White, Jr., Scott Allen, Manuel Emilo Valderrama-Aramayo, Edna Minor Johnson, Alan Mayne Strout, Edgar Carson Harrell, Kenneth Howard Sherper

Bulletin Board

- A funeral service will be held for **Lee Vance Walter** at 10:00 a.m. on January 20, 2024, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA, with a celebration of life at 12:30 p.m. that day at the Mt. Vernon Yacht Club, 4817 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria, VA. Lee passed away on November 30, 2023, after a battle with cancer. Lee was an outstanding colleague and public servant with 18 years of service at USAID, including as the lead for LPA's Legislative Reference Division since 2016.
- **The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) draft Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Policy** is now available for public review and feedback. UAA members are invited to submit any feedback on the draft policy directly to USAID via [this link](#) **no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on January 15th, 2024.**
- **Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity: A U.S. Government Strategy for International Assistance (2019–2024)** is currently being updated. The APCCA Secretariat has announced the public comment period for the draft Strategy (2024–2028) to promote early childhood development, to support the most vulnerable children and to protect children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. [Click here to view the draft APCCA Strategy](#). Please click [here](#) to provide feedback until **5:00 p.m. ET, January 19th, 2024.**

Update on UAA Public Outreach: *Are you ready to engage?*

Public speaking engagements of UAA members have continued to expand, especially in collaboration with the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA). (Upcoming AFSA speaking opportunities are listed at the end of this article. These are virtual events, so anyone can participate no matter where they are.)

Over the past two years, at AFSA's request, UAA has spoken four times at Road Scholar programs at the famous Chautauqua Institution. Speaking on the topics of national security and foreign aid, the UAA members reached a total of more than 400 Road Scholars from all over America during the week's program. UAA was also invited by AFSA to meet five times with Road Scholars during their Foreign Affairs visits to Washington, DC to discuss the importance of US foreign aid, interacting with over 200 Road Scholars from 35 states.

Most recently, UAA was invited by AFSA to contribute a speaker about US foreign assistance throughout its week-long Foreign Affairs Program in September at the Chautauqua Institution. Representing UAA, Alumnus Jim Bever spoke daily for 90-minute sessions to groups of up to fifty Road Scholars covering two separate topics, USAID and U.S. National Security Strategy & Policy. By the end of the week, 150 Road Scholars from 30 US states interacted with Jim during these lecture and discussion sessions, as well as during meals and outings.

If you are interested in becoming involved with this and other such Public Outreach activities, please let Jim know (bentonboy@gmail.com).



AFSA speakers at the Chautauqua Institution in Sept. 2023, including new AFSA President Tom Yazdgerdi (top row, 2nd from left) and UAA Alumnus Jim Bever (top row, far right)

In recruiting speakers, AFSA seeks US Foreign Service Officers who are mostly retired (but some active duty) from State Department, USAID, USDA, Commerce Department, and the US Agency for Global Media. Speakers include former US Assistant Secretaries, US Ambassadors, Assistant Administrators, and Senior Foreign Service Officers.

Speaking opportunities from the AFSA Speakers Bureau

2024 requests: You can sign up for one or both!

- Virtual: Great Decisions at Tower Villas (a community in Arlington). February 5, 12, 15, and 26, and March 4, 11, 18, 25.
 - Topics: Mideast realignment, Climate technology, Science across borders, US-China trade rivalry, NATO's future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas treaty, & Pandemic preparedness.
 - Platform: via Zoom, 1.5 hours for presentation and Q&A.
 - Audience size: 20-25
- Virtual: Osher at Johns Hopkins University. 12 week series starting February 22, every Thursday from 10am-12noon.
 - Topic: speaker's choice. Osher members are always interested in learning about actual projects and experiences speakers have had in countries where they served.
 - Platform and setup: It will be done via Zoom. Each speaker will have 2 hours, which includes a 10 min break and Q&A
 - Audience size: 50-75
 - Honorarium: \$150 per speaker
 - We can place up to 12 speakers

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact:

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Coordinator
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UAA Social Event: Rubell Museum

The UAA Social Committee was at it again. This time, on Wednesday, November 15th, eight UAA members converged on the new Rubell Museum in Southwest DC between the SW Wharf and Nationals Park. The Rubell is a private museum, the companion to Miami's first and much larger Rubell museum. The museum reinvigorated the 1906 building of the former Randall Junior High School, an historically Black public school that ceased operations in 1978.

Our intrepid team included (l to r) Bruce Abrams, Sharon Pauling, Ashlie Hollis, Frank Almaguer, Denise Rollins, Karen Freeman, Antoinette Almaguer and Woody Nevin.

The collection is eclectic, engaging, and a real gem. These two examples of the works on display are done by an American artist, Murjoni Merriweather and a Ghanaian artist, Amoako Boafo. For the full report on the museum visit, click [here](#).



Bibliography of USAID Authors

We must start this month's four additions to the Bibliography with *Manana is Yesterday* by 100-year old retired FSO, **Irving Tragen**. Irv worked in all 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries with a focus on drug trafficking. This story is of a daughter of a wealthy Salvadoran family whose silence during a critical political meeting will move her country backward, unleashing a series of development errors. On a totally different note, **Frett Latanya Mapp**, now President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women, shares compelling stories of ordinary women with whom she has worked throughout her career with USAID (10 years), NAACP and Planned Parenthood Global.

Recently retired (2022) FSO, **SiuSue Mark** has published *Forging the Nation: Land Struggles in Myanmar's Transition Period*. The book explores the interaction of the country's democratic transition, ethnic politics, and global

capital pressures on land at the national, regional and local levels. Finally, **Daniel Runde**, a former director of USAID's Office of Global Development Alliances (2002-2007) and Senior VP at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, has written *The American Imperative: Reclaiming Global Leadership through Soft Power*, arguing that the U.S. is the only country equipped to help developing nations build their economies and support good governance – which, in turn, supports American interests.

Development Dialogues

Former USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission Directors

On Friday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 on December 4, 2023, a special session of the UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue took place before a large audience both at DACOR and online. This session, moderated by Tom Staal, featured a conversation among seven former USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission Directors whose tenure there stretched from 1994 to 2019. While these very experienced AID hands did not, of course, have a solution for the current intractable situation, their reflections, based on first-hand experience throughout these years, are very useful in setting the scene to better understand the most recent events there. The program received rave reviews from an audience of over 200. To watch the video and the Q&A period, [click here](#).



Tom Staal (moderator), Jim Bever, Howard Sumka, Dave Harden, Larry Garber, Chris Crowley and (virtual) Mike Harvey and Monica Stein-Olsen

Development Issues Committee

Development Issues Discussions in 2024: Call for Suggestions

The Development Issues Committee is looking forward to hosting new Development Discussions in 2024 and we are seeking suggestions for discussion topics and speakers. Our most recent Discussions were on the Role of USAID's Chief Economist and on Artificial Intelligence in International Development. Please address your suggestions to Committee Co-Chairs: Gail Spence, gailspence@hotmail.com; Dorothy Rayburn, dottierayburn@gmail.com; and Stephen Haykin, smhaykin@gmail.com.

Alumni Profile: Pam Mandel



Pam Mandel knew from an early age, growing up in Pasadena, California, that she wanted to pursue a career in international development. She had a strong interest in population and the environment. She did her undergraduate studies in sociology and demography at UC Berkeley, working part-time in the International Population and Urban Research Institute. Upon graduation, she worked for two years with the Environmental Quality Laboratory at Cal Tech, conducting research in urban development and water resources. For graduate study at Cornell, she undertook studies in international regional policy planning and development, conducting environmental

health field work in Kenya for her master's thesis. After a few years working in domestic community development and planning, she continued academic studies in international health and population at Johns Hopkins.

Pam joined USAID in 1983. There she served as a health, population and nutrition officer, with long-term overseas assignments in Tanzania, Mauritania and Ukraine, and a number of Washington-based assignments (including in the Office of Housing and Urban Development). She developed and managed programs in maternal child health, family planning and reproductive health, school health, malaria control, rural health services, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and nutrition. She also led efforts in women in development, social sector restructuring and environmental management.

Retiring after 23 years with USAID, she continued to undertake short-term overseas assignments, in Ghana, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Cambodia and Tanzania, for an additional ten years. Concurrently, she was active with the USAID Alumni Association, co-chairing the Strengthening USAID Committee, spearheading the successful and ongoing mentorship program. This aligned with her long-term commitment to fostering and strengthening the skills of her FSO counterparts and FSNs overseas, as well as emerging U.S. development professionals.

In full retirement, Pam has indulged in her long-term interest and avocation in antiques, decorative arts and textiles. She has developed a small business in antiques and personal property appraisal, and is involved with a rug and textile group. She also has had a passion for travel, having spent time visiting and exploring some fifty or so countries around the world. This was clearly predictable, given her early interest in globes, maps and stamp collecting. At this juncture, she has sworn off flying, from both travel fatigue and to reduce her carbon footprint.

In addition to swimming, dog walking, recycling (since 1970), and installing solar panels on her house, Pam is engaged in doing whatever possible to forestall earth's collapse due to climate change. In addition to contributing financially to several environmental groups, Pam is supporting ocean plastic clean-up and tree planting to mitigate climate change. Pam is committed to environmental and social justice, continuing to seek ways to leave a positive legacy. She would enjoy hearing from friends at: pamelamandel@gmail.com

Make Your 2024 UAA Membership Contribution
USAID Alumni Association

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