



1818 SOCIETY®

QUARTERLY

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is in the air. The cherry blossoms peaked two weeks ahead of schedule, daffodils, tulips, and magnolia are blooming and birds are chirping to celebrate the early spring. Wouldn't it be nice if the spring blossoms were the harbinger of good news on other fronts? Alas, that does not seem to be on the horizon.

Externally, the conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza continue unabated. The culture wars and nationalistic politics unleashed by contentious politics in developed and developing countries are likely to continue as electoral politics casts its shadow over sensible policy-making. The Green Card procedural delays affecting new retirees are unlikely to be resolved soon, meaning that a crucial part of the value proposition of World Bank employment – the eligibility to apply for permanent residence in the USA after 15 years of US-based service at the Bank, approved by Congress in 1986 – is at risk. The charter of the World Bank prevents it from taking political positions and interfering in policies in our host country, even on policies that affect us directly.

The Bank's ability to influence political conflicts is also constrained in other member countries. Let's face it. The Bank is much better at picking up the pieces blown up by state and non-state combatants, than in preventing or resolving conflicts. We use grandiose labels of reconstruction and development to describe our actions but are powerless to prevent the human and institutional devastation which leads to long-term consequences of immiseration, trauma and hatred generated by those conflicts.

Closer to home, organizational change at the Bank is imminent. Management seems to have realized that changes in policy and strategy cannot be implemented without complementary organizational restructuring. In the interest of "**Delivering the Knowledge Bank**", senior management has announced the reorganization of the current Global Practices around the themes of People, Prosperity, Planet, and Infrastructure, and the establishment of a new vice-Presidency for Digital Transformation. There also seems to be a realization that the elimination of the World Bank Institute ten years ago was a mistake. We agree. A new **Knowledge Engagement and Learning** Department will manage technical learning and professional development of staff and clients. What goes around, comes around.

Internally, the Society is continuing to expand its services to our members. We have produced several resources to help our members prepare for, and deal with, different kinds of emergency situations. These resources are now available on our website in the blue menu bar under **Emergency Resources**, which can be accessed online using your computing device or smartphone. MHM is organizing training workshops to familiarize members with these resources (*see details on page 6*).

The Hiking Club has responded to demands from some members for easy or moderate walks by launching a "City Walking Group" in January 2024. The CWG organizes moderate walks twice a month in parks and trails in the Washington area, complementing the more strenuous monthly hikes organized by the Hiking Club. (*See page 19*). These walks are also providing opportunities for members to make new friends among retirees who share a similar love for the outdoors. The massive turnout at

the Cherry Blossom Walk, which attracted 44 participants from the Hiking Club and CWG, demonstrates that an increasing number of colleagues are taking advantage of these co-benefits of Society membership.

The Art Club has made tremendous strides since its inception in 2022, its membership having doubled to over 100. The Art Club is planning an art exhibition at a gallery in Maryland and organizing its first oil painting retreat in Italy later this year (*see page 21*). A shout out to Dominique Lallement for her leadership and Reth Kim for her initiative.

Finally, a special mention of Charles (Chuck) Ziegler for two decades of service to the 1818 Society. After many years of work in the Bank's Archives, Chuck started volunteering at the Society in an informal capacity in 2000. He was a member of the Board of Directors from 2004-2009, and editor of the 1818 Society Bulletin from 2010-2019. In parallel he chaired a very active History Thematic Group from 2014 until the end of 2023 when he passed on the baton to John Heath. We owe a huge debt to Chuck's dedication and contributions to the Society.

Anis Dani
President



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Friends:

In his first town hall meeting with staff last June, Bank President Ajay Banga said something memorable. Asked whether he anticipated launching yet another Bank reorganization, he replied: "I am not going to ask McKinsey or anyone to use my watch to tell me the time."

Yet, the Bank Group is going through a major reorganization, even though it isn't called that in official proclamations. One illustration is reflected in the report on the new Knowledge Bank – *see page 8* and in the continuing announcements of managerial promotions and reassignments – *see page 9*. Let's hope this reorganization works better than some in the past.

In an extraordinary message to all staff, Ajay apologized on behalf of the Bank Group for its role in the Kenya child abuse scandal, still unfolding. *See page 8*.

On a more sublime note, Lesley Shneier, a stalwart in the Members Helping Members (MHM) group, reveals her passion for gardening and how she became a Master Gardener. *See page 23*.

Thanks again for your contributions.

Tom Blinkhorn
Editor

1818 SOCIETY® NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Staff Retirement Plan

By Javed Hamid

The new Pension Committee had its first meeting in January and discussed agenda items for the upcoming year. The first event organized by the Pension Committee was a hybrid seminar held on March 20 that focused on the management of the Net Pension Plan and the Tax Supplement reimbursement. Panelists included Sharada Sundar (Manager, Pension Administration) and Audrey Phoon Lau and Eung Jo Yim (WBG Tax Office). More than 100 participants joined the 90-minute seminar, many of whom are current staff members. It was an engaging and informative event with many questions. As a follow-up, we will prepare FAQs to be published in the summer issue of the Quarterly and will be posted on the 1818 website. You can also view a video recording of the event at <https://www.wbgalumni.org/pensions/> (login required).

Have You Completed the Life Certification? The Deadline is April 30, 2024

The annual Life Certification process is still ongoing. If you have not already done so, you have until April 30 to submit the Certification document attested by a retiree or Bank staff colleague, or by a doctor or a notary public. The e-Witness option has been the most popular this year. By mid-March, approximately 2,000 retirees have not yet completed their Life Certification. E-witness option is the fastest and most convenient option if you have access to a computer or smartphone. You will also have received a hard copy of the Life Certification in the mail. If you prefer to use the paper copy, complete and send it by mail to: Pension Administration, 1818 H Street, NW, Rm. MSN C6-605, Washington, DC 20433, or as an email attachment to: 1pension@worldbank.org. You can also drop it off at the Pension mailbox located in front of the Pension Kiosk and the 1818 Society office in the World Bank Main Complex.



The WBG Pension Fund Committee (PFC)

In the first quarter, the WBG appointed a new external actuarial firm, Willis Towers Watson (WTW). They have completed an actuarial review study of the five-year experience covering 2018 to 2022 of the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP). They also reviewed the experience of the Tax Supplement Account (TSA), which covers the Tax liability of Net plan participants. The study resulted in recommendations of several slight adjustments of the actuarial assumptions that underpin the Bank's contribution to the Staff Retirement Plan.

In addition, the WBG has renewed the term of Deloitte (auditor) for another five-year period. Deloitte will present the draft audit for CY 2023 to the PFC in mid-2024.



The Retirees Health Insurance Corner

By Eduardo Wallentin

For this issue I wanted to share with you that we are organizing a Medicare session to take place sometime during the spring. Most likely it will be a hybrid event and an announcement will be sent ahead of time. We'll be asking people to send questions in advance so prepare yours. Also,

remember we have a set of documents to help guide you on your enrollment. You can email the office and request them or find them [here](#). As last year, you may have noticed that you did not receive Form 1095-C in the mail because the IRS no longer requires that we attach them to our filing package. However, your substitute Form 1095-C is available and can be downloaded from the Pension Portal should your CPA ask you to submit it with your tax returns.

We continue to hear about dentists continuing to leave the CIGNA network and the trend will probably continue, hopefully at a slower pace. If your dental practice is leaving CIGNA, remember you have the choice of continuing with them or switching practices. It is a personal choice. I have been going to the same dentist for 25 years. He doesn't participate with CIGNA and, for me, it has been worth it although it costs me more in copayment. Again, it is a personal choice. Speaking about choices, medical practices are continuing to switch to a concierge service model. If your doctor's practice switches to such a model, be aware that AETNA and CIGNA do not cover concierge service fees. It is your choice to remain with that practice as there may be strong reasons to do so.

Finally, I was curious about AETNA and CIGNA's membership so I did some basic research. Did you know that CIGNA Dental has 17 million members in the US and CIGNA International has 170 million members worldwide through 74,000 employer companies? AETNA has 39 million members and just about under 1 million outside the United States. And we are part of that universe.

While spring is in the air for the Northern Hemisphere, fall is for the Southern Hemisphere. The winds are changing and allergies and Mary Poppins are travelling with them, so be mindful of them but enjoy the outdoors. A walk a day keeps the doctors away, or at least keeps the spirit high!

Members Helping Members (MHM)

In an effort to streamline access to emergency resources, MHM has posted a link to key documents on the blue menu bar on the 1818 Society website. Note that this is outside the login so that family members can access these documents too. As of this writing, information about emergency resources is currently showing on the "slider" on the home page, though this will not be for much longer.

These key documents provide retirees and their families with quick and easy access to critical information, including:

- Emergency medical ID card
- WBG Guide for actions after the death of a retiree (which includes contact information for WBG such as Pension, HR)
- Handbook for Advance Planning for retirees and families for incapacity or end of life

MHM strongly encourages all retirees to begin planning their estates and informing their loved ones about the location of their will, bank accounts, passwords, and other important documents. By taking these steps, retirees can ensure that their wishes are respected and that their affairs will be handled smoothly, your wishes will be respected, and that your loved ones will be taken care of in the event of an emergency.

Recordings of previous webinars on these topics are also available on the website, under WBG Alumni Resources -> members helping members. We are planning additional webinars for 2024.

MHM seeks and welcomes new volunteers, particularly recent retirees. Volunteers can do one or both:

- Join the monthly meetings (via WebEx) that manage and plan our activities; and/or

- Join the database of volunteers who share their knowledge and experiences with various providers when members request such help and information.

To volunteer in either or both capacities, please send an email to MHMhelp@wbgalumni.org. Similarly, to seek help and information, please email mhmhelp@wbgalumni.org

Co-chairs Jacomina de Regt, Jacqueline den Otter, and Lesley Shneier



1818 Society Informational Seminars – Mark Your Calendars

Don't miss these important information seminars organized by the 1818 Society.

Emergency Resources for Members and their Families

An MHM Workshop

Date: April 11 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

In-person – Venue: 1818 Society Conference room (MC 1-852)

or **Join by Webex**

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Cyber Security and Fraud Awareness Webinar

Bank Fund and 1818 Society event

Date: April 15 @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am

By Zoom only

[Zoom registration!](#)

WORLD BANK GROUP NEWS

Ajay's Big Test

In a communication to Bank Group staff on March 13, Bank President Ajay Banga admitted that “mistakes were made”, mainly by the IFC (International Finance Corporation), in failing to supervise adequately a Kenya education project in which children were sexually abused.

“On behalf of the World Bank Group, I am sorry for the trauma these children experienced, committed to supporting the survivors, and determined to ensure we do better going forward,” Ajay said.

A special watchdog report by the Bank’s Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), released on March 14, stated that the IFC “did not consider the project’s potential child sexual abuse risks or consider the capacity of its client to satisfy environmental and social requirements in relation to child sexual abuse risks and impacts.”

The “client” is Bridge International Academies, whose London-based parent company NewGlobe, is the world’s largest for-profit primary school chain with operations in several African countries as well as India. The IFC made \$13 million in equity investments to Bridge in 2013 and 2016 and to a special fund in 2014 that also held equity in Bridge. IFC divested in 2022 after complaints of sexual abuse in the schools.

The CAO report, among other recommendations, called for abuse victims to receive financial compensation. However, the IFC board has not agreed to this, calling instead for a “remediation program for survivors of child sexual abuse” for up to 10 years.

In his staff communication, Ajay explained that “In the near future, IFC – with child safety experts – will begin having important conversations with survivors in a way that ensures their well-being. Additionally, in order to make certain that the CAO investigation is received with the credibility it deserves, we will ask an outside investigator to ensure that this was conducted in a manner that was free from interference.”

A subsequent message to staff by Makhtar Diop, IFC Managing Director and Executive Vice-President, outlined several steps being taken to “strengthen our stakeholder grievance response mechanisms and to comprehensively respond to the risks that came to light through this case.” The remedial steps include: Embedding child protection and gender based violence (GBV) measures into the IFC environmental and social policies and procedures plus hiring the “best GBV specialists outside IFC” to work in the field close to teams and clients.

The New Knowledge Bank: Another Reorganization?

Bank Group old-timers will remember the fanfare that accompanied previous Bank knowledge initiatives, including the GDLN (Global Development Learning Network), in the 1990s under President Wolfensohn.

A much more ambitious-sounding update, called the Knowledge Compact, was revealed by Senior Managing Director Axel van Trotsenburg in mid-March. Key elements:

- Work will be organized around five themes: People (health, gender, social protection); Prosperity (Economic policies, Institutions, Poverty, Finance, Competition, Investment), Planet (agriculture, water, climate, environment, inclusion); Infrastructure (Green transport, energy, livable cities); Digital (digital infrastructure and digital services).

- Each theme (or vertical, as Axel calls them) will establish “five knowledge vice-presidencies, which will emerge from our current practice groups,” according to a March 11 announcement. A new vice-presidency for digital transformation will also be established.
- To facilitate these initiatives, a few “champions” will be appointed: A new “Department of Outcomes,” a “Knowledge Engagement and Learning” department and a “small team for Innovation and Knowledge Solutions.”
- Details on the five themes or verticals can be found [here](#). In addition, the Bank Board recently approved a Bank Group Scorecard for FY24-30. It will serve as a “yardstick for accountability, allowing us to monitor outcomes.” Indicator methodologies are being developed, the first of which will be revealed at the 2024 Spring Meetings. The new structure, including team changes, will start July 1, 2024.

Earlier, Ajay, in a newsletter to all staff, called for greater efforts to break down institutional “silos” and to foster stronger cooperation. To this end, some new initiatives were announced: Bank Group Councils headed by senior managers, one for financial risk; another for non-financial risk and a third for legal work. In addition, the “first cohort of 20 Bank Group country managers and resident representatives will start their jobs on July 1,” and a new career development plan is being rolled out. The newsletter can be accessed [here](#).

When Women Win, the World Wins

That alluring headline tops a recent “Project Syndicate” commentary by [Indermit Gill](#), Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, and [Tea Trumbic](#), manager of the Bank’s Women, Business and the Law project. The core message is that despite a flurry of laws to protect and expand women’s legal rights, it is clear that there is a “huge, global gender gap...Leveling the playing field presents crucial economic opportunities, and not just for women. When half of humanity wins, the whole world wins.” See complete commentary [here](#).

Summers Helps Quell OpenAI Fracas

Former Bank Chief Economist [Larry Summers](#) has joined the Board of one of the tech industry’s most influential artificial intelligence (AI) start-ups, “Open AI”, based in San Francisco. The firm, which has an unusual corporate structure: a nonprofit board that oversees a for-profit company, was embroiled in controversy last year after the board (before Summers joined it) fired the firm’s founder Sam Altman for “deception, manipulation and resistance to thorough oversight.” That provoked a widespread protest by OpenAI employees who threatened to quit unless Altman was reinstated. He was. But two of the key instigators against Altman, including Helen Toner of Georgetown university, were asked to leave the board. They did. A Washington DC law firm, WilmerHale, was hired to conduct a post-mortem, overseen by Summers. The report found that OpenAI’s board acted within its broad discretion to terminate Altman but also found that his conduct did not mandate removal.

More Bank Group Managerial Appointments

Africa Eastern and Southern region (AFE)

- [Juliana Chinyeaka Victor](#), Manager, Ethiopia Operations
- [Feyifolu Adeyosola Boroffice](#), Manager, South Africa Operations
- [Milena Petrova Stefanova](#), Manager, Tanzania Operations
- [Charles Underland](#), Bank Group Country Manager, South Sudan

- Yoichiro Ishihara, Country Manager, Sudan
- Boubacar-Sid Barry, Resident Representative for Comoros.

Africa Western and Central Region (AFW)

- Ibou Diouf, Country Manager, Mauritania
- Franklin Mutahakana, Bank Group Resident Representative, Gambia
- Ross Delgado De Brito Delgado, Bank Group Resident Representative, Guinea-Bissau.

East Asia and Pacific Region (EAP)

- Omar Lyasse, Resident Representative for Micronesia

Latin America and Caribbean Region (LCR)

- Cristina Panasco Santos, Manager, Argentina Operations
- Anne-Lucie Lefebvre, Country Manager Haiti
- Pierre Graftieux, Resident Representative, Guatemala

Middle East and North Africa Region (MNA)

- Dina Abu-Ghaida, Bank Group Country Manager, Yemen

South Asia Region (SAR)

- Gevorg Sargsyan, Bank Group Country Manager for Sri Lanka, Bank Country Manager for Sri Lanka and Maldives
- Paul Procee, Manager, India Operations
- Preeti Arora, Manager, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives Operations

(All of the above effective July, 2024).

Sajjad Ali Shah Sayed, Director, Policy and Operations Unit of the Secretariat, effective April, 2024.

Geeta Batra, Director, Independent Evaluation Office, Global Environment Facility. Effective April 1, 2024.

Patricia Kintu, Manager, Public Sector, Group Internal Audit. Effective March, 2024.

Carlos Arteta, Manager, Prospects Group, Development Economics Vice Presidency. Effective February, 2024.

Patricia Hoyes, Manager, Loans and Trust Funds Client Services. Effective April, 2024.

Artit Serngadichavit, Manager, Systems and Analytics. Effective March, 2024.

Hugh Riddell, Country Manager, Kyrgyz Republic. Effective May, 2024.

Mohamed Bakarr, Manager, Integration and Knowledge Management Division, Global Environment Facility. Effective March, 2024.

Jonathan Caldicott, Manager, Policy and Operations Division, Global Environment Facility. Effective March, 2024.

Bank Briefs

- Shaolin Yang, Managing Director and Bank Group Chief Administrative officer since 2016, decided to leave the Bank at the end of February, 2024. He has been managing a team of 3,000 staff and close to 3,700 contractors. Shaolin previously worked at the Ministry of Finance in China and served as Bank Executive Director for China from 2009 to 2013.

- Shaolin's successor is Wencai Zhang.



A Chinese national, Wencai comes from China's Export-Import Bank where he was vice-president. He started his career as a staff member in the World Bank department at the Chinese Ministry of Finance and advisor to the World Bank Group Chinese Executive Director.

- Martien van Nieuwkoop, Global Director of the Agriculture and Food Global Practice for the last five years, left the Bank at end February to take a position as head of agriculture at the Gates Foundation. An agriculture economist who grew up on a family farm in Gouda, The Netherlands, Martien joined the Bank as a Young Professional in 1993.
- Haiti Update. In the midst of widespread gang violence and no functioning government, the Bank decided in mid-March that the situation had deteriorated to the point where "all international staff are subject to mandatory evacuation." All local staff and dependents have been offered the option of a voluntary evacuation and temporary relocation to the Dominican Republic. 42 people, at last report, decided to leave. All visiting missions have been suspended until further notice.
- IDA Seeks Largest Replenishment Ever. No number was mentioned publicly by Dirk Reinermann, the Bank's head of resource mobilization. But it would have to top the historic \$93 billion agreed at the 20th replenishment in December, 2021. That total included \$23.5 billion from rich country donors which was then raised to \$93 billion after tapping capital markets. IDA donors and partners meet every three years to replenish the 61-year-old fund which provides cheap loans and grants to 75 poorest countries.
- Ukraine Recovery/Reconstruction Update. An estimated total cost of reconstruction and recovery has now risen to \$486 billion over the next decade, up from \$411 billion estimated one year ago. The estimate was prepared by the Ukraine government, the Bank Group, European Commission and the United Nations.
- Former Bank Vice-President Mark Malloch-Brown has stepped down as President of the Open Society Foundations after three years. His successor is Binaifer Nowrojee from Kenya. She is a human rights lawyer who joined the Foundation in 2004. The changes were announced by Alex Soros, chair of the Foundations board of directors. He is the son of George Soros, Foundations founder.
- Former Bank Group President Robert Zoellick has called for the transfer of frozen Russian monetary reserves to Ukraine. In an opinion piece in the *Financial Times* in January, Zoellick wrote: "The G7 and other friends should quit dithering and instead use an obvious economic tool to help the nation (Ukraine) resist....It is elegant justice to do so with Russia's own assets." At the time of the Russian invasion of Ukraine two years ago, an estimated US\$300 billion of Russian assets were being held in the west.

- The Bank came in for some diplomatic scolding recently by the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Rafael Grossi, in an interview with the *Financial Times*, said that a lack of funding for emissions-free nuclear energy by the Bank and the Asian Development Bank was “out of step” with the wishes of most of their shareholders. In fact, a small number of countries such as Germany oppose such funding. The Bank has not lent for a nuclear project since 1959 when it approved \$40 million to help support development of Italy’s first such facility in the southern part of the country.
- Ajay and wife Ritu have announced launch of the Bank Group Children’s Art Prize in collaboration with the Art Program and Family network. A special panel will determine winners. The panel consists of Ritu Banga, Melissa Chui, Director of the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Marina Galvani, Bank art curator and Mary Summers, World Bank Family Network President. Winners will be announced shortly, and all submitted art will be displayed in a special exhibition during the 2024 Spring meetings in April. The winning artist’s work will be featured on the 2024 Bank Group holiday card which is sent to heads of state and other leaders worldwide.
- Bank Seeks Chief Risk Officer. An executive recruiting firm, Egon Zehnder, has been retained to conduct a global search for a Bank Group Risk Officer and Vice President. Lakshmi Shyam-Sunder currently serves as Chief Risk Officer but she is leaving at the end of September, 2024. The Chief Risk Office is responsible for assessing, monitoring various risks for the Bank and IDA including credit, market and operational risks. A senior level search committee has been established to make recommendations. April 19, 2024 is the deadline for nominations.

CHAPTER NEWS AND UPDATES



Note: Most Chapters maintain websites that can include details of their activities. These individual Chapter website can be accessed at www.wbgalumni.org/chapters/. Contacts for Chapter heads are indicated at the end of the Quarterly.



1818 Society Chile Chile Chapter

On March 1, 2024, 11 Bank retirees and a family member met in Santiago, Chile, to discuss the measures we should take to facilitate the transition for our beneficiaries, in the event of suffering a disability or death.

Documents produced by the “Members Helping Members” Group of the 1818 Society (“Handbook for Advance Planning by Retirees and Their Families for Incapacity or End of Life” and a Spanish version of the “Checklist for Advance Planning”)— were distributed to Chilean Chapter members.

Participants agreed to complete the formats, involve their younger family members in assisting transitional arrangements, and review the experience in another meeting later this year. The aim would be to introduce adjustments in the documentation, support arrangements, and any other actions that may be necessary to assist Chile Chapter members to deal with emerging requirements.

In the meantime, the Chapter's Health Committee (Maria Angélica Correa and Silvia Lay) will broaden their scope of action to become a Members Helping Members Committee – Chile and seek additional volunteers for these activities. We expect with these actions to contribute to the facilitation of arrangements for members of the Chilean Chapter of the Society that could suffer serious health emergencies or death.



Florida Chapter

After 10 years (!) as Florida Chapter Head, Sandra Hadler (sachadler@gmail.com) has passed the torch to Mark Walker (walkermark208@gmail.com) from January 1, 2024. Mark takes this opportunity to thank Sandra for everything that she has done for the Florida Chapter. Her many friends will be pleased to know that Sandra has graciously agreed to continue her involvement in the Florida Chapter as coordinator for the SW Florida area. In addition to succeeding Sandra, Mark will also be taking on the role of coordinator for the NW Florida group – a position that has been vacant for some years. Once he returns to Clearwater Beach end-March from an extended trip abroad, Mark will be turning his attention to forthcoming NW group activities. Mark is also planning to circulate a survey to members of the Florida Chapter, which will include seeking members’ feedback on possible new initiatives that could be of interest.

Mike Edwards (medwards1@protonmail.com), coordinator of the nascent NE Florida group, organized a late-March narrated Cumberland Island coastal boat tour, followed by a seafood dinner in Fernandina Beach. Thanks to Karin Nordlander (karin@nordlander.com), SE Florida members attended a monthly luncheon on March 26, 2024 at the oceanfront Al Fresco Restaurant at The Palm Beach Par3 Golf Course. In SW Florida, Sandra organized a dinner and brunch in March & April and, hopefully, a group to attend the Naples Opera Under the Stars Festival this month; further SE Chapter activities will resume in late fall. If you have recently moved to Florida and wish to be included on the Florida Chapter distribution list, including for purposes of the upcoming survey, please email Mark. Mike is keen to grow the NE group and welcomes newcomers to the area to get in touch with him. Also, if WBG (and IMF) retirees will be in Florida and would like to join any activities, just send an email to the relevant coordinator to indicate your interest.



French-Speaking Chapter

The French speaking chapter had the pleasure of meeting with Ms. Linda van Gelder, Director of the Paris Office, Europe and Central Asia, on March 20 at the Paris Office. This was a great opportunity to learn about the important changes at the office, and to be given an update on the latest developments at the Bank in general and the office in particular.

In addition, the meeting with Mr. Kako Nubukpo, a prominent economist from Togo (former minister and now Commissioner for agriculture and environment at the UEMOA - Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine) is confirmed for April 10. Mr. Nubukpo's talk will focus on "Regional integration in West Africa - what future for the CFA currency?"

Invitations to this meeting has been sent to the membership, space is limited and a good attendance is expected.

A meeting of the Board of our chapter is scheduled for April 10 as well.



1818
Society
JAPAN **Japan Chapter**

The Japan Chapter has organized on-line or in-person study group meetings roughly every two months by inviting guest speakers including (1) Ms. Atsuko Aoyama, Honorable Professor at Nagoya University on December 16, 2023. She spoke about the history of public health in Japan and the lessons learned for developing economies. It was followed by a dinner party at an Italian restaurant in the Hongo area, Tokyo and (2) Mr. Yoji Morishita, former department head of the office of PPP at Asian Development Bank (ADB), on February 3, about the overview of PPPs in the Asia and Pacific region.

The Chapter organized a study group on March 30 with Ms. Keko Miwa as a guest speaker about her current role as WBG Country Director for Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, and Senegal. On April 13 another is planned with Mr. Syujiro Urata, President of the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI) about the Japanese economic securities and economic partnerships. Then, on May 18 with Mr. Makoto Nakagawa about his recent experience as Ambassador to Slovakia.

The chapter has organized a small wine dinner party on April 2 for 10 members. The annual chapter meeting is currently scheduled for the evening on Friday, July 5, 2024.

UK Chapter

The UK Chapter will have their spring reunion in Salisbury from Tuesday 14th May to Thursday 16th May. The main activities will be based at the White Hart Hotel on St John Street and will include a guided walking tour of the city on the Wednesday morning, a formal dinner on the Wednesday evening and the Chapter's Annual General Meeting on the Thursday morning.

Any members of other Chapters who would like to attend will be welcome. Full details can be provided by David Potten (davidpotten@compuserve.com) or from Mick Nightingale (micknightingale@aol.com) or David Cook (davidcook26@aol.com).

THEMATIC GROUP NEWS AND UPDATES

Note: All Thematic Groups maintain a page on the Society's website where they post presentations and discussion summaries. These can be accessed <https://www.wbgalumni.org/thematic-groups/> (login required). Contacts for Thematic Group Chairs/Co-Chairs are indicated at the end of the "Quarterly". Members are invited to send the TG Chairs suggestions for topics/speakers.

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AgFRD)

The **Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Thematic Group (AgFRD)** launched their program for 2024 with an outstanding presentation entitled ***"How to Assure Sustainable Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) for All?"*** on February 8th. **The speakers were Felipe Dizon, Sr. Agricultural Economist, AGF GP & Meera Shekar, Global Lead, Nutrition Security, HNP.** This built on a busy last year for AgFRD. In 2023, with Preeti Ahuja as the new Chair, the TG updated its name from Agriculture & Rural Development TG to add "Food" in the mix – to underscore *food and nutrition security imperatives for the world*, as the sector confronts the effects of climate change to conflicts. The TG hosted 9 events in 2023 on a myriad of topics – from revisiting the *CGIAR reforms, to Climate Smart Rice and Livestock Value Chains*. Other joint events were held with external partners such as Brookings (Foresight Africa 2023) or IFAD/IFPRI (Food Policy Report 2023) and with sister TGs (e.g., with the Transport TG *"Green and Efficient Logistics and Cold Chains for Agricultural Products"*, and with the Urban and Water TG *"What's New for Water in Agriculture?"*). Members actively contributed several blogs and participated in a range of Society activities. Looking ahead, the TG is exploring new programming ideas. **All suggestions warmly welcomed!!**

Energy

On February 5, Xiaodong Wang, the Bank Group's Lead Energy Specialist and Infrastructure Program Leader for China (Mongolia and S. Korea). spoke to us on the topic: *"A Tale of Two Chinas: How China reaches the Carbon Neutrality Goal"*. She gave a terrific presentation, delivered late at night from Beijing and shared with our Environmental retirees. The scale of investments, which China is currently undertaking, speak for themselves: China is investing more in solar and wind power than the rest of the world combined, and manufactures 80% of solar PV, 70% of battery, and 60% of EV in the world. The country is committed to reaching carbon peaking by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060.

On *Tuesday, March 19*, we held an 'experimental' format for our next discussion on energy policy issues. Thanks to our three Canadian 'alumni', Gary Stuggins, Joe Gilling, and Hal Wackman, we plan to arrange a 'pilot' program discussion on energy issues, largely drawing on retired World Bank energy experts. This first 'pilot' examined the experience of *carbon taxation in Canada*, focusing in particular on issues of political support (or lack thereof). We will follow with another topic, and a likely different group of attendees, in the Fall.

Health, Nutrition and Population (HNP)

The HNP group organized two seminars during this period. The first was on *cardiovascular diseases* on Jan 31, and the second jointly with the Agriculture Food and Rural Development group on Feb 8 on *assuring food and nutrition security for all (FNS)*. Both presentations were well attended and are available on video.

In the first seminar, Dr. Renu Garg, senior VP for cardiovascular disease at Resolve to Save Lives (an international NGO), noted that more than 18 million people die from the disease annually. Three main

interventions to prevent the disease were highlighted: Improving control of high blood pressure; eliminating trans-fats from the global food supply and reducing salt intake by 30 percent annually.

The second seminar was organized jointly with the AgFDR thematic group. It was noted that the goal of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by 2030 is not on track, mainly because of a confluence of forces including global climate change, poverty and conflict.

Transport

The Transport Thematic Group has continued to alternate between hybrid seminars/presentations and informal in-person lunches at the Irish Inn at Glenn Echo, Bethesda (the last one taking place on January 18th, 2024). The following seminars/events took place during the last three months:

December 20, 2023. Mr. Raghavan Narayanan, Associate Director at EBRD’s Impact Policy and Partnerships Department, led the seminar on **“Lessons and Challenges in Private Capital Mobilization for the Transport Sector.”** The seminar discussed key strategies for the mobilization of private sector capital in advancing the implementation of sustainable transport projects, highlighting the importance of (a) leveraging innovative financing instrument to de-risk transport projects; (b) understanding the perspectives of private investors; and (c) exploring more extensively programmatic approaches, while keeping in context public policy objectives of sustainability and equity.

February 20, 2024. Seminar on **“Data for Action on Road Safety: The 2023 Global Status Report on Road Safety.”** **Dr. Maria Segui-Gomez**, the lead author of this report (and formerly, among an extensive set of positions, the Head of Spain’s Traffic Directorate), provided an excellent overview of the challenges in gathering the country-specific information and the progress—and lack thereof along particular dimensions—since the last report. While the overall numbers appear to show a slight decrease in the number of traffic fatalities since 2010, urgent and additional actions are needed to achieve the targets set by the UN/WHO, particularly critical in developing countries, where 90% of the fatalities occur, and for their younger population as road crashes are the leading cause of death for children and youth aged 5 to 29 years.

March 5, 2024. Mr. Franck Taillandier, Lead Transport Specialist at the World Bank’s Transport Unit for West and Central Africa, delivered a presentation on the **Dakar Bus Rapid Transit project** that was recently inaugurated. The seminar discussed the key features of this project—the first fully-electric BRT in Africa—and its implications for advancing the sustainable urban mobility agenda in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to funding from several multilateral institutions (to the tune of USD 370 million), the project attracted 147 million USD equivalent of private sector financing and its operation and management over the next 15 years will be carried out by a private consortium. The project is expected to become the backbone of urban mobility for the transport system in the Dakar metropolitan area (in coordination with current local operators) and seeks to reduce this area’s high pollution and congestion levels. It also includes investments on cycling and pedestrian facilities along the corridor.

Memorial to Peter Midgley. At the start of the event on February 20, the Transport TG held an “in-memoriam” for our esteemed colleague Peter Midgley, a very active member of the Thematic Group. Peter passed away, untimely, in January 2024. He worked at the Bank for about 25 years and, among his many accomplishments at the Bank, he drafted the Bank’s first regional urban transport strategy and was a member of the core team that designed Bank’s original knowledge management strategy. He was remembered for his comradeship and his cheerful and generous demeanor—always ready to step in and help—and for his extensive contributions to the sustainable urban mobility agenda, with a passion for non-motorized transport. He will greatly be missed.

Urban and Water

On January 25, 2024, the Urban and Water Thematic Group organized a webinar on “Preparing Cities for Weather Extremes: The Case of Heat Waves”.

Speakers were **Mark Roberts** (Lead Urban Economist with the World Bank’s Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice, and the Bank’s Global Co-Lead for Spatial and Territorial Development) and **Nicholas Jones**, (Data Scientist with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery where he leads their thematic program on extreme heat in cities). The meeting was moderated by **Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic**, Coordinating Committee Member of the Urban & Water Thematic Group.

As a continuation to our series on Preparing Cities for Weather Extremes, the TG is working to organize a session on cities and floods to discuss global trends on tracking urban flood exposure and learn about cases around the world where cities have addressed flooding issues in innovative and successful ways.

On February 29, 2024, the TG organized a hybrid webinar on “Regulatory Oversight of the Water Sector in the UK and Recent Woes at Thames Water”. The two panelists were: **William (Bill) Kingdom** (former World Bank Global Lead for the Water Practice) - now International Consultant based in the UK, and **Tony Balance** (former Director of Regulation of the water utility Severn Trent in the UK). The topic was introduced and moderated by **David Ehrhardt** (Chief Executive Officer of Castalia, a consultancy firm with extensive experience in private provision of service). The session was very well attended – including a large group of current staff.

An upcoming session on “Impacts of Climate change on water resources in France and the conclusions of the recent Mediterranean Water Forum held in Tunis” is planned for April 25, 2024, at 11am.

The Coordinating Committee always welcomes suggestions for future presentations (theme, speaker, and date). Contact any of its members at: Alex Bakalian (alexbakalian@gmail.com); Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic (cfarvacque-vitkovic@hotmail.com); Alain Locussol (alocussol@gmail.com); and Richard (Dick) MacEwen (rmacewen@1818alumniwbg.org).

In Memoriam: With sadness, we report the passing of **Adan Cajina**, who died in Nicaragua on January 20, 2024. Adan was the Director of the Nicaragua Water and Sewerage Company during the 1970s before joining the Bank in the early 1980s. He was greatly respected, both as an engineer and as a manager of public utilities. On January 27, 2024, the Nicaraguan Association of Engineers and Architects, upon learning of his passing, referred to him as ‘an outstanding sanitary engineer and as a distinguished member of the Association’. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE

The 1818 Hiking Club – Don't Stop Walking!

The monthly hikes organized by the Hiking Club in the District, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) area are continuing. In addition, responding to demand for easy or moderate walks from members who are beginners or physically no longer able to do the more strenuous monthly hikes, the Hiking Club launched a “City Walking Group” (CWG) in January 2024. Led by volunteer coordinators, the CWG organizes 3-5 mile walks twice a month in parks and trails in or near Washington, DC. Monica Das Gupta, Marie-Helene Bricknell, and Veenu Nagarajan deserve the credit for initiating the CWG. They have been joined by three more coordinators and will serve as a group of six who will manage the CWG on a rotating basis. These hikes and walks also provide opportunities for members to meet retirees who share a similar love for the outdoors.



If you are interested in, or are new to the Hiking Club or the CWG, [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the webpage where you can see the list of previous hikes and walks, and read the Norms of the Hiking Club which includes the FAQs and Code of Conduct, Waiver of Liability, and the scale used to classify hikes based on difficulty level.

Want to join the local hikes? Send an email to 1818society@wbgalumni.org mentioning Hiking in the subject line and indicate if you are interested in the strenuous, longer hikes or in the CWG walks. The local hikes and walks are wonderful opportunities to create new networks among members in addition to being good preparation for international hiking trips.

During the last quarter, the 1818 Hiking Club organized three day hikes in the DMV area:

- January 11, 2024, Signal Knob, George Washington National Forest, VA – [View Pictures](#)
- February 15, 2024, Weverton Cliffs, MD – [View Video](#), [View Pictures](#)
- March 21, 2024, Cherry Blossom Walk, DC – [View Pictures](#)

In parallel, the City Walking Group organized six walks in Washington:

- January 14, 2024 – Inaugural walk of CWG: Rock Creek Park, DC – [View Pictures](#)
- January 29, 2024 – East Potomac Park to Hains Point, DC – [View Picture](#)
- February 18, 2024 – Georgetown-Capital Crescent Trail, DC – [View Pictures](#)
- February 26, 2024 – Scott's Run Nature Preserve, VA – [View Pictures](#)
- March 11, 2024 – Gravelly Point – Mt. Vernon Trail, VA – [View Pictures](#)
- March 21, 2024 – Cherry Blossom Walk, DC – [View Pictures](#)

International Treks and Tours:

The first of many trips in the 2024 season started on March 21 with the Annapurna Foothills and Sanctuary Trek. Many more are scheduled to follow.

For details of **International Treks and Tours** **CLICK HERE** (*login required*). A few spaces are still available on the hiking trips in Korea (May), UK (June), and Italy (July), and the cultural tours to Armenia-Georgia (June) and Tuscany (September). If you are interested in joining one of these trips send an email to 1818society@wbgalumni.org or contact the relevant tour coordinator.

Joy, In-Person Yoga Seminar, Energy, and Whales

By Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard

The yoga lessons for retirees started eight years ago this spring: fewer yogis than the fingers of one hand were led, at the Bank, by lifetime yogi Davinder Sakhuja. It was modest yet seminal.



Today, three yoga practices are offered every week by four volunteer yoga teachers bringing their distinct background experiences to the practice. The Yoga club, now 70 members strong, continues to grow steadily. Practices, held online, regularly include yogis from California, the East Coast, Europe and even Asia. Three times a year, an in-person seminar is held in a local Community Center, complete with a potluck lunch. The guru team is present for one-on-one coaching. Work in pairs offers a different, safe and fun way to learn. The fifth one was held in February: It was “full of joyful energy” commented Davinder.

Yoshiko Okushi, a registered 200 Yoga Teacher, observed some classes before committing to join the gurus team. She found the level of difficulty beyond her expectation with some challenging poses. The “attendants are enthusiastic and the friendship warm and cheerful: I want to be part of that!”

I came to yoga from ballet and athletics and believe that all yogis make progress, whatever their age or level of proficiency. My motivation comes from seeing people acquire a new skill and smile with amazement about themselves.

Simone Lee brings focused physical therapy dimension to classes She teaches smart use of gravity and props for safe and effective yoga. Simone notes that “by the time we come to the 1818, we all have injuries and impediments, but we all want and need to pursue wellness”.

The fifth In-Person yoga seminar showed just how to do that, while having a whale of a time.

To join the Yoga club simply email mplessisfraissard@gmail.com or the 1818Society@wbgalumni.org and request to be included in the list with a link to practices.

Maryvonne joined the Bank as a Young Professional in 1981 and worked in operations, mostly infrastructure, ending as Director for Transport, Urban and Disaster management. She retired in 2007.

Art Club Update

Objectives and Operating Guidelines. Thanks to **Margarita Caro** who took the initiative of organizing in-person/webex meetings and **Bill Katzenstein** who did the drafting, the Art Club now has agreed "Objectives and Operating Guidelines" (login required). Thanks to all those who contributed their ideas. We invite everyone to read them.

Periodic meetings were held on January 29 and March 11, 2024. Attendance is growing. The minutes of the meeting are available on the Art Club webpage. The meetings are a neat opportunity to meet art friends whom we only know virtually through their work. The dates and agenda for the meetings are posted on the Weekly Bulletin.

Visits in the Metro region. We took a "snow check" for the visit of Arleen Seed's Studio last January. In February, several of us went to the B Gallery where one of our members, Sharmila Kapur, had a painting (see below and photo). In March, we had a docent-guided visit of the new exhibit at the National Gallery: Woven Textiles and Modern Abstraction.

Training opportunities. Thanks to **Arleen Seed, Michael Potashnik, Maria Uehara** and others, we now have an extensive list of Studio Art Training Opportunities in the DMV available at <https://www.wbgalumni.org/1818-art-club/> (login required). Don't hesitate to reach out.

First Oil-Painting retreat in Sardinia, Italy from September 20-27, 2024. **Reth Kim** has put together a fabulous program for 10 people to engage in daily oil painting sessions, surrounded by nature and idyllic scenery. You will find all the details at <https://www.wbgalumni.org/1818-art-club/> (login required). Address your inquiries, and RSVP your interest to join, by April 8, 2024 to reth.kim@gmail.com cc: dominique.lallement@gmail.com.

Forthcoming member exhibits. The Art Club has been accepted by the Friendship Gallery, Chevy Chase, MD, for its first live group-show that will take place in October 2024. Thirty-five Art Club members have expressed interest in exhibiting.

Membership. We now have over 100 members. If you want to join, send an email to Dominique.lallement@gmail.com, cc: Margarita Caro: May.sita@hotmail.com, and Dennis Ocampo Bacani: dbacani@worldbank.org.

News from members:

Ruth Hyatt had her first solo exhibit in Sarasota, in January.



Emergence. Oil on Canvas. 30"x46"



Sharmila Kapur exhibited at Gallery B, Bethesda, MD, in February. In the picture: Wendy Plotkin-Mates, Sharmila Kapur, Dominique Lallement, Renu Despande, and Mr. Despande, in front of Sharmila's painting *Threads of Togetherness*. (Oil and cold wax on canvas. 24x24 inches).

Elizabeth Casqueiro's painting *Svaboda/Freedom* (acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 inches), was included in the WBG printed 2024 Calendar. Elizabeth gave a talk on March 21, 2024 "*The Place without Borders*" as part of the WBG-Art Program on Art and Wellness. For those who could not attend, the recording will be made available on the webpage.

A First Administrative Professional Group Plus (APGP)
Get Together that Felt Like Great Beginnings
by Graciela Luna

A number of administrative staff retirees got together at the Torpedo Factory on March 14 for a stroll and lunch. It was a small affair; the weather was over the top and everyone agreed we should do a get together like this on a regular basis.



The Torpedo Factory reveals itself, every time you visit, as a perfect uplifting go-to destination: pottery, glass work, prints, "wearable art", jewelry in metals never heard of; it is surprising at every step. The group engaged discussions with the artist on gas kiln and glazing, and patchwork vests were tried on.

Before we knew it, it was time for lunch, and we strolled to the Diya Restaurant just off the more crowded and higher priced main King Street and riverside. It provided a welcoming family atmosphere, with no pressure to eat and be done.

Over lunch we had a great time reminiscing the good old days at the Bank, laughing at the funny anecdotes of our early years when we all came in as secretaries selected for speed of typing, languages, and shorthand, but left the Bank as respected members of the team. We also recalled some unpleasant and challenging experiences that we have shrugged off and were thankful for these had shaped us. Perhaps APGP can get together soon to share experiences and consolidate these in a book.

But it was not just reminiscing; it was also an opportunity to exchange views and experiences on transitioning from G-4 visa to Green Card, the pension plans (gross vs net), tax issues, etc. These issues need another get together, where we can also plan on APGP's future events.

If you would like to join APGP, please send an email to apgp1@wbgalumni.org. For more information on APGP, please contact Graciela Luna at (gracielavluna@gmail.com), or Joyce Rompas at (joycerompas@gmail.com).



MEMBERS' NEWS IN BRIEFS

From Passion to Purpose: My Journey as a Master Gardener

By Lesley Shneier

Growing up in Johannesburg, South Africa, I did not enjoy gardening as I was expected to “deadhead” flowers, which I found rather boring! But I loved climbing the fruit trees in my grandmother’s garden, picking and eating the fruit, and coming back with purple-stained fingers from all the mulberries I stole! Over time, though, I started applying what I learned from my childhood to my own garden in DC, where I grow flowers, peaches, figs, raspberries and gooseberries.

My knowledge of gardening and plants was gleaned through trial and error. Toward the end of the pandemic, I came across the Master Gardener (MG) Program at UDC (University of the District of Columbia). It consists of 40 hours of classroom training plus 40 hours of volunteer work. It is quite a competitive program to get into, in part because UDC limits participants to 3 per ward (8 wards in DC). After several attempts, I joined the Spring 2023 cohort. Through this comprehensive program, I received in-depth training on various aspects of sustainable urban gardening, including plant identification, pest management, and soil health.



After completing the training and passing the certification exam, I had to decide where and how I would serve my 40 volunteer hours. Master gardeners volunteer in school gardens, libraries, senior centers, UDC food hubs, garden maintenance in public gardens, farmers’ markets and more.

Inspired by the master gardeners' mission of providing research-based information to the public and recognizing that many home gardeners face challenges and questions related to their plants and gardens, I wanted to share my knowledge and expertise. Remembering the “ask us” service at the Bank during the hey-day of the Knowledge Bank, I decided to start an "Ask a Master Gardener" service. When I submitted the project proposal to UDC, I envisioned needing IT support to create the form and a database to capture the knowledge.

Luckily, I found the Extension Foundation, which offers a platform for one-to-one expert answers from Cooperative Extension/University staff and volunteers within participating Land-Grant institutions across the US (mostly funded by USDA). UDC is the only **urban** cooperative extension land-grant university in the country. The Extension Foundation provides a form to post on one’s website, as well as access to a knowledge base with over 500,000 answered questions and a network of more than 7,000 experts. The Foundation also provided training on how to use their system and helped us get started with our “Ask a DC Master Gardener” service. Six Master Gardeners have joined me and we take turns to respond as questions come in.

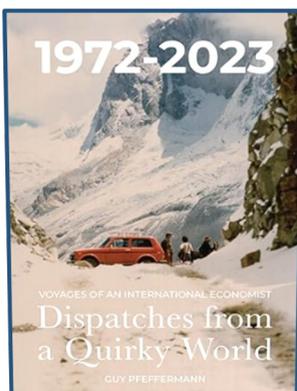
The service is a free resource to DC residents that offers personalized advice and guidance on a wide range of gardening topics, including plant selection, pest control, soil amendments, and more. In the 6 months since the UDC service began, my team of master gardeners has fielded over 60 questions (and this is during the “off season” of fall/winter). In this short time, we have received heartwarming messages from gardeners who have successfully solved their gardening problems, grown beautiful

plants, and created thriving gardens. To get gardening help, scan the QR code below or click this [link](#). While this particular service is for DC residents, most of the Land-Grant universities provide similar services. All can be accessed through the same form, which requires users to select their state/county. The system then redirects the question to the appropriate service providers.

The greatest reward of being a master gardener is the opportunity to connect with fellow gardeners and make a positive impact on their lives. Sharing my knowledge and helping others succeed in their gardening endeavors is truly fulfilling. I am learning so much and enjoying the opportunity to make a small difference, one garden at a time.

Honoring Women with a Clay Exhibit

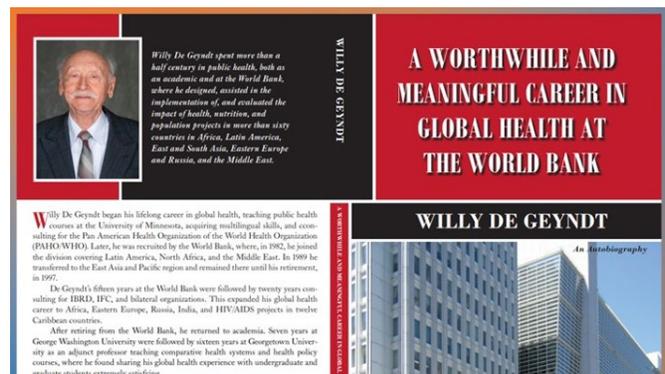
Bank retiree Terrice Bassler reports from British Columbia that she helped celebrate International Women’s Day last month with a special exhibit of her clay vessels at ArtSea Galley in Sidney, BC on Vancouver Island. She produced a special booklet for the occasion – “In Terra Spective” – ([click here to view](#)). One of the women honored in the booklet is another Bank retiree, Barbara Wolff Searle, who lives in Carlsbad, California and, at age 93, writing her memoirs. Both worked in the newly formed Bank China department in the 1980s.



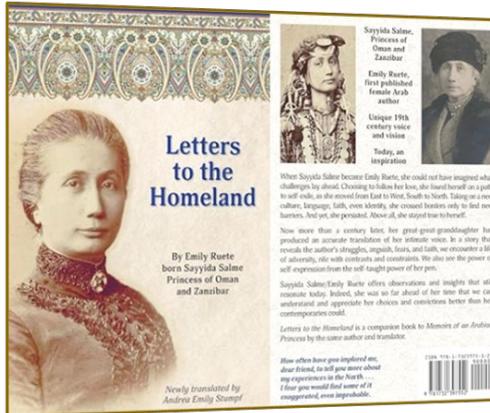
“Dispatches from a Quirky World...”

On extensive global travels over a half century, either on Bank/IFC missions or on his own, Guy Pfefferman has taken copious notes about strange encounters, hilarious human foibles and much more. The result is a long-awaited book, “Dispatches from a Quirky World: Voyages of an International Economist,” just out in an Amazon Kindle edition. Amazon calls it “a travelogue with a twist, this mix of wry observations and personal reflections...spans fifty years and forty countries, by way of dictators, disappearing currencies, dubious hitchhikers and perilous roads.” A great read.

Bank retiree Willy De Geyndt reports that his autobiography, “A Worthwhile and Meaningful Career in Global Health at the World Bank,” is now available on Amazon in paper back and as an e-book. It traces the genesis of Bank health work from the first loan to China in 1981 to help finance medical education for 13 universities. A new department, Population, Health and Nutrition, was created. John Evans was the first director. There were three operational divisions (Steve Denning, Harold Messenger and Ishrat Husain were the division chiefs) and one policy division, headed by Nancy Birdsall.



Willy de Geyndt joined the Bank in 1982. He worked as a health specialist in Latin America, East Asia, and the Mena region before retiring in 1997.



“Letters to the Homeland”

This is a sequel to an earlier book by [Andrea Stumpf](#) about the fascinating life of her great-great-grandmother Sayyida Salme, an Arabian princess. The sequel – “Letters to the Homeland: An Accurate Translation of an Intimate Voice,” continues the story from a manuscript Sayyida left. She relates her very difficult life in Germany after she left the island of Zanzibar, losing her husband and raising her children on her own. The book is available on Amazon.

Andrea Stumpf worked in the Legal department from 2004 to 2017, mostly on trust funds and partnership programs.



MEMBERS' CORNER

Future of the World Bank

By Danny Leipziger

Former Bank Vice-President [Danny Leipziger](#) has a tantalizing essay in the February-March issue of the *World Financial Review* entitled "The Future Role of the World Bank: Some Views on Strategy and Plumbing."



Some key takeaways:

- The current Bank model for lending and engagement with borrowers isn't working; major reforms are needed.
- One proposal worth investigating is to have three lending windows: (a) Traditional project window but with a reformed process for determining priorities; (b) Institution building window involving a large element of technical assistance and advisory work; (c) a climate financing window which would have both programmatic and project components.
- The current model of decentralization with almost 130 field offices accounting for one-third of total operational budget, is exceedingly costly and needs to be reviewed.
- The aim of these and other reforms would be to improve the effectiveness of the Bank to help leadership make a stronger case for a general capital increase.

The complete essay can be [accessed here](#).

Danny Leipziger joined the Bank in 1981, worked in several senior positions in finance and economics in the East Asia and LAC regions before becoming Vice-President for PREM under three Bank presidents. He retired in 2009 and is currently professor of international business at George Washington University.

Genetic Genealogy and Development: Potential Benefit

By Jeanette Murry

Recently, I received a graduate qualification in genetic genealogy. What began as a retirement pursuit soon turned into a compelling exploration of this fascinating field and its potential for serving as a tool for improving global development.



Two recent cases from my graduate studies stand out as examples. The first involves a 50-year-old Australian woman adopted at birth, who wanted to unearth her biological roots. Through analysis of DNA matches and public records, we traced her lineage to a grandfather who had left the priesthood, married, and had a son – her father. The second case involved a 77-year-old man in search of his father who had adopted him at the age of five in New York after his mother's death. The second one was a difficult case with common surnames and required linking adoption records and familial histories with DNA matches. Both individuals were able to trace their personal histories by using genetic genealogy.

The more I studied, the more I realized the potential applications beyond personal genealogy. Genetic identification is already instrumental in various development contexts, ranging from combating human trafficking to reuniting families in the aftermath of disasters. The establishment of a global DNA

database in 2021 by [Interpol](#) underscores the importance of genetic data in addressing the complex global challenges of both missing and trafficked persons.

Another growing area is financial [support for children](#) born to foreign parents, particularly in regions with limited resources or in conflict affected countries. Women who give birth to the children of tourists or overseas workers are often rejected and left to bring them up alone. The potential here is for genetic genealogy to help address issues of international accountability and social justice.

Organizations like UNESCO have recognized the ethical implications of genetic data and have called for responsible practices in its use. The International [Declaration](#) on Human Genetic Data emphasizes the need to protect individuals' rights and privacy while harnessing the potential benefits of genetic research.

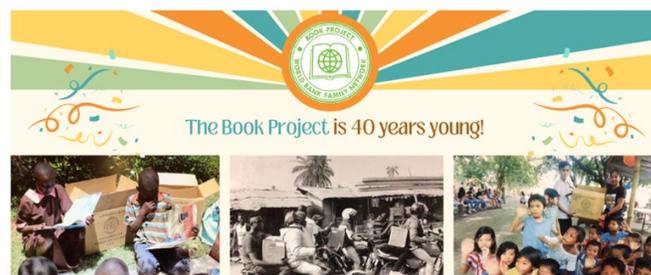
There is significant potential for genetic genealogy to inform policies and initiatives within the work of international development. By leveraging DNA identification technologies, aid agencies and peacekeeping missions could establish robust mechanisms for reporting, identifying, and compensating, in cases involving the abandoned or unknown children of foreign nationals. Such measures would ensure accountability and could also safeguard the rights of vulnerable populations.

Jeanette Murry joined the Bank in 2001 and retired in 2023. She held several positions in knowledge management. At retirement, she was a senior knowledge and learning officer and worked in HR, WBI, OPCS, SAR and the Climate Change Group.

The Bank Book Project at 40

By Carmelinda Blagg

The Book Project is 40 Years Young



For forty years the mission of WBFN (World Bank Family Network) Book Project has been to collect and deliver used school textbooks and library books to children across the globe. The goal is to help make possible the gift of reading, learning geography and the rudiments of math and science to thousands of school age children from elementary to high school and university.

It all began back in the spring of 1982 when two women – Peggy Clausen, wife of the President of the Bank and Babs Knox, wife of a Vice President visited an orphanage in Lagos, Nigeria and took note of the lack of books and toys. That trip planted a seed. The women were determined to do something.

By that summer, back in Washington, meetings were held with the World Bank Volunteer Services Executive Committee about forming a project to collect used textbooks from area schools as donations for needy schools in Africa and elsewhere. By the following summer, in July, 1983, the book project was incorporated in the District of Columbia as a tax-exempt charitable organization with Babs Knox as its first president. By August, the first shipment of books was sent to Lagos, Nigeria.

From those early days, when shipments were packed and distributed with the help of Resident Mission staff and spouses volunteering their time and energy, the WBFN Book Project has grown, continuing to partner with sponsors from many countries seeking books for their schools. Yet it has always remained a special undertaking steered by a group of dedicated volunteers that, today, consist of members from WBFN as well as World Bank retirees. It continues its work from its packing room now located in the third level basement of the Bank's J Building where volunteers work an average of 4,500 hours per year sorting, stamping and packing incoming crates of textbooks and library books from schools in DC, Virginia and Maryland as well as donations from individuals. Logistical support is provided by GCS and its many contractors who help with the initial warehousing of book donations in Sterling, Virginia.

As of 2023, the Book Project has sent over three million books to more than 100 countries.

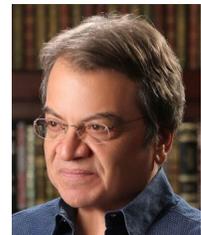
In September 2022, after a suspension of work for more than two years because of the pandemic, the Book Project resumed its operations and its first post-Covid shipment. A 40-foot container filled with around 30,000 books was received in India. Volunteers are once again busy in its packing room preparing a shipment for Sierra Leone. Future shipments are slated for Cameroon and Ivory Coast. The work continues. And taped and tacked on the walls throughout the packing room are photographs capturing that moment when a shipment of books is eagerly received.

Carmelinda Blagg is an IFC retiree and book project volunteer. The project website can be accessed at www.bookproject-wbfn.org

Unraveling the World Bank's narrative: Is it a war or conflict? Is it in Gaza or in the Middle East?

By Zafiris Tzannatos

After the Gaza War started on October 7, 2023, the World Bank's president was quoted to have said, "the Bank is lovely at coining terms for stuff" ([November 20, 2023](#)). This has been validated in Bank regional publications twice since. The 48 page *Lebanon Economic Monitor Fall 2023* had just a single reference to "the current conflict [centered](#) in Gaza". The 54 page *Jordan Economic Monitor Fall 2023* referred to "[The Conflict in the Middle East](#)".



These terms refer to the War (not "conflict") in Gaza (not in "the Middle East") as clearly stated by none other than Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu. In his own words "the war is not just Israel's [but also the US's](#)" and "the war will take many more long months" as he is quoted in Order of 26 January 2024 by the International Court of Justice. By 16 votes to 1 the Court ordered that Israel "shall take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide" and "shall take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance". Notably, the [dissenting voice](#) did not come from the Israeli judge at the Court. The Court order also quoted Israel's President Isaac Herzog's statement "But we are at war. We are at war. We are at war" (*sic*).

The use of such evasive language does not make justice to the World Bank's own history. For decades, the Bank has consistently provided or managed significant amounts of funds and technical assistance to Palestine. A previous president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn (1995-2005), was at the forefront of the international effort to achieve peace between Israel and Palestine.

As soon as he left the Bank, Wolfensohn was appointed special envoy for the so-called Quartet. The Quartet under [UNSCO](#) (The Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process) consists of the UN, EU, US and Russia. Its mandate is to mediate the Israeli-Palestinian peace process

and support the two-state solution that is ferociously objected to by Israel (and the US), although recently the Biden administration has called for a two-state solution.

According to [Times of Israel](#), during his tenure as envoy, Wolfensohn [helped](#) “shepherd Israel’s exit from the Gaza Strip” and “when he learned the [Israeli] settlers planned to smash the greenhouses on their way out [from Gaza], he raised \$14 million, including \$500,000 of his own money, to salvage them for use by Palestinians.”

For such actions, anyone else could easily be assigned the epithet “anti-Semitic” but not Wolfensohn, a practicing Jew who also, according to [Times of Israel](#) - he was “a philanthropist devoted not only to Jewish giving in Israel but elsewhere”. Under him, in 2004 the World Bank (with UNESCO and others) contributed to the rebuilding of the bridge in the city of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina so to restore the [“peaceful coexistence among the peoples”](#). The bridge runs over a river and had been destroyed during the Yugoslav wars thereby separating the city’s Muslim, Catholic and Orthodox Christian populations.

His tenure as the Quartet’s envoy was short lived. He resigned after 11 months as “the U.S. administration thwarted his efforts” according to [Haaretz](#). In Wolfensohn’s own words, “I was stupid for not reading the small print. I was never given the mandate to negotiate the peace”.

Things have changed since Wolfensohn left the Quartet. He was replaced by the former British PM, Tony Blair, who – according to an article in [The Financial Times](#) – “took poodleism to a new level” by uncritically following American policies in the Middle East. The Palestinian elections in 2006 brought Gaza under the command of Hamas and no other elections have been held since. Conflicts have ensued almost annually since. However, none passed the threshold for qualifying as war or attracting international attention until the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas that resulted in 1,200 Israeli deaths (one third being among soldiers, security personnel and police officers) and by now more than 32,000 Palestinian confirmed deaths (mostly women and children), excluding another 8,000 missing under the rubbles.

The post-October 2023 military operations do not justify the new terms the World Bank uses to describe the Gaza War as it is internationally labelled, also by the UN whose officials refer to [“war crimes”](#), [“carnage”](#) and [“hell on earth”](#), no matter whether the war is seen as terrorism by Hamas or defense by Israel.

Let’s hope that the World Bank does not become a modern day Cassandra and “the conflict in the Middle East” (repeated in a [publication](#) on Gaza, again with no reference to a “war”, in February 2024) does become reality, and it remains “Israel-Gaza conflict” [as the IMF more appropriately labels it](#). As of now, the efforts of the Arab governments and very few in the EU (notably Spain and Ireland) are focusing on what they should: Provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians and stop the war also for the benefit of Israeli people, civilians and hostages held by Hamas. The gradual change, least of language, of the US administration and other Western governments is welcome though no comfort to those, ordinary Israelis and Palestinians, who died or those who have been and will be affected for decades to come.

Zafiris Tzannatos joined the Bank in 1992 and served as manager in MENA (1995-99) and then as advisor to Managing Director (2000-03). He then joined the American University of Beirut as Chair and Professor of the economics department and is currently living in Amman where he is Senior Fellow at the Jordan Strategy Forum.

Editor's Note: At the editor's request, Zafiris provided the following update on life in Jordan with a war raging nearby.

"Jordan has taken the staunchest stance on the Gaza War, even saying that the displacement of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank to Jordan would amount to an [act of war](#). Though the war is in its sixth month, [thousands](#) of Jordanians still go into the streets to demonstrate in solidarity with Gaza and call for ending the occupation and protecting Palestinians. The Gaza War has affected ordinary [events](#) in Jordan, for example, cancellations of celebrations and musical festivities, postponement of weddings, and mute gatherings for [religious](#) events.

"The eventual impact of the Gaza War on Jordan's economy is still uncertain. Much will depend on the duration and severity of the War, and the eventual provisions and commitment to the post-conflict political solution agreed between the State of Palestine and Israel. As of now, [the IMF](#) has maintained the same growth rate for 2024 as in 2023. However, the tourism sector has taken a hit and domestic boycotts are affecting [thousands](#) of Jordanian businesses by reducing demand for products and services provided by western companies that are perceived to support the Israeli occupation or of goods produced in Israeli settlements in Palestine."

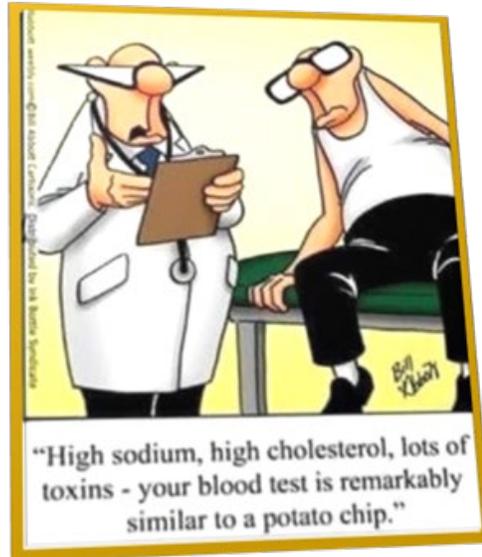
Potpourri

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened."

--Mark Twain

"To get back to my youth, I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable."

--Oscar Wilde



Aggie Nuval saying goodbye to Stumpy, the beloved hollowed out cherry tree that refuses to die but will come down together with more than 100 other cherry trees to accommodate the Tidal Basin seawall renovations.



Basil Kavalsky
Thursday 18. Bangkok. At the National Museum yesterday. Lots of images to choose from. I found the serenity of this Buddha figure especially appealing

WORLD BANK HISTORY

Excerpts from the transcript of oral history interview with Robert Garner held on July 19, 1961



1894-1976

Bank Tenure 1947 - 1961

- Vice President — World Bank and International Development Association, 1947-1956
- President — International Finance Corporation, 1956-1961.

Arrival in Washington

We came down here on the 17th of March, St. Patrick's Day, of 1947. We were going to come down on the 15th, but the British Director said, "Beware the Ides of March; St. Patrick's Day is a luckier day," so we waited till the 17th.

We'd officially accepted the job. McCloy, Black and I came down a week or two in advance, at the invitation of the directors, for a discussion of the times and general conditions under which the new management was to take over. There'd been a difference of opinion from the beginning in the Bank as to the role of management and the role of the directors. At Bretton Woods, most of the important countries had felt that the directors should not attempt to actually operate the institution. The United States representatives had rather argued in favor of a very active role for the directors. This question—the uncertainty as to what the powers of the president were and the proper role of the directors—was not resolved during Mr. Meyer's tenure, and I believe that it was one of the causes of his resignation.

It was understood at the time in conversations carried on with McCloy that it would be agreed that the management would actually manage the institution and the directors would play the usual role of general supervision without interference in the conduct of the business. When we got down here, there was still some hesitation on the part of some of the directors to make that position perfectly clear. So we listened to the discussions, and then McCloy finally said that the only condition under which he felt it was possible to handle the situation would be a clear declaration as to the power of the management to manage, and that if the directors were not fully in agreement with that, we would go on back to New York that afternoon.

Then the directors went into executive session and after lunch they said they were fully agreeable. So the deal was made.

On that basis, we took over. The Bank had done no business up to that time. It had spent the period in organization. Various committees had worked on questions of loan policy, and during that time committee work was still in very indefinite shape. Nothing really had been decided. So we had pretty well a clean sheet of paper as to what we were going to do within the general framework of the charter.

Temporary Living Accommodations

Nelson Rockefeller has a big place out on Foxhall Road, that he'd acquired when he was down here on one of those government jobs during the war, and he just used it for an occasional residence. It was a tremendous place -- so he very kindly invited us to camp out there in the early days. I spent my early days in Washington sleeping in old John D. Rockefeller's big double bed.

World Bank's First Loan—to France

The first thing we had to do was decide as to the amount. We felt the \$250 million was adequate; it was all we should do with our first loan.

Second, we had to decide some general principles: of interest, of maturity, things like that. Then the question was to sit down and negotiate the deal with the French. The chief negotiator for the French was Wilfrid Baumgartner, who is now Governor of the Bank of France.

It was a difficult first loan. Number one, it applied to a wide range of the economy. Therefore, we had to consider what was a reasonable division between raw materials, generating equipment, industrial equipment, ships, railroad equipment and so forth. Number two, the French are a proud and sensitive people. There was no precedent for the type of loan that we were considering. We had determined that we would have certain conditions in all our loans.

The general French attitude was that—running back to Louis XIV and Napoleon, the sovereignty of France, and no limitations—it was infringement on their sovereignty to lay down conditions. And it made a very difficult negotiation. Particularly, at that time, Frenchmen had just come out from under occupation. Their pride had been hurt. Baumgartner was a very fine man, but he was under great tension. But we finally worked that out.

I remember one statement he made. We were talking about following the proceeds of the funds used to purchase coal, which was to be used in French industry, and he blew up and said, "Mr. Garner, you expect me to identify every lump of coal as to which boiler it's going into?" I said, "No, I just want to be sure it is not being diverted to Paris night clubs. I want it to be used in French industrial activity." But we finally worked out what was I think a reasonable pattern for our loan, that we would know what the funds would be used for, and that we would have control of disbursements against specific requests for specific purposes.

First Development Loan—to Chile

There hadn't been a very careful study by the staff. There had been a report from Chile which was not bad, but we didn't feel that we could accept the report which had been prepared by the Chileans without further consideration. We thought that the loan was too large, and that it would be better to select a few of the projects and proceed with them first.

But the thing that we brought up as an important element was the fact that Chile was in default on bonds sold in the American market in the '20s, and we felt that the Bank should not make a loan to a country that was in default unless the country made what we believed to be a sincere effort to settle with the bondholders. As a very practical matter, we pointed out that our efforts to sell bonds of the World Bank would be hindered if we were trying to sell bonds to people that held defaulted Chilean bonds, if we were to make a loan to Chile.

We told the Chileans that until they would sit down with the Foreign Bondholders' Committee and work out a reasonable settlement, that we simply would not make the loan. They protested, but after

going back home, they decided that if they wanted to get some money from the World Bank, they'd better make the settlement. So they did make the settlement.

Cuba

I had an interview with President Prio Socarras, and one of the things he wanted was a tunnel under Havana Harbor. It was commonly reputed that the people in the know-how had bought up the real estate on the other side of the harbor, and if a tunnel was put under there, it would be a great boost to real estate.

I said, "Mr. President, that's perfectly absurd. New York had to carry things back and forth across the Hudson River for a great many years before they ever felt they could afford a tunnel, and you can do the same thing."

"Well," he said, "Mr. Garner, you may be right, but it's like a diamond on the hand, it's something that just shines -- it just appeals to me."

"Well," I said, "it doesn't appeal to me." Then I told him frankly that my contacts down there had told me that there was so much graft in Cuba that I didn't see how the government could operate. We couldn't make a justified loan.

He said, "Oh, that's just my political enemies."

I said, "No, it isn't just your political enemies, there are people who are not your enemies, all sorts of people, Cubans, foreigners..."

He finally said, "But Mr. Garner, I give you my word, I personally have never stolen any money."

I'm not sure he was telling the truth, but his associates were certainly stealing it.

Origins of IFC

After a few years, some of us began to realize that the Bank was not the best type of instrument to finance purely private business. We began to work on the idea of a separate institution affiliated with the Bank, but with separate capital, and separate organizations, which could deal directly with private industry. It took about seven or eight years to get the idea accepted, but finally it was in 1956, and the IFC was set up: The principle was that it would operate in conjunction with private business and in partnership, if possible, with private investment capital.

I think I was the originator of the idea. I think that most of the chaps who are around would say that it was my idea. Black supported it fully. Demuth did a great deal of work on it. But I think most of them would say it's Bob Garner's idea, and I kept pushing it, with the full support of Black.

I had no misgivings about leaving the vice-presidency of the Bank to become president of IFC. I felt I'd done what I could for the Bank, I'd had wonderful experiences there and I'd done what I considered needed to be done.

The entire transcript can be read here:

<https://oralhistory.worldbank.org/en/archive/oralhistory/transcriptdetail/transcript-oral-history-interview-robert-garner-held-july-19-1961>

For more information see:

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/843941468914482740/pdf/International-Bank-notes.pdf>

YEARS AGO

<p>75 Years Ago May 18, 1949</p>	<p>John J. McCloy Announces His Retirement as World Bank President President John J. McCloy announces his retirement as President of the Bank. He went on to become US High Commissioner for Germany. For more information see: https://timeline.worldbank.org/en/timeline/home#event-president-mccloy-resigns, https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/299071468915618107/pdf/631920NEWS0Ban00BOX309620B006-01-49.pdf p. 1, and https://www.worldbank.org/en/archive/history/past-presidents/john-jay-mccloy</p>
<p>65 Years Ago April 18, 1959</p> <p>May 4, 1959</p>	<p>Indus Waters Agreement on Transitional Arrangements Announced “The Government of India and the Government of Pakistan, with the good offices of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, have entered into another inter-Governmental Agreement in connection with the Indus Waters discussions. This inter-Governmental Agreement makes provision for transitional arrangements for the period 1st April 1959 to 31st March 1960, and, after taking into account Pakistan’s ability to transfer water in replacement from the Western Rivers, establishes agreed amounts for additional withdrawals by India from the three Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) during the period covered by the Agreement. The Agreement was signed in Washington on 17th April 1959. For more information see: https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/sar/brief/fact-sheet-the-indus-waters-treaty-1960-and-the-world-bank</p> <p>Bank Issues Summary Report on Italian Nuclear Study The Bank issues the Summary Report of the International Panel on Project ENSI. The report was the work of seven internationally known experts on nuclear power who formed the International Panel appointed by the Bank to take part in a study of the feasibility of generating electricity in Southern Italy by means of a nuclear power station. The study was known as Energia Nucleare Sud Italia (ENSI) and recommended the selection of the International General Electric Company of New York as the supplier of the new power plant. For more information see: https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/242231468914676696/pdf/619130NEWS0Ban00BOX309621B004-01-62.pdf, pp. 3-5</p>

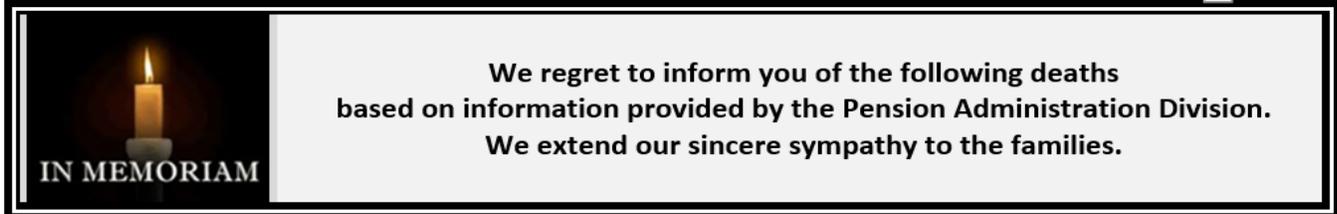
20 Years Ago April 26, 2004	World Bank Warns of Fraud Schemes Using Its Name In light of recent developments showing an increasing number of "advance fee fraud schemes" misusing the World Bank Group's name, the World Bank Group warned the public against investment deals and advanced fee fraud schemes that misuse the institution's name or claim to be affiliated with the World Bank Group. In several of these schemes, individuals have falsely represented themselves to be "World Bank Auditors" or members of the "World Bank West African Regional Delegation," and have sent faxes to creditors of several West African governments, claiming to be empowered by these governments to repay the government's past debts. Often official-looking World Bank Group letterheads are used for these faxes. In some cases, the solicitors even use the names of actual World Bank Group staff members to bolster the credibility of the solicitation.
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TRANSITIONS

Welcome!

We welcome the following World Bank Group retirees/alumni to The 1818 Society. Country of intended residence other than the USA has been added after their names.

Nana Afram-MBow	Lucy Lytton
Grace Aguilar	Waleska Magalhaes Pedrosa, <i>Brazil</i>
Naseem Ahmad, <i>Portugal</i>	Marie Francoise Marie-Nelly, <i>Martinique</i>
Savita Arora	Linda McBride
Raja Arshad, <i>Pakistan</i>	David McGrady
Emmanuel Bando	James Michelsen
Edgardo Barandiaran, <i>Chile</i>	Gisu Mohadjer
Claus Biering, <i>Luxembourg</i>	Carol Mulligan
Sofija Brajovic-Bratanovic	Garen Oskanian
Louise Cord	Cynthia Page
William Ehlers, <i>Uruguay</i>	Sabine Palmreuther, <i>Germany</i>
Minerva Espinosa	Rebecca Post
Rob Floyd	Randall Riopelle
Diego Garrido Martin, <i>Spain</i>	Stefano Robaudo, <i>Italy</i>
Surhid Gautam	Anita Schwarz
Rosa Gertz	Nina B. Shapiro
Gladys Gicker	Josephine "Gail" Simon
Gulmira McHale	Xiaolun Sun
Lucia Hanmer	Stefanie Teggemann, <i>Germany</i>
Armando Heilbron, <i>Costa Rica</i>	Moctar Toure
Nina Irving	Martien Van Nieuwkoop
Edda Ivan-Smith, <i>UK</i>	Victor Vergara
Scott Johnson	Paolo Verme
Takuya Kamata, <i>Japan</i>	José Villalobos, <i>Costa Rica</i>
Rana Karadsheh-Haddad	Antonio Eugenio Villar
Moses Kibirige, <i>Uganda</i>	Markus Vorpahl, <i>Germany</i>
Mei Li	Elizabeth White



Saul Arlosoroff, 93, of Tel-Aviv, Israel, on February 13, 2024. Mr. Arlosoroff retired from the Bank in 1992.

Achilles G. Adamantiades, 89, of Bethesda, MD, on March 7, 2024. Mr. Adamantiades retired from the Bank in 1996.

Hans Erik Berggren, 82, of Vancouver, Canada, on January 15, 2024. Mr. Berggren retired from the Bank in 2004.

Sylvie Brebion, 75, of Thiers, France, on January 30, 2024. Ms. Brebion retired from the Bank in 1989.

Joanne Byrne, 84, of Ashburne, VA, on December 9, 2023. Ms. Byrne retired from the Bank in 1993.

Adan N. Cajina, 97, of Fairfax, VA, on January 20, 2024. Mr. Cajina retired from the Bank in 1988.

Raymond Chalk, 92, of Ontario, Canada, on February 11, 2024. Mr. Chalk retired from the Bank in 1994.

Giulio C. Cima, 93, of New Bern, NC, on March 9, 2024. Mr. Cima retired from the Bank in 1986.

Jose F. Collell, 87, of Santiago, Chile , on December 29, 2023. Mr. Collell retired from the Bank in 1998.

Yaba Toure Coquillat, 75, of Bethesda, MD, on December 20, 2023. Ms. Coquillat retired from the Bank in 2008.

H. Paul Crevier, 79, of McLean, VA, on September 24, 2023. Mr. Crevier retired from the Bank in 1998.

Aggrey Ralph Daggaa, 72, of Dodoma, Tanzania, on January 7, 2024. Mr. Daggaa retired from the Bank in 2013.

Bertrand D. De Chazal, 82, of Calodyne, Mauritius, on February 17, 2024. Mr. De Chazal retired from the Bank in 2003.

Sid Ahmed Dib, 76, of Vincennes, France, on January 3, 2023. Mr. Sid retired from the Bank in 2012.

Desiree Anna Donaldson, 76, of Hyattsville, MD, on December 20, 2023. Ms. Donaldson retired from the Bank in 2007.

Patricia M. Evans, 92, of Porthcawl, UK, on July 4, 2023. Ms. Evans retired from the Bank in 1988.

Carlos Fernandez-Duque, 83, of Washington, DC, on March 5, 2024. Mr. Fernandez-Duque retired from the Bank in 2000.

Susan M. Frampton, 89, of Washington, DC, on March 7, 2024. Ms. Frampton retired from the Bank in 1987.

Douglas M. Gold, 94, of West Sussex, UK, on December 23, 2023. Mr. Gold retired from the Bank in 1973.

John E. Graves, 86, of Bethesda, MD, on November 29, 2023. Mr. Graves retired from the Bank in 1997.

Wadi D. Haddad, 82, of Ashburn, VA, on February 14, 2024. Mr. Haddad retired from the Bank in 1997.

Jocelyn Herrington, 86, of Miami Beach, FL, on March 6, 2024. Ms. Herrington retired from the Bank in 1999.

Chee-Won Hon, 83, of Singapore, on December 20, 2023. Mr. Hon retired from the Bank in 1998.

Robert B. Horner, 77, of Reston, VA, on December 8, 2023. Mr. Horner retired from the Bank in 2009.

Howard A. Jones, 93, of Bethesda, MD, on December 25, 2023. Mr. Jones retired from the Bank in 1991.

Hisao Kimura, 67, of Falls Church, VA, on January 13, 2024. Mr. Kimura retired from the Bank in 2019.

Vany Elias Laurenti, 94, of Burlingame, CA, on October 18, 2023. Ms. Laurenti retired from the Bank in 1968.

Emmanuel Mbi, 70, of Potomac, MD, on February 26, 2024. Mr. Mbi retired from the Bank in 2012.

Adriana Melgar, 92, of Santiago, Chile, on February 1, 2024. Ms. Melgar retired from the Bank in 1988.

Michael Michaely, 95, of DN Harei-Yehuda, Israel, on December 22, 2023. Mr. Michaely retired from the Bank in 1993.

Peter Granville Midgley, 80, of Middletown, RI, on January 29, 2024. Mr. Midgley retired from the Bank in 2000.

Robert Milford, 100, of Mitchellville, MD, on February 17, 2024. Mr. Milford retired from the Bank in 1986.

Michiko Mitsuyasu, 87, of Chiba, Japan, on October 25, 2023. Ms. Mitsuyasu retired from the Bank in 1995.

Daniel Moreau, 77, of Vence, France, on March 13, 2024. Mr. Moreau retired from the Bank in 2006.

Stephen Nelick, 82, of Washington, DC, on January 4, 2024. Mr. Nelick retired from the Bank in 1997.

Mohamood Abdi Noor, 80, of Falls Church, VA, on January 13, 2024. Mr. Noor retired from the Bank in 2004.

Dorothy M. Oaks, 93, of Salt Lake City, UT, on December 22, 2023. Ms. Oaks retired from the Bank in 1977.

Michael H. Payson, 91, of Falmouth Foreside, ME, on December 24, 2023. Mr. Payson retired from the Bank in 1991.

Julio C. Paz Cafferata, 80, of San Isidro-Lima, Peru, on December 31, 2023. Mr. Paz Cafferata retired from the Bank in 1995.

Jenny Marie Pena, 89, of Ontario, Canada, on January 31, 2024. Ms. Pena retired from the Bank in 1996.

Edgardo Quisumbing, 83, of Vienna, VA, on December 3, 2023. Mr. Quisumbing retired from the Bank in 2002.

V. Rajagopalan, 95, of Bethesda, MD, on January 24, 2024. Mr. Rajagopalan retired from the Bank in 1993.

Raymond D. H. Rowe, 94, of Nairobi, Kenya, on February 27, 2024. Mr. Rowe retired from the Bank in 1993.

Cynthia M. Scherr, 76, of Gaithersburg, MD, on January 31, 2024. Ms. Scherr retired from the Bank in 1997.

Xavier L. Simon, 83, of McLean, VA, on January 5, 2024. Mr. Simon retired from the Bank in 1999.

Helen Page Smith, 102, of Alexandria, VA, on March 15, 2024. Ms. Smith retired from the Bank in 1984.

Gertrude M. Strobel, 92, of Mt. Airy, MD, on December 25, 2023. Ms. Strobel retired from the Bank in 1993.

Carlos M. Tan, 86, of Napa, CA, on February 5, 2024. Mr. Tan retired from the Bank in 1990.

Assefa Telahun, 93, of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 2, 2024. Mr. Telahun retired from the Bank in 1995.

Rene Enrique Villegas, 76, of Alexandria, VA, on January 22, 2024. Mr. Villegas retired from the Bank in 2009.

Andrew C. Waldrop, 85, of Washington, DC, on March 6, 2024. Mr. Waldrop retired from the Bank in 1997.

Kariyawasam Wijetilleke, 90, of McLean, VA, on December 26, 2023. Mr. Wijetilleke retired from the Bank in 1995.

Manuel Zenick, 97, of Chevy Chase, MD, on January 27, 2024. Mr. Zenick retired from the Bank in 1988.

Izzet Zincir, 91, of Washington, DC, on February 4, 2024. Mr. Zincir retired from the Bank in 1995.

We are including the contact information for deceased members whose family have agreed to the publication of their contact information in the Quarterly so former colleagues may send condolences directly to them.

Deceased: Achilles Adamantiades

Contact: *Misha Adamantiades (son)*

Address: 6013 Plainview Rd, Bethesda MD 20817

Email: madamant@me.com

Deceased: Adan N. Cajina

Contact: *Irma Cajina Rugar (daughter)*

Address: 4318 Selkirk Drive Fairfax, VA. 22032

Email: rupari@verizon.net

Deceased: Raymond Chalk

Contact: *Patricia Chalk (spouse)*

Address: 80 Second Avenue, Ottawa, ON, Canada

Email: patchalk@sympatico.ca

Deceased: Jorge M. Duarte

Contact: *Luisa E. Duarte (spouse)*

Address: 20418 Remsbury Place, Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Email: lduarte66@gmail.com

Deceased: H. Paul Crevier

Contact: *David Crevier (brother)*

Address: 312 Av. Brock N., Montreal West, Quebec, Canada H4X 2G5

Email: dcrevier@studiocrevier.com

Deceased: Wadi D. Haddad

Contact: *Houda Haddad (spouse)*

Address: 44860 Audubon Square #314, Ashburn, VA 20147

Email: hda1976@outlook.com

Deceased: Hisao Kimura

Contact: *Shoma/Rena Kimura (son/daughter)*

Email: shomakimura@gmail.com, rkimura8@gmail.com

Deceased: Emmanuel Mbi

Contact: *Bonaventure Mbida-Essama (close friend and former WB colleague)*

Address: 12451 Falconbridge Dr, North Potomac, Md 20878

Email: bmbidaessama@hotmail.com

Deceased: Mohamood A. Noor

Contact: *Asha M. Noor (daughter)*

Address: 6158 Vine Forest t., Falls Church, VA 22044

Email: ashanoor@gmail.com

Deceased: Michael H. Payson

Contact: *Barbara U. Payson (spouse)*

Address: 48 Thornhurst Road, Falmouth, ME 04105

Email: barbara.payson@me.com

Deceased: V. Rajagopalan

Contact: *Sampath Rajagopalann(spouse)*

Address: 5304 Alta Vista Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

Email: sraj5304@gmail.com

Deceased: Rene Enrique Villegas Guzman

Contact: *Andrea Villegas (daughter)*

Address: 6313 Barnesdale Path. Centreville, VA. 20120

Email: andrea.v.villegas@afs.com

Deceased: Manuel C. Zenick

Contact: *Linda Zenick (spouse)*

Address: 5500 Friendship Blvd. #1522N, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Email: mlzenick26@gmail.com

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**Responsibility Matrix
2023 - 2024**

1818 SOCIETY BOARD	Names
Chair & President	Anis Dani (President and Chair): adani@1818alumniwbg.org
Directors	Susan Dubas: sdubas@1818alumniwbg.org Morallina George: morallinag@gmail.com Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard: mplessisfraissard@gmail.com Van Pulley: vtpulley1@hotmail.com Joyce Rompas: joycerompas@gmail.com Angelica Silvero: angelicasilvero@gmail.com Katia Tabash: katiatabash@gmail.com Mark Walker: walkermark208@gmail.com Eduardo Wallentin: ewallentin@gmail.com
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