



Engaged, Connected, Active

1818 SOCIETY® QUARTERLY

Volume 6, Issue 19

Fall 2025

Table of Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|----|
| MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT | 2 |
| FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK | 4 |
| 1818 SOCIETY® NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... | 5 |
| WORLD BANK GROUP NEWS | 9 |
| CHAPTER NEWS AND UPDATES..... | 14 |
| THEMATIC GROUP NEWS AND UPDATES | 17 |
| ACTIVE RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE..... | 21 |
| MEMBERS' NEWS IN BRIEF..... | 24 |
| MEMBERS' CORNER | 25 |
| WORLD BANK HISTORY | 29 |
| TRANSITIONS | 36 |
| 1818 SOCIETY® CONTACTS | 41 |



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow members,

I hope your summer allowed you to rejuvenate from a tumultuous year. We have to learn to live with a new world order characterized by persistent conflicts, uncertain trade relations, and more frequent natural disasters. The global order that sought to regulate and resolve disagreements and collectively tackle global public bads has become ineffective as government policies are increasingly based on national self-interest. How does all of this affect the World Bank Group?

Citing a recent U.S. Treasury report to the Congress, DEVEX, a news organization covering global development, reports that the Bank's pivot to job creation and private sector development has resonated with the administration of the United States, our largest shareholder. The emphasis on the energy sector has also been well received, with the report emphasizing an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy to invest in all forms of energy, including natural gas and nuclear energy. Some of this may involve backtracking on the more restrictive scope of energy sector support over the last few years when concerns about climate change were dominant. What is unclear is how renewable energy will be addressed, although the shift towards solar power already seems to be driven more by market forces than government policy.

A consistent message to all multilateral development banks is likely to be directed at discontinuing financial support for China. Another will be pressure for internal reforms and reining in spending, including on staff salaries. As mentioned in the last issue of the Quarterly, the FY26 administrative budget already proposed reforms aimed at budget tightening for the public sector and expanding support for the private sector. Expect pressure for further belt tightening to do more with less. This may not sit well with staff where morale is already reported to be low. Will more belt tightening be doable and how will it impact the Bank's effectiveness? Fortunately, retirees are past the stage where we have to answer these difficult questions but for current staff this will be a double whammy after the continued delay in the application process for Green Cards.

However, other proposed reforms including incentivizing countries to improve debt sustainability, modernizing and providing resources for World Bank Group accountability mechanisms, and promoting digitalization are policy priorities that we should welcome. The U.S. administration is also expected to support IFC's new strategy aimed at private capital mobilization, while correctly pointing out that IFC has fallen short on its commitment to target 40% of its investments in IDA fragile and conflict-affected countries. Perhaps a little more encouragement from the U.S. administration may yield better results in FCS. The upcoming Bank-Fund Annual Meetings next month may shed more light on the Bank's strategic response to these recommendations.

1818 Society Activities

The DACH Chapter (which represents the German-speaking countries, Germany, Austria and Switzerland) had their annual reunion in Dresden, while the Dutch Chapter held their reunion in historic Alkmaar and artistic Bergen, both in September. While both provided opportunities for socializing and networking among chapter members, feedback from the Pulse Survey indicates that other members of the Society are keen to learn more about other activities of the Chapters while they consider establishing chapters in their own countries.

The international treks and tours organized by the Society have provided more opportunities for networking among members while promoting health and wellbeing. In addition to the 4 trekking trips this summer described on page 22 the cultural trips to France and Italy in the last quarter were well received by members. The Georgia trip is ongoing while this edition goes to print. All three are likely to be repeated next year, with some modifications. The program of 2026 Treks and Tours will be announced by the Society's Annual Meeting, scheduled on November 12-13, 2025.

The Society's website upgrade is ongoing. The membership form has been converted to a web-based form that allows users to sign up online using their desktop, laptop or smartphone. The webpages for About Us and the Health Insurance Committee have also been redesigned to make it easier for readers to find information on those pages. These incremental upgrades will continue with the aim of having a revamped, updated website by next June.

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the demise of three stalwarts who were active members of the 1818 Society. In April we lost Alexander Keyserlingk, a former Board Director who, more recently, was one of our bloggers. In July we lost Uma Lele, a stalwart of the Agriculture TG who was an active blogger and President of the American Association of Agricultural Economists. Also in July, James Lynch, who was the UK Chapter's most prolific contributor to the Book Repository, lost a long battle with blood cancer. The Repository includes 11 novels and 2 novellas published by James, the most recent publication being in 2025, sent by him while coping with his illness. They have moved on but their contributions will not be forgotten.

Anis Dani
President



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Will the Bank Group remain relevant in the AI (artificial intelligence) age? Retired Bank economist Frank Lysy asks that questions and provides some interesting insights in a commentary on page 25.

AI is surging globally and the impact is not fully understood. We plan to cover this important subject more closely in future Quarterlies. In the meantime, if any readers have tried out the new Apple Air Pods Pro 3---the ones that use artificial intelligence to do real-time language translations---please let us know your reactions. Just send a note to tblinkhorn@gmail.com.

The Trump administration's position on multilateral finance institutions, including the Bank Group and the IMF, is beginning to emerge more clearly. The position was contained in a recent speech by the U.S. Treasury secretary and in a report to the U.S. Congress that was obtained by DEVEX, a news organization that covers global development. Anis summarizes the key points in the report in his President's message. Keep an eye out for senior management Bank Group appointments!

On a lighter note, retiree Brian Grover acknowledges he is not as spry as in the good old days when he barely managed to beat me in a squash game at the Arlington Y. See his confession on page 24.

And thanks again to our faithful contributors,

Tom Blinkhorn

1818 SOCIETY® NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Retirees Pension Corner

By Lynne Sherburne-Benz

The **Annual Report** for the World Bank Group retirement and benefit plans has been published on the 1818 Society website (<https://www.wbgalumni.org/>) and the Pension website (<https://pension.worldbank.org/>). If you prefer a hard copy, please make a request to the Pension Office: 202-458-2977 or 1pension@worldbank.org.

The Annual Report assesses the **financial performance** and **financial health** of:

- our pension plan: Staff Retirement Plan and Trust, the **SRP**
- our medical and life insurance plan: Retired Staff Benefits Plan and Trust, the **RSBP**
- various other benefit plans (of which the largest is the tax supplement account for net pension plan participants) which are aggregated into the Post-Employment Benefits Plan, the **PEBP**.

We are pleased that the 2024 Annual Report covers the **PEBP**—the first time the PEBP has been included in the Annual Report.

The CY2024 results of the plans are reassuring. Key highlights are provided below.

CY2024 PLAN PERFORMANCE

The **SRP** investment portfolio generated a nominal return of **6.9** percent net of fees and a net real return (above inflation) of **3.9** percent, outperforming both the Plan's strategic asset allocation (SAA) policy benchmark and the 3.5 percent long-term real return objective (LTRRO). The **RSBP** and the PEBP investment portfolios generated similar results with both portfolios outperforming the Plan's SAA policy benchmark and the 3.5 percent LTRRO.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

The financial health of the plans remained sound as measured by the Funded Ratio, which is the most important measure of the capacity of a plan's assets to cover projected pension obligations. A funded ratio above 1.00 indicates that a plan's assets exceed the plan's projected liabilities. The Funded Ratio of the **SRP** at the end of CY2024 remained robust: **1.18** when discounting future obligations by the LTRRO (3.5 percent) and 1.11 when discounting future obligations using high quality (AA) corporate bond rates, which is a more conservative measure of financial health than using the LTRRO.

The Long-Term Picture

The effectiveness of our plans is ultimately measured by delivering consistent income over the long term to meet obligations to current and prospective retirees. These results are also encouraging. Since

1990, the SRP has earned a net real return of 5.1 percent, generating \$7.5 billion in excess returns over the LTRRO. The SRP's returns have exceeded the LTRRO of 3.5 percent over most periods, despite significant negative real returns in years of exceptional short-term market volatility (e.g., 2008 and 2022).

We recommend retirees explore the Annual Report. There is an enhanced glossary at the beginning of this year's report to aid you in understanding the financial terms.



Retirees Health Insurance Corner

By Morallina George

Newly-Improved [Health Insurance web page](#). As part of the ongoing 1818 website improvement efforts, we have reorganized, streamlined and consolidated the content, created simpler headers for major topics, and archived the older material. Our goal is to enhance user experience when you are searching for relevant health insurance information (including Medicare and related forms).

The Aetna-Medicare Informational Seminar was held on July 23, 2025. The event, which was intended for retirees who will be turning 65, was attended by 203 virtual and 53 in-person retirees and some Bank Group staff members who are close to retirement. The seminar focused on Aetna coverage, Medicare processes, coordination between Aetna and Medicare, and the use of SilverScript for drug prescriptions. Panelists included representatives from Aetna and SilverScript, HR personnel and HIC members. A video recording of the event and the presentation are available on the [1818 website \(login required\)](#). The current [Q&A \(login required\)](#) will be revised to add additional questions and answers from this event.

****NOTE:** A **Cigna International Seminar** was held on May 13, 2025. [Click here](#) for the **Q&A (login required)**.

Upcoming: Bank Group Health Insurance administrator procurement process.

The Bank Group is currently undergoing a procurement process for our health insurance (MIP & RMIP) administrators—these include: medical-US, medical international, vision, dental and pharmacy-US). HR is waiting for the consulting firm to complete review of the bids in a few weeks.

How to manage reimbursement claims and/or rejection issues?

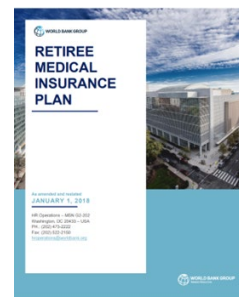
1. Call the vendor (Aetna, Cigna dental, Cigna International, or SilverScript) and ask for an explanation.
2. If you live in the US and your major medical expenses, such as hospital bill, are not being paid or delayed, call Aetna and Medicare. If you have not done so, please sign up with Aetna for **"Medicare Direct"** which will allow Medicare to coordinate with Aetna on your claims. Call: 1-800-723-8897

3. If you live outside the US, call Cigna International: (US) Toll free: 1-866-428-3935 | Non-US providers: Europe, Africa & Middle East: +32 3 293 1811 | North & South America: +1 305 980 9211 | Asia & Pacific: +603 217 814 11
4. If you are unable to get appropriate assistance and/or a satisfactory explanation, send an email to: HROperations@worldbank.org; or call: 202-483-2222
5. The 1818 Health Insurance Committee serves as a resource for information; email: 1818society@wbgalumni.org

Reminder!

For details about your RMIP coverage, please read the [Retiree Medical Insurance Plan \(RMIP\)](#) and [Summaries](#) of RMIP1 and RMIP2 on the 1818 website (*login required*).

Please send your thoughts and ideas about how we can improve our communications to: Morallinag@gmail.com



Summary Report on 1818 Society 2025 Survey **By Susan Dubas and Anis Dani, IMT Committee**

The Society's 2025 pulse survey conducted from May 28-June 11 received 1,373 responses, yielding a 19% response rate. In addition, we received over 1500 comments. The survey reiterated that respondents from every segment of the World Bank Group retiree community value the Society and gave very positive feedback about the Society's activities and the volunteers who are its driving force. Over 60% of respondents said the highest value of the Society is information about retirees, WBG activities, and other issues of relevance to retirees.

As in 2021 and 2023, the two areas of greatest interest for all respondents are the pension and health insurance plans. In 2025, more members access the Website directly than those via links from Weekly Update Emails or the Quarterly. While there is a high degree of satisfaction (over 75%) with the Quarterly, Website, and Weekly Update emails, satisfaction with the Website improved the most, from 61% in 2023 to 74% in 2025. At the same time, respondents primarily get information about Society activities from Weekly Updates and the Quarterly.

The demographic distribution of members is similar to that in the 2023 survey, albeit with younger respondents and a growing share of Net Plan participants who are now 27% compared to 23% in 2023. Among the respondents, 49% had retired in, or prior to, 2010 while 51% retired after 2010, and 48% of respondents were females.

While responses on pension and health insurance were similar, responses to other questions indicated significant variation in interests by gender.

- Thematic groups were of interest to 48% of males compared to 26% of females
- Informational sessions on digital banking, fraud, and information technology were of interest to 52.5% of females compared to 31% of males

- Activity clubs (hiking, yoga, art), international treks and tours, and Members Helping Members were of interest to 40% of females compared to 22-26% of males
- Females tend to participate in the Society's activities much more frequently than males, 11% females reporting participation once or more a month, compared to 7% of males
- Not surprisingly, 27% of females reported participating in Activity Clubs and Trips compared to 17% of males. Conversely, 36% of males participated in thematic group events compared to 16% of female respondents.

Analysis of the additional comments provided a wealth of information. Some suggestions included more outreach and information about chapters for retirees who live abroad, improvements to the Website, and informational sessions on IT issues. For the survey results, [click here](#).

Community Connections Campaign FY2026.

The World Bank Community Connections Campaign (CCC) is starting soon! This year's campaign will take place from Tuesday, October 28, 2025 to Thursday, December 18th, 2025, so don't forget to mark your calendars.

In the FY25 CCC, we raised \$7.1 million (before the corporate match) and achieved a record 85% of global staff participation! Retirees played an especially significant role, contributing more than a third of the total donations. Over 700 retirees generously gave more than \$2.5 million (before the match), helping to drive change through the 400+ CCC organizations. Once again, we're counting on your generosity to support those working hard to uplift our communities.

Like in previous years, you can access the CCC platform via the Pension Portal using your regular retiree login credentials. If you've yet to access the Pension Portal, please contact 1pension@worldbank.org for guidance on setting up your credentials. For those who have accessed the Pension Portal before but are experiencing login issues (e.g., password trouble), contact the Bank Group IT help desk at 1-202-473-2121 and request assistance with the Azure login for the Pension Portal.

For further information and assistance for the CCC, feel free to contact the Community Outreach Team at comoutreach@worldbank.org and include your UPI in the message.

WORLD BANK GROUP NEWS

Bank Goes Nuclear

In the aftermath of Ajay's June 11 message to staff that the Bank Board had agreed to end the decades-long ban on assistance for nuclear energy projects, details on next steps were provided in a recent article in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. Here are some key points:

- Ajay and the Director of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) signed a partnership agreement to “support the safe, secure and responsible use of nuclear energy in developing countries.”
- The IAEA will provide “subject matter expertise” to Bank Group staff aimed at supporting “lifetime extensions of existing nuclear power plants and advance the commercial deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs).”
- There are nearly 440 nuclear power reactors around the world, many of which are approaching or have surpassed their desired lifespans, usually around 40 years. Efforts will be made to extend designed lifetimes to 60 or even 80 years.
- Leading contenders for such lifetime extensions are Argentina, India, South Africa and Ukraine.
- In addition, three countries –Ghana, Indonesia and the Philippines—have strong electric grids and proximity to reliable water sources plus an industrial/manufacturing base. These provide a framework for early potential assistance from the Bank Group and its partners for nuclear energy development.
- Ajay noted that electricity demand in developing countries is projected to more than double by 2035 and investment requirements will rise from “\$280 billion today to roughly \$630 billion.”

Anne Krueger: An Unvarnished Interview



Editor's Note: In a recent interview with the “Journal of Economic Perspectives,” former World Bank Chief Economist and Vice-President Anne Krueger, spoke candidly about her varied career, including at the Bank (1982-86). Following are a few choice nuggets. The full interview can be accessed [here](#).

Bank Introduction

“The development part of the Bank had been, when I got there, sold too much on the import substitution stuff...It was fairly easy for me to say, ‘This is not where we’re going as long as I’m here.’ My conception was, and still is, that for low-income countries there’s got to be a lot more attention to the quality of what is being done and much less than how many dollars are spent...I became a great believer in comparisons of cross-country experiences.”

World Development Report (WDR)

“I came in September (1982). They’d already decided on the WDR topic...outlines of chapters and who would write the chapters. The title of the whole thing was going to be ‘Managing Development.’ Well,

I was there as an economist and I wasn't going to lose all my credentials in one fell swoop. So we got rid of the price controls and all that. We called it 'Management in Development.' You'd be surprised how many people in the Bank changed their tune then. But then, to my astonishment...when I left, some turned back to the former approach."

Remembering Milton Friedman

"One of my eureka days was when Milton Friedman (late University of Chicago Economics Professor) was visiting Minnesota...around when the first law came in restricting auto emissions for new cars, making them more expensive. Milton's argument was that would mean more pollution. Why? Because, obviously, then people keep their cars longer. To him, it was so obvious. But to me, until he said it once, it wasn't obvious."

Bank Briefs

- **2025: Banner Year.** In a message to staff at the close of fiscal year 2025, Bank Group senior management proclaimed: "Over the past two years, we've become faster, more focused and more impactful." The evidence: "Average project approval cut from 19 to 13 months...annual financing up from \$107 billion to \$119 billion...private capital mobilization from \$47 billion to \$67 billion.,," among other metrics. And the new mantra: "One (goal) matters more than all the others: Jobs."
- **2025 Annual Meetings.** The meetings will be at Bank and IMF buildings in DC from Monday, October 13 to Saturday, October 18. Staff do not need to register for the meetings. Details on events schedule, access and related matters can be found [here at AMWeb](#).
- **Minouche: From the Frying Pan into the Fire?** British Prime Minister Keir Starmer recently appointed **former World Bank Vice-President Minouche Shafik** as his chief economic adviser.



Her formidable task will be to help draft the next government budget and help develop policies to boost sluggish economic growth at a time when, as *The Economist* put it, "the traditional government parties are under siege as never before." Minouche previously served as president of Columbia University in New York. She got caught up in a maelstrom of angry student protests over Israel's war in Gaza and left after 13 months. At age 36, she was the youngest World Bank vice-president.

- **Frank and Tammy Have Retired.** The Bank Group's first K-9 security team—Frank Kehoe and trusty detection dog Tammy, a yellow labrador retriever, officially retired on September 30. For about seven years they have been sauntering through 6 Bank buildings in DC, on the lookout for suspicious packages or individuals. They apparently found very little that might be considered untoward. But their presence added to the general sense of security and provided an uncommon break for Bank Group staff who love petting friendly dogs. For more information about this dynamic duo please [see recent story](#) by Victor Mesejo of the Bank's GCS Corporate Security unit.



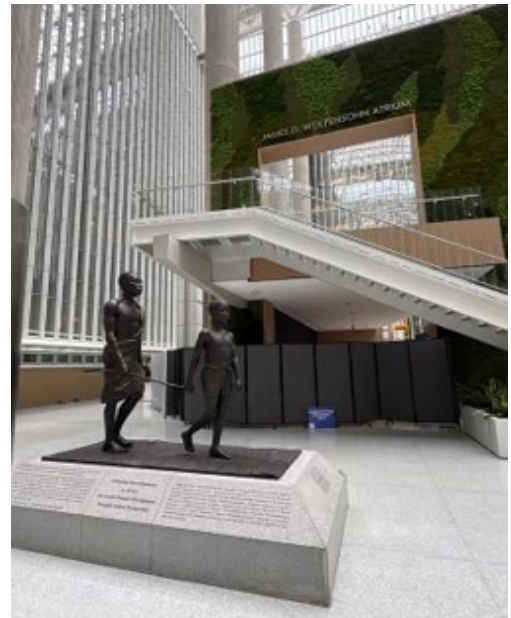


Moldova President, and **Bank retiree Maia Sandu's** pro-European party claimed victory and a new majority in the parliament after national elections on Sunday, September 28. Sandu, who worked as an economist in the Bank's Chisinau office and later in an Executive Director's office, had warned of "massive Russian interference" in the voting. However, the country's central electoral commission concluded that with 99.9 percent of the 1.6 million votes counted, Sandu's party had 50.17 percent of the vote, far ahead of the pro-Russian party.

Electrifying Africa. At the United Nations annual meeting in New York in September, **Bank President Banga** announced an ambitious partnership with the African Development Bank and 17 African countries to connect 300 million Africans to electricity by 2030. The partnership, called Mission 300, has already connected 30 million people with more than 100 million in the pipeline

Bank Acquires J Building Land. The Bank paid \$165 million to acquire land at 701 18th street NW, home to the J building. The Bank had executed a 99-year ground lease in 1983 as part of a cluster of transactions involving land and property. Including the former headquarters of the U.S. Information Agency and the former Park Central hotel. The sellers of the ground lease were partners of two investment companies.

Wolfensohn Atrium Renovation. The renovation, which started on June 20 and involved repair work limited to late afternoon-early evening to minimize disruption during office hours, is almost finished. Scheduled completion date is Friday, October 3, according to a public statement from the GCS real estate department. In plenty of time for the Annual Meetings later in October. A main objective of the work has been replacing metal and stone as much as possible with wood to enhance acoustics in the Atrium, thus permitting more frequent use for important events. Work has progressed a bit faster than expected. As a result, the river blindness statue (elderly, blind African man being led by a young boy with a stick), which has been under wraps, has now been returned to its original spot.



Senior Management Appointments



Tsutomu Yamamoto is the new **Managing Director of MIGA** (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency), effective early December 2025. The Japanese national has been Senior Managing Executive officer and head of the Global Transaction Banking unit at the Mizuho Financial Group. He replaces Hiroshi Matano who held the position for six years.



Susana Cordeiro Guerra, a Brazilian national, became Vice-President, for the Latin America/Caribbean (LAC) region on September 1, based in Washington. She has been a mid-level manager in the Inter-American Development Bank and worked at the World Bank as an economist from 2016-19. She is married to Elbridge Colby, the US Deputy Secretary of Defense for Policy and, according to news reports, is a close friend of Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner and godmother to one of their daughters.



Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, former Vice-President for the LAC region, assumed the role of Vice-President for the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region on September 15, based in Singapore, which will serve as the new regional hub for the Bank Group in EAP. Prior to joining the Bank, he held senior roles in the government of Colombia. Felipe replaces Manuela Ferro, who served as EAP Vice-President for four years. Her future plans will be communicated separately, according to a Bank announcement.

More Management Appointments

- Cathy Marsh is the new Director and General Counsel in MIGA, effective October 7. A British national, she joined the Bank Group from the Asian Development Bank where she was deputy director general of the Private Sector Operations department.
- Sarka Dybczakova, a Czech national, became Bank Group Manager of Global Compensation and Rewards on August 1. She joined the Bank in 2010 as a senior advisor to the Executive Director and, most recently, has been a senior HR specialist.
- Larissa Luy, a Peruvian national, became Bank Group Director for Environmental and Social Risk in July in the Chief Risk office vice-presidency. She joined the IFC in 2005 as a social development specialist.
- Han Fraeters is the Division Director for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, EAP, based in Port Moresby, effective September 15. A Belgian national, he joined the Bank in 2003.
- Claire Ehmann, a US national, became Senior Manager, Corporate Services in Global Corporate Solutions effective August 4. She previously worked for 20 years in senior positions at USAID.
- Cecile Fruman, a French national, on September 1 became Country Director for Brazil in the LAC region based in Brasilia. She joined the Bank in 1998 as a Young Professional.
- Samit Nag, is Director of Talent Acquisition and International Mobility in the Human Resources Vice-Presidency. An Indian national, he joined the Bank in 2014 as an HR manager. His new appointment became effective July 1.
- Angela Khaminwe, a Kenyan national, is ESF (Environmental and Social Framework) Practice Manager in the Planet Department of the LAC region effective October 15. She joined the Bank in 2006 as a Young Professional in the Africa region.

- Robert S. Chase became Practice Manager for Social Protection and Labor in the Africa West region People Vertical effective October 1. A United States nation he joined the Bank in 2002.
- Pam O'Connell, Vice President of Finance and Accounting and Bank Group Controller, retired effective September 19 after 28 years with the institution.
- Victor Bundi Mosoti. Effective October 1, Victor Bundi Mosoti, a Kenyan national, became deputy General Counsel for Environmental and Social Risk Management in the Legal Vice Presidency. He joined the Bank Group in 2010.
- Marjorie Mpundu will become Director of the Policy and Operations unit of the Secretariat effective November 1. A Zambian national, she joined the Bank Group in 2007 as a counsel in the Legal Vice Presidency.
- Kristina Svensson, a Swedish national, became regional hub manager for Singapore in the East Asia Pacific region effective October 1. She joined the Bank in 2004 as a consultant in the Bank Group Investment Climate unit.

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.

Chile

An art show of watercolors and pastel by Andres Solimano, a member of the 1818 Chilean Society, took place from July 19 - August 2, 2025 at the Eduardo Lira Gallery in Santiago, Chile. Thirty three pieces were presented in the exhibit reflecting work of the last two years by the painter. Pictures are made in public parks, the Chilean sea shoreline and mountains near the capital city of Santiago. More information in @asolimanor and www.Asolimano.art.

Miguel Schloss circulated this paper on climate change: <https://brettonwoods.org/navigating-climate-change-through-energy-transition/>

DACH Group (Germany/Austria/Switzerland)

Members of the 1818 DACH Group and many 1818 friends from around the world enjoyed 3 fantastic days together in Dresden and surroundings September 4-7. We admired Dresden Old Town, masterfully rebuilt over decades, the richness of its museums, and a tour on the Elbe River to the castle of Pillnitz. We visited the old and well-preserved town of Meissen and were intrigued by the art of porcelain painting. The highlight was a dinner hosted by Maritta and Caio Koch Weser at their historic castle. We all left inspired by sunny days of friendship, lively conversations and thoughtful presentations from our dinner speakers.



France

During the summer, our membership was travelling, and no activities were planned. Recently, at the invitation of DACH Chapter, six members from the French chapter joined the DACH reunion chapter in Dresden on September 4-6. This was a very nice and successful few days that will be reported by the DACH Chapter. We plan a board meeting on October 15 when the organization of our Association and program will be discussed. The General Assembly is scheduled for late November to close year 2024.



In the intense heat of summer in Japan, the Chapter continued to provide seminars online. Two intriguing talks were presented: the first, held in early August, was about developing innovative business approaches in Africa by a Japanese entrepreneur. The second talk, held in later August, was by a Japanese graduate-school student who talked about her studying abroad in Stockholm. The contributions of these two young speakers was a result of outreach and expansion by the 1818 Society in Japan.

The Annual Meeting of the Japan Chapter was held on July 4th. The meeting was attended by 50 members, who happily crowded an Italian restaurant located in downtown Tokyo. Following warm opening remarks by Mr. Kunio Kikuchi (Headquarter liaison) and the introduction of new members, the meeting proceeded with its agenda: a) the financial/auditor's report, and b) proposed changes in the Chapter's management structure. After the formal part of the meeting was over, three members briefly addressed the meeting. The speakers included: the past Japanese Executive Director, Mr. Takashi Miyahara; a novelist, Ms. Tomoko Matsukawa; and the former judge of Japan's Supreme Court, Ms. Yuko Miyazaki, who had worked in the Bank's legal department. Thereafter, the members had ample time catching up with each other until 8:30 pm when Mr. Yoshiaki Abe closed the meeting with a short remark.



The Netherlands

The Dutch 1818 chapter gathered Sept 9-11 in Bergen and Alkmaar for what might have been the last Dutch reunion lasting two and half days. The first reunion was held in 1999 and after 26 years, the format may have to change given that there are no volunteers willing to take on the organization of next year's reunion (yet).

The 37 individuals who participated in all or some of the activities enjoyed lots of lively conversations and great food in centuries' old repurposed historic buildings. They also participated in several cultural experiences. The museum in Bergen did not have its collection of paintings from the so called "Bergense school" on exhibit but instead had three modern art exhibits. The breathtaking photographs taken in Burkina Faso were for many a deep dive into their own personal West-Africa experiences, while the sculptures made from beeswax with the help of live bees were eerie.

The day in Alkmaar was steeped in its history. The dry facts learned in primary school came to live (Count Floris V and his exploits in the 1200's). The old town of Alkmaar is well preserved and charming, cobblestones, many gables under historic preservation, and photographs of views of each street on the trash cans throughout the center, and of course THE tourist attraction of summer re-enactments of cheese markets. The Grote St. Laurens Kerk, literally the Great Church in the center of town for centuries, is a great example of how such a structure can mirror Dutch history: from Catholic church,

Reformed Church after Independence, horse stables for Napoleon's armies and now a cultural center operated by a theatre company.

The performance of the string quartet (in which one of the Dutch retirees plays) in the Regents' Hall of the old convent, now a restaurant, was a wonderful counterpoint to the old history, because it shows how after retirement you can again fully explore your passions and skills and link up with old friends.

UK

The 1818 Society British Chapter is pleased to announce that its annual Winter Reunion and Christmas Lunch will return to the Kingsley Thistle Holborn Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SD on Saturday 6 December 2025. Pre-lunch drinks will take place from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm in the Kingsley Bar followed by lunch in the Kingsley Restaurant from 1.00–3.00 pm.

Further details and Booking Form will be circulated in mid-September 2025 and posted on The 1818 Society British Chapter website: 1818bc.org.uk.

The Chapter is exploring options for the Spring 2026 Reunion, with the amazing city of Liverpool being our target destination. More detail will be available by the beginning of 2026.

If any 1818 Society members (resident in the UK or elsewhere) who are not members of the British Chapter would like to join the Chapter or wish to be added to our mailing list they are welcome to contact us through the British Chapter website (<http://www.1818bc.org.uk>) or by email to the current Chair, David Potten, at davidpotten@compuserve.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 & Rural Development

Dr. Uma Lele --- a trailblazing development/agriculture economist whose work reshaped global approaches to agriculture, food security, and rural transformation — passed away on July 28, 2025. As the first woman president of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, she championed inclusive, evidence-based policy reform. Her legacy lives on through the institutions she strengthened and the many professionals she mentored worldwide. Her final work, "***Food for All: International Organizations and the Transformation of Agriculture***", was published in collaboration with Cornell University and reflects her lifelong commitment to inclusive, evidence-based agricultural development.

The Agriculture, Food & Rural Development Thematic Group (AgFRD TG) of the 1818 Society, in collaboration with the World Bank's Agriculture & Food Global Practice, is holding a Memorial to honor her memory on Wednesday, October 29, 2025.

Energy

We start with the sad news of John Besant Jones' (JBj) passing, reported in the 1818 Summer Quarterly. John made an enormous, and lasting, contribution to the Bank's energy work over more than two decades. He was an outstanding energy economist, who contributed substantively to the Bank's policy work in the energy sector. After retirement from the Bank, John returned to the UK where he spent his final years in Hampshire, looking after his family and avidly following the fortunes of England-in rugby, cricket, and soccer. Tributes from several of his colleagues with whom he worked closely can be found in the obituaries on the 1818 website.

On September 9, and thanks to Chas Feinstein, we organized a presentation on *nuclear fusion*, a topic on which there is growing interest throughout the world. To date, the pursuit of nuclear fusion has been, until recently, led largely by government-funded universities and laboratories; more recently, private capital is showing growing interest. The topic was presented very clearly by *Dr. Swadesh M. Mahajan*, a distinguished research professor in the Physics Department at the University of Texas in Austin. Dr. Mahajan spoke for almost one hour on a technically complex topic and was able to hold the attention of almost 60 participants, one of the largest gatherings we have had.

Looking ahead, we are planning a presentation in November on the recent *Iberian 'blackout'* in Spain. Finally, we welcome *Asad Yaqub* as the newest member of our 1818 Energy TG.

Transport

On July 9th, 2025, Nicolas Peltier-Thiberge, Global Director of the World Bank's Transport Global Practice provided his views on the strategic directions of the sector in light of the broader international order and challenges. The seminar was moderated by our own Jose Luis Irigoyen, former Global Director of Transport Global Practice. Nicolas highlighted the significant progress and evolving priorities in the transport sector, emphasizing that while efficiency and climate considerations remain important, new complementary dimensions are shaping the agenda. FY25 marked a strong year, with transport delivering \$11.2 billion in new lending, supported by high demand from client countries facing megatrends such as rapid urbanization, the need for resilient logistics systems, and the critical importance of maintaining open supply chains for food security, critical minerals, and trade. Brazil stood out with a strong pipeline of large projects, while broader regional initiatives—such as the Middle Corridor in ECA—show the expanding scope of transport's role. Beyond lending, the sector advanced climate co-benefits, gender considerations, and knowledge initiatives, including initiatives in transport modelling (such as the preparatory work for the new road maintenance and management tool—the HDM-5), research on mobility economics, and training programs like the new e-mobility academy under LUTP.

The narrative around transport has been evolving, with greater emphasis on local and immediate benefits alongside global ones. Air quality improvements, for instance, are now highlighted as yielding more monetizable benefits than climate outcomes alone, while adaptation and resilience are gaining prominence in project design. Road safety remains a critical issue, with the recent Fourth Global Ministerial Conference (that took place in Marrakesh, Morocco) drawing attention to persistent challenges, especially in Africa where accident rates continue to rise. Gender inclusion has moved beyond transport services to also focus on workforce participation, addressing the sector's low 12% female representation. Core priorities—clean, resilient, safe, gender-inclusive, and efficient transport—remain central, with an increasing attention to services such as the modernization and electrification of public transport reflects this broader shift, ensuring transport investments deliver not only efficiency but also inclusive, resilient, and transformative impacts. The recording of this event—well attended by people from across several Thematic Groups—is available on the 1818 Society website (under the Transport Thematic Group). *See picture of the event below.*



The following day, on July 10th, 2025, we held our bi-monthly lunch at the at the usual venue - the Irish Inn. (See picture.)



Urban and Water

On September 25, the Urban and Water Thematic Group (U&W TG) hosted a hybrid webinar titled “Closing the Equity–Revenue Gap: Second-Best Pricing Pathways for Unmetered Urban Water Utilities in the Global South”. The featured speaker was Hassaan F. Khan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University. Prof. Khan presented findings from a new study that uses household survey data and property records from Karachi, Pakistan, to test alternative pricing and reform strategies in largely unmetered water systems. Following the presentation, comments and analysis were provided by Fan Zhang, the World Bank’s Global Lead for Water Economics and Climate Change. The session was moderated by Gustavo Saltiel, former Global Lead for Water and member of the TG Coordinating Committee.

If you missed the event, the recording is available on the Society’s website (*login required*).

The U&W TG Coordinating Committee welcomes ideas and suggestions for future presentations—including topics, speakers, and dates. Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members:

- Gustavo Saltiel (gsaltiel@worldbank.org)
- Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic (cfarvacque-vitkovic@hotmail.com)
- Sylvie Debomy (scd269@gmail.com)
- Alex Bakalian (alexbakalian@gmail.com)

Members Helping Members

The Members Helping Members Group (MHM) was established in 2016, with the mission of promoting and enabling mutual support, help and connection among 1818 Society members.

We want to thank the members who mentioned in the recent 1818 Pulse Survey that MHM was one of the most valued services from the Society. This appreciation was echoed by our own survey of MHM members and around 100 volunteers.

We are often the first point of contact at MHMHelp@wbgalumni.org for questions from 1818 members. When we or our volunteers cannot help, we point members to the appropriate 1818 committees or other resources. Our popular offerings include databases of professional service

providers, webinars on retirement living options, and a guide for actions after the death of a World Bank Group retiree.

Want to do something for fellow 1818 members? Please contact the co-chairs Jacomina de Regt (jacominaderegt@gmail.com), Karin Strydom (k2strydom@gmail.com) or Eduardo Wallentin (ewallentin@gmail.com) if you want to join the Group and/or offer your services as a volunteer. The Group typically meets monthly, mostly virtually, and our volunteers provide one-on-one connections, transport for medical appointments and input on professional service providers.

Please also join our upcoming webinars and hybrid events. We will continue with our popular webinars on retirement living options this fall. In our upcoming event we will bring together professionals from Assisted Living Homes and WBG retirees to share their insights and provide valuable information on the topic. Stay tuned for the official announcement coming soon!

We are also launching an intermittent speaker series where a range of experts will address health issues facing ageing populations. Please join MHM and the Health Insurance Committee for the kick-off on Monday, October 6, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 pm EDT, in MC 4-100. Dr. Mikhail Kogan of George Washington University will join us in person at this hybrid event to share his expertise on how to protect and enhance brain health. [RSVP here](#). Future session dates are currently being finalized. These sessions will be for informational purposes only and do not imply endorsement of any specific provider or treatment approach.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE

1818 Hiking Club and City Walking Group – Don't Stop Walking!



The local hikes organized by the Hiking Club were suspended over the summer when many hiking veterans joined international treks. The 4-5 mile walks were organized each month by the City Walking Group (CWG) in the District, Maryland, & Virginia (DMV) area.

Want to join the local hikes or walks? Send an email to 1818society@wbgalumni.org with Hiking in the subject line, indicating if you are interested in the strenuous, longer hikes or in the CWG walks. If you are new to the Hiking Club [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the webpage to see the list of previous hikes and walks, and norms of the Hiking Club. If you are interested in the City Walking Group [Click here](#).

1818 Hiking Club, 2025 Q3 activities:

- International treks in UK, Whitby; Italy Gran Paradiso National Park; and Pakistan K2 Base Camp
- September 22, 2025 – Gerry Connolly Memorial Hike on Fairfax CCT – [View Pictures](#)

City Walking Group, 2025 Q1 activities in the DMV area:

- September 29, 2025: Short walk on the Gerry Connolly – Fairfax Cross-County Trail", VA
- July 14, 2025: Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens, DC
- June 6, 2025: Great Falls Park, MD

International Trekking Trips

The following three international trekking trips were completed in Q3, 2025:

- July 4-11: The Whitby hike in New York Moors, UK continued the tradition of a summer hike in the UK organized successfully by Sandra Hadler for several years. Their success is partly due to her organizational skills and persistence but also due to their unique design which allows sub-groups of participants with different hiking abilities to enjoy hikes of different intensity during this annual trip to the UK. [View the Trip Album here](#).



- July 19-26: As during the previous two years, Giovanna Prennushi led a group of hardcore hikers on The Tour felt Monte Rosa in the Western Alps, Italy. Classified as Strenuous, these trips tend to attract our more experienced hikers.
- August 1-18: The K2 Base Camp trip in the Karakorum Mountains of Pakistan was this year's most challenging trek. The high altitude, 15-day camping trek on the Baltoro Glacier took us to Concordia (4,500m) and on to K2 base camp (5,100m). Concordia is a six-day trek from the nearest village, Askole, and sits at the confluence of the Baltoro and Godwin-Austen glaciers, offering breathtaking, unobstructed views of K2 (8,611m) — the second highest peak in the world — and Broad Peak (8,051m), as well as the Gasherbrum range which has two more 8,000m+ mountains (see photo at the beginning of this section). Being surrounded by numerous peaks and glaciers, Concordia is a truly magical place which attracts many mountaineering and trekking groups in the summer. Our trek was affected by heavy monsoon rains, landslides and rapidly melting glaciers that washed away bridges and trails making the return trek to Askole even more difficult than the outbound journey.

A fourth trip to hike up to volcanoes in the Sicilian Islands has started and will be covered in the next issue of the Quarterly, while the last trek of the year, on the Annapurna Trail in Nepal is scheduled in mid-October.

Cultural Tours

For the past two years, Di Vine and Dine Experiences has been organizing tailor-made cultural tours for wine lovers and foodies. From September 4 - 12, a group of enthusiasts participated in the Great Wines of France trip to Champagne. The success of the trip has led to demand for a repeat as well as a similar one in Spain in 2026. Stay tuned for details. [See blog by Morallina George.](#)

Since 2023, Bonizella and Giovanni (Society member) have hosted two 1818 Society groups on one-week stays at Villa Bonizella. The villa provides a comfortable base to explore the towns and countryside of Tuscany. The two tours in 2025, in the first and second weeks of September, were appropriately called "Secret Tuscany" as they were designed for the seasoned travel seeking to discover locations and experiences off the beaten path, including exclusive access to places otherwise closed to the general public. Details on the second "Secret Tuscany" week can be found in the [blog by Lester Dally and Eduardo Somesatto.](#)



We are currently obtaining feedback from participants about the treks and tours they participated in during the last few years. We intend to repeat the ones for which there is still demand. We also welcome suggestions from other members. Write to the Society (1818society@wbgalumni.org) indicating which trip(s) you are interested in and we will try to respond to your preferences.

Yoga Club



Yoga is like jazz, you don't need to be a connoisseur, and you can fast be a fan.

Do you know that five teachers alternate to offer three lessons, exclusively for 378 members, every week? Participants join all the way from California to Europe, and we have seen a yogi join from Pakistan and another from Nepal.

Yoga is union of the mind and body. Practice helps you stay focused. It teaches you to stay firm outside and relaxed inside. It is a holistic approach to mental

and physical wellbeing.

Yoga is for all ages, all abilities, and all physical constraints. With the right instructions, all notice life progress in due course.

Just come and nothing will happen, until one day you notice how much better you feel ... Plus you will have made fantastic new friends on the way!

Hope to see you soon,

Anjana, Davinder, Maryvonne, Simone, Yoshiko

Art Club Update

The Art Club has continued to grow both in numbers of members – 156 now registered --and activities.

Last spring saw the inauguration of an in-person ***Show in the front lobby of the MC building***, thanks to the WBG Art Program Chief Curator, Marina Galvani, and Curator Amir **Noorbakhsh**. **This was the first “solo show” of the 1818 Art Club in Bank premises.** The opening reception generously catered by the Art Program welcomed about 150 Bank Group staff, retirees, friends and family of artists. We dedicated the show to the memory of Matthew Burke, a dedicated staff of the Art Program who passed away a few weeks before the show opened. The Art Club show was the last one he prepared.

Many artists have continued to participate in juried exhibits, like Minh Chau and Wendy Plotkin-Mates, Arleen Seed, and Margarita Caro whose work was spotted at the Glen Echo, MD, 2025 summer show, in the Chevy Chase Village Fair and other venues. Since the beginning of 2025, Elizabeth Casqueiro had her own solo shows at Embassy of Portugal, and at the InterAmerican Development Bank Gallery.

Maria Uehara organized two museum visits: At the SAAM “Pictures of Belonging” in June 2025, and the Glenstone Museum. Further announcements will be made on the 2025-2026 program. A painting retreat in Cambodia is being planned for January 2026 (contact: reth.kim@gmail.com). Visit the [Art Club](#) and [Community Hub page](#) (*login required*) where we post all our periodic announcements.

We encourage you to join the Art Club, wherever you are in the world: it is inspiring and a lot of fun! To join: write to Dennis Bacani: Dbacani@worldbank.org, cc:

Dominique.Lallement@gmail.com, may.sita@hotmail.com, Aseed@gmail.com. We'd like to work with country and other chapters to start organizing shows in venues other than in the DMV (District, Maryland and Northern Virginia) and continue to discover retirees' remarkable talents with all sorts of mediums.



MEMBERS' NEWS IN BRIEF

Grover's Deering-Do Does Him In

Editor's Note: Bank retiree Brian Grover, star squash and pickle ball player, reports from Canada's British Columbia on a serious back injury that has kept him in a wheelchair.

"My accident deserves telling so that other oldsters might avoid my unhappy situation. I got onto the top of a concrete picnic table to photograph my wife and her bunch of 'cold water addicts' having a swim in the Pacific ocean at sunset last December. I lost my balance getting down, bounced onto the concrete table, the concrete bench, concrete roadway, ending up on a pile of beach rocks.



"No initial pain as I was in shock. A few days later, pain matured seriously. So I entered our excellent local hospital where I've been for more than eight months.

No ability to walk due apparently to some disconnect in my spine. I fear that I will be confined to a wheelchair unless I have a miraculous recovery.

"What's the lesson? Simple...geezers like us (I'm 86) should NEVER take unnecessary chances, like stepladders, chairs etc. Let younger people with better balance cope."

Brian Grover, a retired water supply and sanitation engineer, had two Bank stints. The first from 1965-69 in the MENA region; the second from 1994-99 working on global water issues.

Seeking Connections? Here's an option. Check "Connect&"

That intriguing reference to "Connect&" is the brainchild of two retired Bank economists: Guy Pfeffermann and Dennis Whittle. Concerned about increasing age segregation and loneliness worldwide, they wondered what a possible solution might be to foster durable connections between younger and older generations. The answer: "Connect&", an initiative that draws on the power of personal storytelling to bridge divides. They tested the concept in pilots involving college and high school students interacting with company executives, community leaders. Tests revealed that reliable intergenerational exchanges could best be inspired using groups of up to 10 participants "prompted" by a specially designed, conversation-based card game. Each card poses questions such as "When is a time you felt like a rebel?" or "What song or artist always puts you in a good mood?" There are 90+ prompts in each card deck. Testing continues with a current goal of going public in January next year. Details on the initiative can be found [here](#).





MEMBERS' CORNER

The AI (Artificial Intelligence) Revolution: Will the World Bank Remain Relevant?

By Frank Lysy

There was a common joke among World Bank staff in the early 1990s - when desktop computers first became widespread. It was easy to see that reports being written on some sector in some country were often very similar to reports on the sector in a different country. The joke was that instead of preparing a new report, one could simply use a universal "search and replace" to change the name of the country.

That was then. But now, with new AI tools widely available, it may no longer be much of a joke. While staff use AI tools to help prepare reports (which is fine), it may not be long before some staffer uses AI to prepare the entire report. And if these appear to be as good as one that staff might prepare, the question arises: why bother with World Bank staff? Officials in the countries could do the same themselves.

This raises the question whether the Bank will remain relevant in this new AI age. It is not so much the money that the Bank provides. Bank Group money may be a bit cheaper, but countries can and do borrow from others. The total loans provided by the Bank (together with IDA) account for less than 5% of the total debt outstanding of borrowing members.

Rather, the key value of the Bank is - or at least should be - its ability to bring insights on practical development issues based on direct, hands-on, experience in countries elsewhere with similar issues. This depends on Bank staff having: (a) expertise that the country is not able to obtain locally; (b) the ability to respond to often changing country needs, and (c) insights into the issues that AI systems do not have (at least not yet).

For the Bank to remain relevant, it will also be necessary for the institution to be responsive to the changing needs of its members. Country situations are far from static. The conditions under which the Bank may be able to provide assistance that the country values may change due to everything from a global crisis (such as the Covid pandemic), to country conditions (a change in government following elections), to changes in key personnel in some sector (a new minister with an interest in working with the Bank on an important program, where the prior minister did not).

Planning is therefore difficult, and the world is what it is. But the Bank - at least since the time of McNamara - has sought to set plans for its assistance to a country that extends for years into the future. This has not always worked well, and the fact that major changes have been made in this process every few years suggests there have been frustrations.

The most recent change went into effect on July 1, 2025, with new guidelines for what is called the Country Partnership Framework (CPF). The new CPF calls for a more focused presentation than the old, with a 25-page limit for the main text. That is certainly good. If it takes more pages to describe the strategy, then it is likely there is no real strategy.

But it is still a planning document, with a time horizon that can stretch to as long as ten years (up from the previous six). There will be mid-term reviews, and more importantly, an annual business planning exercise, but the underlying strategy and areas of focus of the Bank's assistance are supposed to remain as laid out in the CPF.

The problem is that conditions change. The Bank may then be in a position to provide highly valuable assistance in some area important to the country but not envisioned in the CPF. Neglecting those opportunities makes the Bank less relevant to its members.

The planning documents do allow for adjustments. But the managers must then explain why they had been so incompetent as not to recognize this before.

Such responsiveness will require changes in the Bank's budget process. Instead of fixing a unit's budget based exclusively on a work program derived from the CPF plans, budgets should be set to allow for flexibility to respond to changing conditions. Budgets should be allocated and managers assessed, based not on what they were forced to promise for the coming fiscal year, but on what they accomplished in the past year.

A common refrain among those working on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe following the collapse of the planning systems in 1990 was "let the managers manage". The Bank will need to do that as well if it is to be responsive to country needs in the coming age of AI.

Frank Lysy joined the Bank in 1984 and worked in several different positions in the Bank, the IFC and MIGA. His final position was as Chief Economist and Director of the Economics and Policy Group in MIGA. He retired in 2010 and blogs at "AnEconomicSense.org"

"Erin go Bragh"

By Guy Pfeffermann

We are sitting near the Priest's Leap on County Cork's highest pass, a spectacular site, Bantry Bay shimmering far away. Summer, 2025. The narrow dirt road is described on Facebook as "the most memorable road to drive in Ireland". We drove it in both directions and loved every bit of it. Petrified tourists sweating profusely routinely reach Kenmare or Bantry, having unwittingly set their GPS on shortest distance. Multi-colored sheep graze on the steep slopes. The markings denote ownership, the sheeps' breeding or health, providing instant information to farmers.



A red utility crawls up the rise and stops near us. I ask the driver, a sheep farmer, why the name "Priest's Leap". He starts explaining in a hard-to-follow Irish brogue, stops suddenly in mid-sentence, looks worried, cocks his head and asks: "are you religious?" I assure him that I am not. He looks relieved and

says that he himself doesn't believe in the miracle. The "facts" are as follows: sometime in the mid-1600s an unfortunate priest was being pursued by Cromwell's soldiers – the "priest hunters". Trapped on the cliff edge, he prayed for deliverance, spurred his horse and leapt miles across the valley where one can see hoofprints in the rock where he landed.



Glengarriff, a town of some 800 people, enjoys a clement microclimate. Gorgeous flowers, shrubs and trees abound all along the West Cork Garden Trail. The most colorful flowers thrive on Garinish Island, just off the town. Giant rhubarb dwarf the average human.

The Eccles hotel opened to tourists in 1745; they include W.B. Yeats and George Bernard Shaw. Maureen O'Hara spent the last years of her life in Glengarriff. Much of Foynes' seaplane museum is about her, as her husband landed the first Boeing flying boat in the Shannon estuary.

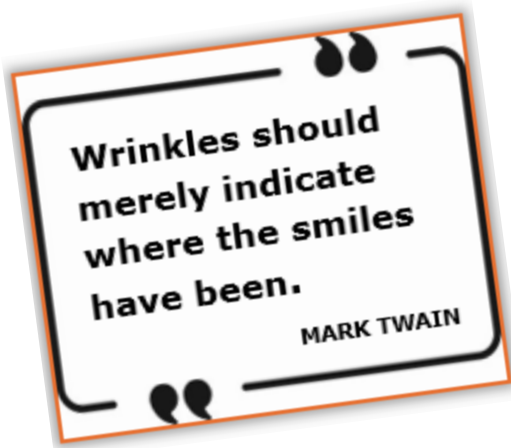
Ireland went from being a most conservative nation to one of the world's most liberal. The pervasive influence of the Catholic church on society is well known. Under the "marriage bar" women were required until 1973 to give up public employment if they married. This prevented married women from joining the permanent civil service. Only in 1996 did divorce become legal.

Ireland's quirkiness is enchanting. We stay at a smaller hotel, sitting in the lobby. Suddenly an alarm rings. Perfectly unfazed, the receptionist picks up the phone and asks a colleague whether anyone has just had a shower. "It's the steam that may have set it off", she explains, and so it was. The receptionist praises the fine weather. Diffidently I mention that it is raining outside. "Oh, but it is a dry rain". The language itself is a wonder. We drive past the minuscule town of Coolnacooopogue (translated as "the recess of the docks"). When driving below the speed limit, green "Thank you for not speeding" signs flash along the roads. I confessed to a Dublin friend that I gave up trying to read Ulysses after some thirty pages of utter confusion. "Don't you worry, said he, NOBODY ever read Ulysses, not even James Joyce".

My favorite Irish joke: In a hamlet like the one in "Waking Ned Devine", a hiker asks someone for directions to another village. The local launches on an explanation, and soon they are joined by another whose opinion differs. More people join, each suggesting a different itinerary. At last the village elder appears and all goes quiet. Having listened to the hiker, the elder reflects for a while, then says: "Young man, if I were to go to that village, I wouldn't start from here".

Guy Pfeffermann and wife Irene Crowe visited Ireland last summer, their fifth visit. He worked at the Bank Group as an economist and senior manager for 40 years before retiring in 2006. He then ran the Global Business School Network until 2017 when he moved into other non-profit activities.

Potpourri



Chevalier on Youth



*"And even if love comes through the door
The kind that goes on forevermore
Forevermore is shorter than before
I'm so glad that I'm not young anymore"*

*Sung by Maurice Chevalier in "Gigi"
Lyrics and music by Lerner and Loewe*



Advice from the "Godfather of AI"



"Don't try to dominate superintelligence.

Design it to care, like a mother wired to protect her child.

Control through attachment, not power."

Geoffrey Hinton, British-Canadian computer scientist, is known as the "Godfather of AI (Artificial Intelligence)" for his revolutionary contributions to AI networks. He won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2024.

WORLD BANK HISTORY YEARS AGO

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 75 Years Ago December 28, 1950 | The Bank Issues Its Year-End Report <p>The Bank issues its year-end report: Total loans of IBRD passed the \$1 billion mark for the first time; there were 49 member countries; 17 different loans were approved, totaling \$279,230,000; comprehensive survey missions were sent to Cuba, Turkey and Guatemala; a General Reserve against losses on loans and guarantees was established. The largest loan of the year—for \$100 million—was made to Australia for the purchase of a wide variety of capital goods and equipment for agriculture, mining, manufacturing and transportation.</p> |
| 70 Years Ago October 21, 1955 | World Bank Office Burglary <p>The World Bank's offices in the Equitable Building are burglarized, and a number of personal checks, travelers' checks, cash and some valuables were stolen.</p> |
| 65 Years Ago November 14, 1960 | Cuba Withdraws from IBRD and IFC <p>"The Government of Cuba has withdrawn from membership in the World Bank. The withdrawal took effect yesterday (November 14, 1960), when the Bank received written notification of the Government's decision to withdraw. At the same time, Cuba automatically ceased to be a member of the International Finance Corporation.</p> |
| 60 Years Ago November 12, 1965 December 17, 1965 | Staff Home Leave Requests <p>"Staff members eligible for home leave next spring and summer who plan to travel by sea should complete Form No. 3—'Leave Request' as soon as possible. The form should be approved by the Department Head and forwarded to the Personnel Records Section, where the necessary authorization will be prepared and sent to the Travel Office. The Travel Office will not make reservations for home leave travel until this authorization has been received. Steamship reservations for spring and summer travel may be obtainable if requests are made before the end of this calendar year. [signed] James E. Twining, Jr. Deputy director of Administration." Administrative Circular, November 12, 1965.</p> IBRD Articles of Agreement Amended to Permit Loans to IFC <p>World Bank's Articles of Agreement amended to allow Bank to make loans to the IFC of up to four times IFC's unimpaired subscribed capital and surplus.</p> |
| 55 Years Ago October 14, 1970 | Department of Computing Activities Announced <p>President McNamara announces the establishment of a new Department of Computing Activities, effective February 1, 1971. He cited the increasing importance of electronic data processing in the work of the World Bank Group and the increased international use of computers.</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 18, 1970 | Bank Pledges East Pakistan Cyclone Reconstruction Assistance President McNamara sends a telegram to President Yahya Khan of Pakistan pledging World Bank assistance to help areas of East Pakistan devastated by the recent cyclone. "The Executive Directors of the Bank and IDA met in special session today and unanimously supported my proposal that the World Bank Group of Institutions should make a special effort to help your country in the reconstruction of the areas of East Pakistan devastated by the recent cyclone. |
| 50 Years Ago October 17, 1975 | First Female Department Director Appointed Shirley Boskey was appointed Director of the International Relations Department, becoming the first female Department Director (served 1975-1983). |
| December 16, 1975 | Special Project Preparation Facility Established The Special Project Preparation Facility is established. Through this, the Bank provided funding to borrowers for project preparation and institution building. The initial authorized capital was for \$5 million. |
| 45 Years Ago November 12, 1980 | Decisions on Staff Compensation Levels Deferred until April 1981 Vice President Martin J.W.M. Paijmans announces that the ongoing Hay survey on staff compensation levels is going well, but that the announcement of the final decisions has been postponed until April 1981. The Hay survey compared the salary levels in private and public sector organizations in France, Germany and the United States, and was used as a basis for setting appropriate compensation levels for Bank staff (to be retroactive from March 1, 1980). Due to the high levels of inflation during the year, the Bank provided a special 5 percent supplement to individual salaries, effective September 1, 1980. |
| 40 Years Ago October 8, 1985 | 1985 Annual Meetings in Seoul At the Bank and IMF annual general meetings in Seoul, President Clausen reaffirms his decision to not accept a second term as Bank President. Also, US Secretary of the Treasury James A. Baker suggests a new strategy for the major indebted countries, calling for increased lending by the World Bank and commercial banks. |
| 35 Years Ago October 3, 1990 | Fourth Staff Attitude Survey Results Released to Staff Results of the fourth Staff Attitude Survey are released to staff. Over 5,000 staff completed the surveys, and President Conable summarized the results: "Although still low, morale in most respects is higher than it was in 1988. Commitment to the Bank Group's mission continues to be strong, as is the interest in having the Institution pursue its development goals firmly and clearly. A strong vote of confidence is also given to the Staff Association and its constructive role in conveying staff views to Management." FYI, October 3, 1990. |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 26, 1990 | Appointment of Lawrence H. Summers as Vice President, Development Economics and Chief Economist Announced President Conable announces the appointment of Lawrence H. Summers as Vice President, Development Economics and Chief Economist, replacing Stanley Fischer (who left the Bank in August 1990.) Summers remained in this position until January 1993. |
| November 14, 1990 | First Visit by a World Bank President to the Soviet Union President Conable travels to Moscow for two days of talks with President Gorbachev and other senior Soviet officials. The purpose of the talks was to explore ways in which the Bank could help the Soviet Union in its efforts to move to a market economy. It was the first visit by a World Bank President to the Soviet Union. |
| November 28, 1990 | Global Environment Facility Launched The Global Environment Facility, jointly administered by the Bank, The United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Environment Programme, is launched via an announcement in Paris. |
| 30 Years Ago October 18, 1995 | Wolfensohn Reports to Staff on Annual Meetings President Wolfensohn sends a memo to all staff giving his impressions of his first Annual Meetings as President of the World Bank. He noted that both the African governors and the Latin American governors continued to look to the Bank as an essential partner to help in capacity-building activities. He said that a joint World Bank—NGO press conference was a welcome innovation which helped both parties overcome their mutual distrust and recognize their common goals. |
| December 15, 1995 | Wolfensohn Abolishes Use of “Higher Level” and “Support Level” Employment Designations President Wolfensohn sent a memo to all staff, emphasizing that the organization is made up of one team, and forbidding the use of “higher level” and “support level” employment designations. |
| 25 Years Ago October 11, 2000 | Special Presidential Award President Wolfensohn presents a Special Presidential Award to Bruce Benton (AFTF3) for his commitment to the elimination of river blindness in Africa. Since 1985, Benton was intensively involved with the Onchocerciasis Control Program (OCP) and its successor African Program for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC). The Bank’s involvement in the Riverblindness campaign began in 1973. |

William S. Ryrie: Excerpts From Oral History Transcript

**Interview by William Becker, Louis Galambos, and Jochen Kraske
held on August 10 and September 17, 1993**



Bank Tenure 1975 - 1994

**Executive Director, United Kingdom, 1975-1980;
Executive Vice President, IFC, 1984-1994;
Member, Policy Committee, 1984-1994.**

1928-2012

Executive Director

The position I occupied had been the Treasury Representative in Washington. Its origins date back to World War II. The Treasury set up a senior position in Washington to manage the Lend-Lease Program during the War and it continued afterward.

In addition to my duties as "Treasury Ambassador," I had two more pressing responsibilities: membership of the Boards of Executive Directors of the Bank and Fund. I have to say that the IMF took up most of my time. Although I probably gave more time to the Bank than my predecessors and successors, I still devoted roughly 40 percent of my time to the Fund, 40 percent to the Embassy, and 20 percent to the Bank.

Robert S. McNamara

When I came, [Robert S.] McNamara was well entrenched. He'd been in the job for six or seven years, and he stayed right through my time and a little after. He dominated the Board. The relationship between the Board and the President was rather different from what it has since become.

McNamara was a strong leader. He made it clear that he was the boss of the staff as well as the Chairman of the Board. When any Board member put a question to the staff, he would not allow the staff member to reply until he had phrased the question in the way he wanted it answered.

As for me, I was representing a strong country. The U.K. was bigger and more important in the mid-1970s than it is now, and we had always had a close relationship with Bank Management. I really used to rely on seeing Bob McNamara in his own office once a fortnight. If I really wanted something done or something concerned me, I wouldn't raise it in the Board; I would raise it with the President. I would typically ask for a meeting (I'd usually get 5:30 or 6:00 in the evening), and he would chat with me for a while before going home at the end of the day.

McNamara's Managerial Style

At the time, there was a great deal of unhappiness about McNamara, because (a) he was regarded as tremendously autocratic, and (b) he was regarded as out of touch. He didn't see people. He was in

some ways a shy man, but in other ways, he was not. He didn't see people of middle or junior rank, and he didn't walk the corridors and shake people's hands. I think there was a management weakness there.

Another management weakness stemmed from the fact that he was tremendously able and a total workaholic. He had taken over the Bank when it was relatively small, and it had grown with him. As a result, McNamara just felt that he could take all the important decisions, and he did. That was a problem. McNamara is a great man for whom I have the most enormous admiration, but one of his weaknesses was that he believed in statistics to the nth decimal point.

Bank and Fund Boards Contrasted

The Fund Board was more effective. The Bank Board was, I think, generally of slightly lesser quality. There was a strong tendency for the Bank Board to go along with the management. McNamara was a very strong leader, so the Bank's Board was a little submissive and not very impressive in its debates.

The Fund Board was, and I think still is, a somewhat more independent body. Now, there was a tendency to accept the Management line, but Management had to work a bit to get it accepted and it was not unknown for a proposal for a stand-by, for example, to be modified. During my time the Fund Board was a forum for the discussion of all varieties of major issues—the operation of the SDR [special drawing rights] system, sales of gold, and other international monetary questions. These were open discussions, where the Management line did not always prevail. As a Fund Board member, I felt that I could make a significant contribution.

Another important difference between the Bank and Fund Boards was that in the Bank's Board the ED representing a country for which a project was being proposed traditionally remained silent, whereas in the Fund, when the U.K. was looking for a borrowing, I was one of the spokesmen.

Differences between the staff/Board relationships at the Fund and at the Bank

There was an interesting difference in style. In the Fund, the Managing Director traditionally was Chairman of the Board, but he detached himself a little from the staff. He didn't instruct them in the same way as McNamara instructed the Bank's Board. Sometimes, he would take the Board's side against the staff, but always with great courtesy and tact. This was true for the Managing Directors I served with, [H. Johannes] Witteveen and [Jacques] de Larosiere.

Members of the Fund Board tended, even if they were Part II, to regard themselves as international monetary officials concerned with managing the international monetary system.

In the Bank, on the other hand, this division was a bit more accepted. There were certain developing country members in the Fund Board who took quite a tough line on international monetary issues. I remember there was a splendid ED called [Byanti] Kharmawan, an Indonesian who didn't give away anything very easily. He was an old Indonesian who spoke Dutch and the Managing Director, of course, was Dutch, as was the Dutch ED, [Pieter] Lieftinck. Occasionally the Board would break into Dutch, with everybody else baffled.

I think everybody in the Fund, if anything, may be more political because everybody knew that political considerations lay behind all the financial and economic arguments that we were using in the Board.

You could never get away from politics. The major countries tended to be more constrained than the smaller countries, of course.

Another point of contrast became evident early on in my time at the World Bank. During my first week, several Bank Vice Presidents came to pay a call, as did many heads of Fund Departments, the Fund's equivalent to Vice Presidents. During those meetings, I was struck by the fact that the Fund people talked about the world economy, the international monetary system, the international balance of payments, and international liquidity. The Bank people, on the other hand, talked about what was going on in the Bank, the problems with Mr. McNamara and all that. They seemed to be much more inward looking—much more preoccupied with institutional problems.

Joining IFC

The one hesitation I had about taking the IFC job was that I felt that IFC was a slightly peripheral organization, and I wasn't sure how subordinate to the Bank it was. I remember saying to myself that there were certain advantages. I could see it was a job that had potential and that the moment was right, and although it looked a rather small job, I said to myself, "Maybe in a while it will be a rather bigger job."

On the whole, I enjoyed my first period in IFC. For the first time, I felt that I was really in charge. That was very important to me. Although I was reporting to the President of the Bank, in practice I was the Chief Executive of this place. The fact that I had to deal with the Board was quite important, but I always had the initiative. I didn't have somebody giving me instructions, which as a civil servant I had always found rather frustrating. The IFC job, on the other hand, is a real management job. I have to know my stuff and take decisions.

Establishing an IFC Philosophy

One of the things I think I've done for IFC is to give them a little more of a creative philosophy. Before I arrived, what we were and what we were about was rather unclear.

One of the ideas that was around, for example, was something called the "dual strategy," which meant that you do some projects to make money and other projects for development. I'm caricaturing a little, but this was a widely held view. I didn't like it because it didn't make sense. We have to marry profit-making with development and insist that we pursue both objectives in all projects. Profit is not our ultimate objective, it's something else. It's called "Development."

Bank/IFC Cooperation

Clearly, we have to work closely with the World Bank. Our roles are complementary. Perhaps in the past we've been a bit too separate, but nowadays the Board is very eager to see IFC cooperate with the Bank. They want IFC to ensure that our investments conform to Bank strategies. That isn't always a realistic goal because we can't plan in quite the same way as the Bank can. The Bank works with governments, while we work with private sector partners when we can find them. Nevertheless, we have taken a lot of steps forward in consultation.

Environmental considerations

We've become much more conscious of this. In our case, the main thing is to make sure that all projects are rigorously examined to minimize any adverse environmental impact. We have a set of procedures which are somewhat different just because we are dealing with private sector companies. That's really the only reason for there to be any difference.

The Board has been a little suspicious of this because they tend to think that we are trying to escape all environmental pressures, which is absolute nonsense. I think most IFC people are extremely keen to use our influence as much as possible and get our client companies to adopt high environmental standards. This is a very, very important subject, and I take environmental risks very seriously, but we do deal with some fairly crazy people in that field.

These excerpts have been lightly edited for length and clarity.

The entire transcript can be read here:

<https://oralhistory.worldbank.org/en/archive/oralhistory/persondetail/ryrie-william-s>

TRANSITIONS



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.

Robert Akl
 Jose Maria Alonso Biarge
 Abduljabbar Al-Qathab
 Jose Andreu
 Preeti Arora
 Jean-Francois Arvis
 Rosina Awunyo
 Edward Bresnyan
 Susan Brown
 Julia Bucknall
 Liaqat Butt
 Cary Anne Cadman, *Australia*
 Amy Champion
 Maria Dacunha
 Susmita Dasgupta
 Sateh El-Arnaout, *Lebanon*
 Richard Everett IV
 Cristina Felix
 Chisako Fukuda, *Japan*
 Eva Gutierrez Garcia, *Spain*
 Thanh Lu Ha
 Keith Hansen
 Imtiaz Hizkil
 Jose Janeiro
 Chiyo Kanda
 Meseret Kebede
 Katrin Khojasteh
 Auguste Kouame, *Cote d'Ivoire*
 Maria Kozloski

Mohammad Lutfullah, *Bangladesh*
 Alice Laidlaw
 Ceri Lawley
 Gretchen Lium
 Dahlia Lotayef
 Marcella Lutz, *Switzerland*
 Elisabeth Mekonnen
 Valerie Mercer-Blackman
 Laurent Msellati, *France*
 Esther Nyongo
 Lydienne Valerie Ntjam-Moulet, *Cameroon*
 Pamela O'Connell
 Monica Oldham
 Susan Perla
 Caroline Plante, *France*
 Maria Antonieta Podesta Mevius
 Thiagarajan Ponnoussamy
 Patricia Romero
 Julia Schmalz
 Milt Shapiro
 Zeeshan Sheikh, *UAE*
 Alexis Sienaert
 Noah Silverman
 Mariya Stolyar
 Mariusz Sumlinski
 Vladislav Vucetic
 Hilary Welch
 Asad Yaqub
 Elena Zimina



**We regret to inform you of the following deaths
based on information provided by the Pension Administration Division.
We extend our sincere sympathy to the families.**

Richard Beardmore, 79, of Quebec, Canada, on September 7, 2025. Mr. Beardmore retired from the Bank in 2007.

Anders H. G. Bonde, 88, of Askim, Sweden, on July 26, 2025. Mr. Bonde retired from the Bank in 2000.

Abdallah Bouhabib, 83, of McLean, VA, on July 23, 2025. Mr. Bouhabib retired from the Bank in 2001.

Bruce Carlson, 88, of Washington, DC, on July 26, 2025. Mr. Carlson retired from the Bank in 1999.

Nanasamudd Chhim, 74, of Alexandria, VA, on July 17, 2025. Mr. Chhim retired from the Bank in 2012.

Ayhan Cilingiroglu, 94, of Istanbul, Turkey, on November 5, 2024. Mr. Cilingiroglu retired from the Bank in 1969.

Patricia Cleves, 69, of Washington, DC, on July 5, 2025. Ms. Cleves retired from the Bank in 2001.

Socorro de Paez, 88, of Austin, Texas, on June 21, 2025. Ms. de Paez retired from the Bank in 1993.

Jean-Jacques Dethier, 72, of Berkeley, CA, on July 8, 2025. Mr. Dethier retired from the Bank in 2014.

Michael Engelschalk, 71, of Berlin, Germany, on June 26, 2025. Mr. Engelschalk retired from the Bank in 2016.

J. Price Gittinger, 96, of Adamstown, MD, on July 15, 2025. Mr. Gittinger retired from the Bank in 1987.

Jorge Gorrio, 82, of Lima, Peru, on August 3, 2025. Mr. Gorrio retired from the Bank in 1999.

Xiaowei Guo, 71, of Beijing, China, on July 24, 2025. Ms. Guo retired from the Bank in 2016.

Lutz Halfmann, 85, of Gaithersburg, MD, on June 26, 2025. Mr. Halfmann retired from the Bank in 1998.

John Herbert, 93, of Reston, VA, on June 24, 2025. Mr. Herbert retired from the Bank in 1993.

Wolfgang Hoehenwarter, 85, of Salzburg, Austria, on August 5, 2025. Mr. Hoehenwarter retired from the Bank in 2000.

Constance Hope, 78, of St. Michael's, MD, on July 26, 2025. Ms. Hope retired from the Bank in 2002.

Mahmoud Issa, 87, of Cairo, Egypt, on July 11, 2025. Mr. Issa retired from the Bank in 1987.

Jane Kilburne, 105, of Charlottesville, VA, on September 25, 2025. Ms. Kilburne retired from the Bank in 1974.

Ho Young Kim, 66, of Gaithersburg, MD, on August 19, 2025. Mr. Kim retired from the Bank in 2018.

William Kingdom, 69, of Oxford, UK, on July 18, 2025. Mr. Kingdom retired from the Bank in 2019.

Jean-Marie Lantran, 93, of Acheres-la-Forêt, France, on June 23, 2025. Mr. Lantran retired from the Bank in 1996.

Uma Lele, 83, of Washington, DC, on July 28, 2025. Ms. Lele retired from the Bank in 2005.

Lilian Li, 93, of Traverse City, MI, on August 30, 2025. Ms. Li retired from the Bank in 1997.

Ernst Lutz, 76, of Thierachern, Switzerland, on July 8, 2025. Mr. Lutz retired from the Bank in 2006.

James Lynch, 88, of Bristol, UK, on July 11, 2025. Mr. Lynch retired from the Bank in 1995.

Lucy Lytton, 68, of London, UK, on June 26, 2025. Ms. Lytton retired from the Bank in 2024.

Courtenay Lewis-Madoo, 87, of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, on August 19, 2025. Mr. Lewis-Madoo retired from the Bank in 1989.

Charles Magnus, 77, of Washington, DC, on June 28, 2025. Mr. Magnus retired from the Bank in 2001.

Nader Majd, 80, of Ashburn, VA, on September 14, 2025. Mr. Majd retired from the Bank in 1999.

John McKenzie, 70, of Nevis, Saint Kitts and Nevis, on July 6, 2025. Mr. McKenzie retired from the Bank in 2014.

Evan Victor Melder, 95, of Colombo, Sri Lanka, on August 25, 2025. Mr. Melder retired from the Bank in 1992.

Clarita Mendoza, 83, of Alexandria, VA, on July 27, 2025. Ms. Mendoza retired from the Bank in 2002.

Daphne Minott, 99, of Laurel, MD, on March 28, 2025. Ms. Minott retired from the Bank in 1990.

Ismail Mobarek, 90, of Giza, Egypt, on September 19, 2025. Mr. Mobarek retired from the Bank in 1999.

Peter Muncie, 87, of Portland, ME, on August 12, 2025. Mr. Muncie retired from the Bank in 1998.

Maria Carlota Orellano, 84, of Springfield, VA, on August 8, 2025. Ms. Orellano retired from the Bank in 2002.

Anthony John Pritchard, 94, of Brisbane, Australia, on August 18, 2025. Mr. Pritchard retired from the Bank in 1993.

Maureen Rickford, 81, of Bowie, MD, on June 24, 2025. Ms. Rickford retired from the Bank in 2005.

Marion Riley, 102, of Woodbridge, VA, on September 16, 2025. Ms. Riley retired from the Bank in 1978.

Jean-Claude Sallier, 90, of Saint-Clement-de-Riviere, France, on September 3, 2025. Mr. Sallier retired from the Bank in 1994.

Daljit Sehmi, 80, of Potomac, MD, on July 27, 2025. Mr. Sehmi retired from the Bank in 1989.

Sabine M. H. Shive, 76, of Granger, IN, on August 11, 2025. Ms. Shive retired from the Bank in 2009.

John Stemp, 87, of Bethesda, MD, on July 23, 2025. Mr. Stemp retired from the Bank in 2000.

Hans Stolle, 90, of Kalamazoo, MI, on September 22, 2025. Mr. Stolle retired from the Bank in 1981.

Cyrus Talati, 68, of Falls Church, VA, on August 26, 2025. Mr. Talati retired from the Bank in 2019.

Betty Ting, 98, of Anchorage, AK, on August 1, 2025. Ms. Ting retired from the Bank in 1989.

Dirk Van Der Sluijs, 89, of Arlington, VA, on July 16, 2025. Mr. Van Der Sluijs retired from the Bank in 1998.

John Van Wert, 93, of Vienna, VA, on June 19, 2025. Mr. Van Wert retired from the Bank in 1994.

Rene Vandendries, 86, of Kensington, MD, on August 19, 2025. Mr. Vandendries retired from the Bank in 2003.

Rafael Antonio Villeda, 69, of Santa Tesla, El Salvador, on August 10, 2025. Mr. Villeda retired from the Bank in 2022.

Francois Wencelius, 79, of Lourmarin, France, on August 30, 2025. Mr. Wencelius retired from the Bank in 1998.

Rizalino Zamora, 76, of Fairfax Station, VA, on July 15, 2025. Mr. Zamora retired from the Bank in 2010.

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: Abdallah Bouhabib

Contact: *Julia Bouhabib (spouse)*

Address: 6816 Rigby Ln, McLean, VA 22101

Email: jbouhabib@gmail.com

Deceased: Bruce Carlson

Contact: *Christina Hudson (daughter)*

Address: 6223 30th Street, NW, Washington DC 20015

Email: hudsonchristina4@gmail.com

Deceased: J. Price Gittinger, II

Contact: *Michelle J. Foster (niece)*

Address: PO Box 100, Paeonian Springs, VA 20129-0100

Email: mjfoster100@gmail.com

Deceased: Lutz Halfmann

Contact: *Rahemoon Halfmann (spouse)*

Address: 10100 Washingtonian Blvd., Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Email: rhlaw98@gmail.com

Deceased: John Herbert

Contact: *Mimi Herbert (spouse)*

Address: 12393 Copenhagen Ct, Reston, VA 20191

Email: mimiherbert@verizon.net

Deceased: Mahmoud Sayed Issa

Contact: *Manal Mahmoud (daughter)*

Address: 237 hegaz sttreet heliopolis cairo Egypt

Email: ranawama2000@yahoo.com

Deceased: Ernst Lutz

Contact: *Marcella Lutz (spouse)*

Address: Blumensteinstrasse 13, 3634 Thierachern, Switzerland

Email: marcellalutz@gmail.com

Deceased: James Lynch

Contact: *Margaret Lynch (spouse)*

Email: James.J.Lynch@btinternet.com

Deceased: Jacques M. P. Martinod

Contact: *Blanca Martinod (spouse)*

Address: 134 Alhambra St., San Francisco, CA 94123

Email: gapkatsue@live.com

Deceased: Evan Melder

Contact: *Eeshan V. Melder (son)*

Address: 451 Hungerford Drive, STE 119, PMB 268, Rockville, MD 20850-5148

Email: evmelder@yahoo.com

Deceased: Clarita Mendoza

Contact: *Jocelyn Smith (daughter)*

Address: 1747 Powder Horn Terrace, Woodbridge, VA 22191

Email: jocsmith2014@gmail.com

Deceased: Peter Muncie

Contact: *Mary K. Muncie (spouse)*

Address: 749 Congress St., Unit 1, Portland, M 04102

Email: mkmuncie@gmail.com

Deceased: Anthony John Pritchard

Contact: *Tim Pritchard (son)*

Address: 18/157 Brookfield Road, Kenmore Hills, Queensland 4069, Australia

Email: tim.pritchard@tpg.com.au

Deceased: Dirk H. van der Sluijs

Contact: *Hetty van der Sluijs (spouse)*

Address: c/o 761 Bradford Ter, West Chester, PA 19382

Email: vandersluijshetty@gmail.com

Deceased: David Welch

Contact: *Hilary Welch (spouse)*

Address: 7920 Royal Queensland Way, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Email: hilary.welch22@gmail.com

1818 SOCIETY® CONTACTS



President:

Anis Dani

adani@1818alumniwbg.org

Office Staff:

Dennis Bacani, Brenda Bermudez
1818Society@wbgalumni.org

Office Address:

MC 1-852, 1818 H Street, NW

Washington, DC 20433

(Use 19th Street entrance,
 opposite the IMF-1 Building)

Office Hours: 10:00am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday

Telephone: +1 (202) 458-1956/1957

Fax: +1 (202) 522-2417

E-Mail: 1818Society@wbgalumni.org

Website: www.wbgalumni.org

Mailing Address:

World Bank

MSN MC 1-104

1818 H Street, NW

Washington, DC 20433

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Medical Insurance & Benefits HR Service Center</p> <p>Telephone: +1 (202) 473-2222 Fax: +1 (202) 522-2150 Email: hroperations@worldbank.org (ALWAYS include your UPI)</p> | <p>Pension Administration</p> <p>Telephone: +1 (202) 458-2977 Fax: +1 (202) 522-1723 Email: 1pension@worldbank.org (ALWAYS include your UPI)</p> | <p>Tax Office (For Net Staff Retirement Plan Members)</p> <p>Telephone: +1 (202)- 458 4191 Fax: +1 (202) 614-6331 Email: taxoffice@worldbank.org</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Responsibility Matrix
2024 – 2025

| 1818 SOCIETY BOARD | Names |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair & President | Anis Dani (President and Chair): adani@1818alumniwbg.org |
| Directors | Morallina George: morallinag@gmail.com Aurelio Menendez-Garcia: aureliomenendezgarcia@gmail.com Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard: mplessisfraissard@gmail.com Van Pulley: vtpulley1@gmail.com Negar Rafikian: negar.rafikian@gmail.com Sanjivi Rajasingham: csanjivi@gmail.com Lynne Sherburne-Benz: lsherburnebenz@1818alumniwbg.org Katia Tabash: katiatabash@gmail.com Mark Walker: walkermark208@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard: mplessisfraissard@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Susan Dubas: sdubas@1818alumniwbg.org |
| Treasurer | Gail Davenport: davenport.gail@gmail.com |
| Editor, Quarterly | Tom Blinkhorn: tblinkhorn@gmail.com |
| Tax Advisor | Robin Kambe: robin@robinkambe.cpa |



| COMMITTEES/GROUPS | Chair/Co-Chairs/Members |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pension Committee | Lynne Sherburne-Benz (Chair) lsherburnebenz@1818alumniwbg.org, Merli Margaret Baroudi , Christian Grossman , Eric Nothman , Debra Lynn Perry , Sanjivi Rajasingham , Sandor Sipos , Fred Wright , and Javed Hamid (Ex-officio) |
| Health Insurance Committee | Morallina George (Chair) morallinag@gmail.com, Armin Fidler , James Harrison , Susan Hirschberg , Jeanette Murry , Vinh Nguyen , Negar Rafikian . Katia Tabash and Eduardo Wallentin, (Ex-officio) |
| Information Management & Technology (IMT) Committee | Anis Dani , Susan Dubas , Mavee Park , Shirley Tan , Dennis Bacani TechHelp@1818alumniwbg.org |
| Taxation and Immigration | Deane Jordan , deane.jordan@gmail.com |
| Members Helping Members (MHM) | Jacomina de Regt , jacominaderegt@gmail.com; Katharina Strydom , k2strydom@gmail.com; Eduardo Wallentin , ewallentin@gmail.com |
| Administrative Professionals Group Plus (APGP) | Joyce Rompas , joycerompas@gmail.com |
| Active LifestyleZ: | |
| Art Club | Dominique Lallement , dominique.lallement@gmail.com; Margarita Caro , may.sita@hotmail.com; Arleen Seed , arleenseed@gmail.com |
| Hiking Club | Anis Dani , adani@1818alumniwbg.org; Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard , mplessisfraissard@gmail.com |
| Yoga Club | Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard , Simone Lee , 1818society@wbgalumni.org |

| CHAPTERS | Chairs |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ANZ (Australia/New Zealand) | Annette Dixon , annettemdixon@gmail.com; Betty Hanan , bettyhanan193@gmail.com |
| Brazil | Nelson de Franco , ndefranco@uol.com.br |
| Chile | Edgardo Barandarian , barandiaran507@gmail.com |
| DACH (Germany/Austria/Switzerland) | Margret Thalwitz; Christine Wallich , DACH@1818alumniwbg.org |
| Florida | Mark Walker , walkermark208@gmail.com |
| France | Olivier J. Lambert , olivierjlambert@gmail.com |
| Iran Chapter (DC) | Mehrnaz Teymourian , mehrnaz@teymourian.com |
| Japan | Masaaki Amma , masaakiamma1@gmail.com |
| The Netherlands | Jacomina de Regt , jacominaderegt@gmail.com |
| UK | David Potten , DavidPotten@compuserve.com |
| THEMATIC GROUPS | Chair/Co-Chairs |
| Agriculture, Food & Rural Development | Preeti S. Ahuja , preetisahuja@outlook.com |
| Economics | Shanta Devarajan , shantayanan@gmail.com; Louise Cord , lcordguot@gmail.com |
| Education | Robin Horn , robinshorn@gmail.com; Larry Wolff , larrywolff@live.com; Helen Abadzi , habadzi@gmail.com; Steve Heyneman , s.heynean@vanderbilt.edu |
| Energy | Eugene McCarthy , emccarthy@1818alumniwbg.org; Charles Feinstein , charles.feinstein@gmail.com |
| Gender & Development | Nadereh Chamlou , nchamlou@gmail.com; Dominique Lallement , Dominique.lallement@gmail.com |
| Global Finance | Aquiles Almansi , aquiles.almansi@gmail.com; Massimo Cirasino , cirasinomassimo@gmail.com |
| Governance | Deborah Wetzel (chair), deborahlwetzel@gmail.com; Vinay Bhargava , vinaybhargav@gmail.com; Richard Cambridge , rafcambridge@gmail.com |
| Health, Nutrition & Population | Tawhid Nawaz , tawhidn@gmail.com |
| Social & Environment | Ede-Ijjasz Vasquez , eijjasz@eigen-impact.com |
| Transport | Aurelio Menendez Garcia , aureliomenendezgarcia@gmail.com; Richard Podolske , rpodolske@gmail.com |
| Urban & Water | Alex Bakalian , alexbakalian@gmail.com; Sylvie Debomy , sylvie.debomy@gmail.com; Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic , cfarvacque-vitkovic@hotmail.com; Gustavo Saltiel , gsaltiel123@gmail.com |
| WBG History | John Heath , jrichardheath@gmail.com |