WASHINGTON EVENTS

The Society’s 28th Annual Meeting
–A Summary
by John C. Kendall

The Annual Meeting and Dinner of The 1818 Society was held on October 11. Adrienne Nassau chaired the business meeting with aplomb, concluding it within one minute of the allotted time.

After adopting the proposed agenda and approving the minutes of the last meeting, the chair recognized retirees who had been especially active in the affairs of The Society during the past year. These included: Yoshiaki Abe, John Blaxall, Annabel Bracher, James Casey, Ram Chopra, Hazel Denton, Stephen Eccles, Catherine Fogle, Hayley Goris, Frona Hall, Ricardo Halperin, Charlotte Jones, David Jones, John Kendall, Alexander Keyserlingk, Hernan Levy, Eva Meigher, Karin Nordlander, Daniel Ritchie, Sverrir Sigurdsson, J. Shivakumar, Masayoshi Takahashi, Anne Vaughn, Greg Votaw and Charles Ziegler.

The Treasurer noted that the accounts of The Society had been audited during the year. Assets at the end of 2006 stood at about $59,000. The one-time fee for new members to join The Society had been raised from $10 to $30.

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE
EDITOR’S NOTE

Dear Fellow Members:

This is real déjà vu moment for me, as it was almost exactly one year ago that I wrote the previous Editor’s Letter. At that time, it occurred after we encountered problems in getting our Newsletter format in decent shape. Like now, we were in a rush to get issue No. 89 to the printers so it would be out before last October’s Annual Meeting.

Clearly, problems remain, and I can accept a large share of the blame, as time demands from my work inside the Bank have been more than contemplated. I am fortunate to have had support and patience from Adrienne Nassau, and especially from Harold Burmeister, who volunteered much of his time editing the text of this issue (really my job, of course), and so, due credit goes to him for getting me over stressful times. In the future, more support will be needed, especially if we are to regularize the schedule once again. Incidentally, Harold has placed into this issue the first half of his own life-after-the-Bank contribution—a fascinating account of his experiences in Africa as a post-retirement consultant for WHO. Since part two of his article will be in the next issue, there is a near guarantee that No. 91 will not be delayed.

There are several other life-after-the-Bank articles in this issue. One that I found of great interest was written by a former colleague of mine at IFC, Ed Dean, whose efforts as a restaurateur has earned his Sangam establishment in Arlington VA a grand prize winner for a second year in a row. Other highlights of this issue include the minutes of the future of the last year’s Annual Meeting, written again by John Kendall, along with a meeting summary—also written by John, as it appeared in the Bulletin.

My thanks go to all of those who have contributed to this issue. I hope you have received adequate by-line credit, because the quality of the contributions is exceptionally high. For that reason alone, I am sure this issue will be regarded as worth the long wait.

Jim Casey

The 1818 Society

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The 1818 Society is a nonprofit corporation organized in 1978 to link fellow members throughout the world through social, cultural, educational, and humanitarian activities.

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1818 Society Newsletter

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Summary—continued from page one

The Bank’s Chief of Security explained the rationale for the new security measures, which were introduced last September. He cited specific terrorism threats, theft, people practically living in the Bank, and the large number of ID cards in circulation.

Stephen Eccles informed the meeting that the Pension Fund is in excellent shape, thanks in large degree to the quality of the investment and analytical work of Bank staff who work on the Pension Fund. Mr. Eccles’ introduction was followed by a presentation by the Bank’s management team on pension finance. (The contents of this presentation were recently sent to all retirees in a booklet, entitled “Staff Retirement Plan, 2005 Annual Report”. ) Eva Meigher and Bank staff then explained changes that occurred in the plan during the year and how cases are handled and settled.

A few but significant Medical Insurance issues were raised from the podium and from the floor. There was, in particular, a broad-based unease among participants about how doctors are paid and retained under Aetna’s PPO system. John Kendall also noted that some retirees residing in Germany had complained that some of their benefits were less than those of US-based retirees.

Proposals to change three bylaws of The Society were unanimously approved. The first change better aligns the wording with what The Society does; the second reduces the eligibility period of potential Society members from ten to five years’ employment in the Bank Group; and the third increases the number of directors to eight.

The recommendations of the Nominating Committee were unanimously approved. Ram Chopra and Ricardo Halperin did not wish to be re-elected. Charles Ziegler’s term was extended for another two years. Four new directors were elected for two years: Uma Lele, Jean-Yves Maillat, Shawki Barghouti and Constance Morris Hope.

Minutes of the Twenty Eighth Annual Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 2006
By John Kendall

The full text of presentations prepared by individual speakers may be found in the 1818 Society’s website www.worldbank.org/1818Soc (Navigate to: Events>More>)

Ms. Adrienne Nassau, President, The 1818 Society, chaired the meeting. She welcomed all participants to the Eugene R. Black Auditorium in the Bank’s H Building and noted that attendance was robust.

1. Agenda. The proposed agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting. The minutes, as published in the 1818 Society Newsletter number 88, were approved.

3. President’s Report. After posing a few riddles to warm up the audience, Ms. Nassau went on to her main theme, which was to extend the Society’s gratitude to those members who apply their initiative, efforts and skills to help their fellow members. She mentioned more than twenty members who had made notable contributions to the Society in the past year, but added that the list is by no means exhaustive as there are many more volunteers who also deserve many thanks for the contributions they made.

4. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Tauheed Ahmed, who replaced Mr. Xavier Simon as the Society’s Treasurer in April 2006, presented the Treasurer’s Report for 2005. He explained that total receipts for the year totaled $22,498 while expenditures were $20,204, resulting in a net surplus of $2,294. The bulk of the surplus (72 percent) originated from membership fees and a smaller amount (26 percent) resulted from Society events. The remainder came from interest income, net
The Japan Chapter's Inaugural Meeting
by Masayoshi Takahashi

The Society’s Japan Chapter held its Inaugural meeting in Tokyo on March 24th, 2007, and the Chapter was officially launched eight days later, making it the first chapter to be established in Asia. Other chapters outside of the USA are in the UK, Netherlands, France, Germany and Chile; within the USA, chapters are located in Florida and Seattle, besides Washington D.C.

More than 60 members attended the Inaugural Meeting. 1818 Society President, Ms. Adrienne Nassau, traveled from Washington for the occasion. Also attending were Mr. Yoshio Terasawa, former Executive Vice President of MIGA, now living in Australia, the former World Bank Vice President in charge of co-financing. Mr. Koji Kashiwaya, now living in Singapore, and the Madagascar Ambassador to Japan, Ms. Jocelyn B. Radifera, who had worked in the service of the Bank for long time.

A congratulatory address was given by Mr. Naoyuki Shinohara, Director General of the International Bureau in the Ministry of Finance; the Bureau oversees Japan’s relationship with the World Bank. This speech was followed by a congratulatory address by Ms. Nassau. Next, and following the commemoration lecture by Professor Sadao Nagaoka, Innovation Institute Director at Hitotsubashi University. Twelve Board Members, including honorary chairman, Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi (currently an Upper Parliament member), discussed future actions and goals.

After approving a budget for 2007, the meeting then approved as its goal the realization of peace and democracy through the development and reconstruction of the world through deepening the collaboration between chapter members and the 1818 Society Headquarters, the other chapters and the World Bank Group, as well as to promote friendship among all Society members.

More specifically, the Japan Chapter envisages taking part in the fight for a world free of poverty in various fields, taking advantage of the knowledge and experience available through exchanges among the members of the Society. Particularly, the Japan Chapter’s core activities will be focused on five objectives:

1. To promote 1818 Society activities in Japan and from a Japanese perspective, by encouraging social and professional contacts among members in Japan and with other chapters and their members around the world.

2. To conduct studies on the history of collaboration between Japan and the World Bank Group and to publish the most significant of these studies, with emphasis on such topics as peace building, humanitarian aid, and other global issues.
To organize meetings from time to time to consider issues of development strategy, and ways to mobilize greater public support of development assistance.

To advocate and support in continuous and systematic ways, appropriate numbers and levels of responsibility of Japanese staff working in the World Bank Group.

To undertake, on a voluntary basis and utilizing members’ personal contacts and relationships, selected social service and philanthropic activities, especially those that contribute to development.

After consultation with the 1818 Society in Washington, the Japan Chapter has modified its membership rules in order to fit into the Japanese common “lifetime employment system”. As a result of these new rules, the Chapter has been able to attract 101 members.

Florida Reunion
by Karin Nordlander

The Florida Chapter held its 2007 reunion in Miami Beach in February. The reunion, which welcomes all Bank retirees, was joined this time by retirees from as far away as Washington DC and even Europe.

On a balmy Tuesday evening, after some drinks at the bar of our South Beach hotel (one of the refurbished Art Deco hotels), we strolled down Ocean Avenue in Miami Beach to our dinner at Quinn’s Restaurant. The food was good and the company great! The next morning it was early rise for a drive to the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation where we toured the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The museum features the nation’s largest display of the life and culture of the unconquered Florida Seminoles through exhibits, rare artifacts and cultural displays. We also got a lecture on medicinal plants as we walked to the ceremonial grounds and the Seminole village.

From there it was a short drive to Billie Swamp Safari which opens 2,200 lush acres of its Big Cypress Everglades Reservation to the public. We

Below: Airboat Ride Readied for Lauch across Everglades
took an airboat tour into reservation wetlands and sloughs where wildlife abounded, sighting deer, water buffalo, bison, wild hogs, hawks, eagles and other birds and, to our delight, several alligators. We also attended a lecture on Floridian poisonous snakes and got to see them up close: their colors and rattles were amazing!

On Thursday morning we visited the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Miami Hurricane Center. We learned about the airplanes that fly into hurricanes, were given information about the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and heard lots of details about the work that goes on at the Center when a hurricane approaches the coast of the United States and how it is tracked.

A good-bye dinner at Grazie Restaurant was another occasion to taste wonderful dishes and to spend some good times together. The next morning some of us took a guided art deco tour of South Beach, before all returned home to places all over Florida and further away.

We will all meet again in the spring of 2008, that time in Northeastern Florida, possibly Amelia Island.

Chilean Chapter meets in Valparaiso
by Nelly Correa

The Valparaíso/Viña del Mar area, which is home to various of our members (Agustín Alberti, Manfredo Linder, Marta Duffeu, Silvia Salazar and Emma Ansieta), was the venue of the Chilean Club meeting in September, 2006. Our get-together was not only nice and pleasant but also most interesting and instructive for all.

We took an extensive drive along the old streets of Valparaiso, as well as many modern ones, getting to know the city. It is surrounded by forty-eight hills forming a huge amphitheater that faces the Pacific Ocean. The hills, along with their ravines, plunge down towards the sea whose beaches and rock formations form a narrow coastal plain. The city and its famous cable car called “Funicular” which dates back a century and which is an important part of the city’s identity, was designated “Heritage Site of Humanity” by UNESCO. The port’s bohemian lifestyle, where the former World Bankers could blend in so well, offers an active night life with its many pubs, restaurants and “open museums.” where painters use the walls on the hills and side streets as canvasses.

The urban plan of the old city with its singular, whimsy architecture makes the city most attractive. It can be appreciated most easily when going up the hill by cable car. Houses, terraces and restaurants at times seem to be suspended from the hills, depending on which part of the day you contemplate the scene. You’ll have a most surprising, splendidous view of the seaport, one of the most important of South America’s West Coast. Also the more modern sections of the city will enchant any visitor. Valparaiso is simply a “must-see” among the places in the world worthwhile to visit.
To end the tour, the group had lunch in a restaurant located in the hills, having a splendid time remembering the good old days, and thanking Miguel and Silvia Schloss, as well as Marta Duffeu and Agustin Alberti, for their great organization of the event.

Annual Reunion of the German-Speaking Chapter
by Erika Wagenhöfer

The meeting took place in September in Meiningen, a small town in Thuringia, one of the “new” states in Germany. Nearly 70 participants enjoyed two interesting days, blessed by sunshine and blue skies.

Meiningen has long been famous for its theater. And it goes without saying that the theater stood at the center of our weekend. There is a saying that Meiningen is not a town with a theater but rather a "theater with a town". During our visit to the Ducal Theater and the adjacent museum we learned that, as early as in the 18th century, the Dukes of Saxony-Meiningen were enthusiastic supporters of amateur theater. The Ducal Theater was inaugurated in 1831 starting a revolution: aiming at integrating all the elements of drama into an artistic unit, and the idea of “Regietheater” – Director’s Theater – was born there: it had not only been the first of its kind in the region but in the world and the idea soon spread all over Europe; some locals proudly say that even Hollywood has its roots in Meiningen. In the late 19th century, the “Meiningers” gave over 1500 performances throughout Europe from London to Moscow and Kiev, mainly classical dramas by Shakespeare, Schiller and Moliere, using the railroad to transport actors as well as stage sets, props and costumes.

Taking together all the theaters in Meiningen, including the opera and the puppet theater, there are now about 500 performances per year. It was thus much to all the participants’ regret that the theater season had not yet begun and we were unable to witness any of the well renowned performances.

But the theater was not the only topic on our program. In a presentation by Guggi Laryea of...
the Bank’s Brussels office we learned about their collaboration with the various institutions of the European Union and their involvement in the coordination of aid. Then Adrienne Nassau, President of the 1818 Society, reported about recent events in Washington, including her intention to intensify cooperation of the Society with the national chapters, a new chapter in Japan and the another planned in India, the Bank’s new emphasis on anti-corruption efforts, aid for Africa and infrastructure development, and restrictions concerning access to Bank buildings given terrorist threats.

After offering a special welcome to Horst von Oppenfeld, at 93 our oldest participant, who had again made the long journey from Washington, Dieter von Samson, Speaker of the Chapter reported on his attendance at the British Chapter meeting (see previous page.) Short discussions followed of the cost of living adjustment and the problems of German taxation of Bank pensions, a plea by Josef Düster, our treasurer, for sending future Chapter reports by e-mail in order to save on mailing costs (which participants did not agree to), and other matters. The present members of the Chapter Committee were once more re-elected for a period of one year. Finally the meeting thanked Helmar Ochs for agreeing to organize our next meeting, to be held from 14 to 16 September 2007 at Lake Constance. He proceeded to show us a number of slides of the beautiful places we will see on that occasion. The meeting then agreed to explore Potsdam, near Berlin, as the venue for our meeting in 2008.

A magnificent dinner concluded the second day of our get-together. It was attended by the mayor of Meiningen who spoke to us about current problems facing his town, such as the high level of unemployment and the migration of young people to Western parts of Germany. The highlight of the evening was a surprise arranged by our hosts: between the various courses, a marvellous show of skits performed by actors from the Ducal Theater tried to make up a little for the lack of a real performance in Meiningen’s famous theater.

The reunion ended with a trip to nearby Schweinfurt in Franconia where Barbara and Hans Fuchs had prepared a delightful afternoon tea in their home.

Meeting of the UK Chapter
By Michael Sharpston

The UK Chapter met at Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, at the end of November. London was typically grey November-London; but the service in the Club was excellent, and the meal very passable. Many of the attendees were “the usual suspects”; but there also were Caroline and Richard Berney, on a visit to England from the United States.

Before we went to lunch, Howard Lowe, Tax Manager at the Fry Group of Worthing and Exeter, gave us some rather disturbing news which might have affected some people’s digestion. He painted a picture of Inland Revenue staff, with submission of returns now increasingly on the internet and automated, having more and more time on their hands to question returns. Meanwhile, in the near future, Bank retirees would have to declare the monetary equivalent of the benefit they received
from the Bank as a subsidy to medical insurance. Some people asked rather piteously how they were supposed to work out what figure to submit, and the question was left hanging. Lastly, there might be pressure from other European Community countries on the comfortable UK tax regime for those deemed not domiciled in the UK – although the Treasury no doubt understood the advantages of leaving things as they were.

Then to lunch, and catching up on others’ news. Since leaving the Bank people had gone different ways. For example, Peter Watson had been doing some consulting for ECOWAS, but was also wondering whether he should take his old interest in photography more seriously now. Malcolm Rowat had done serious studies in music at King’s College, Cambridge, and was now on all sorts of boards to do with music. He was also singing, and meanwhile settling in in South Kensington (a part of London which has seen astronomic increases in property prices on the back of large bonuses emanating from the City of London in its role as an international financial centre.) And Jeremy Berkoff is moving back to London, with its infinite diversity of attractions. The Tube is more packed than ever, we get bombed occasionally, and the odd ex-spy gets given radioactive food. But Dr. Johnson is still right when he said a long time ago that the man who was tired of London was tired of life. In fact, it is even more true than in his day.

French Chapter Travel to Belgium
by Olivier Lafourcade

The Fall meeting of the French Chapter traditionally takes place outside of Paris. This year, we decided to travel to Belgium. Our trip there extended over three days in October, enabling a number of participants from all over France to meet with old friends living in Belgium. A series of events had been planned covering a fairly wide variety of themes which were attended by between 45 and 60 people.

On the first day we paid a visit to the European Parliament where our host, Jean-Claude Thomas, a senior member of the Parliament staff, gave us a complete, straightforward view of what the Parliament is today, where it comes from, and what are the main issues and challenges which it faces. We then went to the home of Haleh Bridi, the Bank’s Special Representative to the European Commission who kindly offered her lovely home for us to meet with Mr Bernard Petit, Deputy Director General of the General Directorate for Development at the European Commission. Mr. Petit gave us a fascinating talk on the evolution of the European Commission strategy for Development Aid, including the recently issued European Consensus agreed upon by the European Council of Ministers. A very lively discussion took place with lots of questions and observations from our colleagues who showed keen interest in European affairs. The evening went on with a wonderful cocktail-dinner at Haleh Bridi’s.

The next morning we all assembled to visit the Royal Museum of Central Africa in Tervuren, on the outskirts of Brussels. This is a spectacular museum, the present version of what used to be the Museum of the (Belgian) Congo, created by King Leopold at the end of the 19th century. It now combines displays of Central African art, with much diversified activities of research, study, archives etc. We were privileged to be given the introduction to what is indeed a full blown research institute, by its Director, Mr. Guido
Gryseels, also an active member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The visit was assisted by Mathilde Leduc, the daughter of our colleague François-Xavier Leduc, who gave us some fascinating glimpses of her work on Stanley, the famous explorer. The visit ended on a great African note, with lunch in the museum cafeteria where we were served the typical and delicious “moambe” dish from Belgian Congo, all with its pili-pili hot sauce...A bit of nostalgia for so many of us who used to work in Africa and particularly in Congo/Zaire.

Back in downtown Brussels, there was some free time for all members to regroup, and visit the beautiful and historical Grand Place, and do a bit of shopping (chocolates are the heavy favorites). We then took the bus for our “diner de gala” at the Chateau de Bois-Seigneur-Isaac, right in the middle of the gentle countryside with green meadows and cows, the home of our friends and former colleague Bernard Snoy and his wife Christine. This was by all accounts the high point of our visit. The Chateau was all illuminated when we arrived at night. Splendidly decorated, with superb furniture and art work, full of memorabilia from centuries of history of the Snoy family.

We were treated to a great dinner with wonderful food and wine and a fabulous atmosphere among the guests. To top it all, we were entertained by our hosts’ son-in-law, Alex, a remarkable singer and musician, besides being an accomplished and successful lawyer, and he gave us outstanding versions of famous songs by Belgian composer-singer-poet Jacques Brel, as well as some of his own compositions. It was an extraordinary evening which everyone will remember for long, not least for Christine and Bernard’s outstanding hospitality.

On the next morning, we were off on another unusual tour heading north towards Antwerp for a visit of its famous port. Here we had the privilege of being accompanied by Honoré Paelinck, a Captain in the Belgian merchant fleet and former Director General of the National Transport Office of Zaire who still teaches port economics at the university. Thanks to his intimate knowledge of the port and his lively stories full of anecdotes, our visit was enormously enjoyable. Needless to say, the port itself is impressive, in Europe second only to Rotterdam, with mountains of containers, huge cranes and equipment, miles of storage facilities, and enormous chemical plants. The visit ended with a superb lunch in a beautiful country inn at the border with the Netherlands.

This was a full program, at times leading some of the fellow travelers to fall asleep in the bus to catch up and recover, but it looks like everybody enjoyed the great atmosphere, a lot of conviviality, lots of reminiscences about a common and enjoyable past in the Bank, and still great interest and commitment for the current and future state of world affairs in general and development issues in particular.
LIFE AFTER THE BANK

Pat Looi—Photographer
by Gillian W. Ross

Pat Looi has always felt that he has been fortunate in life. He has had two careers: the World Bank and photography.

Born in Malaysia—called Malaya at that time—Looi’s Bank career started in early 1969 when he joined the Accounting Section in the Cashiers Division where he stayed until 1971, and then joined the Disbursement Unit to oversee the Investigation Unit. When he retired in 1988, he moved to Port Angeles in Washington State.

Looi’s second career, photography, dates back much further. It all started when his father gave him a camera on his 12th birthday; he will never forget it. He loved the camera and the wonderful world it opened up to him. His father instilled in him a desire to become an excellent photographer and also a poet. Looi and his family lived in Singapore, then a prestigious local newspaper held a weekly photography competition. They gave a different topic each week, and he regularly sent in his entries and often won. This was the encouragement he needed and it was the start of his love for photography.

Even though he still has his first camera, Looi now uses a Cannons, a Pentaxes, a Rigoh and a Hasselblad. He has many different lenses but prefers zoom lenses which offer a range of focal lengths in one handy package. A tripod is essential and comes in handy when one is making exposures longer than 1/30 seconds or when using a long or heavy telephoto lens. Although most cameras are as light as a feather, a tripod is really heavy and can be cumbersome to carry and the time taken to set it up can preclude many a fine shot.

Most people, when taking the painstaking close-up photographs of birds in the wild, as Looi does, use a tripod to bear the weight of the lenses and to keep the images sharp. He can manage without a tripod and, not being as young as he once was, this is truly an achievement. This sort of detailed photography really takes a great deal of patience and, luckily, patience increases with age.

Looi shoots slide films for publication because almost all pictures appearing in books, magazines and calendars are reproduced from transparency films. Looi prefers to use Fujichrome Velvia, Fujichrome Provia, and Kodak Ektachrome. He uses Velvia for floral and foliage because it produces rich, luxurious greens and has ultra saturated rendition of color. Unlike Fujichrome, where the color saturation is more intense, Ektachrome is better for birds as it seems to render colors more closely matching what one actually sees to the colors reproduced and is less contrasting.

Over the many years he has spent behind a camera lens, Looi has come to specialize on specific subjects such as wild birds, song birds, wildlife in general, wild flowers and roses. He has traveled extensively to the Far East to capture images of Buddha and temples and shrines in China, Hong-Kong, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

His photographs have appeared in numerous magazines such as Alaska Wildlife, American Birding, and others. His bird images have graced the covers of several magazines, and his calendar credits include titles for publications such as the Audubon Society and Birder’s World. His photographs are featured in Houghton Mifflin Company’s CD-Rom book and others. He also designs cards for Christmas and other occasions such as anniversaries and birthdays, and blank ones all bearing images of birds, wild flowers and roses. Truly a successful second career!

In order to fulfill his father’s wishes, he still writes poems and designs menus for local restaurants for the Chinese New Year.
One More Time into Africa–Part I
by Harald Burmeister

As a consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO) for an evaluation of their project to combat riverblindness, I had an opportunity to return to Africa. The mission took me to Nigeria and Sudan. Here are my notes on my adventures to the first of these, with the second the subject of an article in a subsequent Newsletter.

Riverblindness has devastated the lives of many millions of people living in West and Central Africa and is the focus of a major project launched in 1998 by WHO and the Bank. I participated in an evaluation mission consisting of six international experts with different professional backgrounds visiting five of the 19 countries where the project is being implemented. I picked two of the more ‘exciting’ ones.

The trip began ominously. At check-in in Dulles I was asked to submit to an especially thorough security check: Since I was traveling on two one-way tickets which, together with my exotic destinations, absolutely had to arouse suspicion. Naturally, I passed the check without a problem, but it seemed to me a harbinger of things to come.

Before reaching Nigeria I stopped in Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso and the location of the project head-office, where my group had its first get-together. In order to stretch my legs after a week of endless meetings, I went for an early morning walk in the local “Bois de Boulogne” when suddenly I had to confront my first threat: a young bulldog, unleashed by its owner, spotted me and charged. For him it was pure play, but for me it meant a ripped shirt and torn trousers, which even the profuse apologies of the dog’s owner did not help much to replace. When calling my wife Silvia in Washington to tell her about the occurrence, I mentioned in passing that the temperature was hovering above 50 degrees, to which she answered: “Oh, how nice, here also!” But she was counting in Fahrenheit while I looked at the scale in Centigrade. And that’s the temperature with which I had to live for the next several weeks.

Since the regular flights to Lagos through Abidjan did not work due to the unrest there, my companions and I were rerouted on short notice to Cotonou, Benin, from where a car took us the 80 miles to Lagos on a narrow two lane highway laced with countless potholes and with intense truck and automobile traffic in both directions, often driving within inches of one another while observing what appeared to be only the most rudimentary traffic rules. The road was lined with innumerable rusting car and truck wrecks, many of them still bearing ads, some even in German, as Nigeria is a large market for used cars and trucks from there. Every few miles there were police barriers causing endless backups. The reason: it was shortly before Easter and it was generally assumed that the policemen were demanding bribes to be able to afford eggs and other gifts for their families. At almost every intersection there were signs guiding you to churches run by countless sects. Well, with this kind of traffic, people clearly need to pray a lot….

Despite interminable delays at the dusty border point—I had no visa for Benin—we finally made it to Lagos after a good three hours. The traffic there was pure chaos! Much of the city gives the appearance of decay, looks grimy and highly unattractive. The inlets of the nearby Sea consist mostly of sludge and mud, lined by decrepit hovels and shacks, evoking vast gutters. Besides the honking and screaming traffic, streets are teeming with people. And the climate in Lagos fully lived up to its reputation, with temperature and humidity both in the 90s.

But the shock of the day was still to come: When late in the evening and after several meetings at the WHO office I finally reached my hotel and the driver handed me my luggage, my jaw dropped: The suitcase looked exactly like mine, but after a closer look I realized: it belonged to somebody else! What a catastrophe! Neither the airport nor the WHO offices, where I could have asked for help, could be reached. Well, needless to say: I did not sleep very well….
What a relief the next morning when I learned that my suitcase was safe and waiting for me at the airport! The search initiated by the other suitcase owner had extended as far as Cameroon and Congo, the destination of some of my travel companions, and he must have been equally relieved to hear from me. So, there was only one simple thing to do: back to Cotonou for a suitcase exchange. Before hitting the road, however, I had to attend a meeting, all in my not-so-clean clothes of the previous day. The meeting was scheduled on the 9th floor of a former ministry building where the elevators were not working, most of the building burnt out a few months earlier; so, we needed to climb up the stairs, not an enviable task in the Lagos climate.

Then the return trip to Cotonou, getting to see all those potholes, wrecks etc. for a second time, and then a third. Needless to say, the people at the border post were most amused, to say the least, when they saw that fellow without a visa again and again.

The heat in the sub-Saharan steppes at the end of the dry season was just brutal. Together with my companion I traveled through different regions in the arid Nigerian hinterland for almost two weeks, mostly by road. Of course the cars were fully air-conditioned. But on one of our long overland rides it felt that the air-conditioning had failed and I was close to suffocating. I opened the window to get some fresh air, but what a shock! The hot outside air almost burnt my face, prompting me to quickly roll the window up again. The inside temperature was perhaps 100 degrees F, but on the outside it must have been at least 30 more!

Not always was I rewarded at the end of the trip with a comfortable, cool hotel room. They often were dark, dingy, smelly and with noisy air-conditioners, accompanied by buzzing mosquitoes. Falling asleep often depended on the degree of exhaustion. Although the festivities going on in our hotel in Jos in the relatively cool highlands were not for my companion and myself, but for a wedding, we much enjoyed the colorful costumes, dancing and loud music.

When late in the night we thought that the party was finally over, there was a permanent coming and going for hours, with lots of laughing, giggling and other suspicious noises going on: this was a very special sort of hotel.

Our visit to Kajura was unforgettable. When our caravan of white SUVs arrived, the population of this small village was assembled staring at us, especially me as the only white face around. The village chief was awaiting us in a large mud hut. Seated on the only chair in the room, he invited us to make ourselves comfortable on the earthen floor. He was surrounded by a number of young men, all dressed in clean shirts and trousers. One of them spoke reasonably good English and translated the chief’s greetings, including his introduction of the young men: they were his ten sons. During the ceremony we all had a hard time concentrating because, little by little the room filled with a vast swarm of flies; fortunately they took a particular interest in the chief who, in the end, was literally covered by them. Not surprisingly, the meeting came to an early end. Outside, the village children were now nicely assembled in a semi-circle awaiting the exotic strangers with much anticipation, clapping their hands when we appeared: They were our host’s forty grandchildren.

After landing once again in Lagos, from where I was to travel on to East Africa, I was waiting in the overcrowded and chaotic terminal for my luggage to appear. It just did not show up. Not again!!!! In great desperation I finally dashed out onto the airfield to look for my plane on the off-chance that my suitcase might have been forgotten there. But, no luck! A porter finally sent me, perspiring heavily, to an open shed at the end of the terminal which served as the lost luggage warehouse. Even today I fail to understand how it got there, but there was my suitcase! I was tremendously relieved.
My first career began in 1965 in New Delhi, where I served as a personnel officer at the US Embassy and was awarded Special Immigration Status, allowing me to immigrate to the US. In 1983, I joined IFC to start my second career, and after retiring almost 20 years later, I opened a restaurant specializing in Indian food in Arlington, VA., thus embarking upon my third career.

Even though a great deal of research and planning had gone into this entirely new and very different career, I do think that opening a restaurant in the local market with its many very good competitors was a courageous step to take. And, to be completely honest, the restaurant was an unmitigated disaster to begin with. The revolving door revolved in only one direction: the money flowed out and few customers flowed in. After the first year, I changed the restaurant’s name to “Sangam”, replaced the staff—and most importantly, the chefs - and began to seriously market and advertise. But, all along, I kept one question foremost in my mind: how do I bring in customers and provide them with quality food and service?

Additional solutions followed. The banquet hall, dining hall and bar were expanded, and a private room with wireless internet connection was opened for business executives, along with new paint, carpeting, lighting, sound-proofing. Finally, with the restaurant up and running again, I began to concentrate on catering. Countless telephone calls were made, many meals were prepared, and free samples offered as a marketing tool, and slowly the catering services began to be appreciated.

After all that it took another two years to place the restaurant on a sound footing. “Sangam” continues to mean non-stop 18-hour days, seven days a week. But this is worth it when the hard work leads to success. On average we now serve 200 meals a week, employing nine staff. The volume of business is growing steadily, with one of our notable successes being the catering.

Our proudest moment thus far came in September 2006, when “Sangam” was selected as an approved vendor for the World Bank Group. With that, I realized I had come full circle with my second career choice. The following month, we did a promotional lunch in the Executive Dining Room of the MC Building for 424 guests. George Mason University, local hotels, diplomatic missions and business organizations have also been among our clientele.

As a restaurateur, my philosophy is that the customer is the most important person on the premises. I personally greet each guest who walks through the door and from time to time check that all is to their liking. They are not dependent on us; we are dependent on them. They are not an interruption to our work but the purpose of it. Neither are they outsiders in our business but they are part of it. We are not doing a favor by serving him; the customer is doing us a favor by giving us an opportunity to do so—paraphrasing Gandhi, of course.
A Retired Novelist Breaks Through—Sort Of
by Robert Elwood Burns

In late 1996, with the last of our six children through college, my wife, Suchila, turned to me and said, “We don't have to do ‘this’ any more, Robert.” “This” was the daily commute to the World Bank offices in Washington, D.C., where we both worked, and, the twice-yearly missions to India where I, a civil engineer and economist, struggled with twelve hours of jet lag and the Indian civil administration. We looked at the early retirement finances; gave thirty days notice, and we were free. But free to do what?

For starters we evicted our last, live-in adult child; sold our house in northern Virginia and bought ten acres and an aging “weekender” house in Rappahannock County, Virginia. There we could indulge in our hobbies of gardening, landscaping, house reconstruction, food preparation and reading in the peace and beauty of the Blue Ridge foothills. These activities dominated the first five years of our retirement and were profoundly satisfying. Then, as the reconstruction phase wound down, I got out the manuscript of the novel I had been working on over the years in what little spare time a fully-employed father of six could lay claim to.

As my professional work had required a good deal of technical writing about both engineering and economics, I was pretty good at that and had published numerous articles in scholarly journals. I had also been a voracious consumer of fiction, both low-brow and high-brow, from the time I had learned to read. I thought I knew what good prose fiction was, and had seen enough bad writing that I thought that, with retirement, I could produce a professionally polished story that would both entertain and move the reader.

It took two years, the blunt criticisms of an experienced New York editor, and a great deal of cutting and polishing to extract a commercially viable story from the early draft which was deemed by the New York editor to be, “too long, too complicated, too technical and too self-indulgent”—harsh words for the tender ego and sensitive ears of an aspiring novelist. Dialogue, plot, pacing, character development and narrative technique are not a part of the technical writer’s skill set. They are, alas, essential to the craft of fiction. Fortunately, they can be learned by following the advice of master craftsmen, reading the work of successful novelists critically, and, most importantly, lots of practice.

My first novel, “Punjab Nights—Work, Love and Vengeance in the Land of Five Rivers,” was recently published by Llumina Press. The land is Pakistan and the five rivers are those that make up the Indus River Basin. My family and I lived in Lahore for three years during the late 1960s when Pakistan was beginning its slide into permanent military dominance. There existed a debilitating brew of linguistic and tribal strife, the developing Afghanistan-Karachi opium connection, and a corruption-inducing system of central economic planning and controls. The military and police got first claim on public monies; secular education was starved of resources; religious schools filled the gap for boys, but not for girls; the media were controlled and censored; the black market flourished and desperate individuals had to break the law to survive.

The novel introduces its sometimes hapless, sometimes sympathetic, American anti-hero into this environment. The rational, competent, hard-working, straightforward, law-abiding, Midwesterner finds himself living and working in this milieu of perverse incentives. It is not, however, a story about economic development or non-development. It is about the universal search for mutual love and respect, and how human beings of all cultures adapt to the environment within which they must live and survive.

The above is the serious subtext of Punjab Nights, and cannot be obvious if the reader is to be entertained. There is, therefore, a fast-moving plot involving three formidable female characters, an inter-cultural love story, an Afghan terrorist, an expose of the Karachi underworld, and an introduction to the seamy
side of the Lahore film industry, all providing a satisfying amount of intrigue, suspense, humor, and non-gratuitous sex and violence.

I was very excited when Michael Allen, the British author, publisher and blogmaster, reviewed the book and pronounced it, “...a very fine piece of work...an absorbing and enjoyable read.” He then went on to compare the work favorably with that of John Masters of “Bhowani Junction” fame.

For my next novel I am turning to Sixteenth Century historical fiction. Venetian Exile will be the first volume of a quartet entitled “The Travels and Adventures of Rodrigo Albueno, Renegade, Secret Agent, and Gentleman of the Spanish Nation.” It is a combination of accurate historical detail and the outrageous and entertaining spirit of the Spanish picaresque novel.

Writing extended prose fiction has been an important, but by no means primary, element of my post-retirement life. There is a lot of evidence that writing novels full time is injurious for ones mental and physical health, and my wife makes sure that I do not disappear for too long into the Sixteenth Century. I think that nonfiction is the way to go for most retirees who feel the urge to take up the pen.

The writing skills we developed working at the Bank are more easily transferred to non fiction, and the market niches are larger, more numerous, and more easily identified than those for fiction. Why go against my own advice? Probably, it is an impulse to entertain and the challenge of mastering a new craft without having to worry about how to make a living in the process.

A Passion To Build—India’s Quest for Offshore Technology
by Anil Kumar Malhotra

India has made major advances in science and technology in the last five decades—towards nuclear plants and the software revolution—which have provided the foundation of its recent economic development. One of these advances was in offshore oil technology.

This book which I have recently published may be of interest to many staff formerly in the Energy area.

The book provides an exciting account of how India obtained and mastered offshore oil technology. It gives an insider’s account of the discovery and development of the country’s biggest oil field, “Bombay High”, and of the strategies and efforts that made it possible to increase India’s oil self-sufficiency from 30% to 70% in a short span of ten years. The book provides insights on a number of issues including the creation and development of complex technology, on leadership and management in the oil industry, and on innovative ways to develop energy infrastructure many of which have contemporary relevance and application. To order, go to www.lulu.com/content/631667.
REMEMBRANCES

Robert McPheeters
Remembered by Kathryn Larrecq

Bob and I shared some of our earliest professional years on the secretariat of the OECD in Paris. Then and for many years thereafter—43 in all—Bob was for me a valued colleague, a dear friend and big brother.

Over the years, the scores of colleagues and others who, like myself, regarded Bob with particular respect and warmth grew to a wide and diverse circle. They were among our colleagues in Paris, many more later at the Bank, and yet many others in the wider community, including the youths who found temporary refuge at his farm in Maryland.

For Bob, life was at its best in this ever growing company of friends. He found enormous pleasure in listening to others and sharing the human experience. The material, on the other hand, concerned him little: the Caprice station wagon, the Timex watch, the old gray cardigan were just fine.

In the end, the richness of Bob's life was evidenced in the flood of former colleagues and neighbors who gathered at the bagpiper’s call one sunny day in December to say goodbye.

What explains such an outpouring? Why were so many moved to come to the church that day?

I think the answer is suggested in the notion that he was one who “never met a man he didn’t like”, though that does not go far enough. Rather, an astute observer of human nature, Bob found in each and every individual he met something to like, something worthwhile, something he wanted to share and enjoy. And they responded.

Now he has left us behind to fly on our own, and indeed we'll manage, strengthened by the example of this extraordinary friend.

Remembered by Gillian Ross

I would like to add some memories of our friend, Bob, to those evoked by Kathryn Larrecq; we all three worked in the same Division at OECD in the early 60s.

I remember the party at his Left Bank flat to welcome his wife Toni to Paris. Before joining the party one had to go to the nearest bistro to call ahead by phone since there was a dispute in Bob’s building resulting in an unlit staircase leading to their 6th floor flat. So someone had to descend to guide visitors up with a flash light. - I also fondly remember the party for my farewell to OECD and Paris in 1963 on the day President Kennedy died: both Bob and Kathryn were there.

After the Paris days I lost touch with our friend. After spending years in Stockholm, Djakarta (Kathryn was also there at the same time) and Managua, I came to Washington in 1972, only to find Bob at the World Bank. When I joined the Bank I was included in the weekly “OECD lunch” at “The Exchange” on G Street. Bob was always there, and so were Bernard Decaux, Fritz Kahnert and often John Edelman. The greatest pleasure, however, has always been to visit Bob at his Highland Farm in Sunshine, just North of Brookeville. He was so at home there, contented and welcoming, surrounded by his medley of dogs.

I cannot possibly add to Kathryn’s words of appreciation. She has said it all so very well for all of us who were there in church on December 14 to say goodbye to him. Those of us who were fortunate enough to call him our friend will sorely miss him.

Guenter Heyland
Remembered by Bill Cosgrove

When Günter joined the Bank as a Financial Analyst in January 1974, he came to the MENA Projects Water and Sanitation Division which I had joined myself less than a year earlier. We were teamed up on projects in Tunisia, Syria and
later Yemen. Günter was a talented analyst who quickly seized the situation and would not be trapped into making it more complicated than it needed to be. His work was thorough, the financial sections of our appraisal and supervision reports were always concise.

I enjoyed our professional relationship, which was enriched in time off in the evenings and on the week-ends. Günter established contacts wherever we went and often invited me along. Having learned that I studied German in high school, he took delight in making me recall my vocabulary and pronunciation. When we thought we would be somewhere where there were tennis courts, we brought along our gear. Günter always managed through good placement of himself and his shots to better me seemingly without effort.

After a brief stint in the Paris office he accepted a position in the water supply and sanitation projects group in South-East Asia Region, with his base in India. Here he enjoyed getting to know the country and the diversity of the people while helping to meet their needs. We learned from cards and letters from Helga that she shared his enjoyment! A few months after his return to Washington Günter moved to the West African office of the UNDP-World Bank Water Supply and Sanitation Program in Abidjan. He enjoyed his work, traveling throughout the region to visit communities and projects with which the Program was associated. I often heard from former colleagues how much they enjoyed working with Günter when they were traveling in the region.

Upon returning to Washington in 1987 in the midst of the reorganization, he left the Bank and returned to Abidjan on an assignment for the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, providing subsidies to deserving causes in West Africa. Frances and I visited with him and Helga during this period and saw how much they were still enjoying their life there. But at the end of this contract they decided the time had come to retire. They purchased their lovely home “La Basse Mude” near Salernes in Southern France where Günter continued to enjoy his favorite sports, tennis and bridge.

Frances and I got to know Günter and Helga and their family, Imme, Thomas and Jochen in Washington during the initial years and on their return trips. We and our children still have fond memories of Günter and were saddened to hear of his passing. Günter will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Remembered by Peter Ludwig

We met Günter and Helga Heyland in 1974 in the Georgetown Dutch Inn where the World Bank had reserved temporary quarters for us. When Günter and I found out that we were reporting for duty on the same day, an immediate bond between the two families was established. While Günter and I walked to the Bank in the morning, our wives either stood in line together to get gasoline, which was in short supply in early 1974, or they went out to conquer the new environment including Georgetown shops and estate sales.

Günter started as a financial analyst in the water sector. For me, Günter was the quintessential financial analyst, with an extraordinarily sharp and at the same time critical mind, and in addition bringing quite some experience to his work at the Bank.

Born in Germany, he was drafted at age 16 during World War II. After the war, he finished high school and before going to the University, he took a merchant apprenticeship. He married Helga in 1953 and completed university with the equivalent of an MBA in 1955. By then their daughter Imme had arrived. His first jobs were as a tariff specialist for pipelines with a large German company, then after moving to Versailles, with the Central European Operations Agency (CEAO) where he was also responsible for pipeline tariffs. Then, after returning to Germany, he joined a major power supplier as a financial analyst where, by the time he left for the World Bank, he had advanced to Chief Financial Officer, and the family had grown to five, with Imme and two sons, Thomas and Jochen.
Both, Günter and Helga loved to travel. They were not only interested in short mission travel or point trips but in long-term assignments which Günter held in Paris, Delhi and Abidjan. They had come to love Africa, and when after leaving the Bank, Günter was offered a job at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Abidjan, he gladly accepted. In 1991 they finally settled down in a beautiful house in Southern France, where they stayed until he passed away after a short illness on October 9, 2006.

Whenever Günter worked at Headquarters we were together in a carpool. It was never boring with Günter on board. I loved to listen to his clear and sometimes very critical views of today’s society and American politics. He could be very outspoken, but was right most of the time. On weekends we often played cards together (Skat —the favorite German card game), and with incredible skill, he was able to pull quite a few dollars out of my pocket. But I could not get mad at him, because he always won with great charm and never let you feel his superiority.

I was shocked and extremely saddened by the news of his departure, as I know that I have lost a good friend, Helga a loving husband, and his children a father to whom they could look up and whom they could follow as an example.

Remembered by David Jones

I was sad to learn of Guenter’s death as the result of an accident. We were contemporaries during his time at the Bank and I knew him to be a person of skill, competence and integrity. He was also a kindly man and an observer of life.

I recall two special instances of our coming together. Once, when we were at an informal buffet dinner, he took issue with me for salting my food before tasting it - something that I have a habit of doing, even though, as Guenter reminded me, it was not very complimentary to the cook.

The other time was when we were working together in Afghanistan. I had brought along my wife on a points trip, but unfortunately she was ill with food-poisoning almost the entire time. When we had only about two days left for sight-seeing, the kindly Guenter, who, like me, was a financial analyst, told me to go off with my wife and not to bother about the financial work. He said that he would do his own share - and mine too. This, he duly did, meaning that my wife and I could salvage what little was left of our time, at the expense of Guenter’s personal effort and kindness.

One remembers things like that about one's friends and colleagues. This event emphasized Guenter’s decency.

Walter Schaefer-Kehnert
Remembered by Dieter Elz

Walter died in September at the age of 85. He was a remarkable person, well liked because of his friendly, helpful, never presumptuous personality; he was also highly respected for his great professional experience and knowledge and for his effective leadership.

His two personal goals in life had been to recover his family’s estate at Kehnert, a small village on the Elbe River, and to use his scientific and practical agricultural knowledge to advise farmers and others in the agricultural profession. Walter could not achieve the first of these: under Soviet post-war occupation the East German government expropriated all large farms in the country and forbade him to return there. Thus unable to pursue practical farming, he turned to his other professional calling —the teaching of the economics of farming. In the 1950s, the University at Goettingen engaged him as a professor of agricultural economics. No ivory tower thinker, he was able to combine theoretical principles with practical experience, making the formal study of agriculture understandable to all.

He joined the Bank's Agricultural Department in 1963 concentrating on animal husbandry projects. He ably presented and defended his points of view in meetings where his background as an army officer sometimes showed in his
outwardly forceful presentations. His colleagues used to smile, enjoying these occasions. One of them once remarked “… and if this does not work, we'll send in a panzer brigade.” But Walter’s opinions were factual and well considered and respected by all concerned.

In 1968 Walter and his family moved to Africa where he worked first for five years in the Nairobi Resident Mission and then for two more in Addis Ababa, where he was a consultant to the Ethiopian Agricultural Service. Back in Washington, Walter joined the Agricultural Division of the Economic Development Institute (EDI), where seven years later he became its Chief. At the EDI, he did what he loved best - lecturing officials and entrepreneurs from developing countries on agricultural economics. For his audiences coming from a variety of cultural backgrounds and who often had little understanding of the higher principles of economic development, he did a superb job of reducing theory to practice, and even today I meet people who remember Schaefer-Kehnert and his ability to clarify terms and methodologies once foreign to them.

His work often obsessed Walter and it may even have dominated his dreams: Once on a mission in China, traveling over night in a sleeping car, he suddenly kicked out his leg in a fury, hit the bed rail, and broke his toe. Some suggested that he must have dreamt of an economic problem he found insolvable. In any case, his mission came to an abrupt end.

Walter retired from the Bank in 1985, and settled near Bonn. But he was not idle: He wrote his memoirs, published his opinions in newspapers, and kept in frequent contact with his many friends. Naturally, he pursued his hobby of improving efficiency around the house by inventing devices to make life easier, such as an ingenious ventilation device or a method for aiding his wife, Marie Therese, to park the car in their tiny garage.

Since following the collapse of Communism, the government refused to return the expropriated estates to their former owners, Walter set out to fight the decision up to the highest court. When the final ruling went against him, his sense of justice was greatly injured and he could never reconcile himself to it. His only recourse was to purchase a small piece of land in his old village which once was part of his estate, and to build a little cottage there, doing most of it on his own. He would spend a good part of the year in this beloved spot, a spot where he now lies buried.

I once asked Walter if, in retrospect, he would have preferred to have managed his family estate rather than spending all those years in the Bank. After thinking for a moment he replied: “Definitely not! The Bank provided me with a full and satisfying professional life, one for which I am most grateful”. Whoever can say this at the end of a long life can consider himself most fortunate. We shall not forget him.

Remembered By Paul Goffin

Walter will be fondly be remembered by all those who had the opportunity to work with him. On my first mission for the Bank to Uganda in 1965, Walter was my mission leader. Right from the start, he shared his knowledge and expertise as he guided me and the other team members. His focus, dedication and gentle firmness ensured that we all maintained the momentum towards successful completion of our mission.

Throughout his career, Walter served as mentor to many professionals by generously sharing his time and views with them. He was an honorable man who had a quiet charm that also made working with him a pleasure.

With his family, we share the grief of his loss.

Christian Polti
Remembered by Paul Blay

Unlike some people who always look for the negative or try to prove themselves to be superior by finding something wrong in whatever they are looking at, Christian Polti, who died in August 2006, always looked for the positive, the good things in any situation.
Christian was an agricultural specialist. He came to the Bank after a career with FAO, first to work in Africa and the Middle East and at the end of his time with the Bank, with Operations Evaluation. I remember him as always looking for practical ways to use Bank resources to make life better for poor people through successful rural development. Throughout he was supportive of his colleagues in their work, aiming to make things happen. And always he was a joy to be with, cheerful, friendly, trying to see the amusing side of problems, constructive in his approach.

Christian had greatly looked forward to working with OED, to evaluate the success of agricultural development projects; these last years in the Bank were indeed the ones he enjoyed the most. He could visit places where he had worked earlier and other places that he did not know. He loved to meet people and learn from them, and to use his great experience to identify what had worked well, conveying the lessons that he could draw upon to help others. Christian was always alert for ways in which peoples lives were improved, especially the lives of farming families because of the project, whereas before people had struggled to survive.

He cherished the funny things that happen, and loved to share them with others; his own infectious laugh gladdened many an over-serious mission or Bank meeting. But he cared deeply about the challenges of making life better for others. Christian was always alert for ways in which peoples lives were improved, especially the lives of farming families because of the project, whereas before people had struggled to survive.

After my postings for the Bank to New Delhi and Dhaka, we lost touch and only met occasionally thereafter at parties for the Belgian national holiday. When we retired to Vienna, however, we resumed contact with the De Gryses and got to know them much better. We visited them in Ostend, and they stopped in Vienna during a boat trip on the Danube. Above all, we corresponded regularly and spoke often over the phone.

Jean's life is in many ways typical for a gifted Fleming from his generation. Born in 1923 in Ostend from a French-speaking mother and a Flemish-speaking father, Jean was perfectly bilingual. During WWII his father, a shoe merchant, moved the family away from war-torn Ostend to the nearby shoe center of Izegem. Jean decided to go to university to avoid being drafted into compulsory labor by the Nazi occupiers.

It was in Izegem that he met Lea. After earning a degree in economics and consular sciences at the University of Louvain, Jean enrolled in the Belgian colonial service, married Lea in 1948, and departed with her, shortly after their marriage, for what should have been a promising career in the then Belgian Congo. As did most of their contemporaries, they sailed from the port of Antwerp on a so-called “Congo boat,” leaving tearful families behind. In the colony, Jean worked in several large urban centers—including today's Kinshasa—as financial controller, but he had to return home after the riots and internal strife that followed the colony's independence.

Like many colonial civil servants, Jean was hired by the World Bank in early 1962 and worked there until 1976 as financial analyst for railroad projects, and finally for an additional two-year period as recruiting officer in the Paris office. After retirement, Jean returned to his native Ostend, where he enjoyed the clean air, the good food, and the company of Lea.

No couple was as devoted to each other as these two. “Pitchou,” as he called his wife, was the center of his world. She looked upon him as her hero. When she suddenly fell seriously ill in
August of 2006 and had to be hospitalized in Bruges. Jean worried immensely and—although already 83 years old—drove to see her there every day, except when weather conditions were very bad and he was driven by friends or relatives.

All in all, he must have made more than 120 return trips, sometimes to read her aloud letters written by my wife. Finally, he told us, with a choking voice, that we should stop sending letters: Lea had become too weak even to listen to them. On the morning of February 9, Jean told his sister that he felt exhausted and needed some rest. He lay down for a nap and never woke up again.

When Lea was told a few days later that Jean was no longer with her, she whispered to her family, “Je veux mourir.” Less than three weeks later she joined him in death. Both now rest under a flat stone on the wind-swept shore of the Belgian coast—where Juliet has joined her Romeo.

**In Memoriam for Ulrich Kuffner**  
By Dirk van der Sluijs

It is already a month ago since we heard of Ulrich’s sudden death on May 24th, which occurred while he and his wife, Cecilia, were on their yearly family visit in Germany. Ever since the sad news reached us, my thoughts have been going back over the shared experiences during the thirty-four years we have known each other, professionally and as friends.

I vividly remember when, shortly after I had joined Phil Kirpich’s small “unit”, as it was called (the Mexico National Water Study Unit) in February 1973, Ulrich joined us to fill the important position of Water Resources Engineer in that newly created four-person unit. Our four offices inside Room C-914 were diagonally across from each other, and when our doors were open (most of the time), we could see each other person behind our desks. Morris Miller, succeeded in early 1974 by Del Fitchett, was the Unit’s economist.

As most of the Bank’s new hires at that time, Ulrich did already have a good number of years of overseas professional experience behind him when he joined the Bank and it showed in how he approached issues. He had a great work ethic, possessed a very special sense of humor, and always was positive in formulating his opinions.

It was particularly during those first five or so years in the Bank that we had the opportunity to get to know each other and work together—and to learn about, and get to know each other's families. So, for example, it was during one of our regular “commutes” to Mexico, that one good morning, at the reception desk of the hotel “Maria Isabel”, Ulrich learned that Cecilia had given birth to a healthy baby boy, their first son, Christian.

Throughout the years, on our different paths through the Bank; with different responsibilities and travel schedules, we saw each other less frequently. Following the Mexico years (which also included a year the Kuffners were stationed in Mexico City), Ulrich transferred to an agricultural division in the northern East Africa region, whereas, not long thereafter; I transferred to “East Africa - Southern Agriculture” which meant that at least during periodic departmental meetings we would be seeing each other.

Subsequent assignments included work in the Middle East, and he conducted a comprehensive water resources assessment for Africa.

Ulrich truly was one of a rare and select group of technical specialists and we all have lost a great friend. After retiring from the Bank, Ulrich and Cecilia settled in Quito, Ecuador where tentatively, we had planned to see each other in the fall of this year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Cecilia, Stephan and Christian.

**Tribute to Lucian Sprague**  
By Yun-An Tang

Lucian Sprague, who retired from the Bank in 1988, passed away in October 2006. To herald the terrible news of his passing, his widow sent
out to Lucian’s friends a notice that includes the following paragraph:

Some years ago, Lucian prepared the following: Senior Fisheries Specialist at the World Bank, 1972-1988. Major achievement at the Bank conceived and designed innovative use of existing technology for the World Bank Inland Fisheries Project for five states in northern India. The private sector picked up the concept and it spread widely both during and after the project period. The concept benefited hundreds of thousands of mostly poor people by making available fish fry early enough in the growing season so that fish grown from the fry could take advantage of monsoon rain to reach market size before the later onset of the dry season” unquote.

Lucian was working at the Center Project Department when I joined the Bank in 1978 as an Aquaculturist assigned to South Asian projects. An arrangement made by the Division, Lucian participated in the India Inland Fisheries Project work involved in feasibility studies of proposal, project appraisal, and supervision of implementation throughout the project period from 1980 to 1984. He contributed substantially to the project work and played an important role in making the project to achieve a great success.

The Bank-financed India Inland Fisheries Project had the goal of improving the fish production from an estimated total area of 260,000 hectares of warm-water ponds, which are situated at the low-laying lands distributed in the basins and deltas along the lower Ganges Systems, and covered by five states from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. This project was the inception of a fully fledged Bank project in financing aquaculture development, so that, within the 1980s, the concept was replicated in a total of seven projects, and implemented these projects in four countries under similar natural environments. While the small Bangladesh Gramen Bank fish farming project was financed by KFW, it was initiated and assisted by the Bank’s project staff during their field missions in Bangladesh.

As the construction of hatcheries is one of the most important components of all these projects, Gramen Bank emphasized the construction of the so-called “mini-hatchery”, whereby a simple and small hatchery is set up in the center of a cluster of several fish farms and produce fry to supply these adjacent fish farmers. All other projects were constructed and managed big hatcheries by the government, and produce fry in large scale to supply an extensive area of fish farms. There are arguments on the advantages and disadvantages of the two approaches in aquaculture development, but for the effects and benefits in long run, apparently, Gramen Bank’s approach of constructing “mini-hatchery” is prevailing.

The Bank can be proud of the innovative idea in initiating the “mini-hatchery” in aquaculture development created by the staff of rural branches of Gramen Bank, simultaneously, would like to congratulate Gramen Bank, the winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize for Peace.

World aquaculture production reported by FAO in 2002, amounted to 39.8 million tons, which was 29.9 percent of the total global fisheries production of 133.0 million tons. Among the world major aquaculture producers of China, India and Bangladesh aggregated to 30.8 million tons, and contributed 30.5 percent of global production of food fish for human consumption, providing a per capita supply of 4.9 kg for the estimated global population of 6.23 billion. Worldwide, aquaculture production has grown at an average rate of 8.9 percent per year since 1970, compared with only 1.2 percent from the production of capture fisheries over the same period.

It is now clear that the expansion of aquaculture production is in full swing, worldwide.

Lucian may rest well in peace.
of miscellaneous payments. At the end of 2005, the Society’s assets totaled $59,091. Copies of the financial statements, which were audited by Mr. D.C. Jones, are available at the Society’s Office in the Main Complex.

5. Statement by Mr. Peter Gallant, Corporate Security. Mr. Gallant said that, as a result of its continuing review of security arrangements, the Bank has decided to limit access to all headquarters building on the basis of “business needs.” Until now, most categories of individuals permitted in Bank facilities had 24-hour access and, for many, their IDs had no expiration date or renewal requirements. Among other changes introduced in September 2006, retirees and spouses/domestic partners will be able to use Bank buildings (both owned and leased) only from 7 am until 7 pm on regular business days, and retirees will no longer be permitted garage use after working hours. Starting in 2007, retiree ID cards must be renewed annually. The Bank has agreed however, that if access is required beyond the times normally allowed, exceptions may be granted based on business needs or special circumstances.

6. Pension Finance Committee Representative’s Report. In opening his presentation, Mr. Stephen Eccles, who represents the Society on the Pension Finance Committee (PFC), said that after some years of decline, the Pension Fund is now doing well. Rather than going into the figures, which were going to be discussed by the Bank’s management, Mr. Eccles said that he wished to express his admiration for the quality of the staff that takes care of our pension funds. Whether they are administering the funds, or analyzing what has been achieved, or could be achieved in the future, the PFC habitually finds excellence in thought and execution. Indeed, we take this for granted and forget how fortunate we are. The fact that the staff is good is the more remarkable if one considers that the PFC is unable to pay salaries anywhere near market rates. Mr. Eccles added that this has been his principal concern about the Pension Fund: that it might not be possible for it to continue to obtain and retain staff of the caliber it has. Somehow - probably due to the attractions of working for the Bank and/or the congenial working environment created by the Pension Fund managers - his fears have not been realized.

7. Mr. Eccles went on to observe that it is extremely difficult to improve on the benchmark for the US equities portion of our investments. Our managers can do it, but certainly not always and not this year so far. This is because it is difficult for any manager to beat a benchmark on a consistent basis. Given that the PFC wants an appropriate level of exposure to US equities, what should be done? After much analysis the PFC has taken two approaches. One is to pursue alternative investments - private equity, real estate and hedge funds - to a greater extent. To succeed in these markets we need top-flight analysis to sort out the various players, which are now flooded with operators. Fortunately, we get this kind of analysis regularly. The other approach is relatively new and we are just venturing into it. While retaining our exposure to the US equities benchmark, we are trying what is called ‘transferable alpha’. Instead of allowing managers to try to beat the benchmark for US equities, we are buying the underlying index, eliminating the need for active management and allowing the risk thus released to be used elsewhere, effectively increasing our exposure to hedge fund type of activities. Mr. Eccles stressed that this approval was made possible by the quality of staff analysis carried out for the PFC before the trial was agreed to.

8. Mr. Eccles also mentioned that every quarter the staff presents a detailed review of a single asset class in which the PFC has funds. These reviews are thorough examinations of past, present and proposed exposures in that
asset class. They have been uniformly excellent, particularly the one prepared last year on hedge funds. He also referred to a major exercise that the PFC has currently underway: the five-year Strategic Assets Allocation review. Every five years, a thorough review of how investments are allocated among various assets classes is undertaken. On this occasion, the review is more important that usual as the staff is proposing two potentially major changes. Firstly, it is proposed that a ‘liability driven’ approach be adopted. This is being adopted more widely in Europe than in the US. The basic principle is that the mark-to-market value of liabilities should be the ultimate benchmark or reference point for measuring and evaluating the risk-return trade-offs associated with different asset allocations. It is not yet clear how this approach will actually affect our asset allocations, but Mr. Eccles stressed one aspect – the quality of the analysis that the PFC receives from our staff, external consultants and practitioners as we move along the path. The second probable change concerns the more direct management of risk. The Pension Fund can only accept a certain amount of risk if we are to avoid unmanageable swings in the amount that we ask the Bank is to pay into the Pension Fund each year, and to avoid undue variations in our financial ratios. While we have always tried to manage risk-return trade-offs in the past, we are actively looking for additional ways of doing this.

9. Management Statement on Pension Finance Matters. Mr. Gumersindo Olivares, Director of the Pension Investment Department, said that the Pension Fund Finances had evolved favorably in 2005. He explained that assets had increased by $1.1 billion to $12.4 billion, while ‘closed group’ liabilities increased by $0.6 billion to $13.5 billion, resulting in an improved ‘closed group’ funding ratio of 0.92. Including the present value of future staff contributions, the funding ratio was 0.96 at the end of the year.

10. Pension Benefit Administration Committee Representative’s Report. Ms. Eva Meigher said that there were no major developments on the administrative side of the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) and the matters coming before the Pension Benefits Administration Committee (PBAC) are generally related to provisions that had been part of the Plan for many years. However, there were two changes in the PBAC that are of interest to Society members. One was the appointment of Xavier Coll, the new Vice President, Human Resources, to replace Katherine Sierra as Chair of PBAC and the other is that Alexander Keyserlingk is now the alternate PBAC representative (who is nominated by the Society and appointed by the Bank’s President) replacing Jean-Pierre Jacqmotte who has moved to the West Coast. As mentioned before, the PBAC has overall responsibility for the administration of benefits under the Plan and decides questions of interpretation of Plan provisions relating to participation, retirement, elections and benefits when requested to do so. Therefore, most of the Committee’s work revolves around individual claims. Four of the cases considered by the PBAC related to requests to receive a Bank pension in foreign currency and whether the evidence submitted by the applicant justified a “principal residence” determination.

11. Management Statement on Pension Administrations Matters. Mr. John Gandolfo, Director Quantitative Strategies, Risk and Analytics Department, explained that the strategy for Fund asset allocation is reviewed every three years, though minor changes are made more frequently, often to deal with changed perceptions on interest rate risk. The PFC will meet in the next few weeks to review strategies. Current benchmarks for asset allocations are: 35 percent equities; 40 percent fixed-income and 25 percent alternative investments. In equities, emerging markets are so far up 35 percent this year with China and India, but also Brazil and Russia, having made significant gains. During 2005 the Plan performed 2 percent better than anticipated,
with all asset classes outperforming their benchmarks. So far in 2006, absolute returns have come down somewhat.

12. Management Statement on the Retiree Medical Insurance Plan (RMIP). Mr. Rajiv Nundy started his presentation by describing the Plan’s nature. He explained that the RMIP is a self-insured program that provides comprehensive medical, dental, and prescription coverage. Funding is shared between the Bank and retirees. The latter pay 25 percent through premium contributions but close to 40 percent when deductibles, coinsurance, and co-payments are included. The MIP is a Preferred Provider Option (PPO) type of plan. If retirees choose in-network medical or dental providers, they will lower out-of-pocket costs and the Plan will also realize savings. Turning to recent performance, Mr. Nundy explained that medical, dental, and prescription costs had continued to increase. During 2005, most of the cost increases were due to: i) increases in the number of hospital admissions, inpatient surgeries and emergency room visits, ii) an increase in the average length of hospital stays, and iii) increases in catastrophic (i.e. costing over $50,000) claims from 24 the previous year to 40. Lower in-network hospital discounts were also a factor. Between 2000 and 2005, medical costs increased by 2 percent per year, while dental, prescription, and administrative costs increased by 7.4, 14.4, and 9.4 percent annually respectively, for an overall average increase of 5.3 percent annually. Premium increases during 2000-2005 amounted to 7.7 percent. Since there was an increase in overall contributions of 10.8 percent on May 1, 2006, additional retiree contributions required to meet more recent cost increases will be obtained by increasing deductibles by $50 per annum for medical, dental, and prescription costs and out-of-pocket expenses by $250 per annum for medical and prescription costs, effective January 1, 2007. The last increase in deductibles and co-payments was on January 1, 2003.

13. Report of The Society’s Committee on Insurance Matters. John Kendall explained that the principal purpose of the Retiree Medical Insurance Committee is to help retirees make better use of the RMIP to maintain their health and well-being. The Committee also maintains contact with similar committees in Chapters (not all Chapters have them yet) to keep abreast of issues in other retiree clusters. An issue that several retirees living in the U.S. have raised is the lack of clarity of Aetna’s Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements, which do not allow retirees to reconcile provider bills with amounts paid by Medicare and Aetna and balances owed by retirees. In addition, it is not possible to reconcile amounts provided to individuals for savings due to Medicare reimbursements, which are calculated individually and credited to each retiree. There was then a request that retirees present indicate, by show of hands, whether Aetna’s EOBs as presently designed gives a clear enough account of the contributions of the three parties involved (Medicare, Aetna, and the retiree) to make reconciliation possible. From the show of hands it was clear that a majority of retirees felt that the design of EOB forms could be improved.

14. Discussion and Approval of By-Law Changes. Ms. Adrienne Nassau explained that after extensive consideration, the Society’s Board had decided to propose to the membership that four changes be made to the Society’s By-Laws. The changes address the following matters: i) proper reflection of the purposes of the Society, ii) changes in eligibility criteria for membership of the Society, iii) an increase in the number of Directors, and iv) elimination of language this is no longer relevant in the By-Laws.

15. With respect to the first change, additional language in the By-Laws would make it clear that, in addition to the functions already recognized in them, the Society would: provide and foster opportunities for contact and
cooperation between the World Bank Group and the Society and its members, and monitor World Bank Group activities and policies in order to represent the rights and interests of Society members and other retirees of the World Bank Group. The Board believes that the proposed revision reflects more accurately the current role of Directors and Officers in conducting the Society’s business, as well as concerns of the membership at large.

16. With regard to the second change, its main purpose is to reduce the minimum period of service required for membership of the Society from ten to five years, and to update the language on survivors to include registered domestic partners in addition to spouses. The proposed revision—reducing the minimum period of service with the Bank Group to five years—is consistent with the Bank's threshold for RMIP eligibility and, at the same time, is long enough to ensure that those eligible for membership are thoroughly familiar with the World Bank. The other change simply brings the Society’s membership eligibility criteria into conformity with the Bank's own criteria regarding recipients of survivor's pensions.

17. The third change to By-Laws increases the number of Directors from seven to nine and also simplifies its language. The increase is justified on the grounds that, perhaps because of younger retirement ages, Directors seem busier and travel more frequently than hitherto, resulting in a smaller number of Directors being available for Management meetings and other matters requiring urgent attention.

18. The fourth change eliminates language on Membership Dues that had significance only in the first two years of the Society’s existence when some members had already paid “annual dues”. Ms. Adrienne Nassau asked for questions or comments on the proposed By-Law changes and none were offered. Ms. Nassau then asked if the membership preferred to vote on all four proposals together or one by one. A member suggested that the vote should be on all proposals.

19. Ms. Nassau called for votes by a show of hands and the ayes predominated, indicating approval of the four proposals by the membership. Ms. Nassau reminded the membership that the By-Laws allow the membership to appoint Directors from the floor. She asked if members wished to nominate Directors in this way. No nominations were made.

20. Report on Nominating Committee and Election of Directors. Ms. Nassau explained that since the two-year term of three Society Directors are coming to an end this year, a Nominating Committee was formed to recommend candidates to replace them. The Nominating Committee was Chaired by Dan Ritchie and included Gene McCarthy, Joe Scarce and Pilar San Jose Stark, with Frona Hall serving as liaison with the Society’s current Board. To fill the three two-year (2007-2008) positions on the Board, the Committee recommended the following: Uma Lele, Jean-Yves Maillat and Charles Ziegler, who agreed to serve for another two-year term. In view of the Board’s intention to propose that the number of Directors be expanded from seven to nine, the Nominating Committee selected two additional candidates whose terms would be determined by the Board. These were: Shawki Barghouti and Constance Morris Hope. Ms. Nassau explained that the By-Laws provided that nominations could be made by the membership and asked if the membership wished to make any nominations. None was offered.

21. Other Business. Ms. Nassau asked the membership if there were any other items of business to discuss. None were proposed.

22. Adjournment. Thanking the membership present for its attention and participants for their collaboration, Ms. Nassau adjourned the meeting.