



The Asia Foundation Alumni Association

News

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*A publication of the Alumni Association
for former staff of The Asia Foundation*

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Future of TAFAA to be Discussed at Annual Luncheon; Nov. 2, 2013

Haydn Williams will keynote

by Jeannie Maher, Executive Director

Haydn Williams, president emeritus of The Asia Foundation and long time adviser to TAFAA, will be the featured speaker at The Asia Foundation Alumni Association's annual luncheon to be held Saturday, November 2, at San Francisco Towers, 1661 Pine St., SF.

Dr. Williams will discuss the past, present and future of the Alumni Association and present his views about its path ahead. A personal representative of The Asia Foundation President David Arnold will also be present to discuss The Foundation's interest in the Alumni Association and some proposals that may be helpful moving forward.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch at noon. Entry fee is \$40—wine included.

This will be an extremely important event for the membership. Crucial decisions must be made. At its last formal meeting, the steering committee decided that, for various reasons, it cannot continue to carry out the many duties required for the association to function, and that the association can move ahead only with a new coordinator and steering committee. Discussions have been held with TAF regarding a new approach going forward (please see below), and this, as well as other alternatives that may be raised at the luncheon, will be considered.

So, please be sure to mark your calendar and participate in this extremely important event.

You may make your reservation by completing and returning an invitation you will soon receive in the mail. If you have questions, please contact David Robinson at drobenson501@aol.com, or Phil Page, pkp70529@sbcglobal.net.

Leadership Wanted!!

At the invitation of TAF President David Arnold, your steering committee recently met with him and key members of his staff to explore ways to continue and strengthen The Asia Foundation Alumni Association.

The meeting was precipitated by the fact that the present steering committee can no longer function as currently constituted.

To assure a solid future for the Association, the participants considered establishing closer linkage with, and support from, The Foundation. Mr. Arnold was amenable to this approach, agreeing with the steering committee members that a strong, independent, active Alumni Association is a valuable adjunct to The Foundation.

The steering committee suggested that The Foundation serve as the logistical base for the Association and establish an in-house

coordinator to maintain the Alumni Association records, enlist new membership, and communicate with Association members as directed by a newly-formed Association Steering Committee comprised of interested alumni volunteers. The Steering Committee will set Association policy and direct its activities as is the current practice. The structure provided by a Foundation coordinator will provide a solid base for continuing liaison with and among the alumni, helping them stay informed of developments of interest both within the Foundation and among the members themselves, and assuring that the alumni can serve as informed resources for The Foundation, both directly and within and without their communities as they choose.

The continuance of the Alumni Directory as well as the Newsletter was also discussed.

More details about this promising approach will be discussed at the Nov. 2 luncheon.

It cannot be emphasized enough that a new Steering Committee will be essential to provide leadership and direction if this approach, or any alternative approach, is adopted. If you are at all interested in being part of this leadership, please contact Phil Page at pkp70529@sbcglobal.net, or (415) 863-2429.

This will not be a time-consuming chore, but your ideas and guidance will be invaluable in continuing and building an even more viable, constructive TAFAA.

Help TAF Celebrate its 60th Anniversary

TAF Alumni are invited to share their personal reflections of memorable programs in which they were involved during their careers with The Asia Foundation for possible inclusion in a compendium The

Foundation plans to publish as part of its 60th Anniversary celebration next year.

Substantive Foundation “success stories” and landmark achievements described and narrated through first-hand personal reflections are sought.

Further details are included in a forthcoming letter you will receive from TAF President David Arnold. In the meantime, submissions, not to exceed five pages in length, may be sent to Amy Ovalle, Senior Director of Global Communications, at The Foundation’s San Francisco office. She may also be contacted at aovalle@asiafound.org, or 415-743-3340.

MEMBER NEWS

Dauw Aung Suu Kyi is Guest of The Asia Foundation in San Francisco September 28,2012

by Lindley Sloan

Asia Foundation Trustees, Foundation alumnae, and San Francisco business and civic leaders welcomed Aung San Suu Kyi in the Julia Morgan Ballroom in the building where the Foundation’s offices are located.

Much of her address (delivered without notes) dealt with the role foreign donors could play in the economic development and democratization of Burma at this critical turning point in the country’s history.

Suu Kyi expressed her gratitude for the outpouring of aid during her tour of the United States. She stressed, however, that “speed” should not be the priority but, rather, “proper sequencing,” and that aid should be directed to the local level, not the central government. In this connection, she said that the reforms undertaken to date had not reached the local population; especially in the ethnic/tribal areas.

Suu Kyi encouraged donors to concentrate on education, saying that “a generation has been lost” because of the military government’s neglect of this area.

Haydn Williams Remarks on 40th Anniversary of the Luce Scholars Program

by Haydn Williams

It is an honor to have been asked to say a few words on this auspicious occasion. I do so with great pleasure. I begin by saying that The Asia Foundation has had a warm and long association with the Luce Foundation. First, common Board Members with Beth Moore, a tower of strength, being a founding Trustee of both Foundations a key connecting link for many years and then Jane Irwin and now Terry Adamson.

Both Foundations were also early patrons of higher education in Asia, especially colleges for women. Luce was also an early important backer of the Asia Foundation’s programs in law and human rights and was the principal underwriter of the Asia Foundation’s successful regional program, slowly building ASEAN’s private sector underpinnings.

During my time, a number of names resonate in the story of the Luce Scholars. On the Luce side, Hank Luce, Martha Wallace, Bob Armstrong and Helene Redell. For the Asia Foundation, Dr. Robert Schwantes, the principal player, Frank Dines, Glen Bowersox and Betsy White, the Luce Scholars coordinators and a few of our country representatives, Jim Stewart, Edith Coliver, Lin Sloan and Shel Severinghaus.

The Luce Foundation’s contributions to the success of the Program began with a planned, highly disciplined, competitive selection process and the uniformly high quality of those selected. Also its wise

decision to make the Luce Scholars experience a group as well as an individual experience, bringing each class of scholars together for initial orientations in the U.S. also at the beginning, the middle and the close of their placements in Asia, to enable them to share, enrich and broaden their individual and collective experiences.

Indeed they bonded, they kept in touch with each other and for a while they had their own exclusive underground newspaper called LUCETALK much to the dismay of New York, but I think Henry Luce would have smiled and welcomed their spirit and ingenuity.

The placement of the Scholars was the Asia Foundation’s principal contribution with its network of offices in Asia and its wide range of contacts at all levels of Asian Society. Its known respect and sensitivity to Asian needs and aspirations opened the doors for carefully tailored placements of value both to the Scholar and to the host institution.

In reflection, what is most memorable to me was the privilege Margaret and I had to host farewell receptions in our home for some 24 Luce Scholars Classes on the night before their departure for Asia, even after my retirement thanks to Bill Fuller my successor. Margaret looked forward to these occasions with enthusiasm and keen delight. A sense of anticipation was clearly palpable in the faces of the young Scholars, so filled with excitement and taking in the view of the Golden Gate and, beyond, the Pacific, which they would be crossing the next day as a group, en route to Hong Kong and future unknown adventures.

I close with a simple salute and a thank you to the Luce Foundation for its vision and congratulations to the Scholars for giving life to the hopes and promises of the Program, inherent in the minds of its founders 40 years ago – purposes and

dreams that have and will continue to be realized with the passage of time.

“*ONE MARINE’S WAR*”

By Gerald A. Meehl

Naval Institute Press, 2012

Reviewed by **Ernest Howell**

Dobbs Ferry, NY October 29, 2012

“One Marine’s War” is the story of the World War II service of **Bob Sheeks**, a remarkable man whose empathy for human beings led him to develop a successful method to induce Japanese warriors in the Pacific Islands to come out instead of fighting until death. There are excellent reviews on line such as at www.robertbsheeks.com. The book informs me about the person I knew though The Asia Foundation.

When asked to go to Kuala Lumpur to reopen The Asia Foundation office in time for the Merdeka celebrations in 1957, the first person at my door was Millen Khoo who had worked as secretary to Bob Sheeks, TAF’s first representative there. I had met Bob and Millen in February of 1954 when I saw first-hand the pioneering work Bob had initiated to bring together the Malay, Chinese, and Indian youth leaders to work toward a peaceful and democratic Malaya. He was strengthening the groundwork for what would become a long-lasting alliance. Millen saw the importance of Bob’s effort, and devoted the balance of her working life to service with **Bill Fleming, Jon Summers, Andy Andrews**, and other TAF reps.

Bob was also courageously addressing (in cooperation with TAF’s Hong Kong office) the educational and literature needs of the Chinese who were forced into barbed wire “new villages” by the British anti-terrorist operations. Bob’s experience with the

Japanese interned in the U.S. described in “One Marine’s War” must have resonated with him as he grappled with the need to develop programs for the new villages.

“One Marine’s War” led me to understand how Bob had developed the improvisational skills, cutting edge insights and self-confidence to forge successful Asia Foundation programs based on mutual respect and shared goals after the rocky start during the Committee for Free Asia days. Programs were pursued despite misgivings of top brass—U.S. or host country. Needless to say, the British were none too thrilled about Bob’s work in the middle of the insurgency. Bob’s approach has been fully vindicated by the many subsequent years of relative ethnic and religious harmony in Malaysia. The leadership he helped identify and nurture has stayed the course. But on that transfer of sovereignty day in 1957, the international community did not really know if Merdeka would usher in harmony or communal violence.

“One Marine’s War” is an action-packed read that affords a realistic feels for the chaos of battle as well as a good sense of how the struggle for the Pacific unfolded. Yet it is focused on Bob, and his unique contributions as well as his coming-of-age events that add a bit of spice. On a personal note, like Bob, I was referred to a Navy Commander by Harvard for Naval Language Officer training (Russian not Japanese), but the Commander took one look at me, determined that I was black, and said, “That will be all, Mr. Howell!” The priority needs of the Pacific War did not trump the need to preserve a segregated naval office corps.

TAFAA Alumni Speak Out at 2012 Annual Luncheon

by Jeannie Maher

A good time was had by all as several attendees at the November 3, 2012 Annual Alumni Luncheon held at San Francisco Towers regaled the crowd with tales, some tall, most not, of past experiences.

Haydn Williams moderated the event and called on **Shel Severignhaus** to kick it off. Shel got revenge by spinning a tale about Haydn's visit to Taiwan in the mid 1980s. Taiwan was still under martial law. Haydn was to attend the launching of a new three-year Asia Foundation-funded program with Taiwan's national legislature aimed at upgrading the information services available to Taiwan's legislature. Haydn was to be at the ribbon-cutting with the President of the Legislative Yuan and then to meet with Taiwan's Prime Minister. The problem? Haydn was arriving at the time a major typhoon was hitting the island. Worse yet, Andy Andrews phoned Shel from Kuala Lumpur early that morning to tell him that Haydn was enroute without a visa. Even worse, all government offices were shut down because of the typhoon, and Haydn was due shortly to meet the Prime Minister and officially initiate the program. So, Shel said the office did two things. First, his secretary called the head of the North American Affairs Department *at home!* He was a member of former President Chiang Kai-shek's family and a friend of The Asia Foundation. He nervously assured her "we'll work something out." He then called the Taiwan Garrison Command, which controlled all entry into and exit from Taiwan. Fortunately, senior officials of the Garrison Command had just returned from an Asia Foundation-sponsored study tour of human rights in the U.S. Between them, they figured out "some procedure", and by

the time Haydn arrived, the typhoon had weakened, and the TAF office went to the airport to greet him. And, as Shel told it: "The Taiwan Garrison Command was there, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was there. They all welcomed Haydn to Taiwan. He met with the Prime Minister. He met with the Legislature. And he left the country. And there is no record of Haydn ever having been in Taiwan that time."

Haydn thanked Shel for his story and confessed that "when I came today...I forgot one thing—my earplugs. So I couldn't hear much of what you said. So, who's next?"

Jean Fowler accepted the baton and noted she was hired by **Bob Schwantes** in 1962, shortly after she arrived in San Francisco. "He looked at my resume—I had two years in Europe—and he said, 'If you think we're going to send you to Asia, it's not going to happen.' About six weeks later he sent **Rose Ameser**, his program assistant, out to Afghanistan, and I said, 'Why?'" She might not have said it too loud, but about four years later she was assigned to Afghanistan. "I arrived in Europe, left Athens around 6 p.m. and, was sleeping in the airport in Tehran around 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. as the only person in the airport. Then I got on the plane to Afghanistan, which was a low-flying plane that didn't go above the level of the mountains—it flew between them. We were in the first-class cabin with the chickens and goats. We set down in Kandahar because the Americans had built the airport there because the Russians had built the airport in Kabul. So, I arrived in Kabul at about 7 a.m. to be met by the American team led by Lin Sloan, and was whisked off to Rose Amerser's house. Rose, my predecessor, was going to introduce me to Afghanistan." So, after no sleep and "swishing" around Kabul all day long, Jean participated in an after-dinner

party in honor of a former Representative much loved in Afghanistan, Ray Johnson—and, of course, to greet Jean, too—“but nobody knew who ‘Jean’ was.” Having been briefed in the home office that she should be respectful to the Afghans and wear very conservative clothes on all occasions, Jean arrived at the party in a long-sleeved dress, despite the June heat. “The Afghan women were the chicest in their mini skirts and their bouffant hairdos.” At her orientation briefing, Jean was advised that after six months in Afghanistan she’d ask herself, “What the hell am I doing here?” And, sure enough, on New Year’s day she asked herself that question. However, she pointed out: “It was the most fascinating two years of my life and, forty years later, everything is measured in terms of Before Afghanistan and After Afghanistan.”

The next speaker, **Sue Gerson**, picked up on the early “no women overseas” theme. After she and some others had been with TAF’s predecessor, the Committee for Free Asia, for about a year, they approached the legendary Personnel Manager **Autumn Ryan** and said they would like to go overseas as Administrative Assistants. “And,” continued Sue, “Autumn said, ‘No!’ And we asked ‘Why?’ And she said ‘Because you only want to go over there to find husbands!’” So, Sue had to resign herself to being in the secretarial pool, at that time at 2 Pine Street, moving on, after six months, to what was called the Chinese Relations Section. “It consisted of three Chinese gentlemen and a British man named Nash, whose mother was named Formosa. I asked him, ‘Why Formosa?’ and he explained he had a British and Portuguese background—thus the name.” The three Chinese gentleman were “very charming and highly educated, but didn’t speak a word of English. I think they had all escaped

from Hong Kong during the 1949 Communist takeover of China. ... After about six months they told me they were leaving. The whole section was leaving. And Mr. Pei, the smallest one, came up to me and gave me a little square of paper, and he said ‘Goodbye’, just waved, and I thanked him very much and shook hands with him. And I opened up the little square of paper and it was a beautiful picture—painted Chinese art—which I had framed and have in my house. Mr. Pei was wonderful. I don’t know whatever happened to them. Maybe Haydn knows what happened to the Chinese.”

Betsy White next rose with “a rather short and lighthearted story about a nickname that I’ve carried for at least a couple of decades. As Director of the TAF Afghan program in Peshawar from 1989 to 1992, I managed a program of grants to support Afghan NGOs. A Mujahiddin Commander turned NGO leader sent me a letter from Quetta addressed to DR. ALI ZAGET, director of The Asian Foundation Afghan Program. He was sure I had to be a man—named ALI. He was seeking a grant to support a community development NGO he had founded for his village area in Afghanistan. From then on, the local staff and **Carla Grissman** called me ‘ZABET’, a name I still use today for my email address.”

John Sutter then took the floor with a story about Malaysia in the early days. “I probably opened the most remote office in the Foundation in 1963 when Malaysia came together with the Federation of Malaya, State of Singapore, the British colony of Sarawak, and the British colony of North Borneo, which had been once run by a company, the British North Borneo Company, but was renamed Sabah. We decided to open the office for East Malaysia in the capital of Sabah, Jesselton, because

Indonesia, under Sukarno, was starting “Confrontation” against Malaysia and Jesselton was further from the Indonesian border than Kuching, the capital of Sarawak.

“And just a small thing. You know, Borneo was known for headhunters. And I had the privilege of once being taken to a Dayak longhouse, and we climbed up a tree trunk to get up to the apartment. They put on a dance for me, and in the rafters there were skulls smiling down on me. And about 4 a.m. the rooster underneath began crowing, which woke us up. These people were very clean and the longhouses were usually near a river. Fortunately, there was a fenced-in bathing place, and I went down to bathe with the others. And why the fence? Why, to keep the crocodiles out.”

Many years after John left Jesselton, his administrative officer there sent him a Christmas card, which said simply: “Merry Christmas. If you want to get a-head, come to Sabah.”

John also noted that, after Sukarno left, Haydn arranged for Board approval to test the water in Indonesia. As Representative in Malaysia in 1969, John traveled back and forth from Kuala Lumpur to build up programs in Indonesia, and in 1971 The Foundation opened its Indonesian office. But he also said the Books Program that TAF had going long before the office opening had a major impact on the warm reception The Foundation received there.

Dick Jorgensen, who had traveled by train from Washington, D.C. to attend the luncheon, recalled his time in 1954 when he was finishing up at the University of Michigan with a Masters Degree in History and a teaching credential, and an opportunity to teach English in universities in Japan opened up. He was selected for the mission and began training with compatriots

from Harvard and Cal. After about three weeks he was supposed to go to Hiroshima. “By the end of the third week of September, all were in their assignments at their universities...except me. They seemed confused about what to do with me, so they sent me to language school. So I went to Kyoto, and there is where I met Bea and Richard Heggie at the Institute of Pacific Relations. Finally, at the end of October I still hadn’t been assigned, so I took things into my own hands. I took the train to Hiroshima, and riding from the train station to the university in a cab, all I could see was “No More Hiroshimas” on lamp posts on the way to the university. I finally got there and three of the Young Turks of the faculty met me. I presented them with what I called ‘The Tale of the Lone Stranger’. They didn’t know what to do with me, so they decided to take me on a tour through the corridors of the administration building. It was obvious the campus had suffered much from the bomb. And on the tour, my hosts kept pointing to the portraits in the corridor, saying, ‘This is Mr So-and-So, he passed away in the bomb’, and on and on. When we finished, my new friends said, ‘You know, Mr. Jorgenson, it’s nice you’re here, but we think you should take the next train back to Tokyo.’” Dick had traveled half way around the world for his first assignment, and that’s the way it ended.

Bob Sheeks described an experience he had in Seoul, Korea, in June 1960 when he temporarily substituted for The Foundation’s legendary Representative, **Jack James**. He cited Jack’s dossier: born in Kansas in 1921, majored in science journalism at Kansas State University, wrote for numerous Kansas publications, was a naval aviator in World War II and, after the war in 1947, he was sent to China to open a bureau for United Press, which became UPI, United Press International.

“Two years later it was in South Korea where he happened to get the greatest news scoop of journalism that year. Jack was the first journalist to report that North Korea had crossed over the 39th parallel and invaded South Korea.”

Bob described how being in the right place at the right time led to this. He said that, on his way to an outdoor picnic in Seoul on June 25, 1950, Jack stopped by the American Embassy to retrieve a raincoat he had left there. “Someone there asked him if he had heard about the invasion. Jack asked ‘What invasion?’” From then on he dug in and concentrated on reporting about it, writing brilliant news despatches which were the greatest newspaper scoop of the year, outshining UPI’s greatest rival, the Associated Press, and earning him the U.S. award for foreign journalism. In 1951 Jack became the Manager for UPI in Hong Kong, returned to the U.S. in 1953, and joined TAF in 1954.

With that as background, Bob described the events that led to his “reunion” with a famous American. In June, 1960, the same time Bob temporarily replaced Jack in Korea, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was scheduled to visit Japan in connection with the new U.S.-Japan Defense Treaty. The President’s Press Secretary, James Hagerty, had been sent ahead on June 10 to prepare for the visit. At the airport, Hagerty’s car was violently mobbed by demonstrators led by the Japanese Communist student organization. Subsequently, Japan’s Prime Minister, Nobusuke Kishi, “advised against” the President’s visit. So, Pres. Eisenhower visit Korea instead.

“The Asia Foundation was invited by the U.S. Embassy to participate in the reception for the President...At the party, I saw the great man standing almost alone at the border of the large Embassy lawn. I went

over to him and introduced myself, saying that I had previously had the honor and pleasure of meeting him once before, during the Harvard Commencement ceremony in Cambridge, Massachusetts on June 6, 1946, when he and his top wartime military leaders were given honorary degrees by Harvard President James B. Conant. At the Commencement, I was the Student Speaker, serving as valedictorian for several classes for whom graduation had been postponed by the war. It was the first Harvard commencement after the war, and the other honorary degree recipients included Navy Admiral Nimitz, U.S. Marine Corps Commandant Vandegrift, Army Airforce Commandant Arnold, and various wartime civilian leaders.

“I had been nervous giving the speech because it lectured about foreign politics and contained criticism. Also, I was required to memorize and deliver verbatim my previously approved 16-minute speech, without any notes, the title of which was “Democracy at Stake in the East.” In it I had emphasized the importance for the United States to live up to our nation’s highest principles in Asia, especially in the Philippines where our former colony was falling under control of a dictatorial militaristic regime, but I did not mention Ferdinand Marcos by name. After the main ceremony was over...General Eisenhower broke out of the procession and walked over to where I was standing, grasped my elbow and shook my hand vigorously, saying, ‘That was good. Please keep that up. You keep that up.’

“When I saw President Eisenhower in Seoul, much to my surprise he recognized me and said, ‘I know you. You were the student who gave a speech.’ He asked me what I was doing in Korea and I told him about The Asia Foundation. He seemed very interested

in it's purpose. He said, "I see you have been keeping that up."

Understandably, Bob has been an avid fan of General Eisenhower ever since he met him on the day of his college graduation, and even more after their meeting fourteen years later in Korea.

Jeannie Maher:

And now, of course, we get to hear a couple of stories from Haydn.

Haydn Williams:

"Thank you, Jeannie. And thanks to everyone for all these wonderful stories we've heard. I just want to make a footnote on the one Bob Sheeks gave. I looked at him standing there, and hearing how nervous he was about being in the presence of General Eisenhower, and I said to myself, 'That doesn't sound like a real Marine to me.' Anyway, thank you, Bob, and thank you all for your stories. I just have one, and it will be abbreviated. It was perhaps, as I look back on my many, many years with The Foundation, maybe the most memorable week that I spent. It was in 1979. The United States and China had just established for the first time diplomatic relations. And The Foundation was very excited about this, including Lucien Pye, who had an awful lot to do with the establishment of our early relations with Red China, as it was known in those days. And also the late Bob Scalapino. Yes, there was the hope that some day we might be able to go to China and possibly even open an office. A couple of my Board members at the time—Bob Knight in New York and Sandy Calhoun, a lawyer here in San Francisco, both of their law firms were beginning to try to open relations with some law firms in China. I don't really know the details of how they arranged it, but The Asia

Foundation got an invitation to send someone to China. So I was named that person. And I couldn't believe it.

"I'd flown from Taiwan and from Tokyo along the coast of China into Hong Kong many, many times, and when approaching the mainland I was looking down and wondering if I would ever live to set foot on 'Red China'. Anyway, I got ready to go and I got a lot of help in San Francisco from the staff. I mean, I'm not an Asian scholar. I'm not a China scholar. But **L.Z. Yuan** was my real mentor. So he filled my mind with as much as he thought I could absorb. And he kept drilling away: 'Haydn, do not call it *Peking*. You are going to *Beijing*.' In those days we were having a little difficulty with Pakistan. So instead of going directly to 'Beijing', I had a little detour and I went to Pakistan and then flew over the Kissinger route from Islamabad to Beijing. When I got there, there was a delegation at the airport meeting me. I'd been warned that it was going to be very cold—I think it was the first part of March—and I had brought the biggest, heaviest overcoat I've ever had in my life. And we got there and it was truly very, very cold, but the greeting was very, very warm. Margaret had preceded me, and she'd already made friends. And there was a delegation there. And I got off the plane and came down into that terminal. They said, "Welcome to Peking!" And, so, I was a little confused .

"But, anyway, we drove in and I was very impressed. I was all eyes, my first time in China, looking at both sides of the road. It was very interesting. And we arrived at the hotel, and guess what. It was the *Hotel Peking!*

"So, I'm going to shorten this. We had a very nice room in I guess at that time was the tallest building in Beijing. We had a

very lovely room—small, but lovely. Margaret was beside herself. She woke me up in the morning and said, ‘Come on and look!’ We were looking right down on Forbidden City. And there’d been lots of fresh snow. And it was truly, truly beautiful.

“I won’t go on, but we had seven days there. And I would say the highlight of it was my meeting with Han Shu, who was then the head of the American Desk in the Chinese Foreign Office. He had done his homework. He knew about The Asia Foundation. He complimented me, saying ‘Your organization is doing good work.’ He knew all about the Foundation’s good work with overseas Chinese. He didn’t mention Taiwan, but he knew we were working in Malaysia and Singapore—even in Thailand. So we had a very good conversation, and in the course of it I mentioned that we had what I thought was a wonderful young diplomats program. He picked up on that immediately. And I can tell you this afternoon that that meeting with Han Shu has resulted now in something more than 80 Chinese diplomats studying in this country’s graduate schools, at Fletcher and elsewhere, as Asia Foundation grantees.

“I could go on, but I won’t. I’ll only say this. It was a marvelous week and a good time—a very, very good time. And to tell you the impression I left behind—I never got another invitation. Margaret got two more invitations. So that’s my story of what I think was truly my most memorable week with The Asia Foundation. And I treasure every year that I was with the organization.

“But I do want to close my remarks remembering two stalwarts. One, of course, is **Dick Heggie**. And I have the opportunity here of repeating something which I said before: Dick’s name will always have an honored and secure place in the history of

The Asia Foundation. Indeed, The Asia Foundation was interwoven in his wonderful, productive, distinguished life over a period of six decades. He will be sorely missed, but he will be long remembered with admiration and affection.

“Also, we recently lost **Bob Schwantes**. So, a word about Bob. A quiet, modest man of great intellect, integrity and deep devotion to his faith, his loving family, his work, his friends, his country. A man of sterling character. He will be dearly missed. And I, for one, personally, will always be in his debt.

“If The Asia Foundation had an annual Player of the Year award, both Dick and Bob would have been multiple winners. And if The Asia Foundation had its own Hall of Fame, both would have been unanimous inductees.

“Thank you all, for all the things that have been said this afternoon.”

(Applause)

PASSAGES

Robert S. Schwantes

July 11, 1922 - October 25, 2012



Bob Schwantes, highly respected throughout his 34 years of service with The Asia Foundation-- and beyond-- passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 90. He

was born in Lancaster, WI, oldest child of Lillian and Kurt Schwantes. He attended Harvard University, graduating in 1943 with a Bachelor's degree in History. He married Marion Miles in 1943, and received his PhD from Harvard in 1950.

From 1954 through 1988, he served with The Asia Foundation in San Francisco and Japan. This job was very satisfying to him both professionally and personally, as he enjoyed meeting and working with people from many Asian countries on programs to foster educational, cultural, and economic development. He rose from Assistant Representative in Japan to Executive Vice President over the course of his career.

Among his many memorable achievements with The Asia Foundation was his key role in establishing The Foundation's participation in the now-renowned Luce Scholars Program. In 1972 and 1973 the Henry Luce Foundation was searching for a signature program that would honor the family's long and deep relationship with East Asia, and turned to TAF as a potential cooperating partner. Dr. Schwantes and Dr. Hayden Williams, then President of the Foundation, worked closely on negotiations which resulted in the prestigious program through which young Americans with outstanding potential in key professions undergo a year-long residence in Asia which includes inimitable experience with research or action-oriented programs in Asian organizations recommended by TAF Representatives.. Many Luce Scholars have gone on to shape extraordinary careers, including **Edward C. Dumont**, nominated in April 2010 by President Obama to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (Bangkok, 1987-88), **Paul A. Gigot**, Pulitzer Prize-winning political commentator and editor of the editorial pages for *The Wall Street Journal* (*Far Eastern Economic Review* in Hong Kong,

1979-80), **Robert R. Zoellick**, 11th Chief Executive of the World Bank (Shue Yan College in Hong Kong, 1980-81), **Dr. Diana L. Farmer**, the world's first female fetal surgeon named surgeon-in-chief at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital (National University of Singapore, 1983-84)—among scores of others, nearly all of whom have continued substantive contacts with Asian counterparts. .

In an article written for the TAFAA Newsletter on the occasion of his 90th birthday, Dr. Williams mentioned people who had "sustained and guided" him throughout his days with The Foundation, and had this to say about Dr. Schwantes:

"I want to pay my personal respects and gratitude to one of the Foundation's most valuable players ever, a true unsung hero, Dr. Robert S. Schwantes. He was by my side all through my years with TAF. I do not have to tell those who know Bob that he was a man of great honesty and absolute integrity. A modest man, he came to CFA and TAF with high scholarly honors and achievements. He had a clear, disciplined and insightful mind, independent, objective and, in judgment, critical and constructive. His steady, positive influence had a marked effect on the quality of TAF programs over the years. In a word, he was the epitome of the Foundation's true spirit and moral bearings. He for certain belongs in TAF's Hall of Fame."

Dr. Schwantes was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame for over 50 years. He served on the vestry, helped write a history of the church, and served on the Columbarium and renovation committees.

Bob was an avid reader and book collector. He continued to do research in libraries and on the internet and to write articles until the last year of his life. He loved to travel in the US and abroad, and enjoyed time with his

family. He was a very patient caregiver for his wife, Marion, for several years prior to her death in 2010. Bob was the beloved father of Virginia Manley of Carpinteria, CA, Janet Lockwood of Mukilteo, WA, and Ingrid Jackoway of Newark, DE. He was a caring grandfather of Eric Graves, Phillipa Manley, Alan Jackoway, and Daniel Jackoway. His loving wife of 66 years, Marion Schwantes passed away 2 years ago. He is survived by his sister, Marcella Graney. His youngest sister, Arletta McCarville, preceded him in death.

A Memorial Service was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame, CA on Sat., Dec. 1.

(Portions of this obituary were published in the San Francisco Chronicle, November 18, 2012.)

A Tribute to Bob Schwantes **The TAF Program in Japan**

by **Barnett F. Baron**

(Remarks delivered at Bob Schwantes memorial, Decembr 19, 2013)

Bob left TAF in 1988, several years before I joined the Foundation in 1993. I came to TAF with a pre-existing interest in the role of both foreign and indigenous private philanthropy in Asia... I was interested in learning more about the role of foreign foundations, including The Asia Foundation..

I sought Bob's help in getting beyond the haphazard information provided by a few project reports, administrative memos, and innumerable dinner menus.

Bob was always very interested and helpful. We spent hours talking about his and the Foundation's substantive experience in

Japan but also in Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

In September 2001, the Foundation joined with other San Francisco-based organizations in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco Peace Treaty, which was signed at the War Memorial Opera House on September 8, 1951.

On behalf of the Foundation and inspired by my conversations with Bob about TAF's role and that of other foundations in post-war Japan, I organized a panel discussion at the Foundation on the role of the American foundations in post-war Japan. The key participants were Tadashi Yamamoto (founder and president of the Japan Center for International Exchange – JCIE); Andrew Horvat (the Foundation's representative in Japan at that time); Peter Johnson (the Rockefeller Family historian), and Carl Green (a former representative in Japan of the Ford Foundation). It was an interesting discussion, but of course it was immediately overshadowed by the tragedy of 9/11 a few days later. Bob was (at the panel discussion) and told me afterwards that he really enjoyed it.

That panel sparked JCIE to research in more depth the role of the major US foundations in reintegrating Japan into East Asia and rebuilding US-Japan relations in the post-war period (1954-1975). Under Tadashi Yamamoto's leadership, JCIE later published the first and still most comprehensive study of the role of private American philanthropy in rebuilding US-Japan relations after the war. The book is ***Philanthropy and Reconciliation: Rebuilding Postwar US-Japan Relations***, JCIE and the Brookings Institution, Tokyo and Washington, 2006.

The study was based on a grant-by-grant review of TAF, Ford, various Rockefeller philanthropies, and a few others. Let me cite a few statistics taken from that study to illustrate the Foundation's scope and role in postwar Japan. TAF made a total of 2700 grants in Japan between 1954 – 1975, accounting for ¾ of the total number of grants made by all US foundations during that period.

Most TAF grants were \$5000 or smaller. But with the prevailing exchange rate of Yen 380 to the dollar, \$5000 was equivalent to almost Yen 2 million yen in those days, a fairly substantial amount.

All but 29 of TAF grants were given to individuals and institutions *within Japan*. By contrast, Ford made about 400 grants, average size \$60,000, of which 94% were to promote the study of Japan and Japanese language *in the US*. Similarly, only about 18% of Rockefeller grants were made within Japan to Japanese institutions.

TAF was also distinctive in providing a very large proportion of its grants to individual Japanese, for study, training and participation in international conferences and events at time when it was almost impossible to get foreign exchange for international travel. The grants usually provided only partial support, with sending institutions expected to match the TAF grant. Again unlike other US foundations, TAF funding was concentrated at local levels: prefectural governments, provincial universities, and local grassroots organizations.

TAF was often the only foreign donor for these programs, which included such areas as:

- * Family courts, associations of mayors, prefectural councils and assemblies
- * Media development and journalist training
- * Legal development and legal training
- * Student, youth and women's organizations—and many others.

A unique project was publication of the *Journal of Social and Political Ideas on Japan*—translations of key Japanese academic and media articles for American audiences (1963-68); later resumed as the *Japan Interpreter* managed by JCIE (1970-79); and the forerunner of TAF's own translation service in the 1980s and early 1990s – which provided translations of Japanese newspaper editorials, op-eds, and selected academic articles intended to provide authentic content for US media coverage of Japan.

After the tragic earthquake and tsunami in northeast Japan in March 2011, my colleagues and I at Give2Asia were looking for institutions – any institutions – operating in the affected region that could serve as a bridge between local governments, universities, and NGOs. It turned out there was only one cross-institution forum, and it had been started with funds from TAF in the early 1960s.

Philanthropy and Reconciliation is an interesting and unique study, and serves as authoritative and empirical Japanese third-party validation of TAF's work in Japan during that early period.

This was Bob's world. This was Bob's work. I was honored to be a very small part of it.

Uncle David by Todd Walton

David Walton – 1926-2013

My uncle, David Walton, died in China on March 8 at the ripe old age of eighty-seven, just a week ago as I write this, yet I have already received an email with photographs from the lovely memorial service that was held for him in Xichang where David lived and taught English for the last several years, his Xichang students in attendance. And that memorial service email was just one of many I have received so far along with several phone calls from a tiny fraction of the hundreds of people who knew and loved David.

David was the youngest of three brothers, my father Charles the eldest, Robert in the middle. They grew up in Beverly Hills, their father a bookkeeper for movie stars and people who needed a bookkeeper, his most famous client Hedy Lamarr. The child movie star Jackie Cooper lived down the street and the Walton boys attended one of Jackie's birthday parties when David was very young. The brothers graduated from Beverly Hills High, where my father met my mother, and David went to MIT, as did Robert, the alma mater of their father, while my dad broke with family tradition and went to UCLA after which he attended medical school in San Francisco.

Upon graduating from MIT, David returned to Los Angeles and went to work for his father as a bookkeeper for some years, and when his family semi-retired in the early 1950s, David relocated with his parents and brother, Robert, who was by then severely disabled, to Carmel and Monterey, which is

when my firsthand memories of Uncle David begin.

David was a handsome man, graceful and charming. In middle and old age he resembled the actor Alec Guinness to such a remarkable degree that after the first *Star Wars* movie came out, people frequently approached him thinking he was Obi-Wan Kenobi. I know this to be true because I was with David on two occasions when he was waylaid by star-struck people wanting Obi-Wan's autograph.

Joe Gunn

Asia Foundation alumni Joe Gunn, the beloved husband of Marie, passed away peacefully on June 5, 2013. Joe is also survived by his three daughters, Dana, Anita and Janice, their husbands, and five grandchildren. Funeral Services were held at Saturday, June 15, at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac, MD. Joe was buried June 27 at Mt. Tamalpais Cemetery in San Rafael, CA.

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Your reactions are always gratefully received. Please let us know what you think by contacting any of the Steering Committee members.

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