



THE 1818 SOCIETY QUARTERLY

Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring 2021

Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.....	2
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	3
1818 SOCIETY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
WORLD BANK GROUP NEWS	8
CHAPTER NEWS AND UPDATES	10
THEMATIC GROUP NEWS AND UPDATES.....	11
MEMBERS' NEWS IN BRIEF.....	14
MEMBERS' CORNER	20
WORLD BANK HISTORY	27
ACTIVE RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE	30
TRANSITIONS	33
1818 SOCIETY CONTACTS	36



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It has been exactly a year now from the time the Bank went to remote work. I know it has been tough on everyone, but I am always heartened to hear stories from fellow-retirees on how they have been coping. It seems like adversity can also bring out the best among us. Of course, we are fortunate as pension-recipients from the World Bank that we don't have to worry about financial uncertainty as some others face. I know many of you have stepped up to help those in need. Let us keep this up.

Being able to attend events remotely, and not having any in-person commitments has allowed members to attend many more events than we perhaps would have otherwise attended. The Thematic Groups are to be commended for organizing several very interesting events in a variety of areas. Many of them have also continued to bring to our attention seminars organized by their World Bank colleagues. Our office staff - Dennis and Brenda – now seem to have mastered the art of virtual sessions. My hope is that we will do virtual broadcast even when we go back to in-person meetings.

Our Members Helping Members (MHM) group of volunteers continue to perform a valuable service. You will find their report in this Issue interesting and gratifying. We all owe them our thanks for their willingness to provide a helping hand to members in need.

Reading this issue of the Quarterly, I see many interesting stories from members about what they have lately been up to or some interesting experience they had that they wanted to share. Tom Blinkhorn has done a great job in both soliciting the stories and also using his expert editorial hand to sharpen them. Please keep them coming.

One part of the Quarterly that is most widely read by members is the section dealing with news of members passing. I find it sad to read it to see so many names that I recognize as old colleagues, friends, and mentors. I was particularly sad to hear of the passing of Kim Jaycox. He was truly a legend in the World Bank, and for me a boss, mentor and friend.

Finally, a bit of news about me. After having served three terms as the President of 1818 Society, I have decided the time has come to hand the reins over to another Society colleague at the end of my current term. I encourage you to share your thoughts with the selection committee, including volunteering yourself if you like.

In closing, please continue to be safe and my best to you and yours.

Inder Sud
President



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Friends:

There has been a lot of speculation lately about the future of work post pandemic. The mass experiment in remote working opens up the possibility of transforming how we work. What might the impact be on the World Bank Group? I have posed the question in Quarterly interviews with senior people –i.e. Annette Dixon last issue and Axel van Trotsenburg in this issue. Senior management provided updates in March communications to all staff. (See World Bank news section below). No one knows for certain, of course, but it raises many intriguing questions. One such: If more staff will be working remotely in future, and most staff based in country offices, what happens to the premium real estate the Bank owns or rents in the District? Readers' comments on these issues are most welcome. Now for a few choice tidbits in this issue:

- The Bank senior manager who listens to rock music while on weekend runs. Who?
- The Bank economist who found a new love – astronomy – in retirement.
- Vaccine passports: Good idea or not? Alan Gelb examines the issue.
- Looking for an exotic getaway? How about an adventure lodge deep in the Peruvian Amazon run by two Bank retirees?
- Another retiree, a world champion swimmer, suggests a swimming pool in the main complex.

Thanks to everyone for your contributions and support.

Tom Blinkhorn
Editor

Quarterly Interview

Managing Bank Operations Through a Global Pandemic



(Editor's note: In a virtual interview on Friday afternoon, February 19, 2021, Axel van Trotsenburg, World Bank Managing Director, Operations and a self-proclaimed "history buff," discussed key impacts of the pandemic on the Bank along with reflections about changes since he joined the institution.)

Tom Blinkhorn (TB): Can we begin with some highlights of the Bank's response to the global pandemic?

Axel van Trotsenburg (AvT): The response has been phenomenal, unprecedented in the institution's history, in terms of scope, country focus and approval speed. If we consider just the Bank and IDA, a total of US\$56 billion was approved from the outbreak in April last year through December. And that doesn't include the IFC. If you take calendar 2020, the total was \$71 billion. That represents a 66 percent increase over the average \$42 billion a year in annual lending over the previous 10 years.

TB: Where is the money going?

AvT: Most of the \$56 billion I mentioned, around 60%, is Covid related...not only for health support but also for efforts to address the pandemic's impact economically and socially. This is going to the poorest countries. Then there are vaccines...\$12 billion has been approved for that.

TB: What about implementation, actual disbursements so far?

AvT: As you know, effective delivery is the key to success of our effort, and we are stepping up capacity. Fortunately, our global footprint has expanded tremendously...around 53 percent of operational staff are in the field now and more to follow. And we are putting more managers in the field, particularly in Africa. It helps to be closer to the clients. Africa also accounts for a larger share of our portfolio: 25 years ago, in continental Africa we were committing 15% of our resources; it is now 40%, nearly \$24 billion. This is a massive change. On disbursements, in the first two quarters of this fiscal year (July 2020 through December 2020), nearly \$24 billion was disbursed, close to a 40 percent increase over the previous year.

TB: On vaccines, there has been a fair amount of criticism in global media about certain rich countries apparently deciding to give priority to their citizens first before helping poor nations in Africa and elsewhere.

AvT: Yes, I know about these criticisms. We've been very clear that the poorest countries are not left behind – in our programs and in the health sector. We see increasing inequality and lack of access to vaccines. That is unacceptable. We strongly advocate for fair and equitable access for all developing countries. It is also the smart thing to do. As someone remarked, "Since the virus knows no frontiers, it cannot be under control anywhere until it is under control everywhere."

Axel van Trotsenburg, a Dutch-Austrian national, joined the Bank in 1988 through the Young Professionals program. He has held four Vice President positions in operations and finance. He became Managing Director of Operations on October 1, 2019. Although he hasn't had a Covid vaccination as of this writing, he plans to get a jab as soon as it becomes available.

TB: But what can the Bank do to ensure effective delivery of vaccines?

AvT: We are providing complementary support for around 100 countries, working very closely with international organizations like COVAX (COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access—an international initiative started by the World Health Organization (WHO) and others to coordinate resources to enable equitable access to COVID diagnostics, treatments and vaccines). Lebanon was first country to receive vaccine support from the Bank. We approved a re-allocation from an existing health project. The financing will provide more than 1.5 doses of vaccine for more than 750,000 people. Other vaccine operations are under preparation in over 30 countries.

TB: Looking ahead, what are the major challenges for the Bank?

AvT: The challenges are not only short term – the pandemic and its consequences, vaccines – but also medium and long term. One big challenge will be developing effective programs to deal with the impact of accelerated climate change. We have been scaling up significantly and will continue. In fiscal year 2019, the Bank approved \$14 billion for climate related operations. This increased to \$17 billion in fiscal year 2020 and this current fiscal year we envision \$21 billion and \$25 billion next year. We have set a new target of 35% climate co-benefits in our operations, which translates into an ambition of deliveries up to \$125 billion in the next five years for sustainable energy operations, clean water, natural disaster mitigation.

TB: Does this mean changes in Bank recruitment patterns?

AvT: One recruitment goal is constant and will never change: The Bank needs to attract motivated professionals, people who are passionate about our overarching objective to help poor countries, and the poorest of the poor. Of course, we will need experienced people in health, education, other sectors. But we are a knowledge Bank with a large, digital capacity...this will also influence recruitment decisions. A lot of this will be driven by specific country programs. There will be more in-country recruitment. Africa and fragile states--about 35 of them—will receive priority.

TB: The Bank's main complex has been closed to most staff for almost a year. More people are working from home. How is that working out?

AvT: In one sense it has been amazing, a sea change. We have a spectacular global IT system, available 24/7. Staff in small Pacific island states can connect easily with counterparts in Europe, despite time differences. Virtual meetings, conferences via Zoom or Microsoft Teams are working very well. People are working harder and longer, with the commuting time seeming to spill over into just more working time. But there are downsides that we must recognize. Human beings are social animals, yearn for human contact not permanently online. This can provoke anxiety and mental health issues. We have strengthened our health services to help staff through this.

TB: What about yourself? Do you work from home?

AvT: Yes mostly. But I have been to the office a couple of times in the last year, once to participate in the memorial video for Jim Wolfensohn, filmed in the Atrium.

TB: What do you do for exercise? Hobbies? You mentioned you are a history buff.

AvT: I like to run along the Capital Crescent Trail (a trail that runs from DC into Maryland) and listen to music. Rock mainly. When I hear something great, like a Crosby, Stills and Nash piece, I try to phone my assistant Kimberly and ask her to include that song in my next weekly "Keeping You Posted" message to staff. As for history, my current read is "The Price of Peace: Money, Democracy and the Life of John Maynard Keynes."

TB: Thank you.

1818 SOCIETY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's the beginning of a new year, and the pension committee anticipates a full agenda for the year.

Already in our March meeting, we discussed how market conditions may affect pension fund investment choices, including developments later in the year such as national stimulus programs, economic growth rates, inflation, and interest rates. An excellent seminar on economic prospects was sponsored by the Society's Global Finance Thematic Group on March 12 with the participation of the pension finance team; the video of the seminar is available to members on the Society's website. We will discuss at a future date the growing attention in financial markets on ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investment, which we began already last year, and what ESG investing means for the Bank's pension fund strategy. The pension committee will also focus at a future meeting on the features of the net pension plan, especially communications with net plan retirees, who represent a growing share of the Bank's retiree population and of the Society's membership. If you have anything to suggest for our attention, please let us know by sending an email to 1Society@worldbank.org, attention Pension Committee.



Dirk Mattheisen
Chair, Pension Committee

1818 Society President Search Committee

Society President Inder Sud, whose third term will end October 31, 2021, has decided the time has come to hand the reins over to another Society colleague.

A special search committee has been appointed, consistent with Society by-laws. Shawki Barghouti, who chaired the last presidential search committee, has agreed to serve as Chair again. Members include Elizabeth "Betty" Adu; Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard; Paula Donovan; Norman Hicks; Tom Blinkhorn; Kevin Cleaver; Dirk Mattheisen and Brenda Bermudez.

The search committee encourages interested candidates to apply. Key qualifications for candidates should ideally include sound judgment; good understanding of workings of the Bank at senior levels; good organization and management skills; active member of the Society and willingness to devote sufficient time to the job. The hope is that a candidate can be selected before end October to overlap with Inder and help facilitate a smooth transition.

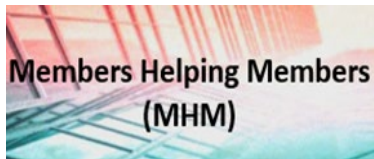
How do we form an 1818 Chapter?

From time to time the Society is approached by members who wish to set up a chapter in their country or region. The By-Laws require this to be approved by the Board, who has set the **following requirements** if the Chapter wishes to be recognized as an 1818 Society Chapter:

- The proposal must originate with a member (or group of members) living in the country/region who volunteer to lead the effort both to set up the Chapter and to devote time to manage on an ongoing basis.
- Have a minimum of 10-15 members living in the country who have shown interest.

- Have plans for periodic meetings (can vary from regular meetings/events during the year and/or a 2-3-day annual meeting).

It should be noted that the responsibility for the work of the Chapter is carried by the volunteers in the country/region, and the role of the 1818 Society is limited to listing the Chapter on the website and giving it space in the Quarterly for reporting Chapter activities. Hence the importance of real commitment of time by the promoters. Of course, Chapter members continue to benefit from support the Society provides in dealing with individual issues with the Bank as it does for all members, and increasingly for making the Society events accessible to members outside the DMV area. The Society may also withdraw its recognition of a Chapter for lack of interest/activity.



Five Years of Members Helping Members (MHM)

MHM first convened in March 2016 as a group of 1818 Society volunteers. The primary mission was, and remains, to promote and arrange support for Society members on a variety of key issues as summarized in the table below.

The original small group of 4-6 volunteers has now grown to around 150. A smaller group of more active members meets monthly to review requests for help and respond in a timely and, we hope, effective manner. It does this by connecting those members who are able and willing to volunteer support, companionship or information to Society members who request such support, companionship or information.

Typically, MHM provides one-on-one support, guidance and counseling, ranging from information about service providers (e.g., tax experts, immigration and estate planning lawyers), helping with counseling relating to a move to assisted living, an empathetic “listening” ear or sounding board, or occasionally driving to medical appointments (where alternatives such as cab/Uber or friends/relatives are unavailable or unsuitable to the need). An important caveat is that our volunteers share their experiences under MHM purely in the spirit of mutual help. Neither the 1818 Society nor its members actively promote or recommend providers, nor do they vouch for the integrity and/or competence of any service provider. All support that we provide to each other is pro bono and is not part of any business promotion of any sort. And we welcome new volunteers

To date, we have responded to 87 requests for help, through our network of 150 volunteers, as follows:

Type of Request	#
Estate Planning & Taxation	25
Health Insurance & Pension	17
Personal Visits, Care	9
General Information	13
Doctor Visits	9
Others	14
Total Requests	87

Over the past five years, MHM has been ‘learning by doing’ through robust information sharing and honest evaluation of effort. Members seem to appreciate this transparency and assistance. In addition, MHM is developing relevant documents and programs such as: the “Handbook for Advanced Planning for End of life”: a “Sample checklist for planning end of life”; the “Retirement and Assisted Living Communities”; IT (information technology) training, an e-Book on frequently asked questions for the

Society; an emergency preparedness wallet identification card. MHM has also helped groups address such topics as Parkinson's, cancer, and parents of children with disability. All these documents can be found on the 1818 Society website (login required), under "Member Resources" then "Aging Resources".

During the pandemic, MHM worked closely with the Community Connections Campaign to encourage donations from members to eligible entities. We conducted a survey to determine what help members needed and/or were willing to provide. For example, we were able to connect some who needed help buying groceries with those who did the shopping. We collected "Covid stories" into an eBook, helped connect family and friends via Zoom meetings.

More recently, various workshops have been organized such as "getting comfortable with working from home." Recordings of the workshops are available on the 1818 Society website under the Activities tab/Other Events and Activities page.

Now that MHM has turned five, we look forward to more years of providing mutual help and support to 1818 Society members. To request help and/or to volunteer to help others - including sharing your personal experiences about how you are managing the challenges of aging - please contact Khalid Siraj (ksiraj@1818alumniwbg.org) or Brendan Horton (brendan_horton@msn.com).

-Lesley Shneier, lsneier@1818alumniwbg.org

WORLD BANK GROUP NEWS



Pandemic Update

As of March 30, the Bank reported 781 confirmed World Bank Group cases of Covid-19 (2 deceased; 55 active; 724 recovered).

The Bank's "New Normal"

In recent communications to all staff, Bank senior management revealed current thinking about the future of work at the institution. Here are key highlights:

- Although county offices in the East Asia region are beginning to reopen, the Main Complex in DC will remain locked down for Washington-based staff.
- That said, there are encouraging signs that it may be possible to reopen Washington offices this coming fall. And many staff may be able to return on a voluntary basis over the summer.
- Mission travel will resume very gradually over coming months. However, all travel will remain exceptional, fully voluntary and require approval.
- Post-pandemic, a new hybrid working environment is very likely. That means, a combination of working from home and being present in the office.
- Over time, this hybrid working model may impact use of office space and real estate, requiring more flexible, technology-enabled spaces.
- One possible benefit: a reduction in the Bank's carbon footprint, in part through diminished automobile/bus commuting.
- A confidential staff health risk assessment is being launched for staff and consultants by the Bank's Health and Safety directorate.
- More than 3,000 staff participated in the virtual Covid-19 briefing in mid-March.



Ngozi “Rocks” the WTO. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, former Bank Managing Director, has been appointed Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) based in Geneva. She is the first woman and first African to lead the WTO in its 25-year history. Her four-year term began March 1, 2021. Ngozi, age 66, served two terms as Nigeria’s Finance Minister. She has also held senior positions with numerous African and international organizations, including board chair of GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization). Commenting on the WTO appointment, Christine Lagarde, former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and now European Central Bank President, said: “She is this wonderful, very gentle woman with an authentic approach to problems but, boy, under that soft glove there is a hard hand and a strong will behind it....She is going to rock the place.”

“Super Mario” to the Rescue. Mario Draghi, former World Bank Executive Director for Italy (1984-90) and former President of the European Central Bank, is now Prime Minister of Italy. He was sworn in after persuading almost all of the country’s squabbling political parties to support his government, a feat that inspired headline writers to anoint him “*Super Mario*”. He now faces the gargantuan task of leading Italy, Europe’s third largest economy after Germany and France, out of a deep economic recession, compounded by persistently high Covid-19 contagion. Fortunately, according to the *Financial Times* editorial board, “no person is better equipped for the task.”



News Nuggets from Annette Dixon. In a recent interview posted on the Bank internet news site, Human Resources Vice-President Annette Dixon (interviewed in the last 1818 Quarterly) revealed a few choice news morsels:

- She is fully vaccinated and has occasional in-person chats/interviews in the small park across from the entrance to the Bank’s main complex on H street NW.
- 500 new Bank hires since March 2020.
- More benefits are in the works for staff working in difficult locations.
- A new mental health support strategy for managers/staff is being prepared.
- Career development is being examined across regions and countries along with staff grade progression and overall Bank competitiveness.

Bank Managerial Appointments. A flurry of managerial appointments has been announced:

- Six new country directors, four of them women.
- 25 new country managers and resident representatives. ECA (Europe, Central Asia) leads the list with nine.
- Two senior managers at the IFC (International Finance Corporation): Makhtar Diop, Managing Director and Executive Vice President; he is former Senegal Minister of Economy and Finance and has held senior positions in the World Bank; Stephanie von Friedeburg, IFC Senior Vice President.

Jim Wolfensohn (1933-2020)



The World Bank Group held a **virtual memorial** on March 10, 2021 to celebrate the life and legacy of its former President Jim Wolfensohn and his wife Elaine. Memories shared by staff were compiled in the **WBG Staff Remembrance**. Likewise, the 1818 Society also compiled the recollections shared by its members in an **eBook** which was presented to Mr. Wolfensohn's family. The Bank also posted a **video** on the Bank's Intranet, a "special look back at Jim Wolfensohn's time at the Bank, and the impact that he and his wife Elaine had on development, and on the world".

Kim Jaycox (1938 – 2021)



In response to our announcement of Kim Jaycox's passing, we received numerous messages of condolences and remembrances from his former colleagues and friends. These were compiled in a **Memory Book** for the family.



CHAPTER NEWS AND UPDATES

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

Dutch Chapter

After postponing the reunion of 2020 because of COVID 19, we can now hope it might be possible this year. That is, of course, providing continuation of timely vaccinations, adherence to recommended precautions for COVID-19 and an official green light. All events and facilities planned for the 2020 reunion have been confirmed for 2021. The partners in our reunion: hotel, bus, boat, museum and others, all expect that the reunion can be held. With this (un-)certainty we continue to further plan the reunion. So this year's reunion will take place from **September 7-9, 2021** unless corona decides otherwise. We are alert and will inform everyone in due course but well before registration.

Florida Chapter



The season is almost over and though many of us are now vaccinated, most are still cautious. So, we will look to the fall for a renewed program of Chapter events. Do send your suggestions for the next season!

In the meantime, any local Chapter events – such as sunset beach cocktails - will be posted on the Chapter website or list serve. Whether you live in Florida or will just be visiting, you are most

welcome to join any of our events. Just email me and I will add you to the list serve.

Wishing you all good health and good cheer!

Japan Chapter



We have practically suspended all of our originally scheduled activities for the last 12 months. However, we realized that most of our senior members have gradually acquired online proficiency and can operate without difficulty. Therefore, we have decided to try to schedule monthly online meetings starting in March 2021. We invite current Bank staff or ex-Bank staff as guest speakers. One such meeting is tentatively planned for **April 24** with a current Bank staff member as guest speaker. Details will be provided shortly. We urge Bank retirees, particularly those outside Japan, to attend the virtual meeting and inform everyone about your current activities. We would appreciate hearing from our member colleagues as well.

THEMATIC GROUP NEWS AND UPDATES

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

Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Thematic Group

The ARD thematic Group hosted three WEB EX presentations for 1818 Society members and current Bank agriculture and food systems staff. These presentations were opened to selected participants outside the World Bank.

On December 8, 2020, Dr. Keshav R Kranthi presented to story of Bt Cotton in India. Dr. R Kranthi is currently the Head of the Technical Information Section, International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), Washington DC. Prior to this he was the Director of the Central Institute for Cotton Research of India. He pioneered the development of insecticide resistance management strategies in India. His presentation described the development of Bt cotton in India (Bt cotton is a genetically engineered crop), the controversy surrounding it, its impact on cotton production and on cotton farmers, and current issues. The story of Bt cotton in India has been a focus of groups who are against the use of genetic engineering of crops. We opened up the webinar to participants from India, resulting in an expanded dialogue on the pros and cons of Bt cotton, and emerging issues with its use.

On January 19, 2021, we hosted a webinar entitled: "The Challenges of Forest Conservation & Ecological Restoration: Experiences from Latin America". The chair was John Redwood – former Director of the Environmental and Social Sustainability Department for Latin America at the World Bank. The moderator was **Emmanuel D'Silva**, an agriculture and environment specialist involved with a tree-planting initiative in the Himalayas. Speakers were **Kevin Cleaver** and **Maria Nikolov** describing their 20-year experience with **forest conservation in the Peruvian Amazon**, including with an NGO they established for this purpose. **Harry Assenmacher** and **Christian Schmidt** presented the work of ForestFinance, a for-profit organization involved in **reforestation in Panama**. **Florent Kaiser** presented **"Scaling up native forest ecosystems in the Andes."** He is Executive Director of Global Forest Generation, an international NGO. Conclusions from these presentations were that despite successes by some NGOs and some private enterprises, as well as considerable experience and success by donors and some governments, the struggle to conserve tropical forests is failing. Forests continue to be destroyed much faster than they are rehabilitated. If anything, the speed of destruction is increasing. Government policy and peoples' behavioral changes will be necessary to resolve this problem, and the prognosis for that does not look good.

On February 23, 2021, Richard Grimshaw and Jim Smyle, both World Bank alumni, presented **“The Lessons and Results from 30 Years of Dissemination of Vetiver Grass Technology, and the Vetiver Network”**. Dick created the vetiver network after retiring from the Bank, and Jim is its current manager. Participants in the webinar included 1818 Society members, current Bank staff, project staff in Bank financed projects, CGIAR staff, and interested participants from outside these networks. The vetiver network has been successful in disseminating this technology, and supporting farmers and others seeking to use vetiver grass in one or more of its many uses. Vetiver is effective in warm climates in soil restoration and erosion control, induced terracing, pest control, water conservation and clean up among other things. Why it has not been more vigorously supported by donors and governments was one of the key issues.

On March 16, we hosted **the “CGIAR at 50”** presented by Selcuk Ozgediz and Karen Brooks. Both worked at the World Bank and in the CGIAR. This was the third presentation on the CGIAR, following that by Marco Ferroni on the current CGIAR reforms and by Derek Byerlee and John Lynam on the history of the CGIAR. It discussed issues confronting the CGIAR which continue to this day, including the relative role of international agricultural research institutions versus national and regional institutions and networks, conflict between upstream research and impact research, global priorities versus local priorities, the role of the private sector, and funding constraints.

Education Thematic Group

We are planning the following presentations in the coming months (details can be found on the 1818 Society website):

Thursday, April 8: “Global Education Inequality During and After Covid: Challenges & Opportunities”
Presentation by **Emiliana Vegas**, Chairperson: Robin Horn, (Chair, World Bank Education Alumni Group).

Emiliana is a senior fellow and co-director of the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution. She served as the chief of the Education Division at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Previously she was lead economist and human development sector leader for Central America and lead economist in the Education Unit of the Human Development Department of the World Bank.

Thursday April 22, “How the Bank can make foundational learning its number one goal and use its leadership, and the Learning Poverty approach, to push partners and help countries pursue this,”
Presentation by Girin Beeharry, Director of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations’ “Global Education Learning Strategy.”

Forthcoming Virtual Conference, Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), April 25-May 2. This annual conference will feature presentations by World Bank staff as well as retirees Helen Abadzi, Steve Heyneman, and Nick Burnett. To view the program go to <https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/cies/cies21/>.

Energy Thematic Group

We began this new year, 2021, with three superb presentations, each of them on current topics closely related to the changing global energy outlook:

1. In *January*, *Paul Kraske and Dana Younger* spoke on recent developments in the offshore wind industry, with a particular focus on the eastern US, Europe (especially offshore UK) and Far East;
2. In *February*, *Dame Deanne Julius* joined us from London and spoke about the changing face of the international oil industry, in particular in Shell, BP, and Chevron;

3. In *March*, Marianne Haug joined us for 3rd time since we began these presentations in 2009 and addressed the following topic: *“Will the European Green Deal will keep the world within the 1.5-2.0 Degree Temperature Increase? If Not, What Will?”*

For those of you who missed any of these presentations, they are posted on the 1818 website. These virtual meetings have enabled us-while the pandemic continues- to link up with many of you living not only outside of the Washington DC area but also in Canada, Europe, Chile, and the Far East. We plan to continue these regular meetings during the remainder of CY2021.

History Thematic Group

The first two months of 2021 were quiet, but by the time you read this, a webinar marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the World Bank’s Articles of Agreement will have taken place. Panelists include **Zachary D. Carter**, Senior Reporter at HuffPost and the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Price of Peace: Money, Democracy and the Life of John Maynard Keynes*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; **Natalie Lichtenstein**, Visiting Scholar at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). She was the Inaugural General Counsel, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and an Assistant General Counsel at the World Bank; **Vikram Raghavan**, Lead Counsel at the World Bank in Washington, DC. He received the Bretton Woods @75 award for his contributions to the Bank’s institutional knowledge and memory. A recording of the webinar will be posted on the History Thematic Group web site.

May 26 will see a webinar entitled **The World Bank and U.S. Government partnership on water: from the fall of the Berlin Wall to addressing the climate crisis**, presented by Ron Hoffer. A distinguished panel of discussants will participate. Details to follow.

On June 3, to mark this year’s 40th anniversary of the introduction of structural adjustment lending, Shanta Deverajan will lead a webinar on a panel discussion addressing the question **"Why is Structural Adjustment Lending so Unpopular?"** So far, Martin Wolf, Paul Isenman, Richard Gregory, and K.Y. Amoako have agreed to participate as panelists.

The History Thematic Group is always eager to learn of new topics that might be presented. Suggestions would be gratefully received by Chuck Ziegler at cziegler1@hotmail.com.

Urban and Water Thematic Group

We held three virtual meetings in the first quarter which we now call our “Talk Shop” series. On January 21st we heard from Dr. Blanca Antizar, Director of Consultancy, and Dr. Benjamin Tam, Managing Director, Isla Group UK, a consultancy providing advice to water and wastewater utilities. They described new techniques for increasing efficiency in routine operations such as leak detection. The meeting facilitator was Alex Bakalian. On February 18th our speaker was Dr. Ariel Dinar, Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy at the School Public Policy, University of California, Riverside. Prior to his current position, he served as Lead Economist on Water and Climate Change at the Bank. Dr. Dinar presented an interdisciplinary approach to water management under conditions of increased scarcity and variability resulting from climate change. Rory O’Sullivan facilitated the meeting. Our third meeting held on March 4th featured Bank staff members Dr. Sameh Wahba, Global Director for Disaster Risk Management, Resilience, and Land Global Practice, and Dr. Judy Baker, Global Co-Lead for the Global Solutions Group on Urban Poverty, Inclusive Cities, and Housing. They shared what the Bank has learned about risks to city populations, approaches to addressing the COVID pandemic, and priorities cities will need to consider as they attempt to build back better. Their main focus was on slum populations. The meeting facilitator was Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic.

Water Online Week (WOW) an acronym for Water Week 2021 was held virtually March 22 to 25. We are pleased that our colleague Letitia Obeng took a lead role as chair of the opening panel discussion on “Water, Climate, Action! Working Across Sectors to Deliver Water for People.”

Our next “Talk Shop” presentation is scheduled for 11 am, Thursday, April 15th on Zoom. Our speaker will be Professor Guillermo Donoso, of the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. He will speak on “Achievements and Challenges of Water Reforms in Chile.” The facilitator will be Abel Mejia. Zoom connection details will be announced by email. they are also available on the Society’s website.

Future “Talk Shop” presentations on the following subjects being planned are: 1) Transformation of the Nation’s Capital from Near Bankruptcy to Financial Health; 2) Water Pricing: Anything New? 3) Status of Public-Private-Partnerships in Water Supply and Sewerage; 4) A Review by Richard Darmania on his book on Water Quality; and 5) Status of Urban Water Supply and Sewerage in China.

Although we have missed meeting at the Bank in person with our colleagues, by going virtual we have benefited from increased participation. Before COVID average participation was 15 to 20, now participation averages 30 to 60 and includes members from outside the DC area. We make up for the lack of personal interaction by opening our meetings 30 minutes early for socializing. Instead of using Cisco’s Webinar program adopted by the Bank, we use Zoom which we find more user friendly. Thanks to our colleague, Alex Bakalian.



MEMBERS’ NEWS IN BRIEF

Peruvian Amazon Adventure: Bank retirees Kevin Cleaver and wife Maria Nikolov operate an exotic adventure lodge deep in the Peruvian Amazon just outside Abiseo National Park. It is featured prominently in a new book reviewed recently in the *New York Times*: “We Came, We Saw, We Left: A Family Gap Year.” The author, Charlie Wheelan, teaches economics at Dartmouth college in Hanover, NH. Wheelan, his wife Leah, and three teenage children, decided to take a “family gap year”—nine months, six continents. In Peru, they explored Maria’s family’s cocoa farm, followed Kevin on river excursions and into caves, discovered bullet ants and savored exotic local dishes. “The experience of a lifetime,” the author writes. (Kevin, wearing a blue shirt, is on the far left).



Bank retiree and former senior manager Andrew Steer has stepped down as President and CEO of the World Resources Institute after more than eight years. He has an exciting new job in the climate/environment field: President and CEO of the Bezos Earth Fund, created in 2020 by Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon. Andrew will set the strategic vision and oversee distribution of grants from the \$10 billion fund. The goal is to address climate, nature and social justice in an integrated manner, working with the private sector, NGOs, scientists, activists.

Sverrir Sigurdsson writes “Iceland’s Hot, Stinky Volcano: “The Icelandic authorities call the event a tiny eruption. But it is located quite close to the international airport in Keflavik, so authorities are being careful by closing it temporarily to air traffic. Otherwise there have not been any restrictions on people watching the spectacle.

“The volcano itself, called Fagradalsfjall (Fair Valley Mount), has a history that changed world events. In May of 1943 US military authorities recalled the leader of its expedition in Britain to the US for consultations about the timing of an invasion of Nazi occupied Europe. On its way to the US the plane encountered terrible weather in Iceland. After several attempts at landing on three different airfields, it crashed into the Fagradals mountain and all but one of its passengers died. That military leader was General Frank Andrews whose name is on the air base outside of Washington DC. His successor in the campaign was General Dwight D. Eisenhower, leader of the Normandy landing in June 1944 and later President of the USA.

Here are some pictures of the eruption. https://www.mbl.is/frettir/innlent/2021/03/20/pinulitid_gos/

The headline, Pínulítið gos, means: A midget of an eruption. You can ignore the rest of the Icelandic text. It basically says: Wow, it is hot! and it stinks!”

Editor’s note: Bank retiree Sverrir Sigurdsson provides an interesting perspective on the latest eruption in his native country.



Mikael Grut writes “Ngozi: An Inside Story”: I read in my newspaper that the Nigerian economist and former World Bank staff member Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has been confirmed “as leader of the World Trade Organization”. I worked a lot with her in Rwanda and elsewhere, and I have fond memories of her.

She told me that before joining the Bank she had been offered a post as research assistant there. Her father, a professor in Nigeria, advised her not to take it because, he said, if she took it she would forever be thought of as a research assistant, no matter how good she was. Makes you think.

She also told me about her wedding in the place in south-eastern Nigeria where she came from. Her fiancé, a surgeon and a fellow Ibo, was there, kicking his heels and waiting for the ceremony to take place. As the women fussed about the dress, the cake and all the other things which had to be arranged, he got more and more nervous, and asked if they couldn’t just go ahead and get it over with, but the women said to him, “Get lost. In this context you are completely unimportant”!

One day I was walking in the street outside the World Bank when I bumped into Ngozi. I told her that I had been promoted to level 28, and when I added that this was enough for me, she burst out laughing, indicating that this would be merely the lower foothills of her ambitions. Well Ngozi, you certainly realized your ambitions!

In November 2015 I listened to a lecture by Ngozi at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London. We had not met for more than twenty years, but as she walked into the lecture hall and spotted me in the audience she came up and embraced me. Old friendships don’t die. Congratulations Ngozi, and good luck in your new post.

Mikael Grut worked as senior forestry specialist in the Bank’s West Africa region from 1981 to 1994. He and his wife live in the UK.

Peter Cordukes writes “Iceland Memories”: Between 1973 -76, I flew on Icelandic Air several times via New York to Reykjavik in Iceland to review progress of a Bank loan to the National Power Company “Landsvirkjun”. Mostly, I found Reykjavik was not so cold and there was seldom any snow. The town had only about 120,000 people enjoying quite high living standards amid rampant inflation. Reykjavik was a pretty town with all the houses brightly colored; very neat and clean. Beyond the town, Iceland was a land of ice and fire with several active volcanoes always threatening the tranquility of the landscape.

The main customer of Landsvirkjun was Alusuisse which operated a bauxite smelter using bauxite from Australian mines. The key to success of the project was the Bank’s influence in obtaining the Government’s agreement to sell the power at prices based on the international price of oil.

During construction of the power dam, there were serious problems making it watertight due to the porous geology of the dam’s floor. The Bank brought in its top dam engineer, Ralph Blewitt, to find a solution. Ralph was formerly with the US Army Corp of Engineers who built the mighty Hoover Dam. Ralph always finished each day with 2 martinis before dinner and 2 cognacs after dinner. If the Bank ever had a list of its legendary figures – Ralph would be near the top.

Visiting Iceland in those days was an extraordinary experience. They loved their decomposed fish washed down with vodka. They loved to take foreign guests into the hinterland where you could bathe in the underground geothermal springs and swim alone “a la natural”. The Icelanders were wonderful hosts.

Peter Cordukes, an Australian, joined the Bank in 1971, took a break in the 1980s, then returned and retired in 1998. He and wife Irene live in “beautiful Noosa Springs on Queensland’s Sunshine coast.”

“On ‘Yer Bike”... Paul Stott writes from British Columbia: Although shelf life as a Bank consultant following retirement stretched longer than anticipated, I had to eventually seek other outlets for my remaining energies. Having grown fat after three decades on desk, automobile and aeroplane seats I turned to an old pastime of my youth at the urging of my wife, Mary, who pointed to a new bike club at our Seniors Centre in West Vancouver - and saved me from an early grave. I hadn’t really given up on two-wheeled transportation. I regularly cycled to and from work at Bank offices in Washington, Beijing and Hanoi. Cycling in Northern Virginia among abusive, impatient drivers was hazardous. Almost the last straw was to be run off Chain Bridge Road by a bus bearing the sign ‘Watch out for Cyclists, They’re On Your Side’! However, cycling daily by the Forbidden City in a sea of Chinese commuters on bikes was a special experience. Beijing’s commuters now must rue the day that the idea of a car in every Chinese garage took hold. Hanoi’s swarming traffic and cloying summer heat posed a different challenge. It was easy there to succumb to an air-conditioned ride. Resurrecting my bike in Vancouver brought much needed exercise and companionship of a group of remarkable retirees, as well as the means to mindfully explore my city and environs. I head a cycling club of some 80 members both men and women ranging in age from 60-80, many of whom pedal some 3000-4000km per year. I now travel further on my bike than I do in my car, although COVID-19 currently prevents group rides. “Getting more people to ride more often” has become a mantra in the Pacific North West in the movement to decarbonize and shift towards active transportation modalities. I’ve honed my rusting Bank project skills as a Municipal Engineer to further the local bike advocacy agenda and my local government’s efforts to establish a safe bike network. While lagging many European cities, Metro Vancouver is progressive in improving





mobility and addressing Climate Change. Electric-assist bikes have taken off in popularity and help to flatten our steep terrain, although I'm still pedalling despite a set-back crash while aiming for a personal best in the 2019 'Tour de Victoria'. The previous year I surprised myself by coming first in the 75-80-year-old category. I was equally surprised when my son asked, as his 50th birthday present, that I join him on a Danube River bike tour, an 1800km scenic journey from its source to Budapest, thankfully all downhill. The cycling friendly towns and cities along this ancient waterway offer fascinating antiquity as well as fine fare and absorbing culture.

There's even a monument to saddle-soreness on the bridge in Regensburg. I hope to remain self-propelled, but I can foresee an e-bike in my future and look forward to the day I can ride the Great Allegheny Trail from Pittsburgh to Washington to join a Water and Urban Thematic Group meeting.

Hans Reichelt writes "The World Bank and Swimming": What has swimming got to do with the World Bank? At first sight - nothing. The Bank doesn't have a pool on its premises for the staff for practicing – outside office hours, naturally – nor does it have an operational department for swimming, or any other sports, for that matter.

However, swimming is an important part of my life, and the Bank has something to do with it. In fact, it started about 40 years ago in front of the Bank. I was waiting for my bus to take me home after work, when I met a fellow of about my own age, who was also waiting for the bus. Bill J. and I had seen each other occasionally during lunchtimes in the cafeteria. So we started chatting. He told me that he was going swimming with a group of adult swimmers at a school pool up Wisconsin Ave. That caught my attention, because I had been swimming competitively in clubs in my youth, and swimming in pools had remained an attractive activity not only for myself, but also for my kids. I was ready to be recruited and have been hooked ever since.

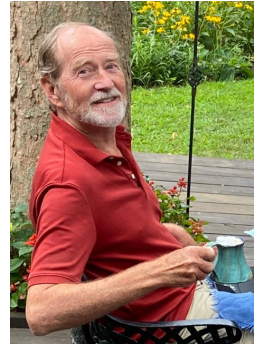


I found out that adult swimming in competition is a worldwide activity, with regular meets and competitions. I became an eager participant, particularly after my active professional life, travelling also to far-away countries, now for fun and not on business mission. As soon as the whistle blows and we jump into the water, we are all called "Masters". And it is great fun, not only because of the new places visited, but also because of the many pleasant people from all walks of life met in the process, some of whom have become good friends. Competition is in 5-year age groups starting with 25-29, and if you swim well you get a medal, and if you swim very well you are listed by FINA, the international swimming association, among the Top Ten. Another agreeable by-product is the fact that this activity is good for your health, if you do it regularly. And this I do: about two or three times a week, plus at least once a week in the gym. And it brings structure into your life as a retiree, not a negligible advantage.

So, perhaps the Bank should consider encouraging swimming, if not by establishing an operational department, but at least by adding a swimming pool somewhere on 1818th Street - perhaps.

Hans Reichelt joined the Bank in 1970, worked in Africa programs departments as economist and loan officer before leaving in 1986. He lives in Munich. His daughter Heike manages a team in the Bank's treasury section. She reports that her father is a globally competitive and acclaimed breaststroker who holds innumerable Master swimming records: Broke 47 German records; broke 28 European records; broke 9 world records and placed first in 2 world championships, among others. Hans is in the photo with the youngest of his three daughters, Carol.

Frederik van Bolhuis writes “Arcs of the Arts: A New Reading of Western Art History”: While western history may have seen a steady stream of artistic talent, periods such as the Italian Renaissance clearly stood out. What conditions allowed talent to blossom?



For four traditional Western arts - painting, sculpture, architecture and classical music - the author combed the literature on each of their peaks for clues about any catalysts. Developing an original data set, the author weighted these factors' influence in the periodic blossoming of Western art.

The study concludes that new art peaks require at least somewhat favorable economic conditions, but the artform's state of innovation matters more. The potential for further peaks usually depends on how far the innovation has developed. It appears that the arts go through a life cycle: each art's evolution traces an arc, ending in an extended tail. At the tail end of an art's cycle, other media typically take the lead. <https://www.politics-prose.com/book/97816242928355>

Frederik van Bolhuis grew up in the Netherlands, learning from his uncle, classical composer Rudolf Escher, and great-uncle, graphic artist M.C. Escher. Frederik joined the Bank in 1990 and was one of the first staff on the newly created Global Environment Facility. He later worked in the finance complex as a leading economist before retiring in 2007.

Lester Dally writes “Helping the Covid-19 Vaccinators”: For those of us fortunate to have retired in South Florida, life has regained some semblance of normalcy in the past few months with Covid cases, hospitalizations, and deaths on the downward trajectory and the state fully open for travel and business. Early on, Florida introduced a comprehensive vaccination program which enabled most of us 65 and older and those with underlying health vulnerabilities to receive the vaccine in January and February. It was fitting that some 1818 H retirees in Florida could give a little back to underserved communities by volunteering to help staff the network of vaccination stations.

Several of us from the Florida Chapter volunteered along with several hundred other pre-approved volunteers in the Broward County Medical Reserve Corp program operated by the Department of Health in 7 regional public parks. Thousands of eligible residents book daily appointments and drive into the parks, remaining in their vehicles to receive vaccinations from the medical staff in the many temporary numbered tents dotting the park. Each park processes thousands of local residents each day from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm rain or shine. We join hundreds of volunteers during the week to help with a myriad of support tasks-organizing traffic, setting up vaccine stations, helping with paperwork, directing the public- overall ensuring the parks are processing vaccinations with military precision.

As former World Bankers, we hope this efficient health delivery model in South Florida can be scaled up all across the developed and developing world. Covid has wreaked havoc everywhere. We are grateful, though, we can be part of this remarkable microcosm of success in fighting the disease in this corner of the U.S. which, if magnified a million times over, will speed the world to recovery, a return to safety and regular life.

Lester Dally joined the Bank in 1984 and was special representative to Korea, among other duties. He retired in 2014.

Vivi Scott writes “Notes from Greece”: COVID19 has stopped me a bit but I still go around and obey the law.

I live in Athens in New Psihico, and I have a summer home in Sounio where the Temple of Poseidon is located. Very interesting place and even now in the wintertime I go with Milu, my Yorkie twice a month.

In Athens I have a lady once a week; this helps and I do the outside business: Banks, grocery stores, the dressmaker etc. The day is gone.

The dog goes out 3 times a day, wash feet before she enters the house because she sleeps with me. Afternoon nap because I sleep very late at night-- 02:30 to 03 in the morning.

Evenings I'm usually invited with a few people, my former 2 professors arguing as usual which I like. The nights I get on my computer trying to figure out the portal and other things for IRS.

The life without COVID19 is a life visiting the Niarhos Opera house, good restaurants with friends and galas we give from the societies to which I belong. I am also a member of Republicans Abroad. I also read Jo Nesbo (Norwegian author of detective crime stories) to relax.

I get the Pfizer on Tuesday wish me good luck.

Disability Programs. Retiree **Eduardo Wallentin** reminds readers: “If you are under the Bank’s long-term disability program, or know of a former or current Bank Group staff member under it or under the shorter-term disability program, ...you should know that there is a stakeholders’ support group. If interested, please reach out to wbg.disabledstaff@gmail.com. Please note that while some 1818 Society members are part of the group, it is currently not part of the Society.”

Retiree Books

- **Anjum Altaf**, currently Provost at the newly established Habib University in Karachi recommends his book of poems: “*Transgressions: Poems Inspired by Faiz Ahmed Faiz*, Delhi 2019, Karachi 2020” is now available online as an e-book
<https://www.amazon.com/Transgressions-Poems-Inspired-Faiz-Ahmed-ebook/dp/B08WKWTDVF>
- **John May and Jean-Pierre Guengant** have a book that examines major development issues associated with existing and potential demographic patterns in Sub-Saharan Africa: “Demography and Economic Emergence of Sub-Saharan Africa,” published in English and French by Pocket Book Academy No. 134, Brussels: Academie royale de Belgique, 2020.



MEMBERS' CORNER

Journeying back in time: My affairs with stars

By Alastair McKechnie

Editor's Note: That handsome hirsute figure in the photo behind the monster telescopic camera is none other than Bank retired energy economist turned astronomer Alastair McKechnie. The photo was taken in a backyard observatory he built himself. He joined the Bank in 1982, held a number of senior level jobs before retiring in 2010.



I grew up in the South Island of New Zealand where the skies are dark and thousands of stars are visible to the naked eye. It was fun to use binoculars and primitive telescopes to observe the night sky. I was also captivated by books with grainy, fuzzy images of nebulae and galaxies from the best telescopes in the world. Now, amateurs with modern equipment take much higher quality images in their backyards.

Fast forward 50 years, when my wife proposed I needed a retirement hobby and presented me with a very good beginner's telescope on my birthday, something she has regretted ever since.

Inside the Beltway it is difficult for a novice to navigate the night sky because of light pollution that hides all but the brightest stars. Fortunately, I started with a telescope whose inbuilt microcomputer slewed to a selected object. After a while the wonder of looking at planets, double stars, star clusters and hazy nebulae through an eyepiece wore off, especially as the human eye can only register in black and white at low light and can't catch much detail without a very large telescope.

I decided to branch out into astrophotography by connecting my DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera to a telescope, the way most astroimagers start. This was much more fun but difficult due to some bad decisions I made. I upgraded to a telescope that was too large for a cheap mount and low-end guiding equipment, mistakes I could have avoided by joining a local astronomy club, speaking to knowledgeable people, and knowing the right websites. Astroimaging also needs everything to work perfectly and requires hours of imaging to reduce noise and capture detail. You can carry heavy equipment to the observing site, make sure everything is working, balanced and adjusted, after which the clouds roll in and you have to pack it all up.

Having caught the bug, I invested in a high-end mount and a cooled astronomical camera that takes dozens of long-exposure monochrome pictures through filters each night, and the software to align, stack, sharpen, reduce noise and combine the pictures into color images.

By capturing and counting photons that have travelled through space for thousands or millions of years you are looking back in time at objects as they were, not as they are now. While I do take images through red, green and blue filters that represent what our eyes see, under light-polluted skies one often gets better results through filters that screen out all light except for the wavelengths emitted by interesting objects. These are presented in false colors, such as the palette used by the Hubble space telescope.

Tiring of having to set up all the equipment in the backyard and taking it down late each night, as well as seasonal mud, cold, humidity and biting insects, I decided to invest in a backyard observatory,

essentially a shed with a roof that rolls off on garage door rails. This means that I can control the telescope remotely from indoors and go to bed while the image data comes in throughout the night.

Astronomy is a hobby that can appeal to many. Those who are awed by the cosmos as seen through a telescope eyepiece, those wishing to take amazing color pictures, those who like playing with equipment and computers, and those wanting to contribute towards scientific research. It presents opportunities to gain new and to apply old knowledge. Also, it can usefully deflate us after leaving the World Bank Group when we see our insignificance in time and space.

Alastair McKechnie lives in Bethesda, MD and is a member of the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club (NOVAC) <https://www.novac.com/wp/> Some of his images can be seen at <https://www.astrobin.com/users/Alastairmk/> Those interested in astronomy as a hobby can contact him at amckechnie@1818alumniwb.org

A COVID Vaccine Certificate (CVC) -- Towards a Digital Yellow Card? **By Alan Gelb**



COVID-19 vaccination efforts are underway across the world though lagging in many countries. As the number of vaccinated people increases, there are calls for certification to help monitor and manage vaccine rollouts and to facilitate cross-country travel. The so-called **Yellow Card** is the only global vaccination credential but it is paper-based, offering little protection against alteration or forgery. With the huge economic cost of Covid-19, a credible CVC would need to be a more secure document.

This will be a formidable challenge to international cooperation. It will need to be implemented in the middle of mass vaccination campaigns across countries with very different health management and data systems. The best argument in its favor is the alternative – an increasingly chaotic situation as country systems proliferate. Denmark will issue COVID-19 passports as will Israel (reciprocity is agreed with Greece). Everyone vaccinated in India will get an electronic certificate with signed QR code on their smartphone, with the option to download a paper copy. Other countries, plus the EU, are moving forward as well.

There are now several major initiatives to produce a CVC, including **WHO-Estonia collaboration to develop a smart yellow card**, **India's DIVOC platform** and the CommonPass supported by the WEF (World Economic Forum). How to build consensus on global standards for its form and functionality? Should it be all-digital or a card with security features that can be validated against a remote register? There is precedent, in the form of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization)-managed check against the list of lost or stolen passports. Should it be a cheap paper certificate like the DIVOC card that can be easily updated and reissued? Again, there is global precedent, in the validation of e-passports.

Nevertheless, in addition to concerns over privacy, there are still questions about the efficacy of a CVC. An important one, as noted in the **Twelve Criteria put out by the Royal Society**, is the need for clarity on how much vaccination reduces the risk of infectiousness. Without this, the value proposition of the CVC for international travel is limited and countries will continue to require testing (which also has limits) or costly quarantine.

Another issue is access. The Draft Principles set out by the WHO Consortium state that a CVC should not increase health inequities or the digital divide. At present only about 30% of low and middle income countries would be able to issue a digitally secured CVC; the rest do not have the data systems needed to underpin one, and there are also digital divides within countries and across facilities. This problem

is not confined to poor countries; the US, for example, has not instituted a digital registry (it may not be politically feasible) and it is not clear how it could issue a CVC beyond the prevailing paper card.

These are not arguments against planning for a global CVC – and for the backup protocols to handle those unable to obtain one. With greater appreciation of global health risks, we are probably headed towards some form of digitally enhanced yellow card – but getting to a world-wide system may not be a quick journey.

Alan Gelb joined the Bank in 1978, was Director of Development Policy and chief economist for the Africa region before retiring in 2009. He is now a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development. He and his wife, Caroline Cumming Gelb, another Bank retiree, live in the DC area.

Helping Iraqi Women

By Mary Oakes Smith

In 2008, after many years away from the Middle East, I launched the Iraqi Women's Fellowship Foundation (IWFF), a nonprofit foundation, to provide the highest standards of engineering and applied science to qualified Iraqi women. I had not worked in or with Iraqis in my years at the Bank but became aware of the vital role that Iraqi women played in the stabilization, rebuilding and development of Iraq. There had been a tradition of equal rights in Iraq that early on included international education programs in technical skills for men and women, the appointment of the first female Arab judge and minister in 1959, along with women's rights to vote in 1980. Iraqi women were trained as doctors, lawyers, engineers and professionals of all sorts, and were often seen as educators and community leaders. However, during the last 15 years of Saddam's regime, women's rights were restricted, and they were excluded from any professional activity or further education. In 2005, a new constitution with US assistance was agreed, which gave Iraqi women new constitutional rights, including access to training.



IWFF has placed qualified women fellows for one year at top rated US universities, including Berkeley, Stanford, Caltech, Smith College, MIT and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. This experience empowered them to international standards and to be competitive hires in their country. The fellows have been mainly from Iraqi universities, and all have returned to Iraq to teach teachers, undertake research and/or consult. Most have stayed in contact with their US universities and with IWFF.

Several years ago, I was asked and agreed to be a Board Member at the American University of Iraq in Sulaimani (AUIS), Kurdistan. AUIS is an exceptionally well run, non-governmental, non-profit English-speaking university for about 240 students per class (primarily Kurds, but also Arabs and others), with an equally good Board of Trustees. It is accredited by both the Federal Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government and has been able to quickly adapt to on-line learning when needed as a result of the pandemic. To date, we have had financial support from the US State Department and elsewhere, which with the help of the Board and others we expect to continue.

Mary Oakes Smith has had an illustrious career in international development. After a stint with the United States Aid Agency, including helping to close the AID mission in Iran, she joined the Bank in 1969. For the next 30 years, she held a variety of interesting senior assignments in Special Projects, Industrial Project, Programs, Finance, Distance Learning, among others. Before retiring in 1999, she was appointed by UN Secretary General Kofi Anan to the advisory board of the Fund for International Partnerships. She has been hunkering down in California during the pandemic but plans to return to her DC home in the near future.

Whew...My Life has been (finally) Certified! A Somewhat Apocryphal Tale

By Ashok Subramanian

It was the first January after I had retired. The cheery letter from Pension arrived and the Life Certification Form was attached. I took the Form to the friendly bank manager/notary in Fairfax, VA. He took one look at it, inspected me closely and shook his head: *Can't sign it. I was speechless. Go get a life and then come back*, he said, *Look at you: sallow skin, hunched back, that fold over the belt, sunken eyes...You even speak like an office memo*. I shot back: You know, a ghost can get that signature for \$15 at the Notary office across the street. *Well*, he replied, *but only a friend will be honest*.

I went home and started on a campaign of walks to the museums, and DC sites made (in)famous by political bigwigs. I signed up for a course on World Cinema, removed all email accounts from my BlackBerry and joined the local Bollywood Beat music band. Two months later and 10 pounds lighter, I returned with a cheerful smile. My cortisol levels no longer peaked at 3 AM. He signed off on the form with the brightest smile.

Just in case, I also went to a lawyer to get wills and estate papers done. When the next year's Life Certification letter arrived, I took the Form this time to the lawyer for his sign-off. He had already been alerted by the bank manager and so wanted assurance that I had not slipped in my life renewal campaign. He asked for my cholesterol numbers and a writing sample to make sure that I did not sound like a Back to Office Report. Wait, I complained, isn't that intrusive? *No more intrusive than structural adjustment lending*, he countered. Finally, I got him to sign off. Whew...

Maybe next time, I'll just pop into that parcel store advertising Notary services. They don't really care whether I am *"barely living"* or *"living life to the fullest"*.

Ashok "Ash" Subramanian joined the Bank in 1990, worked as a water resources specialist before becoming a sector manager in Africa. He retired in 2011 and, by every account, is enjoying life with wife Uma in California.

Brief reflections on a Bank career

By Bob Liebenthal



I joined the Bank on the very last day of 1975, as country economist for Ethiopia. I retired exactly 27 years later, as adviser in the partnership and communications division in the Africa VP's office – so not a long distance from where I started. The journey through the Bank took me via the WDR 1981 core team, the EMENA (later ECA) projects department front office, the short-lived Strategic Planning Department, the human development division for Russia and Central Asia (in that momentous period following the break-up of the former Soviet Union) and then back to Africa as res rep (country manager) for Malawi. After retirement, I returned to Zambia since my wife Ompie, who is Zambian, was elected to parliament in 2001. We have lived most of the time in Zambia, returning to our second home in Arlington, Virginia, more or less every year except for 2020 when Covid-19 grounded us.

Since retirement, I have only done one consulting assignment for the Bank, but had several other interesting positions, including head of the Millennium Challenge Account Zambia team during preparation of the Zambia compact; co-country director and then senior adviser for Zambia for the International Growth Centre (IGC). I have had a number of consulting assignments with UN and African institutions. Now I am working as a volunteer adviser with the Partnership for Transparency (PTF), along with several other former World Bankers.

What have I learnt? Not easy to summarize in a few words – and not easy to avoid platitude. But here goes. *First*, economic and social development depends on political leadership and, crucially, national institutions. Outsiders like the World Bank can assist and support but cannot cause development. For a long time, there was an implicit view in the Bank (never stated openly of course) that – especially in Africa during structural adjustment – the Bank and outside forces could run things.

Second, and related to the first, corruption is the enemy. Yes, many countries have grown and even reduced poverty despite corruption – and I don't want to oversimplify a complex issue. But the late Jim Wolfensohn, in my view, made a huge contribution by making good governance a central tenet at the Bank.

Third, serious research on development is indispensable to learning and applying what works and what doesn't. Here the Bank deserves huge credit in my view for having consistently devoted resources to this task at all levels – countries and sectors.

Iran Intrigues By Inder Sud

The latest news about Iran and the nuclear treaty deal reminds me of a less ominous but equally intriguing experience I had several years ago. I was Country Director for Iran at the time, on my last farewell visit to the country before retirement.

In Tehran, we were invited to a private showing of a movie that won first place in a recently concluded Iranian film festival. We were the guests of the organizers. The film was shown in a nice theater that normally serves as a permanent gallery. The film was entitled 'Baran' which means 'rain' in Persian. It was one of the most powerful films I had seen in a long time. Very well done and moving. Apparently, Iran has a serious film industry that produces excellent films. It whetted my appetite for more Iranian films.

In some conversation with the hosts, I mentioned my regret that I had not visited Shiraz. Before I could even say more, a quick trip was arranged. I left the next day on a 5am flight.

Shiraz is an old, very beautiful, historical city. I was picked up by two government gentlemen. One of them, who served as my guide for the day, spoke a few words of English. The other one had no English and from his demeanor I assumed he was some high-ranking official. We spent about 3 hours at the Persepolis, which is a 3000-year old city built by Persian emperors and was destroyed by Alexander in 200 BC.

After a much-needed nap, we again set out to see the local sights in Shiraz -- gardens, tombs -- very much like what you see in India. My guide bid goodbye around 7:30. I had dinner and went shopping by myself. There were lots of nicely carved boxes, trays, etc. of the kind on our living room coffee table. The sales lady quoted prices as "11 thousand" or "17,000" which is like \$1.50 to \$2. I could not believe these prices. I bought a lot of things for family. The owner then packed very carefully in a cardboard box. When all was packed, I discovered that things were not as cheap as I had imagined. The salesperson had misspoken and told me 11,000 or 17,000 when they really should have said 110,000 and 170,000! The owner had also spoken in the same terms. So, the bargains were not as fantastic as I had assumed. But they were still good buys, although I would have bargained a bit had I realized earlier. But I did not have the heart now not buy. The total bill was \$168 instead of \$17! I should have known that the prices they quoted were too good to be true.

After we had finished, it was almost 9:30. The shop owner was a nice man who spoke some limited English. He offered to drop me at my hotel instead of taking a taxi. On the way, he asked me to join

him for a drink at his house. He said that he "drinks too much" which I understood to be "I like my drink" rather than the literal translation. I was intrigued (drinking in Iran is a real taboo and you cannot buy any alcohol). I accepted. He immediately returned to his shop, made a few phone calls which I was later to discover were to line up the purchase of scotch and beer from a smuggler. He picked up his wife and three small kids first (a very nice family), parked his car on a dark street and exchanged money and booze from another car that stopped behind him. He stopped at a store to buy some snacks and then on we went. It took about an hour. So we were at his house around 10:30! He had a nice home. A couple of neighbors joined in.

They all drank and told a lot of jokes about the Mullahs who control Iran. It was also interesting to see the wives without their "chaddors", the black robes that cover them when they are outside. I had never seen women in normal clothes in Iran before! The men sat together, drank and joked. It turned out to be a fun evening. I was touched by their hospitality to a stranger. When it came time to leave (about 1am!), we were all offered cologne to spray on just in case we are stopped by the police. For a moment I wondered if my decision to join them had been a wise one. I could just imagine newspaper headlines: "World Bank Director arrested for drinking illegally."

The next morning, more sightseeing, including a visit to a fantastic covered market. My flight was at 11:20. My guide showed no anxiety that it was nearing 10am and we were still not headed for the airport, 30 minutes away. A meeting with the top man in the local government who had hosted me. They insisted on paying for everything for me, including the hotel despite my protestations. But to no avail. Finally, my guide showed me his office. Only then I realized that he too was a high official and not a guide. It saved me considerable embarrassment since I had planned to tip him at the end!

We were at the airport at 10:30. I was sure that I would miss my flight to Dubai. Lots of checks of various kinds before I could actually check-in. Mobs at each check point with lots of confusion. Passports moved around among officials, each of whom had something to note or check. Fortunately, my "guide" managed everything. I was shocked to find myself in the departure lounge with 30 minutes to spare! Apparently, Shiraz has just become an international airport with the flight to Doha being its only international flight. They do not quite have a hang of what to do. Their newness, combined with the normal slowness in Iran, made for an interesting experience.

Inder Sud, president of the 1818 Society, joined the Bank through the Young Professionals program in 1971. He retired in 2001 after having served in several senior level positions in Bank operations.

**From a Shot in the Arm to Being Unblinded:
A Personal Journey through a Covid-19 Vaccine Trial
By Jeffrey Balkind**

In March 2020 as the world started to grapple with a crisis of unfathomable proportions, I read about how dozens of people in Seattle had gotten infected with a novel virus, about which very little was known. I became interested in trying to understand this new virus. I had heard dire warnings of an approaching pandemic, and also about the urgency to develop a vaccine.

In particular, I was intrigued by the mRNA vaccine platform, whereby two doses of the vaccine are given 21 or 28 days apart, and these dosages instructs a person's immune system to develop the antibodies capable of fighting off the virus. By following the genetic code sequence, the messenger of the spike protein underlying SARS-2 (which is the core of the Coronavirus, otherwise known as Covid-19), can fight off the virus. But would a vaccine be safe, and how long would it take to test and develop such vaccines? It was a question that everybody was asking.

I said to myself, hey, wouldn't that be interesting to go along on the ride, just like a World Bank mission. So I applied and got accepted into the Moderna Phase 3 trial, along with 30,000 other volunteer participants in the country.

However, this did not come without worry. A close friend called our house one evening to ask me why would I want to be a human guinea pig? After all, so little was known about this mRNA vaccine, he said.

So I wrote to the vaccine lab at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, which was conducting the Pfizer trial. The senior researcher there assured me that the mRNA approach was considered safe. But there were no guarantees, she said.

I got my first shot of the Moderna vaccine on August 3 and my second dose on September 2. Months went by with regular calls from Meridian Research Clinic in Rockville and my nightly filling in of the Patient Cloud App. to track any adverse symptoms. My side-effects were so minor that I believed that I had been given the placebo.

After the FDA granted Emergency Approval (EUA) for the Moderna vaccine (shortly after they had given the EUA for the Pfizer/Biotech vaccine), I still did not know whether I had been given the vaccine or the placebo? Well, after unblinding in January, the researchers confirmed to me that I had indeed gotten the vaccine back in August, and not the placebo.

But the trial is not over, at least not for me. I opted to stay in the trial for the next 15 months of blood draws to monitor my antibodies. Lots of trips to the clinic and many press reports to read. Progress was at a rapid pace. Medical experts with clear guidance and clear advice were at last gaining ground.

Now the variants have arrived (UK, South Africa, Brazil and three US states as of this writing). Both Moderna and Pfizer are scrambling to modify and test their vaccines to be able to fight off the variants, be it with boosters or an annual vaccine. A single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine has joined the fight. All of this amazing progress has immense significance for the industrialized world and for the developing world.

And a trial for administering the vaccine to children has already commenced.

It is indeed an exciting time after a year of immense worry and sadness.

Thus, it is essential for all of us to keep following the science, to keep observing social distancing, and to continue to wear masks in public settings.

If we do this, we will get through this pandemic one day.

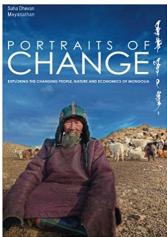


Jeffrey Balkind joined the Bank in 1970 as a Young Professional. He retired in 2001 as program team leader for urban infrastructure in the Baltics. Thereafter, he was a Bank consultant in different departments, monitoring project outcomes. His wife, Françoise Le Gall, right in the photo along with daughter Emma, is also a Bank retiree.

Mongolia Beckons By Saha Meyanathan

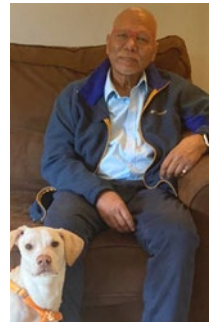
Three months after my retirement from the Bank in 2017, I drifted back to Mongolia where I had worked for six years. For the next 10 years, I was involved in consulting, teaching and managing the International School.

While with the Bank, there was not much time to see the large expanse of the country, its natural beauty and unique geographic configurations. Fortuitously, the country's first micro-enterprise bank approached me to document the livelihood changes of clients as a celebratory publication for the firm's 10th anniversary. So was born my "Portraits of Change" Mongolia project. Periodically over two years I managed to travel by difficult road conditions to all 23 provinces and capture the life stories of 10 pre-chosen families in a book and documentary.



"*Portraits of Change*" is a project that explores the transformation in Mongolia, from the collapse of socialism, the transition that followed, and the emerging market economy. At the heart of the project is a portrayal of the sociological, economic, and environmental changes that swept the country during this historic change. Filled with photographs that detail Mongolia's breathtaking landscape, the book systematically details the journey ten families have made, from birth to occupational success during socialism, to emptiness and despair during the transition to the market, and to the victory that eventually grew from hardship." Here's the [link to the coffee table book](#) and the [link to the documentary](#) on Amazon.

I returned to the DC area just before the pandemic and have since reconnected with Bank friends, mourned the loss of a few, and have kept busy by walking the dog multiples times a day, watching the Premier League, listening to meditative music, and plotting my next personal project on Malaysia. With the vaccine availability, I have been busy connecting with friends and ex-colleagues guiding them to several websites so that they too could get their vaccines. Tired of carry-outs, I started cooking for the family and am trying out new recipes. This has now become a new capability!



Saha Meyanathan joined the Bank in 1987 as an economist in the then EDI (Economic Development Institute). He worked in the East Asia region, becoming Country Manager for Mongolia in 2001. He returned to the Bank in 2006 and retired in 2017.

WORLD BANK HISTORY

An Endless Mission Impossible: Mediating the Breakup of the East African Community

Editor's note: In late 1977 the Bank, responding to an official request, nominated a prominent Swiss diplomat and treasury official, the late Victor Umbricht, to help mediate the dissolution and fair distribution of assets of the East African Community, whose members –Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were barely on speaking terms, to put it charitably. The hope was that the work could be finished in about 15 months, in retrospect a wildly naïve assumption. Following are key extracts from a Bank oral history conducted in February 1987.

"This Mediation started in November 1977 as a consequence of the breakdown of the East African Community. The Community was a very integrated organization of three states: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. They originally decided in 1967 to work together and were much more integrated than the European Community.

It was a wonderful idea... but it did not work. It collapsed after 10 years, with a number of difficulties in between. It collapsed because the three countries were not, how should I say, mature enough to have such an integrated system.

I was not based in any one of the countries; that would have been a major mistake because if we had been based in Nairobi the others would have said he's being wined and dined in Nairobi. I had no residence, I lived in a hotel for nine years, except in Uganda. After the liberation war in 1979, the army troops had destroyed every room in the hotels, every water basin, every water line. I had to stay in a private house with a Czechoslovakian friend, an in Uganda.

I had some run-ins with guerillas, partly my fault. I was stopped a hundred times by regular army soldiers. They stopped you and robbed you. And they shot my assistants. I (also) had some problem with guerrillas because two or three times when I went by car from the Kenyan border to Kampala I wanted to visit some missionaries. There were foreign missionaries and I knew some of them. And they were the poorest of the poor. So I tried to bring some certain things to facilitate their life. Twice I ran into difficulties. I was stopped and didn't know if they would shoot me or not.

We finished our Mediation with 28 agreements. One (was) the basic Agreement amongst the three countries, and three agreements between every country in (the community) and their creditor countries, or creditors in general, for instance the World Bank. The Bank was the biggest creditor, but you had no Community after its collapse; therefore, we had to apportion loans amongst the three countries, (along with assets like trains and railway cars, post offices, etc.)

In conducting the mediation, I said 50 percent of the assets which were in any of the countries were put there because that country needed it. And the remaining 50 percent were Community assets serving the Community as such. I introduced the element of equality; one-third of the 50 percent would go to each country. Now I said 50-50; that was a judgment. It took us three-and-a-half years to find an acceptable basis, and such basis was the basis which the Mediator had proposed in the end, 50 percent geographic, 50 percent equality.

It was an unbelievable exercise in mental alertness. I was never as much challenged in my intelligence as I was in East Africa. You had to find a solution for, I would say, an unexpected event every day. The Mediator must have plenty of perseverance, patience, and fantasy. I was never prepared to throw in my contract, and the governments knew it.

One government (official) said I was too strict as a Mediator and should be replaced. I said, well, that's okay, that's your privilege. Please write a letter to the President of the World Bank and to UNDP and say why. Because you have to give a reason, otherwise I go public, my integrity is at stake, that's my privilege. And he wrote the letter to the President of the Bank (Robert McNamara). He said, we have now had this man for three and a half years. We are full of admiration for him, and if ever anybody says something else, don't believe it because we think he's admirable.

It was thought here in your beautiful bank that the whole exercise would last only a few months. But it lasted nine years and three months."

This excerpt has been edited for length. The entire interview can be read here:

<https://oralhistory.worldbank.org/person/umbricht-victor>

YEARS AGO

70 Years Ago April 4, 1951	Bank Announces Appointment of W.A.B. Iliff as Assistant to President Black World Bank announces the appointment of W.A.B. Iliff as assistant to President Eugene R. Black. His duties will include providing advice to President Black and Vice President Robert L. Garner on general Bank policies. He will also assist them in the conduct of relations with member governments, visit member governments, and attend meetings of financial, business and other organizations. He was the Bank's representative in the negotiations on the Aswan High Dam, the Suez Canal, and the Indus Basin Treaty. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1961 and retired from the Bank in 1962.
65 Years Ago June 19, 1956	Bank Picnic Day "June 19 is Bank picnic day. This year our picnic has been scheduled later in June in the hope that all children of Bank staff will be able to attend as schools in the area will be closed by that date...Two choices of box suppers are offered this year: one containing sandwiches, potato chips, fruit salad and cake for \$1.00; or one containing a half chicken (fried), potato salad, and rolls and honey for \$1.30. These may be ordered through your picnic representative, or you may take your own supper if you prefer. Soft drinks, milk, coffee and ice cream will be provided." <i>Administrative Circular no. 617, June 7, 1956.</i>
June 30, 1956	Bank Staff Number 511. Bank staff grows in number to 511.
60 Years Ago May 12, 1961	First IDA Credit. IDA provides its first development credit, Credit 0001 – Western Highway Extension Project, totaling \$9 million, to Honduras for highway development and maintenance.
55 Years Ago May 6, 1966	Bank Releases Financial Statements for the Nine Months Ending March 31, 1966. The Bank releases its financial statements for the nine-month period ending March 31, 1966. Net income was reported as \$107 million, while the reserves were \$957 million. Twenty-four loans were made, totaling \$616 million.
50 Years Ago May 19, 1971	Inaugural Meeting of Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Inaugural meeting of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is held in Washington, at the World Bank Headquarters. CGIAR was sponsored by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP, the Ford, Rockefeller and Kellogg Foundations, together with 16 governments, 6 international and regional development organizations, and the International Development Research Center (IRDC).
45 Years Ago May 25, 1976	Disbursements to East Africa Community Suspended. World Bank disbursements to the East Africa Community (EAC) are suspended. The EAC was created in 1967 as a regional organization to foster economic cooperation between nations in East Africa. The EAC ended in 1977. Following the dissolution, the Member States negotiated a Mediation Agreement for the Division of Assets and Liabilities, which they signed in 1984.
40 Years Ago April 8, 1981	New Security Measures Announced. J.E. Twining, Director Administrative Services Department, announces new security measures to control access to World Bank buildings. The previous "open door policy" had gradually been changed by the introduction of ropes and stanchions at building entrances, the closing of certain entrances in the "B" and "C" buildings. However, the rising number of thefts reported by Bank staff (approximately one theft every two days), and the possibility of political

	demonstrations (a Bank building had been briefly occupied by demonstrators in 1977) required stricter access control. Thus, the new policy required staff to show identification before being granted access; external visitors would need to be cleared before entering the building.
30 Years Ago June 17, 1991	Independent Review of Ongoing Implementation of the Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) Projects in India Commissioned. President Barber Conable commissions an independent review of the ongoing implementation of the Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) projects in India, which are partially financed by the World Bank. Bradford Morse, former administrator of the United Nations Development Program was selected to head the commission which was to study the environmental and resettlement issues associated with the project.
25 Years Ago June 25, 1996	Fiftieth Anniversary. Fiftieth anniversary of the Bank's opening for business.
20 Years Ago May 19, 2001	2001 Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) Cancelled. World Bank cancels the 2001 Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) scheduled to be held in Barcelona due to threatened disruptions by political protestors. Conference papers were posted on an internet site, and an on-line discussion served as an alternative meeting venue.

ACTIVE RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE

Tours and Treks

The 1818 Society had planned an extensive series of international treks and tours in 2020, all of which had to be suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We were hoping to offer some of these trips in 2021 and have been monitoring travel policies and health conditions both in the intended travel destinations. After consultations with many of you we agreed on the following criteria to determine which trips will be feasible:

- 1) **Mandatory Covid vaccination:** All trip participants should receive their Covid vaccine shots well in advance of the scheduled trip date.
- 2) **Covid-19 status in the country of destination.** International trips will be arranged in countries after they have managed to bring the pandemic under control.
- 3) **Travel policy in the travel destination.** Trips will only be organized in countries that accept international tourists without quarantine requirements for travelers who have been vaccinated.

We are reviewing the situation carefully using these criteria. The good news is that many of us have received our vaccine shots so we are hopeful that travel will resume later this year, but progress is slower on the other two criteria. Consequently, all trips planned in the first half of the year have been rescheduled to 2022. We are still hoping that some trips may be possible in the second half of 2021 (see list below).

Postponed to 2022:

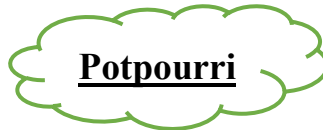
- BHUTAN: The Dragon Kingdom -- Paro Tshechu dance festival and Druk Path Trek or Cultural Tour, *[rescheduled to April 5-18, 2022]*
- ROMANIA: 1818 Trek in the Provinces of Romania, *[postponed to 2022]*

- CHINA: History Unearthed: An archaeological Journey through China, *[rescheduled to May 20 – 29, 2022]*
- TURKEY: Sample the Delights of Turkey, September 1-16, 2020 *[postponed to 2022]*

Scheduled in 2021, subject to change based on country conditions:

- UK: Walking in Northumberland, England, 17-24 July 2021
- NORWAY: Trekking in Norway: Mountains and Fjords, 12-17 August 2021 (trip full)
- FRANCE: Discovering fabulous South Corsica, 2-8 October 2021 (trip full)
- NEPAL: Around Manaslu & the Tsum Valley Trek, 3-24 October 2021 (trip full)
- Discover the Caucasus - A Journey Through Armenia and Georgia, 12-24 October 2021

The trip coordinator of each trip will review country conditions and inform participants three months prior to the departure date if the trip will proceed or be rescheduled. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details and updates. If you have any questions contact Anis Dani (adani@1818alumniwbg.org) or your trip coordinator.



MJ-W 2020 Musings

In the year of
Nothing-but-2020
Pestilence
No leisure, no pleasure
No treasure for most of all

And we get the thought
That nothing is wrought
Without God; without company
Even at a cost, nothing, totally

So we are all blessed
In many ways we don't know
Jesus'd, Buddha'd, Allah'd
The One Lord Being thank'd

Editor's Note: MJ-W is the pen name for Mercy Wong who worked at the Bank about twenty-five years before retiring over twenty years ago. She lives in northern Virginia.

A Snowy Stroll – 2021



Editor's Note: Guy Pfefferan's Basset hounds, seniors both at 9 years and thus honorary members of the 1818 Society, enjoy a wintry walk. Winifred is the dominant dog by far, according to Guy, yet Watson is seen here blazing the trail.

Guardians of the Potomac



Editor's Note: Aggie Nuval took the picture in January 2021 from an outlook on Parkway Drive between Memorial and Roosevelt Bridges looking towards Virginia.

TRANSITIONS

Welcome!

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

Nisha Agrawal, <i>India</i>	Adrian Mikeliunas
Aquiles Almansi	Jose Molina Jr.
Garry Charlier	Juan Manuel Moreno, <i>Spain</i>
Julius Caesar Clark	Roger Morier, <i>Canada</i>
Pirkko Anita Couzens, <i>Canada</i>	Thomas Moullier
Tanguy de Bienassis, <i>France</i>	Teri Nachazel
Teddy Michael Dompas	Negar Rafikian
Mary Lisbeth Gonzales	James Reichert
Mary Gray	Yasmina Sam
Daniel Gross	Cherian Samuel
Robin Horn	Helen Saxenian
Rubin Japhta, <i>South Africa</i>	Katrina Sharkey
Yuko Keicho	Ghizlane Sijelmassi
Alzbeta Klein	Susana Slough
Shukrhat Kuziev	Ronald Testa
Olivier Lambert, <i>France</i>	Alain Tobelem, <i>France</i>
Glenn-marie Lange	Laura Tuck
Azzedine Lazizi	Gretel Von Pischke
Anthea Marsden, <i>United Kingdom</i>	Yidan Wang
Alexander McPhail	Fady Zeidan
Mohamed Medouar, <i>Morocco</i>	Paul Zuckerman, <i>United Kingdom</i>



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

Alkheir Alamin, 83, of Khartoum, Sudan, on December 5, 2020. Mr. Alamin retired from the Bank in 1993.

Emmanuel Bediako, 72, of Hyattsville, MD, on December 24, 2020. Mr. Bediako retired from the Bank in 2010.

Ronald Bessette, 68, of Dunn Loring, VA, on December 14, 2020. Mr. Bessette retired from the Bank in 2014.

Dorothy Bowen, 91, of Brookeville, MD, on December 28, 2020. Ms. Bowen retired from the Bank in 1991.

Annemarie Bryan, 96, of Potomac, MD, on March 4, 2021. Ms. Bryan retired from the Bank in 1986.

Marcos Brujis, 68, of Potomac, MD, on January 16, 2021. Mr. Brujis retired from the Bank in 2020.

Maria Bustillo, 93, of Falls Church, VA, on December 14, 2020. Ms. Bustillo retired from the Bank in 1988.

Trevor Byer, 79, of Gros Islet, St. Lucia, on December 28, 2020. Mr. Byer retired from the Bank in 2000.

Carolyn Cain, 63, of Alexandria, VA, on February 23, 2021. Ms. Cain retired from the Bank in 2019.

Miles Carlisle, 87, of Chevy Chase, MD, on January 13, 2021. Mr. Carlisle retired from the Bank in 1993.

Benjamin Crow, 61, of Austin, TX, on January 25, 2021. Mr. Crow retired from the Bank in 2017.

John Davis, 102, of Cap-d'Ail, France, on February 6, 2021. Mr. Davis retired from the Bank in 1984.

Maurice Desthuis-Francis, 74, of Chevy Chase, MD, on December 14, 2020. Mr. Desthuis-Francis retired from the Bank in 2002.

Sallie Di Martino, 75, of Las Vegas, NV, on February 26, 2021. Ms. Di Martino retired from the Bank in 1998.

Vladimir Dragomanovic, 93, of Rovinj, Croatia, on December 18, 2020. Mr. Dragomanovic retired from the Bank in 1977.

Anders Engvall, 75, of Grasse, France, on August 6, 2020. Mr. Engvall retired from the Bank in 1975.

Marie Etienne, 89, of Silver Spring, MD, on May 4, 2020. Ms. Etienne retired from the Bank in 1986.

Peter Fozzard, 87, of Bluffton, SC, on February 11, 2021. Mr. Fozzard retired from the Bank in 1993.

Crispulo Gaona, 69, of Gaithersburg, VA, on March 3, 2021. Mr. Gaona retired from the Bank in 2008.

Gilles Garcia, 68, of Paris, France, on December 23, 2020. Mr. Garcia retired from the Bank in 2014.

Marie-Christine Garland, 86, of Kansas City, MO, on October 15, 2020. Ms. Garland retired from the Bank in 1995.

Geoffrey Hawkins, 72, of Bostic, NC, on January 11, 2021. Mr. Hawkins retired from the Bank in 2002.

Takehisa Iizuka, 86, of Oceanside, CA, on December 26, 2020. Mr. Iizuka retired from the Bank in 1987.

Edward V. K. Jaycox, 83, of Washington, DC, on March 1, 2021. Mr. Jaycox retired from the Bank in 1996.

Puran Joshi, 89, of New Delhi, India, on December 31, 2020. Mr. Joshi retired from the Bank in 1981.

Liliane King, 93, of Pacific Palisades, CA, on January 11, 2021. Ms. King retired from the Bank in 1992.

Virginia King, 81, of Kensington, MD, on January 10, 2021. Ms. King retired from the Bank in 1995.

Eduardo Loayza, 84, of Oakton, VA, on February 24, 2021. Mr. Loayza retired from the Bank in 1996.

Nelly Lukas, 73, of Fort Washington, MD, on February 22, 2021. Ms. Lukas retired from the Bank in 2001.

Hazel Mangaser, 93, of London, U.K., on March 19, 2021. Ms. Mangaser retired from the Bank in 1988.

Vanessa Manuel, 51, of South Riding, VA, on March 28, 2021. Ms. Manuel retired from the Bank in 2019.

Sarah Mason, 76, of Bethesda, MD, on February 11, 2021. Ms. Mason retired from the Bank in 1998.

Hedy Michael, 86, of Phoenix, AZ, on March 9, 2021. Ms. Michael retired from the Bank in 1988.

Ruby Morgan, 82, of Washington, DC, on January 23, 2021. Ms. Morgan retired from the Bank in 1998.

Charles Morse, 97, of Annapolis, MD, on February 15, 2021. Mr. Morse retired from the Bank in 1982.

Gebreselassie Okubagzhi, 74, of Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, on July 5, 2020. Mr. Okubagzhi retired from the Bank in 2008.

Catherine Oram, 85, of Reston, VA, on February 16, 2021. Ms. Oram retired from the Bank in 1997.

Pete Pahigiannis, 69, of Jupiter, FL, on December 3, 2020. Mr. Pahigiannis retired from the Bank in 1998.

H. Wilson Peiris, 85, of Kensington, MD, on December 13, 2020. Mr. Peiris retired from the Bank in 1996.

Aftab Raza, 85, of Gaithersburg, VA, on February 28, 2021. Mr. Raza retired from the Bank in 1999.

J. C. Peter Richardson, 86, of Laredo, TX, on March 17, 2021. Mr. Richardson retired from the Bank in 1996.

Luis Rivas, 88, of Silver Spring, MD, on January 14, 2021. Mr. Rivas retired from the Bank in 1994.

William Rodger, 93, of Aberdeenshire, U.K., on January 11, 2021. Mr. Rodger retired from the Bank in 1985.

Myrna Ross, 84, of Lawrenceville, GA, on January 26, 2021. Ms. Ross retired from the Bank in 1995.

Malcolm Rowat, 75, of London, U.K., on March 10, 2021. Mr. Rowat retired from the Bank in 2000.

Jayanta Roy, 78, of Vienna, VA, on March 2, 2021. Mr. Roy retired from the Bank in 2000.

Paul Ivar Rusten, 63, of Bulacan, Philippines, on February 17, 2021. Mr. Rusten retired from the Bank in 2019.

Martin Slough, 74, of Washington, DC, on January 22, 2021. Mr. Slough retired from the Bank in 2006.

Marie Steinfurth, 91, of Rockville, MD, on February 24, 2021. Ms. Steinfurth retired from the Bank in 1994.

James Striker, 72, of Bethesda, MD, on December 29, 2020. Mr. Striker retired from the Bank in 2010.

Jegajothy Vythilingam, 79, of Silver Spring, MD, on January 28, 2021. Mr. Vythilingam retired from the Bank in 1997.

Christine Wong Shui Wan, 60, of Alexandria, VA, on March 11, 2021. Ms. Wong Shui Wan retired from the Bank in 2017.

Nail Yucel, 87, of Potomac, MD, on January 28, 2021. Mr. Yucel retired from the Bank in 1995.

Barnabas Zegge, 79, of Arusha, Tanzania on February 11, 2021. Mr. Zegge retired from the Bank in 1999.

Junji Zhang, 91, of Shanghai, China, on February 28, 2021. Mr. Zhang retired from the Bank in 1990.

1818 SOCIETY CONTACTS



President:

Inder Sud
isud@1818alumniwbg.org

Office Staff:

Dennis Bacani
 Brenda Bermudez
1Society@worldbank.org

Office Address:

MC 1-852, 1818 H Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20433
 (Use 19th Street entrance
 opposite the IMF-1 Building)
 Office Hours: 10:00am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday
 Telephone: +1 (202) 458-1956/1957
 Fax: +1 (202) 522-2417
 E-Mail: 1Society@worldbank.org
 Website: www.wbgalumni.org

Mailing Address:

World Bank
 MSN MC 1-104
 1818 H Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20433

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

**Responsibility Matrix
2020 - 2021**

1818 Society Board	Names
Chair & President	Inder Sud (President and Chair): isud@1818alumniwbg.org
Directors	Alison Cave: alisoncnc@yahoo.com Susan Dubas: susanpickdubas@comcast.net Dennis de Tray: ddetray@gmail.com Neil Simon Gray: simonmitchellgray@gmail.com Zoe Kolovou: ktzoe@comcast.net Soheyla Mahmoudi: soheylam703@gmail.com Fons Marcelis: amarcelis@ajmarcelis.net Dirk Mattheisen: dirkmattheisen@yahoo.com Lee Meddin: leemeddin@gmail.com Eduardo Wallentin: ewallentin@gmail.com J. Shivakumar (Honorary Member): jshivakumar@1818alumniwbg.org
Secretary	Alison Cave: alisoncnc@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Adrienne Guerrero: aguerrero@1818alumniwbg.org



COMMITTEES	CHAIR/CO-CHAIRS/MEMBERS
Pension	Dirk Mattheisen (Chair & Alternate Member PBAC): dirkmattheisen@gmail.com, Deane Jordan (Alternate member for PFC and Member PBAC), Javed Hamid (PFC Member), Jeffrey Katz, Kenneth Lay, Fred Wright, Fons Marcelis, Brendan Horton, Yasmin Saadat
Health Insurance	Fons Marcelis, Chair, amarcelis@ajmarcelis.net, Ines Garcia, Dileep Wagle, Jim Harrison, Lorraine Nagy, Pat King, Pat Neill, Sharon Puckett, Zoe Kolovou, Mark Walker, Sanjay Puri, Eduardo Wallentin
Taxation and Immigration	Deane Jordan: deane.jordan@gmail.com
Member Helping Members	Lesley Shneier: lshneier@1818alumniwbg.org, Christine Allan: cferrierallan@gmail.com, Brendan Horton: brendan_horton@msm.com <i>(co-chairs)</i>
Member Remembrances	Dennis Bacani, Brenda Bermudez: 1Society@worldbank.org
Quarterly Editor	Tom Blinkhorn: tblinkhorn@gmail.com
Credit Union	Adrienne Guerrero: aguerrero@1818alumniwbg.org
Cultural Events	Dennis Bacani, Brenda Bermudez: 1Society@worldbank.org
Active LifestyleZ:	
Hiking Club	Anis Dani: adani@1818alumniwbg.org
Yoga	Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard: mplessisfraissard@gmail.com Simone Lee: simboleex@gmail.com
Retirement Communities	Pauline Ramprasad: pauline.ramprasad@yahoo.com
International Trips	Dennis Bacani, Brenda Bermudez: 1Society@worldbank.org

CHAPTERS	CHAIR/HEAD
ANZ	Jo. Martins , jmartins@tpg.com.au
Brazil	Carlos Eduardo Bertão , cbertao@gmail.com
British	Nicki Marrian , Nickiedits@gmail.com
Chile	Andrés Solimano , asolimano@gmail.com
Florida	Sandra Hadler , sachadler@gmail.com
French-Speaking	Olivier Lafourcade , olivierlafourcade@yahoo.com
German-Speaking	Stephan von Klaudy , svonklaudy@1818alumniwbg.org
Iran Chapter (DC)	Yasmin Saadat , ysysaadat0@gmail.com
Japan	Masaaki Amma , masaakiamma1@gmail.com
The Netherlands	Cees de Haan , cornelis.dehaan@gmail.com
THEMATIC GROUPS	CHAIR/CO-CHAIRS
Agriculture & Rural Dev	Kevin Cleaver , kevinmcleaver@yahoo.com
Economics	Norman Hicks , nhicks1939@gmail.com
Education	Robin Horn , robinshorn@gmail.com; Larry Wolff , larrywolff@live.com; Helen Abadzi , habadzi@gmail.com; Steve Heyneman , s.heynean@vanderbilt.edu
Energy	Eugene McCarthy , emccarthy@1818alumniwbg.org; Mohammad Farhandi , mmfarhandi@yahoo.com; Michael Gillette , mj_gillette@yahoo.com
Gender & Development	Nadereh Chamlou , nchamlou@gmail.com; Dominique Lallement , Dominique.lallement@gmail.com
Global Finance	Ismail Dalla , dallaismail@hotmail.com; Antonio Ollero , amollero@aol.com; Grace Sawh , grsawh@comcast.net
Governance	Vinay Bhargava , vinaybhargav@gmail.com; Akbar Khawaja , akhawaja@1818alumniwbg.org
Health, Nutrition & Population	Maryse Pierre Louis , annempierrelouis@aol.com; Lynn Brown , Lynnbrown1@me.com
Social & Environment	Anis Dani , adani@1818alumniwbg.org; John Redwood , jredwood@1818alumniwbg.org
Transport	Richard Podolske , rpodolske@gmail.com; Graham Smith , smith.grahamr@gmail.com
Water & Urban	Alain Locussol , alocussol@1818alumniwbg.org; Richard MacEwen , RmacEwen@alum.mit.edu; Catherine Farvacque-Vitkovic , cfarvacque-vitkovic@hotmail.com; Alex Bakalian , alexbakalian@gmail.com; Ventura Bengochea , vbengochea@1818alumniwbg.org
WBG History	Chuck Ziegler , cziegler1@hotmail.com