



## THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

December 2014

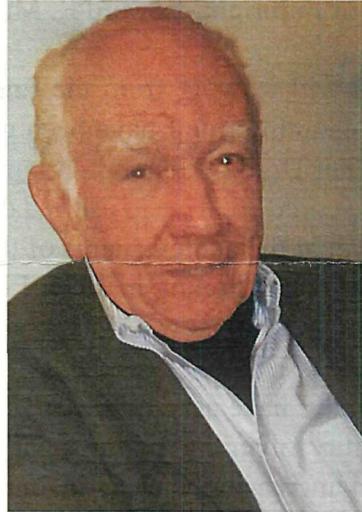
Dear Friend,

Rarely can I write to 1300 friends, knowing that every one of you shares my concern for cultural dialog, long-term educational relations, and deeper research through exchanges. In these tempestuous times, all are more critical than ever.

Some of you already know that the Endowment Board has turned over its Chair to a new generation, moving me as I wished from an active to an advisory role.

After leading the Endowment for 27 years with your help, I hope you share my pride in what we have done. Our beginnings were uncertain: a devoted Board of wise friends assembled with no purpose beyond honoring the spirit of Lois. Assessing our scant assets, we had no idea how to mold the emotions of losing Lois into durable form. Her private and public-sector career as a cultural diplomat was the anchor; we soon found partners in countries she knew and loved. Husbanding our holdings, we resolved to leave principal in place and spend earnings only; partners would multiply our mini-grants. We searched for human and individual excellence capable of growth through deeper academic research and teaching, limiting fields to the social sciences, humanities and arts, including the fine art of literary translation.

Three decades later, we count close to 300 alumni/ae who are grateful for our help. Our partners include seven Fulbright Commissions and a dozen or more private organizations. We were a catalyst in establishing the Fulbright Legacy Lectures in three UK universities, the first major step towards a Fulbright Professorship at the Senator's second alma mater, Pembroke College Oxford. Four partners award prizes for literary translations, including the US Modern Language Association. And we partner with the Sozopol Writers Seminar in Bulgaria and the National Gallery's Center for Advanced Study.



### DIRECTORS

*Skylar J. Arndt-Briggs, Chair  
Amherst, Massachusetts*

*Anne V. Barbaro, Secretary  
Reston, VA*

*Kimberly Bender  
Washington, DC*

*Bert Brandenburg, Treasurer  
Silver Spring, MD*

*A. Michael Gellman  
Bethesda, MD*

*Neil O. Klopfenstein  
Silver Spring, MD*

*Steven A. Mansbach  
New York, NY*

*Federico Mayor  
Madrid, Spain*

*Patti McGill Peterson, Investments  
Washington, DC*

*William Alvarado Rivera, Alumni  
McLean, VA*

### FRIENDS, FOUNDERS\* & DIRECTORS EMERITI

*Richard T. Arndt\*  
Robert C. Bemis  
Martin C. and Faye Carroll  
Grisselle Cohen  
Harriet Mayor Fulbright  
Robert R. Gosende  
Evelyn Swarthout Hayes\* (1912 - 2000)  
David A. Johnson  
Elizabeth J. Kostova  
Jill E. McGovern  
Henry A. Millon\*  
Steven Muller\* (1927 - 2013)  
Shawn O'Reilly  
Anne O. Thompson  
Michael A. Weiser  
Robin W. Winks\* (1930 - 2003)  
Jeffery Yablon*

Last year, we added a third award for excellence in cultural diplomacy, administered in cooperation with the US State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). These cash awards—for a foreign service officer, a domestic support staffer, and a foreign national in an embassy cultural office—are visibly lifting the morale of the overworked staff managing ECA's steadily eroding budget. Last month, ECA announced plans to name eight new conference rooms for an astounding servant in the history of American cultural diplomacy ... and Lois' name will stand alongside those of Fulbright, Edward R. Murrow, Carl T. Rowan and Barbara Tuchman!

Passing the torch and withdrawing from the Endowment's decision-making, I must now learn how to live up to the daunting title I have been given: Founding Chairman Emeritus. The Board has selected my daughter Dr. Skyler Arndt-Briggs as Chair. Sky, with 19 years on the Board, has served in every role we could contrive to use and develop her many talents. As her generation takes charge, I already marvel at the achievements of this splendid cohort in carrying forward with our ideals and the plans we began honing in 1987. I hope you too will take pride in being part of the Endowment as it greets its many new dawns.

You know, I believe, that I have asked little of you. Today is different: our past is mere prologue. During a quarter century of initial Endowment growth, the importance of cultural dialog and diplomacy has grown increasingly clear in our nation and internationally. To move towards permanence, the Endowment needs continued help, both from you and from friends we do not yet know. Considering my case an example, I have pledged to raise my annual gift ten-fold through a living bequest. I hope you will consider a living bequest or other significant gift as well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick Arndt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard T. Arndt  
Founding Chair Emeritus