

Meridian
International
Center

2008
Annual Report



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Ambassador James R. Jones

Chairman

Hon. James R. Jones

Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Manatt Jones
Global Strategies

Ms. Gina Adams*

Corporate Vice President, Government Affairs
FedEx Corporation

Ms. Sarah Alexander

President
Emerging Markets Private Equity Association

Ms. Lisa Barry

Vice President and General Manager,
Government Affairs
Chevron Corporation

Mrs. Robert Bennett

Ms. Judith Heisley Bishop

President & Executive Director
Heisley Family Foundation

Hon. James J. Blanchard, *Chairman Elect*

Partner
Chair, Government Affairs Practice Group
DLA Piper

Hon. Julia Chang Bloch

President
US-China Education Trust

Hon. Christopher Burnham

Vice Chairman & Managing Director
Deutsche Bank Asset Management

Mrs. Stephanie Chafee*

The Sophie and Murray Danforth Foundation

Mr. Martin dePorres Cargas

Vice President
Global & Environmental Policy
Anheuser-Busch InBev

Mr. Oliver Chanler

Mrs. Meryl Chertoff

Director, Sandra Day O'Connor
Project on the State of the Judiciary
Georgetown University Law Center

Mr. James Clifton

Chairman & CEO
Gallup

Ms. Josephine Cooper

Group VP, Government & Industry
Toyota Motor North America

Mr. William R. Dunlap

Artist

Mr. Henry Ferrero

Mr. Ray Garcia*

Mr. Dean Graham

President & COO
CapitalSource Inc.

Mrs. Charles T. Hagel

Dr. Malik Hasan

Chairman
HealthTrio, Inc.

Ms. Mary L. Howell

Executive Vice President
Textron Inc.

Mr. Leo C. Jardot

Vice President, Government Relations
Wyeth

Mrs. Sandie Knollenberg*

Mr. Fritz-Alan Korth*

Attorney
Korth & Korth

Mr. Jack Krumholtz*

Director of Federal Government Affairs
Microsoft

Mr. Philip C. Lauinger, Jr.

Chairman and CEO
Lauinger Publishing Co.

Hon. Delano E. Lewis

Senior Fellow
New Mexico State University

Susan Blumenthal Markey, M.D.

Fmr. U.S. Assistant Surgeon General
Rear Admiral, USPHS (ret.)

Hon. Charles T. Manatt

Co-Chairman
Manatt Jones Global Strategies, LLC

Mrs. Howard "Buck" McKeon

Mr. Tobia G. Mercuro

Mr. F. Joseph Moravec

Principal
F. Joseph Moravec, LLC

Ms. Maura McGill Mudd

Management Consultant

Mr. Greg Pensabene*

Vice President, Government
Relations & Public Affairs
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Hon. Timothy J. Roemer

President
Center for National Policy

Hon. Rodney Slater*

Partner
Patton Boggs, LLP

Mrs. John S. Tanner

Mr. Robert A. Tappan

President, Public Affairs
Weber Merritt

Mrs. Katherine Wilkins Van Hollen*

Hon. William F. McSweeney

Trustee Emeritus

* Meridian International Center is grateful to the Trustees who completed their service to Meridian at the end of 2008.

CONTENTS

4	Introduction: A Message from Meridian's President
5	The Year in Review
6	Global Leadership Exchanges
12	Convening Global Leaders for Action
19	Art for Cultural Diplomacy
22	Corporate Programs
24	District of Columbia World Connections
25	The Campus
28	Galas And Benefits
30	Supporting Meridian
31	Financials
32	Benefactors
34	Meridian Counselors
35	Management & Contact Information

FRONT COVER

Gateway to America. Above the entrance to Meridian House, the inscription *Quo habitat felicitas nil intret mali* translates "Where happiness dwells, evil will not enter."

**INTRODUCTION:
A MESSAGE
FROM
MERIDIAN'S
PRESIDENT**



Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday

Each year, Meridian works to strengthen exchange among global leaders and international cooperation on key issues such as energy, the environment, global health and civic engagement. Our programs and approach create better understanding, partnership building, and coordination on solutions to issues of global concern.

In 2008, Meridian built on its solid foundation and its 50-year partnership with the U.S. State Department to seek new ways to advance this essential mission. For example, we strategically evaluated program content, the impact of our activities, and placed a higher priority on long-range planning. We also further expanded our traditional constituencies by cultivating sectors such as social entrepreneurs and corporations, who are emerging as essential actors in fulfilling our goals. As a result, Meridian's visibility continues to increase as a unique and forward-thinking institution connecting U.S. citizens with the international community.

Particular highlights of 2008 include our work to create I-VOTE, a major program for international political leaders to observe the 2008 US Presidential election; the Meridian/Gallup Global Engagement Forum; developing an innovative entrepreneurship program for South African women that included a public-private partnership; and a major State Department commission to send the Jazz Ambassadors exhibition overseas.

The Board of Trustees and I look forward to continuing our successes and exploring new initiatives that support sustainable global partnerships through leadership exchanges, international collaboration and cultural diplomacy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Holliday". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stuart" and last name "Holliday" clearly distinguishable.

Stuart W. Holliday
President
Meridian International Center

2008

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Meridian International Center provides a unique forum for the open exchange of American and international perspectives on current issues and foreign affairs. In this role, the institution serves as a catalyst for positive outcomes to our shared global challenges.

Meridian has been advancing work in public diplomacy and international exchange since 1960. Tens of thousands of international leaders have come through our doors to participate in leadership programs designed to increase their understanding of the United States and the American people, including important allies such as Nicolas Sarkozy, Gordon Brown and Hamid Karzai, to name just a few. Of equal importance, Meridian has provided Americans with a platform to listen, engage and act on perspectives from outside the country.

In addition to international exchanges, Meridian creates programs that convene leaders for action that have fostered hundreds of important dialogues. Diplomats, government officials and business leaders come to Meridian to help improve their understanding on key issues and discover ways to work together to bring about positive change.

Meridian's arts and cultural exhibitions have created important breakthroughs with people in countries such as China, Vietnam, and Iran. In our own Washington, DC neighborhood, we have illuminated thousands of Washington area students on cultures and traditions around the world.

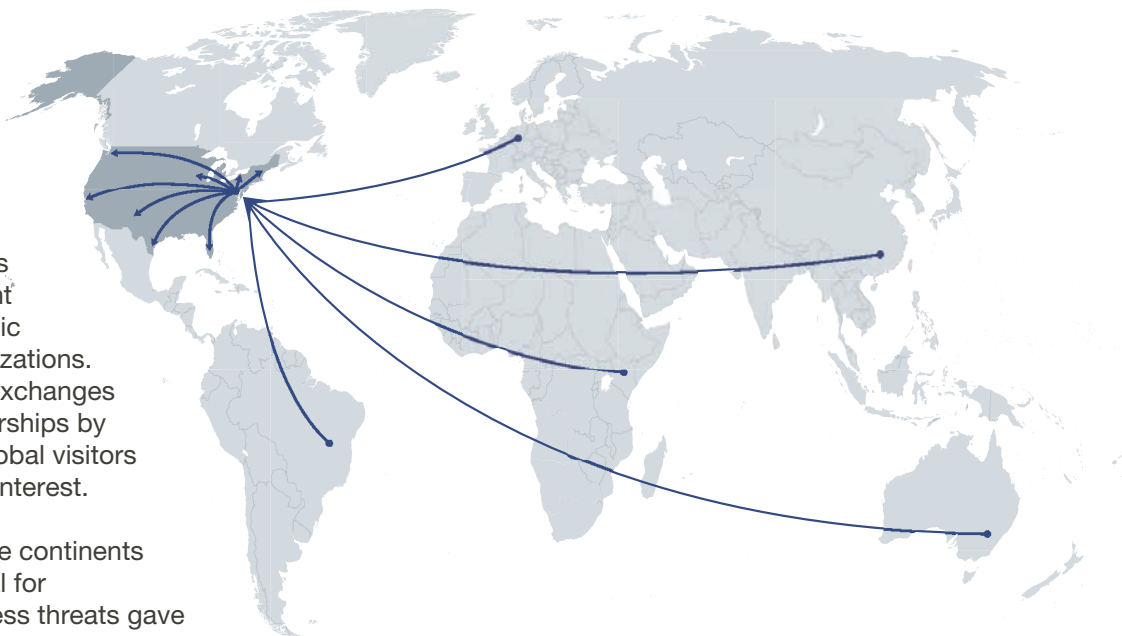
This good work has earned Meridian close relationships with leaders in all branches of the U.S. government, foreign embassies and governments, business leaders and other international NGOs. Meridian is able to tap into all of this expertise and these resources to continue to produce many exceptional programs.

The following pages feature some of the highlights of 2008.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXCHANGES

Meridian is the leading manager of the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange operation — the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)—and creates custom programs for other U.S. government agencies, as well as public and private sector organizations. Meridian's 2,500 yearly exchanges foster sustainable partnerships by linking Americans and global visitors through communities of interest.

In 2008, conflicts on three continents and the growing potential for proliferation and borderless threats gave urgency to the goals of the IVLP and our other exchange programs. Meridian's committed program teams consistently bring their professional expertise to the service of International Visitors, gathering foreign leaders with their professional counterparts and Americans from all walks of life.



I-VOTE Election Fellows attend an opening reception at Meridian House.



Then-Senator Hillary Clinton in one of the many photographs taken by an I-VOTE Election Fellow from visits to battleground states during the historic campaign.

International Visitors Observe the Election (I-VOTE)

From October 25 to November 8, Meridian International Center facilitated the visit of over 70 participants in the International Visitors Observe the Elections (I-VOTE) International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Election Fellows — emerging leaders aged 30 to 50 representing their individual countries — visited Washington, D.C., where they received an orientation on American culture and insights into the dynamics of the electoral and democratic political processes in the United States during this banner election year.

The participants heard from Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Goli Ameri, former Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf, former Democratic Congressman and Governor Jim Blanchard, Politico Managing Editor Bill Nichols, Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, and renowned pollster Mark Penn, among others. From Washington, the visitors then traveled to five battleground or swing states: Ohio, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota and Missouri; and on Election Day, they traveled to 50 cities to observe polling place operations, campaign events, and election night events. Following the election, a "Wrap-Up" in Boston allowed the Fellows to share their travel experiences with colleagues from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.



MEPI visitors leaving the the White House after they visit with the President.



MEPI working group session.



Women entrepreneurs and Meridian team members meet with South Africa Minister of Trade in Pretoria.

Women Political Leaders from the Middle East and North Africa

From October 14 to November 7, forty four female political leaders from the Middle East and North Africa participated in an election exchange program organized by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). Implemented by Meridian International Center and American University's Center for Democracy and Election Management (CDEM), along with its Women and Politics Institute (WPI), MEPI's Election Exchange Program provided participants with an opportunity to learn electoral campaigning in the U.S. and witness local and presidential elections up close, with a special focus on the experience of American women in politics.

The program began with a series of workshops on the American electoral system and then split into smaller groups to visit ten U.S. states. There they met with local political leaders and experts from NGOs. The women had a front seat view at Obama and McCain rallies in Miami, FL, Raleigh, NC, and Minneapolis, MN, and met with President Bush at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House. Later, the participants observed the U.S. Presidential election on November 4 and exchanged insights on their experiences throughout the program.

South African Women Entrepreneurs

In March, Meridian designed and coordinated a series of three regional workshops in South Africa designed to help women entrepreneurs with business development and expansion. The program was created by a collaboration of U.S. and South African women entrepreneurs and developers from a team of organizations represented in South Africa by Pretoria's Maxum Business Incubator at the Innovation Hub and in the U.S. by Maryland Women in Technology (MDWIT) in Baltimore. The program has helped ignite business development and expansion by launching a supportive international network of women technology entrepreneurs. Their 3 week trip to the U.S. helped develop their business skills with training and mentoring by MDWIT.

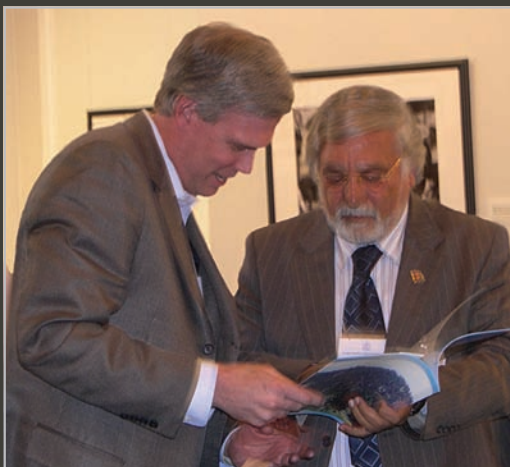
In August, the U.S. and South African women reunited in South Africa for further development and learned about the achievements they had experienced since their return from the United States. By the end of the series of workshops, almost 200 South African current and aspiring women entrepreneurs attended the regional workshops conducted by the U.S. delegation.



Dr. Khalid Mohammed al-Attiah, now Minister of State for International Cooperation (left) with Galen Kirkland, Acting Commissioner, New York Division of Human Rights. Photo: Michael Hardin/MIC

Qatar and Human Rights

In June 2008, Meridian conducted an exchange for seven members of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) of Qatar. The delegation visited Washington, D.C. and New York City, where they met with government agencies, advocacy groups and NGOs that address issues related to human trafficking and foreign workers. Highlights included meetings with the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Safe Horizon Hotline Program and the New York State Division of Human Rights.



Governor Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi (center), Governor of Kunar Province, shares literature about Kunar Province with Former White House Press Secretary Tony Snow (left). Photo: Karina Akel/MIC

Afghan Governors Focus on Governance and Rural Development

Eight Afghan governors visited the United States on an IVLP on Governance and Rural Development from April 5 to 26. While in Washington, D.C., they met with the President and the Secretary of State and other top government officials. Meridian organized and executed the program, and hosted a roundtable discussion focusing on the state of affairs in Afghanistan, which convened diplomats, government officials, American think tank experts, and other distinguished members of the community. From Washington, the Afghanes traveled to California, Nebraska, and New Mexico, to meet with the governors of each state, visited state and local government offices, and met with local farmers. By the end of the three-week program, the Afghan governors had enlightened Americans about Afghanistan and expanded their knowledge and leadership skills in governance and rural development.



Magda Chambriard (black shirt), Raphael Moura (blue shirt, center) and Newton Moneiro (grey shirt) speak with local experts at an oil field outside of Tulsa, OK. Photo: Michael Hardin/MIC

U.S. and Brazilian Energy Leaders Exchange Ideas

Meridian accompanied a high ranking delegation of Brazilian government officials on a week long orientation visit in early June sponsored by the United States Trade and Development Agency. Designed to assist the officials in building capacity for small- and medium-sized companies that work in Brazil's marginal oil fields, the program included meetings with U.S. Government officials, NGOs and private businesses in Oklahoma and Texas. They also toured oil fields, production facilities and an equipment plant, and discussed potential U.S. investment opportunities in Brazil.



Florida Governor Crist and Alaska Governor Palin photographed in Florida by one of the Australian visitors during an election rally.



Australian young political leaders at Meridian House.



On October 2, 2008 at Blair House, Meridian presented then-Chief of Protocol of the United States Nancy G. Brinker with the Meridian Public Diplomacy Award. A former ambassador to Hungary from 2001 to 2003, and founder of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure to support breast cancer research, she was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom on August 12, 2009 for her work as an agent of change.

Young Australian Political Leaders

From October 26 to November 8, Meridian facilitated an IVLP for ten young Australians to Washington, D.C. These leaders were nominated by Australia's four main political parties, and served as party activists and key staff aides to state and federal political and government leaders throughout their country. The program allowed them to explore the historical and constitutional framework of the American electoral system in the context of the recent presidential election.

The visitors became acquainted with American party politics, political campaigns, and the use of new technology, such as blogs and Internet forums in the political and electoral processes. They also attended RNC and DNC after-parties and rallies for both then-Sen. Barack Obama and Gov. Sarah Palin, and also met Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Global Breast Cancer Awareness

As part of the State Department's engagement with the private sector in support of public diplomacy, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs partnered with the Avon Foundation on the 2008 Breast Cancer Global Congress in October. The program brought together breast cancer researchers, clinicians, survivors, and advocates from over 40 countries to discuss the global challenge of these disease. The Congress, which included fifteen participants was administered by Meridian and focused on awareness programs as well as recent developments in screening and treatment.

Participants included a popular Macedonian singer, a reporter for a major Japanese newspaper, and doctors from nine countries. Each visitor indicated that the project had provided him/her with considerable knowledge and information to use in the fight against breast cancer in their own countries. In St. Petersburg, Florida, the visitors participated in an organizational workshop, a sunrise opening ceremony, and a first night camp of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Three Day event. The visit culminated in the traditional 60-mile walk to raise funds and awareness.



British Labour MP Angela Smith visits with Adam B. Schiff (D-CA) in his 29th Congressional District

British MPs: A Study of Federalism and the American Government

Meridian coordinated an IVLP of six members of the U.K. parliament to the U.S. during the week of September 10. Members of the delegation, representing both the Labour and Conservative Parties, were paired with Members of the U.S. Congress and joined them for weekend visits to their individual districts. The MPs also participated in a panel discussion at Meridian House on their reactions to the 2008 election cycle.



L to R: Dr. Ra'd Allawi Dulaymi, Director General, Administrative and Financial Department, Iraq; Curtis Sandberg; His Excellency Dr. Maher Dalli Ibrahim Al-Hadithi, Minister of Culture; Ambassador Holliday; Meryl Chertoff; Ambassador Keith; Mr. Omar Mohammad Sa'id Faysal al-Hadithi, Director of the Office of the Minister, Iraq

Iraq's Minister of Culture Visits the U.S.

Funded by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Meridian organized an exchange program for His Excellency Dr. Maher Dalli Ibrahim Al-Hadithi, Iraq's Minister of Culture and two of his colleagues. The delegation spent 6 days in Washington, D.C., from October 22 to November 2, meeting with officials of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and the State Department. The delegation then traveled to New Orleans to attend the World Cultural Economic Forum (WCEF).



Swedish politicians at Mark Warner's campaign headquarters

Swedish Social Democratic Party Officials Get Insider Perspective on U.S. Politics

From October 27 to November 5, 2008, forty two senior officials from the Swedish Social Democratic Party visited the U.S. during the ten-day run-up to the 2008 presidential election. The trip was sponsored jointly by the American Embassy in Stockholm and the Swedish party. The group was led by Marita Ulvskog, the party's Secretary General and a Member of Parliament, and included representatives of the party leadership, regional directors and senior staff.



Korean Youth and Meridian staff meet with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX).

United States Congress – Republic of Korea National Assembly Youth Exchange Project

Interns from U.S. Congressional offices and participants nominated by members of the Korean National Assembly participated in a program to build knowledge about their respective political systems, countries and cultures. The youth formed lasting personal relationships through program activities in the U.S. and Korea. Meridian has conducted this annual program since 1997.

Synopsis of Global Leadership Exchanges

For 50 years, the U.S. Department of State has partnered with Meridian to conduct people-to-people exchanges through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). This sustained partnership between the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and Meridian has brought thousands of civic, educational, and professional leaders to the United States.

To enhance the success of the IVLP, Meridian also designs, plans and executes specialized and targeted exchange programs, professional study tours, and training programs for delegations from around the world. Our major clients include American embassies abroad, U.S. government agencies, U.S. private industry, as well as foreign public and private sector organizations such as governments, embassies, political parties, media outlets and corporations.

The graph below shows the scale of the IVLP and other exchange programs during 2008.

Program	Individuals	Projects
IVLP	1355	320
Near East/South Asia	374	75
Eastern Europe	194	51
East Asia/Pacific	177	76
Western Europe	91	57
Western Hemisphere	66	24
Africa	22	4
Regional Groups	204	21
Multi Regional Groups	227	12
Voluntary Visitors:	112	20
Individuals	9	6
Groups	103	14
United States Embassy Exchanges¹	252	34
U.S. Trade and Development Agency²	27	3
Foreign Press Center³	460	26
Office of Broadcast Services³	106	42
TOTAL:	2,312	445

1. Exchanges contracted from U.S. embassies abroad include professional study tours for delegates selected by the Embassy. These also include study tours for private overseas organizations nominated by U.S. embassies, such as labor unions, political parties and industry.

2. USTDA: Orientation visits for foreign delegations from developing nations in a number of industry sectors, most recently energy and information technology

3. FPC and OBS: Administrative Support for foreign visiting journalists covering the United States.



CONVENING GLOBAL LEADERS FOR ACTION

Meridian convenes diverse decision-makers and high-level influencers from the U.S. and abroad. These leaders are drawn from the public and private sectors, academia and the arts. Participants share information and seek areas of agreement, in for face-to face and virtual exchanges of ideas, which serve as catalysts for solving challenges shared between U.S. and international leaders.

Working with the U.S. Department of State, Meridian also organizes briefings for recently posted U.S. Ambassadors, as well as training seminars on key regional issues and developments.



L to R: Dr. David Abshire, Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress; David Boyer, USAID; Barbara Propes, World Affairs Council; Aaron Lobel, American Abroad Media

Global Engagement Roundtable on Strengthening Public Diplomacy

In June, Meridian International Center convened a meeting of leaders and innovators from the public, private and non-profit sectors to work toward the common goal of expanding international exchange and strengthening America's public diplomacy efforts. The goal was to share ideas, trends, and initiatives from the fields of technology, philanthropy, and public diplomacy, and to explore how these new tools can be blended to facilitate and foster positive global engagement. Attendees included Ambassador David Abshire, Ambassador David Gross, Jonathan Spalter, former Assistant Surgeon General Dr. Susan Blumenthal, Ambassador Cynthia Schneider, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Mike Doran. Presentations were also given by Gallup, Global Giving, and the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations (PQMD).

The roundtable concluded that virtual worlds, online platforms, and mobile technology are changing the way in which traditional diplomacy is conducted. While these new technologies will never fully replace face-to-face exchanges, technology can both expand and enhance these efforts. These innovations allow a greater number of people to participate in international exchange and provide them an online platform to continue working in communities of interest.



L to R: Wilford Welch, Nina Smith, Stuart Holliday, Stephanie Fischer

Tactics of Hope: How Social Entrepreneurs are Changing our World

Also in June, Meridian International Center hosted Wilford Welch, author of *Tactics of Hope: How Social Entrepreneurs are Changing our World*, for a discussion with Nina Smith, Executive Director of RugMark, and Stephanie Fischer, Chief Program Officer for Global Giving on the growing role of social entrepreneurship. Attended by over 100 guests from the Washington, DC and California area, this program provided an insight into the global importance of social entrepreneurs.



Decision 2008

How Will the Next President
Engage the World?



Marvin Kalb and Kojo Nnamdi broadcast on WAMU. Panelists included Peter Bergen of the New America Foundation, National Security Advisor John Brennan, and Deputy Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator John McCain for President Kori Schake.

Global Engagement Series: The 2008 U.S. Presidential Election

In the lead-up to the 2008 U.S. general election, Meridian hosted a series of five pre-election programs. Discussions were framed around world perspectives, as reflected in the Gallup World Poll on major international issues as compared to U.S. public opinion. Panelists provided the public positions of the Republican and Democrat Presidential nominees in reaction to the data. This series was funded in part through the Walter and Isabel Cutler Endowment for World Affairs.

The first session of the Global Engagement Series was held on September 11. Titled “Beyond the Rhetoric: How the New Administration will Confront Terrorism”, the panel was moderated by Marvin Kalb and Kojo Nnamdi and broadcasted on WAMU. Panelists included Peter Bergen of the New America Foundation, now Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism John Brennan, and Deputy Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator John McCain for President, Kori Schake.

On September 18, the series continued with a discussion on “America the Beautiful: The View from Abroad”. Featuring Amb. Richard Burt and Jonathon Spalter, Foreign Policy advisors to the campaign of Senator John McCain and Senator Barack Obama respectively, Gallup analyst Ian Brown, and Allan Goodman, President of the Institute for International Education. Moderated by Amb. Kenton Keith, the panel discussed approaches the respective candidates would take to improve America’s image abroad upon election to the Presidency.

On September 24, “Energy & The Environment: Prospects for a U.S. Energy Policy” featured Howard Learner, Environmental Advisor to Senator Barack Obama for President, Rebecca Jensen Tallent, the Energy and National Security Advisor to Senator John McCain for President, and Gallup analyst Steve Crabtree. Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, the panel discussed how the candidates proposed to provide for the long-term energy needs of the United States.

The October 2 program continued with “America in the World Economy: Fair Competition and Open Markets”, which featured Gary Gensler, Economic Advisor to Senator Barack Obama for President & Former Undersecretary of the Treasury, and Ike Brannon, Economic Advisor to Senator John McCain for President. Gensler & Brannon spoke with Ted Alden, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, about how the next president would enhance American leadership in international economics and trade issues while coping with a weakened dollar, protectionist sentiment, and the global impact of the crisis in the U.S. credit and housing sectors.

The final installment of the series, “America and the Multilateral World”, took place on October 9 and featured Amb. Don McHenry, Supporter of Senator Barack Obama for President & Former Ambassador to the United Nations, Gallup Analyst Magali Rheault, Richard Williamson, Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator John McCain for President and former Ambassador the United Nations, and Ed Elmendorf, President of the United Nations National Capital Area Chapter. Moderated by Amb. Stuart Holliday, the panel reviewed how the next President would help to reshape and redefine multilateral international institutions to assist the global community in times of crisis against borderless threats.



Gallup Chairman and CEO Jim Clifton



Jim Wolfensohn and Senator Chuck Hagel



Finnish Ambassador Pekka Lintu and Governor James Blanchard



USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore



Vint Cerf, Stuart Holliday and Ambassador David Gross

The Meridian/Gallup Global Engagement Forum

On October 6, Meridian, partnered with Gallup to hold the first annual Global Engagement Forum. Key leaders from the public and private sectors came together to gain insights on global public opinion and to discuss the need for renewed approaches to global engagement. Speakers on five panels addressed a diverse array of political, economic, and social issues using data about worldwide opinions gathered by Gallup. Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President of Meridian, moderated the event, emphasizing both the Forum's role as a medium for discussing international diplomacy and this year's special focus on new media, global institutions, and development. Speakers included:

- Senator Chuck Hagel
- Hon. Goli Ameri,
Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Jim Wolfensohn
Chairman, Wolfensohn & Co., former President, World Bank
- Henrietta Fore
USAID Administrator
- Vint Cerf
V.P., Chief Internet Evangelist, Google
- Dr. Angel Cabrera
President, Thunderbird School of Global Management;
- Ambassador Stuart Holliday
President, Meridian International Center
- Jim Clifton
Chairman and CEO, Gallup
- Abby Joseph Cohen
President, Global Markets Institute, Goldman Sachs
- Rear Admiral Susan Blumenthal
M.D., Former Assistant Surgeon General
- Paul Meyer
CEO, Voxiva Mobile Solutions
- Jane Wales
President, Global Philanthropy Forum
- Dalia Mogahed
Senior Analyst and Executive Director
of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies
- Rajesh Srinivasan
Regional Director, Asia for the Gallup World Poll
- Bob Tortora
Regional Director, Africa for the Gallup World Poll
- Ambassador David Gross
U.S. Coordinator for International Communications
and Information Policy



Rita King with Former Jordanian Ambassador Karim Kavar



Missy Janes, Beth Slifer, Luma Kavar, David Bradley, Tina Hone (accepting the first Building Bridges Award on behalf of Susan G. Komen Foundation), Ambassador Karim Kavar, Samia Farouki, Marlene Malek, Dee Haslam, Kathy Hubbard and Lois Stark



Senator Bill Frist



Stuart Holliday with Brazilian Ambassador Patriota, Congressman Edward Markey and Danish Ambassador Friis Arne Petersen

Bridges of Understanding Conference

Meridian works closely on a variety of projects with its partner Bridges of Understanding – a non-profit, non-political organization devoted to supporting projects and efforts that foster better understanding between the American people and people of the Arab world.

On October 21, Meridian hosted the second annual Bridges of Understanding Conference, bringing over 100 guests from across the U.S. and the Middle East to discuss the importance of new media and technology in fostering greater understanding between Middle Eastern and American youth. Participants included Young Arab Leaders Fellows, visitors from the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, experts in the field of new media, and past participants of Bridges mission trips.

Speakers included Patricia Harrison, CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, former Jordanian Ambassador Karim Kavar, President of the Kavar Group, Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President of Meridian, Rita King, CEO of Dancing Ink Productions, and April Delaney, Washington Director of Common Sense Media. The panel focused not only on the growing access to public television and radio across the Middle East, but also on the newfound ability of ordinary citizens to voice their opinions through new media, such as blogging, videos, social networking, and online games.

Congressional-Diplomatic Dialogue

In January, Meridian brought together Members of Congress, foreign diplomats, and private, non-profit, and public sector leaders for a discussion between Congressman Ed Markey (D-MA), His Excellency Antonio Patriota, Ambassador of Brazil, and His Excellency Friis Arne Petersen, Ambassador of Denmark on "A Post-Bali, Pre-Kyoto Look at Energy and the Environment".



Preparations for the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit

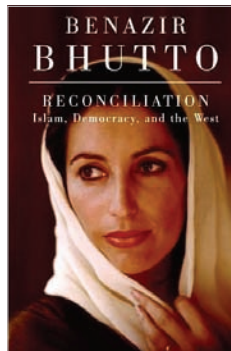
A high-level delegation of Canadian environmental leaders met on June 26th at Meridian for a roundtable discussion with leading U.S. energy and climate experts from the US as part of Meridian's ongoing work to promote dialogue on key issues leading up to the Copenhagen Climate Summit in 2009. Participants were drawn from a cross-section of government and non-profit leaders including Mr. Marlo Reynolds, Pembina Institute; Ms. Stephanie Thorson, Clean Air Foundation; Mr. Jonah Bernstein, Department of Energy, Province of Nova Scotia; and Ms. Karen Evelyn Hildahl, Department of Science, Province of Manitoba.

In September 2008, Meridian also hosted Danish Parliamentarians to discuss the need for renewable energy techniques.



Dr. Mark Siegel

Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West



On February 11th, Meridian offered an exclusive opportunity for a pre-publication preview of the late Benazir Bhutto's book, *Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West*, with Dr. Mark Siegel, Bhutto's friend and advisor. Dr. Siegel spoke about his relationship with former Pakistani Prime Minister and their close collaboration on her book, which entered bookstores on February 12.

Completed only two days before her tragic death, the book describes her return to Pakistani political life. "In her book, Benazir Bhutto sends a powerful message of peace and international understanding," said Meridian President, Ambassador Stuart Holliday. With her experience governing in Pakistan and time studying and living in the West, Bhutto was uniquely capable of providing insightful commentary into both the Western and Middle Eastern perspectives on the complex, often contentious relationship between the U.S. and the Islamic world. In exploring the history of East-West relations in *Reconciliation*, Bhutto countered the argument that Islam is incompatible with democracy and emphasized opportunities for cooperation and realignment between the Middle East and the West.



Justice Anthony Kennedy greets guests.

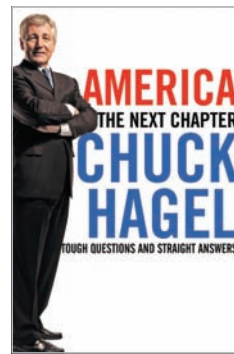
Justice Anthony Kennedy

Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy spoke at Meridian on February 20, where he discussed “Implications of the International Rule of Law.” His speech reflected on the response of international law to an era of rapid globalization and major foreign policy and commercial decisions. Justice Kennedy’s comments emphasized the need for increased awareness and understanding of international law and discussed the need for strong U.S. leadership on this difficult matter. H.E. Pekka Lintu, Ambassador of Finland, and H.E. Nabi Sensoy, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, were present in the audience during the program and engaged with Justice Kennedy during the conversation about the relationship of their countries and the United States in the context of the International Criminal Court.



Senator Chuck Hagel, with Ambassador John Danilovich and Ambassador Walter Cutler

Senator Chuck Hagel

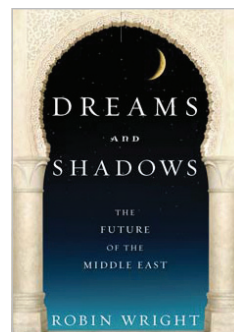


On April 24, Senator Chuck Hagel gave a speech to a full crowd at Meridian as he discussed his recent book, *America: Our Next Chapter*. According to the Senator, America’s next chapter can be inspiring and productive, but will take hard work, smart and informed policy and strong and enlightened leadership. He stressed the importance of reaching out to the world’s youth and engaging modern technology and media to build strong, constructive ties with the rest of the world.



Journalist Robin Wright

Robin Wright: Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East



Meridian partnered with Washington Post Foreign Correspondent Robin Wright on March 18 to feature her forthcoming book, *Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East*. To gain authentic insight into Middle-East, Wright conducted interviews at all levels of Middle Eastern society, including emirs and other regional leaders, political activists, and ordinary citizens in city streets. Drawing on this first-hand information and her 35 years of reporting experience in the region, Wright probed into the future of the Middle East in a period of significant transition.

The Cafritz Galleries, located in Meridian's historic White-Meyer House, feature many of its Art for Cultural Diplomacy exhibitions and events before travelling the United States and the world.



ART FOR CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Meridian's Art for Cultural Diplomacy programs play a vital role in achieving its mission by creating opportunities for Washington, DC and national audiences to learn about other cultures through the eyes of their visual and performing artists. In 2008, after years of dedicated leadership by Mrs. Nancy Matthews, Meridian's arts and culture programs were handed over to its new director Dr. Curtis Sandberg. Meridian continued to provide unique cultural experiences in the Washington, DC community, as well as throughout the U.S. and around the globe. Meridian's exhibitions, concerts, and other cultural programs presented in Washington, DC attracted over 25,000 visitors, who experienced other cultures through the work of international creative artists.

Meridian Exhibitions Travel the World

Meridian's international art exhibits typically premiere in Washington, DC and then travel the U.S. via our Traveling Exhibition Service and a national network of museum partners. Over the past year, three exhibits, *This is Our Land: Discovering America and the World through Original Illustrations from Children's Books*, *Sudan: The Land and the People* and *Wishes and Dreams: Iran's New Generation Emerges* have been on national tours. All traveling exhibits are accompanied by education guides that offer gallery and classroom activities for museum educators, teachers and docents. In addition to art education, the guides teach geography, map reading, and travel skills.



On of the many stunning photographs in the exhibition.
Paul Nicklen/National Geographic

Life at the Edge: The Big Thaw

(Nov. 8 - Jan. 20)

The exhibition included 50 compelling photographs by renowned photographer Paul Nicklen, with additional photographer James Balog. The images captured the Arctic environments that support land animal and sea life in these environmentally threatened areas. Organized by Meridian in collaboration with *National Geographic Magazine*, *Life at the Edge* provided viewers with graphic evidence of climate change in the world's arctic regions, which has immediate implications on international policy issues surrounding energy and the environment.



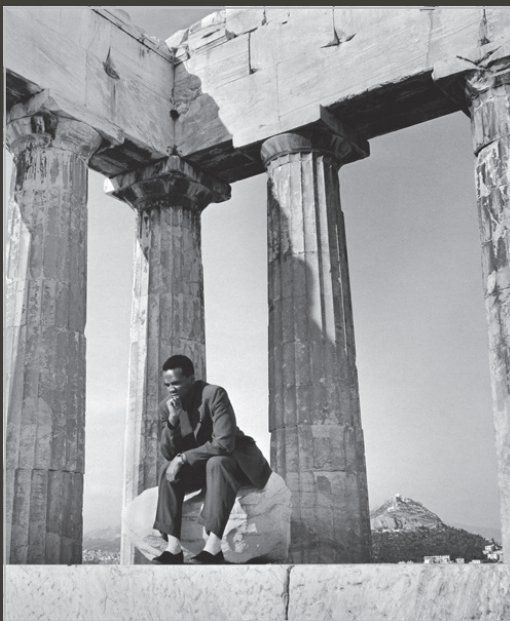
Robert Freeman
The Choice, 1983
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of the Freedom Place Collection of Stuart Marshall Bloch
and Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch

Five American Voices:

Selections from the Freedom Place Collection

(Feb. 7 - Mar. 16)

Five American Voices included over 30 paintings, watercolors and collages by distinguished 20th century African-American artists Romare Bearden, Benny Andrews, Alma Woodsey Thomas, Robert Freeman and Richard Yarde. The art, collected by Stuart Marshall Bloch and Amb. Julia Chang Bloch, though distinct, is united by their grounding in the 20th century African-American experience.



Quincy Jones strikes a pose on the Acropolis.
Athens, Greece, 1956
Courtesy of the Marshall Stearns Collection, Institute of Jazz Studies,
Rutgers University.

"There is no substitute for these kinds of personal exchanges — especially those based on the arts. They allow us to better understand one another, to respect and value our differences, and more importantly, our similarities." — Quincy Jones from the Introduction of the Jam Session exhibition catalogue



Architecture students from Kelo University in Tokyo joined with students from UVA to assemble three of Shigeru Ban's eco-friendly "paper house" structures on the lawns of Meridian, where the students presented projects and design ideas for global relief efforts.

Jam Session: America's Jazz Ambassadors Embrace the World

(Apr. 3 - Aug. 8)

This exceptional collection of photographs and documents drawn from important archives around the country chronicles the tours of American jazz legends as they traveled 35 countries and 4 continents on behalf of the U.S. State Department. From the mid-1950s through the 1970s, Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, Dave Brubeck, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and others served as cultural diplomats by playing their world-famous music and interacting with citizens—thereby promoting a positive view of the United States at a time when Cold War tensions were at their height. To highlight the far-reaching impact of these great musicians' voyages abroad, Meridian held two panel discussions on April 11, featuring scholars, public diplomacy officials, and jazz enthusiasts, who shared their knowledge of the State Department tours and examined the implications of these efforts as they relate to our current foreign policy. Legendary jazz pianist Dave Brubeck attended and offered insights from his tours – the first of which took place fifty years ago. For complete online gallery and list of upcoming installations, please visit <http://www.meridian.org/jazzambassadors>

Shigeru Ban's Eco-friendly Architecture

In May, Meridian hosted world-renowned architect Shigeru Ban and other experts for a series of panel discussions on sustainable environmental practices, particularly as they relate to relief efforts in troubled areas. Ban's works, which utilize eco-friendly paper and other recyclable materials, are widely exhibited in the United States, Asia and Europe and his architectural style is characterized by clean construction and zero-waste production.

Shigeru Ban traveled to DC to participate in Meridian's symposium, "Shigeru Ban: Paper Houses and the Architecture of Disaster Relief". Other speakers at the Symposium included John Janssen, former Mayor of Greensburg, Kansas (a city being rebuilt as "green"); Craig Farkos of Engineers Without Borders; John Ingargiola of FEMA; Dr. Gavin Smith, Director of Governor Haley Barbour's Office of Recovery and Renewal; Dean Karen Van Lengen and Professor Anselmo Canfora of the University of Virginia School of Architecture; and Benjamin Forgey, Former Architecture Critic at *The Washington Post*. Participants discussed preparedness efforts in areas where disasters may strike and the importance of collaboration across borders to provide relief where it is most urgently needed.



Russian Ambassador Kislyak with Meridian Chairman Ambassador James R. Jones

Painting the Heart of Russia: Nikolai Timkov's Sustaining Vision

(Nov. 14 - Mar. 8)

This exhibition presented over fifty vibrant and varied landscapes of the Russian heartland painted from the 1930s through the 1980s. These were the creative vision of painter Nikolai Timkov (1912-1993), who has been characterized by some scholars as "the greatest Russian impressionist landscape painter" of the mid-20th century. The exhibition was opened in the presence of Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.



Jazz great Dave Brubeck honors Meridian's guests with a concert

An Evening of Live Jazz

November 20, 2008

On November 20, Meridian hosted an evening of live jazz by the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet from the University of the Pacific and the Open World Jazz Quartet associated with the Library of Congress's Open World Program, which seeks to build cooperation between the U.S. and Eurasian and Eastern European countries through international visits.



Congressman John Conyers with Brubeck Institute musicians

CORPORATE PROGRAMS

The private-sector plays a decisive role in building a more secure and prosperous world. Meridian creates programs for the private sector to gather unique global insights, and facilitates public-private partnerships between corporations, U.S. government agencies, foreign governments, NGOs and other private actors to extend global exchanges and collaboration.



Meridian Trustee Ambassador Charles Manatt speaks to South Korean business leaders.

Korean Business Leaders Luncheon,

Prompted by an invitation from Mr. Roy Ryu, Chairman and CEO of Poongsan Corporation and PMX Industries, Meridian hosted a delegation of 15 Korean business leaders on Capitol Hill in April. The luncheon focused on the U.S. general election and the impact that the change in administration will have on US foreign policy, the international financial system, and US-Korean relations.

Representing views from the Democratic and Republican perspectives were Mr. Charles Manatt, a Meridian Trustee, who was previously chairman of the DNC and Mr. Lorne Craner who is a longtime foreign policy advisor to Republican candidate Senator John McCain and Assistant Secretary for Democracy and Labor under Secretary of State Colin Powell.



GALLUP POLL

World Poll State of the World Briefing: Kenya

Meridian collaborated with Gallup in September to host a breakfast briefing on Gallup's "Responsive Leadership Platform," the largest Kenyan public opinion survey which measures trends shaping the country's economic, political and constitutional policies.

GALLUP POLL

World Poll State of the World Briefing: Asia

In November, Meridian and Gallup hosted "State of the World: Asia" in New York. This briefing featured a small working group of public and private sector leaders who shared insights on key priorities driving consumer behavior, policy decisions in Asia, and leadership commentary on the outcomes of the G-20 Economic Summit.



Meridian Corporate Programs offer:

Global Insights

- Seminars & Briefings
- Intimate Working Dinners

Global Networking

- The Meridian Ball and VIP Networking Receptions
- International Leadership Perspectives
- Cultural Diplomacy Events

Executive Education

- Global Readiness Training
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Leadership Development

Corporate Partners:

- American Airlines
- Anadarko
- Apollo Group
- AREVA
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- CapitalSource
- Chevron Corporation
- Datacard
- Deutsche Bank
- DLA Piper
- Dupont
- ExxonMobil
- FedEx
- Fluor Corporation
- Gallup
- Goldman Sachs
- Honeywell
- Korn Ferry International
- Lockheed Martin
- Microsoft
- Motorola
- National Journal
- Northrop Grumman Corporation
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP
- SOSi
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Toyota
- Travelport
- VISA
- Wyeth

Visa International Financial Insights

On May 20, leaders in public-private sector partnerships met with Visa International's President for Europe, Middle East, and North Africa, to discuss the company's growing commitment to larger economic and development issues. High-level executives from the World Bank, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the U.S. State Department, the Embassies of France, Morocco, Russia, and South Africa, FINCA and USAID were attended.

20-Now: Financing Green Buildings Action Forum

As part of an ongoing focus on energy and the environment, Meridian partnered with the Energy Efficiency Partnership of Greater Washington, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and United Technologies to hold "20-Now: Financing Green Buildings Action Forum."

The April 23 conference promoted global and national best practices in financing energy efficiency projects to achieve zero net emission buildings. The audience included over 100 regional and national building owners, developers, and financial institutions who expressed an interest and commitment to energy efficiency in their work. Panelists described the great strides that have been made in reducing energy usage in Washington, while emphasizing that much work remains.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WORLD CONNECTIONS

Meridian works with the liaison of the Executive Office of the Mayor to connect the District with the diplomatic corps through cultural and educational programs; empower educators to bring the world into DC schools; inspire Washingtonians to engage with the wider world; and enhance the reputation of the District abroad.



Michelle Fenty (above left) discovers the Embassy of Ghana's activities with Ambassador Kenton Keith, Meridian Senior Vice President, and Beth Larson, Festival Organizer and Meridian's Director of Educational Outreach



International Children's Festival

On May 10, Meridian presented its second annual International Children's Festival, which brought together D.C. residents and the foreign diplomatic corps. The Festival featured 17 embassies, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Poland, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey and Uzbekistan. Embassies created interactive displays, crafts and other activities highlighting their countries' rich cultural heritage. Various booths introduced children and their families to world geography – engaging children of all ages to learn about the world and the importance of global citizenship. Over 1000 participants learned about geography and culture with Mrs. Michelle Fenty, Mayor Adrian Fenty's wife, this year's honorary Patron. Amazing international performances throughout the Festival capped off this event with gorgeous costumes and remarkable dancing. Lively Irish Step dancers, graceful Rwandan performers, and the rhythms of Capoeira martial arts experts are just a few that combined their energy and talent to bring their unique cultural traditions to life.

International Classroom

The 2007-2008 school year was an incredibly productive one for Meridian's International Classroom program. Over 100 cultural consultants/volunteers from 50 countries and 60 teachers in 30 schools reached over 3000 students in the DC public schools system.

Passports to the World

In November 2008, Meridian held its 3rd annual Teachers' Workshop, "Passports to the World: Infusing International Themes Across the Curricula." At the workshop's 6 different sessions, 16 teachers learned methods of integrating international education across all subject areas of their curricula.

These classes received International Classroom presentations from Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. In the program, students received their own Meridian Passport, which was stamped at the close of each presentation. Students were tested at the beginning and end of the program to assess country recognition and mapping skills. In 2007-2008, Passports students achieved an average of 16% improvement over the course of the year.

THE CAMPUS



Gateway to America

Meridian International Center's campus has been America's exchange gateway for 50 years.

Comprising historic Meridian House and White-Meyer House and beautiful gardens, the campus is located 1.5 miles north of the White House. Serving as a gateway to America for our visitors and a major conference center, Meridian occupies a city block of remarkable historic and architectural importance.

Meridian House, considered by many experts to be the finest example of 18th Century French-style urban architecture in the United States, was designed by John Russell Pope and built by Irwin Boyle Laughlin, a distinguished American Ambassador and member of a Pittsburgh steel family. It became the home of Meridian International Center in 1960, thanks to major support from the Ford Foundation and many Meridian supporters. Pope's next other major domestic commission in Washington was the Henry White house, built adjacent to Meridian House. White-Meyer House was the home of several distinguished families including American diplomat Henry White. Eugene Meyer, owner of The Washington Post, purchased the house in 1934. It was acquired by Meridian in 1987 through a capital campaign under the leadership of Roberto Goizueta, Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola. The first floor serves as Meridian's premier art exhibition space, having been refurbished by the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. These combined properties create a three-acre intercultural center of international importance.





Stewardship in Preservation and Restoration

Meridian House, White-Meyer House and their surrounding gardens underwent vital and extensive restorations in 2008. Projects will continue into 2009.

Of critical importance was the replacement of the roofs of both houses — both of which were many decades old — to secure the integrity of the buildings’ interior.

Both Meridian House and the White Meyer House received exterior painting, stone, masonry and wood restoration. Preservation work also included ironwork and hardware, structural repair and refinishing of Meridian House’s fire escape and shutters. Restoration of weatherstripping of windows of both houses has resulted in more energy efficiency.

Under the careful stewardship of the Board of Trustees and the President of Meridian, the work is of the highest quality of workmanship and materials befitting these national treasures.



GALAS AND BENEFITS

40th Annual Meridian Ball

Friday October 17th, 2008 marked the 40th anniversary of the Meridian Ball. One of the most celebrated social events in Washington, the 2008 ball was Chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Nels Olson and saw over 750 guests convened at Meridian House following dinners at 30 participating embassies as well as our own White-Meyer House.



Beth Watson, Mike and Natalia Brzezinski



Sharon Dougherty, Jeff Zell, and Holly Finger



Breana Teubner, Susan Peacock,
and Julia DeJulius



Michelle Rathbun and LaDavia Drane



Nancy and Alan Bubes



Linda and Michael Sonnenreich



Swedish Ambassador Jonas Hafström
and Eva Hafström



Ann Marie Gardner, Gwen Holiday, and Kristi Dill



Irish Ambassador Michael
Collins and Mary Collins



Nancy Brinker, Walt
and Didi Cutler, Bret and Jeffrey Cohen

WL SPONSORED

40TH ANNUAL MERIDIAN BALL

Embassy residences and meridian house

PHOTOS BY TONY POWELL

THE BALL: Ambassadors from more than 30 countries turned out for the 40th annual Meridian Ball, which raised more than \$900,000 to benefit Meridian International Center initiatives to promote global understanding. Known for an attractive younger crowd with distinctly international flavor, the evening began with private dinners at embassy residences followed by desserts and dancing in two separate spaces - fox trots and rhumbas inside and a Motown band under a tent on the lawn. The linden trees were glowing with light in the pebbled courtyard, and the gift bags included leather passport cases and tips on cross-cultural communication - perfect accessories for the cosmopolitan traveler. **THE GUESTS:** Sen. Patrick Leahy, Chief of Protocol Nancy Brinker, Walt and Didi Cutler, Bret and Amy Baier, Grace and Morton Bender, and the ambassadors of Mexico, Spain, India, Japan, Switzerland, Chile, and Lebanon.

WASHINGTON LIFE | HOLIDAY 2008 | washingtonlife.com



Stuart Holliday with Alexandra and Arnaud de Borchgrave



Meridian Spring Garden Benefit — An Evening in Kyoto

Over 300 guests celebrated the historic city of Kyoto with the Embassy of Japan at Meridian House at May 16th. Held under the patronage of His Excellency Ambassador Kato and Mrs. Kato, the evening gave guests the chance to sample delectable Japanese cuisine, listen to live music and enjoy the Japanese ambiance created by floral arrangements and guests dressed in traditional Japanese attire. Chaired by Meridian Trustee Judith Heisley Bishop, the benefit raised funds to help support much needed improvements in Meridian's historic gardens.



Nini Ferguson



Anna Muganda and Meredith Hope



Mia and James Walton



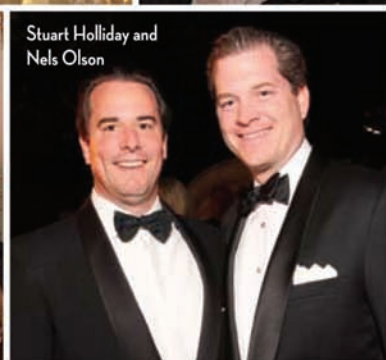
Nicole Chedid and Lebanese Ambassador Antoine Chedid



Bogdan Banu and Victoria Docu



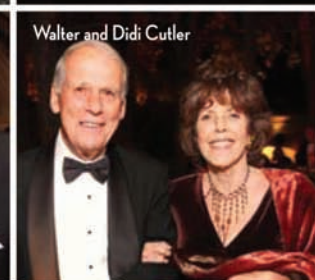
Page Evans, Garrick Steele, and Brady Arundel



Stuart Holliday and Nels Olson



David Marriott and Lindsay Stroud



Walter and Didi Cutler



Adrian and Michelle Fenty



Susanna Quinn and Allison Putala



Ronit Ziswiler and Swiss Ambassador Urs Ziswiler



Betsy Santarlasci and Jim Bell



David and Trish Copenhaver with Diane and Mark Tomb

SUPPORTING MERIDIAN

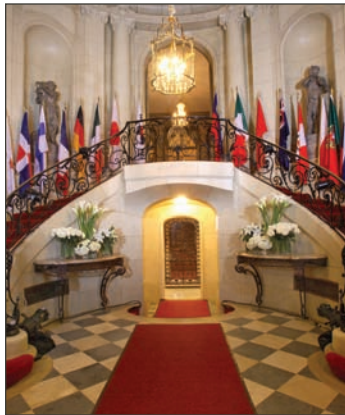
Contributions to Meridian help support its work to strengthen sustainable global partnerships and international collaboration - critical factors in America's national interests and long-term security and prosperity.

Individuals and companies can support Meridian's mission in a variety of ways:



Meridian Council and Friends of Meridian

Council Members access the unique vantage point that is offered by Meridian's government, diplomatic, policy and cultural network. Friends of Meridian, as individuals, can support Meridian at a variety of levels, and participate in many of Meridian's programs and events. For more information, contact Siobhan O'Connell at 202.939.5522 or soconnell@meridian.org



Campaign for Meridian at 50

Celebrating Meridian's 50th Anniversary, the proceeds from this fund will restore Meridian's facilities and preserve it as a unique hub for world leaders, ideas and culture. Meridian at 50 events and opportunities for recognition are underway and will culminate at the Meridian Ball in October 2010. For more information, contact Mary Ellen Matheson at 202.292.2288 or mmatheson@meridian.org



*Congressman and Mrs. McKeon,
Senator and Mrs. Patrick Leahy,
Mr. and Mrs. Nels Olson*

Annual Meridian Ball

Washington's premier diplomatic gala, the Meridian Ball welcomes the diplomatic corps, government officials, leaders in industry and private citizens to Meridian House to raise awareness and funds for its work. The 41st Annual Meridian Ball will be held on Friday, October 2, 2009. For more information, contact Mariya Manzhos at 202.939.5524 or mmanzhos@meridian.org

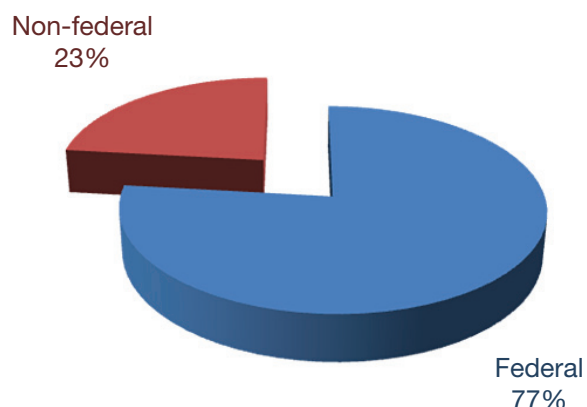


*Stuart Holliday presents Ambassador
Nancy G. Brinker, Chief of Protocol of the
United States with the Meridian Award for
Public Diplomacy*

The Meridian Award for Public Diplomacy

Each year Meridian recognizes a public sector and a private sector organization from the U.S. and abroad with an award for international collaboration. Recipients are chosen on the merits of innovation, creative partnerships and results.

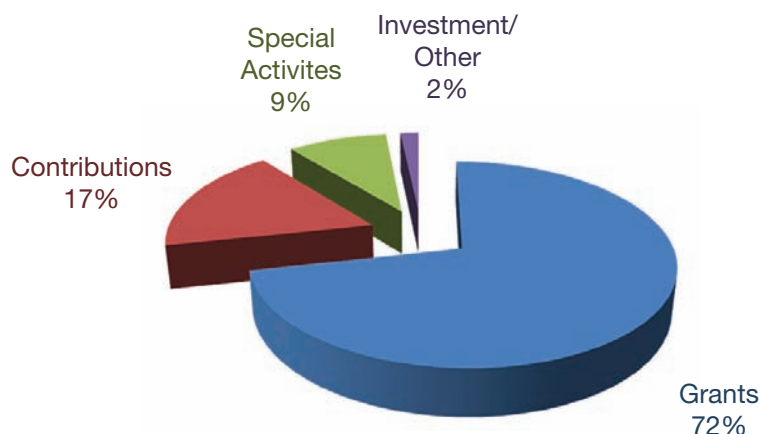
FY 2008 Revenue and Expense Breakout



FINANCIALS

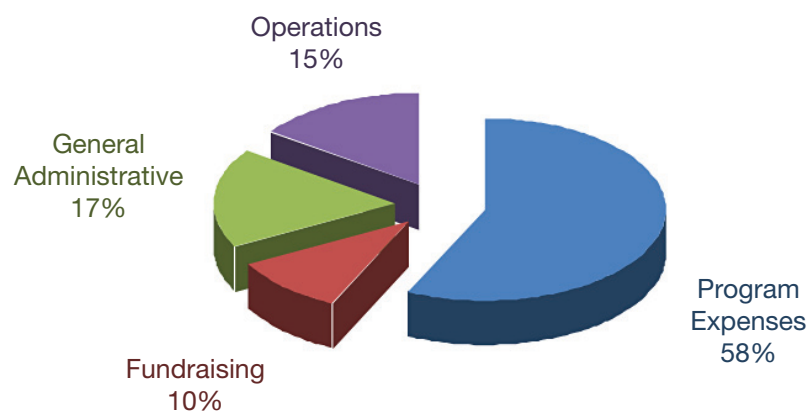
Revenue by Source FY 2008

Federal	\$20,695,085
Non-federal	\$6,264,466
Total	\$26,959,551



Total Revenue net of Pass Through FY 2008

Grants	\$7,344,559
Contributions.....	\$1,793,923
Special Activities.....	\$940,129
Investment/Other.....	\$172,635



Total Expenditures net of Pass Through FY 2008

Program Expenses.....	\$6,085,907
Fundraising.....	\$1,114,150
General Administrative.....	\$1,857,908
Maintenance and Operations.....	\$1,632,679

BENEFACTORS

Meridian International Center is grateful for the extraordinary generosity of our benefactors who support our work to strengthen international understanding and building sustainable global partnerships through leadership exchanges, international collaboration and cultural diplomacy.

Meridian is grateful to those who have contributed to the Walter and Isabel Cutler Endowment for World Affairs.

Meridian also thanks our many members, who support the institution at many levels.

Honoring contributing corporations, individual private donors, private foundations and trusts from the past fiscal year, which ended on September 30, 2008.

\$100,000+

AREVA, Inc.
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

\$50,000-\$99,999

American Airlines
Anheuser-Busch Companies
Chevron
Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Lauinger, Jr.
Richard Lounsbery Foundation, Inc.
United States-Japan Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Apollo Group, Inc.
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
The Coca-Cola Company
DLA Piper
ExxonMobil Corporation
FedEx Corporation
Fluor Corporation
General Motors Corporation
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
Hasan Family Foundation
Lockheed Martin Corporation
National Endowment for the Humanities
Sodexo
SOS International Ltd
Travelport
Visa U.S.A., Inc.

\$10,000-\$24,000

ALPHA LLC
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Craig R. Barrett
Mr. and Mrs. Leland B. Bishop III
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
The Business Roundtable
CapitalSource Finance, LLC
The Honorable Lincoln D. Chafee and Mrs. Chafee
Citigroup
Mr. and Mrs. James Clifton
Deutsche Bank

E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company
Estate of Mrs. Marguerite Brown
Fannie Mae
Mr. and Mrs. A. Huda Farouki
French American Cultural Foundation
The Gallup Organization
Heisley Family Foundation
The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
Hills & Company
Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Hohlt
Honeywell, Inc.
HSBC Bank
The Japan Foundation
Korn/Ferry International, Inc.
Manatt Jones Global Strategies
Marathon Oil Corporation
Mayer Brown LLP
McLarty Associates
Motorola, Inc.
Muchnic Foundation
Mrs. Lorraine E. Murphy
National Geographic Magazine
Mr. and Mrs. R. Daniel Nelson
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Occidental Petroleum Corporation
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Rolaco Services, Inc.
Rolls Royce North America Inc.
SAFRAN USA, Inc.
Saudi Aramco
Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Sonnenreich
Textron Inc.
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Tyco International (US) Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Verizon Communications, Inc.
Wyeth

\$2,500-\$9,999

Aetna
American Petroleum Institute
Dr. Susan Ascher and Dr. Paul Kalb
Mr. and Mrs. Babak Batmanghelidj
Mr. Jim Bell and Mr. Mark Scott
Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP
The Honorable and Mrs. James Blanchard
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Bradley
Mr. Oliver H. Chanler
The Honorable Michael Chertoff and Mrs. Chertoff
The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region
Cymaron Foundation
Datacard Group
DCI Group
Dianar USA, Inc.

Ms. Suzanne Duvall
 Mr. and Mrs. David W. Faeder
 Financial Services Forum
 Ford Motor Company
 Freddie Mac Foundation
 Mr. Raymond Garcia and Dr. Fruzsina M. Harsanyi
 Mr. and Mrs. Dean Graham
 Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
 The Honorable and Mrs. Charles T. Hagel
 The Helen R. Buck Foundation
 Hogan & Hartson, L.L.P.
 Humanities Council of Washington, DC
 The Honorable and Mrs. Reuben Jeffery III
 The Honorable and Mrs. James Robert Jones
 Mr. Fritz-Alan Korth
 The Honorable Frederic V. Malek and Mrs. Malek
 The Honorable and Mrs. Jan W. Mares
 Mr. and Mrs. Tobia G. Mercurio
 Microsoft Corporation
 National Basketball Association
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott E. O’Gorman
 Qorvis Communications
 Mr. and Mrs. James Shallcross
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Shapiro
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence M. Small
 The Sophie and Murray Danforth Foundation
 The Honorable and Mrs. John S. Tanner
 Dr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Trachtenberg
 Mr. Geoffrey Tracy and Mrs. Norah O’Donnell
 Mr. and Mrs. Roderick K. von Lipsey
 The Honorable and Mrs. Togo D. West, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Dean Wilde
 JM Zell Partners, Ltd.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Zell

\$1,000-\$2,499

Mr. Robert Aiken
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Arundel
 Dorothy G. Bender Foundation
 Mr. John G. Birch
 The Honorable Julia C. Bloch and Mr. Stuart Bloch
 Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Boggs
 Mr. and Mrs. Travis B. Brown
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Dean Bruce
 Mr. and Mrs. Alan Bubes
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Callahan III
 Mr. Steven M. Champlin
 The Charles Delmar Foundation
 Clark Construction Group, LLC
 Mr. and Mrs. Brooke Coburn
 Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Bitsberger
 Mr. and Mrs. James A. Cusick

Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Dougherty
 Mr. and Mrs. David C. Dressler
 EastBanc, Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Falke
 Mr. and Mrs. Adam Falkoff
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Ferrero, Jr.
 Mr. and Ms. H.P. Goldfield
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gottschalk
 H.O. Peet Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Brett Haber
 Mr. and Mrs. John G. Holland
 Mrs. Judith R. Hope
 The Honorable and Mrs. Allan B. Hubbard
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Huber, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. John
 The Honorable and Mrs. Clay Johnson III
 Dr. Richard Jonas and Mrs. Katherine Vernot-Jonas
 Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP
 Mr. and Mrs. John Lugar
 The Honorable Andrew Mac
 Ms. Karen Maples
 Mr. and Mrs. Greg W. McDonald
 The Honorable and Mrs. Howard P. McKeon
 The Honorable Thomas F. McLarty III and Mrs. McLarty
 Mr. and Mrs. F. Joseph Moravec
 Dr. Sharon L. Mueller
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Byrne Murphy
 Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Musser
 The New York Community Trust
 The Honorable and Mrs. William A. Nitze
 The Honorable and Mrs. Sam A. Nunn
 Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Pappas
 Pittston Animal Hospital
 The Honorable and Mrs. Mercer Reynolds III
 Mr. and Mrs. David H. Roberts
 Rochester Area Community Foundation
 Ms. Georgia Shallcross
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Shift
 Mr. and Mrs. K. Andrew Sprague
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Tanous
 UBS Financial Services Inc
 Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wallerstein
 Wal-Mart Stores
 William C. Smith & CO Inc.
 William D. Blair Charitable Foundation

\$500-\$1,000

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ackerman
 The Honorable and Mrs. Timothy D. Adams
 The Honorable John Anderson
 Mr. and Mrs. Brett Anthony

Mr. and Mrs. Warren B. Bischoff
 Ms. Cathy Brentzel
 Mr. Lonnie Rich and Ms. Marcia A. Call
 Mr. and Ms. Adrian Chanler
 Mr. Jeffrey Cohen
 The Honorable Edmund Cronin, Jr. and Mrs. Cronin
 Mr. and Mrs. Brantley Davis
 Mrs. J. Edward Day
 Mrs. Ayla Dickey
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Dorros
 Dow Lohnes PLLC
 The Honorable Richard M. Fairbanks III and Mrs. Fairbanks
 GE Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Grennan
 Mr. Lawrence C. Grossman
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haft, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. John Alexander Hay
 Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Stoeckel
 Mrs. and Mr. Donna Ironside
 Ms. June Jackson
 Mr. and Mrs. Brent B. Johnson
 Ms. Patricia A. Johnson and Mr. John Harry Jorgenson
 The Honorable Patrick F. Kennedy and Ms. Mary E. Swope
 Mr. and Mrs. Caleb King
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald L. Kohlenberger
 Mr. and Mrs. William E. Kopka
 The Honorable Samuel K. Lessey, Jr.
 Dr. and Mrs. Randall J. Lewis
 Ms. Alinda Lewris
 Mr. and Mrs. Rafat Mahmood
 The Honorable Donald McHenry
 Ms. Pamela Miller
 Mr. Thomas A. O’Coin and Mr. Joseph D. Branch
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry O’Connor
 Mr. and Mrs. Nels Olson
 Ms. Sophie Prevast
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Riley
 Mr. and Mrs. B. Hagen Saville
 Mrs. Monica Scott
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen T. Sears
 Mr. and Mrs. Brent Shaw
 Mr. and Mrs. John Siegel
 Ms. Diana D. Spencer
 Mr. George Stelljes
 Mr. and Mrs. William E. Timmons, Jr.

Gifts In-Kind

All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.
 Meridiana Wine Estate
 Neiman Marcus
 Sony Electronics, Inc.
 Tiffany & Co.

MERIDIAN COUNSELORS

Meridian thanks these former Trustees who currently advise and assist the Board and the President of Meridian and continue to support the institution's mission.

Mrs. Sallie Judd Abelow
Mrs. Jane Abraham
Ms. Gina F. Adams
Mr. Teymour Alireza
Mr. Joe L. Allbritton
Dr. Joseph P. Allen
Sheik Abdulaziz Al-Sulaiman
Mrs. Sharon Archer
Mr. Norman R. Augustine
Mr. Theodore Austell III
The Honorable William L. Ball III
Mr. Richard D. Barrett
Mr. Owen A. Basil, Jr.
Mr. John T. Becker
The Honorable James M. Beggs
Mrs. Tamra Bentsen
Mrs. Louise Bereuter
Mr. Robert J. Berry
Mrs. William D. Blair, Jr.
Mrs. Melinda Blinken
Mrs. Suzanne R. Block
Mr. Norman A. Bolz
Mrs. Joyce Bonin, Jr.
Mrs. John B. Breaux
Mr. Arturo E. Brillembourg
Mrs. Olivia Brown
Mrs. Dale Bumpers
Mr. Larry D. Burton
Mrs. Jane Lipton Cafritz
Mr. Daniel J. Callahan III
The Honorable Frank C. Carlucci
Mr. Oliver T. Carr
Mr. Philip T. Cavanaugh
Mrs. Stephanie D. Chafee
The Honorable John E. Chapoton
Mr. Stephen E. Chaudet
Lt. General Daniel W. Christman
Mrs. Frank Church
Mrs. Norma A. Coldwell
Mr. Kenneth W. Cole
Mr. Christopher H. Collins
Mr. Gary M. Cook
The Honorable Esther Coopersmith
Mrs. Roma Crocker
The Honorable Edmund Cronin, Jr.
The Honorable Walter L. Cutler
Mr. Leo A. Daly III
Mrs. Kenneth Dam
Mrs. J. Edward Day
Ms. Vivian L. Derryck
Mr. Charles J. Di Bona
Mr. George H. Douse
Mrs. Ronald Dozoretz
Mr. Henry A. Dudley
Mrs. Valeska Ellis

Dr. Charles H. Epps
The Honorable Richard M. Fairbanks III
Mr. A. Huda Farouki
Dr. Allie C. Felder
Mrs. Nancy M. Ferris
Mr. Lawrence R. Fisher
Mrs. Robert Foley
Mrs. Karyn H. Frist
Ms. Marlene W. Futterman
Mr. Raymond Garcia
Mrs. Shirley Gayner
Mr. Matthew T. Gerson
Mrs. Mary Gianoplus
Mrs. Georgia Gilman
Mr. James R. Golden
Mrs. J. Carter Good
Mr. Bernard A. Goodrich
Mrs. John C. Gore
Mr. George K. Graeber
Mr. David J. Gribbin III
Mr. William G. Haddeland
The Honorable Veronica A. Haggart
Mr. Elliott S. Hall
The Honorable Lloyd N. Hand
Dr. Fruzsina M. Harsanyi
Mrs. Cynthia Helms
Mrs. Ann Foster Heuer
Mrs. Mary Holt
The Honorable Linwood Holton
Mrs. Judith R. Hope
Mr. William J. Hotes
Ms. Janet A. Howard
Mrs. Jayne Ikard
Mrs. Marcia Jackson
Mr. Jess Johnson, Jr.
Mr. Lionel C. Johnson
Ms. Nancie S. Johnson
Mr. James D. Johnston
Mrs. Mary Johnston
Mr. Ardon B. Judd, Jr.
Mr. Edward W. Kay
Mr. Stephen Kelin
Mr. James V. Kimsey
Mr. Nemir A. Kirdar
Mrs. Sandie Knollenberg
Mr. Fritz-Alan Korth
The Honorable Penne P. Korth Peacock
Ms. Margery Kraus
Mrs. Norris Krone
Mr. Jack Krumholtz
Mrs. Patrick Leahy
Ms. Susan Lee
Mrs. Alvin LeFaivre
Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr.
Mr. William W. Leffeldt
Mr. Gilbert B. Lessenco
Mrs. Hadassah I. Lieberman
Mr. Gerald M. Lowrie
Mr. Kenneth J. Luchs
Mr. J. Robert MacNaughton
Mrs. William Mailliard
The Honorable Frederic V. Malek
Mr. John J. Mason
Mr. Hani H. Masri
The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
Mr. Stephen McDonald
Mr. Darryl D. McEwen
Mr. Robert M. McGee
The Honorable Donald McHenry
Mr. Charles E. McKittrick
Mrs. Thomas McLarty
Mr. Robert E. McLaughlin
Mr. Gerald T. McPhee

The Honorable William F. McSweeney
Ms. Carol A. Melton
Mrs. Evelyn V. Moore
Mrs. Sylviane T. Morelli
Mrs. Stefan Murek
Ms. Betty S. Murphy
Mrs. Sam Nunn
Mrs. Jean Kurth Oberstar
Justice Sandra D. O'Connor
Mrs. Genevieve S. O'Gorman
Mrs. Elena Aida Olson
Mrs. Nancy H. O'Neill
Mr. Mandell J. Ourisman
Mrs. Patricia A. Oxley
Mrs. Benjamin Palumbo
Mr. Gregory Pensabene
Mr. Paul F. Petrus
Mr. Lino J. Piedra
Mr. Richard J.M. Poulson
Mrs. Gladys P. Preston
Mrs. William Prutting
Mr. Robert H. Ragan
The Honorable and Ms. Joseph V. Reed
Ms. Diane L. Renfroe
The Honorable John Richardson, Jr.
Mr. William K. Ris
The Honorable Jane Sloat Ritchie
Mr. Joseph E. Robert, Jr.
Mrs. Franki Roberts
Brigadier General William L. Roche
Mr. Randall B. Roe
The Honorable Tim J. Roemer
Mrs. Nancy S. Rosebush
Ms. Hilary B. Rosen
Mrs. Emory Rushton
Mrs. Bob Schieffer
Mr. Herbert K. Schmitz
The Honorable Brent Scowcroft
Mr. Koh Sera
Mrs. Leonard Silverstein
The Honorable Rodney Slater
Mrs. Sandra Roche Small
Mr. Albert H. Small
The Honorable David S. Smith
Mr. Wayne H. Smithey
Mrs. Sharon F. Spilhaus
Mrs. Ted Stevens
Mrs. Ethelyn S. Stuckey
The Honorable Thomas J. Tauke
Mrs. Cecile J. Tauzin
Mrs. Judith J. Terra
Mr. Richard L. Thompson
Mr. W. Reid Thompson
Mrs. Marion Turner
The Honorable Abelardo Valdez
Mrs. R. Eric Vige
The Honorable Ronald H. Walker
Mr. Gregg Ward
Mr. Clifton Webb
Mrs. Charles Swan Weber
The Honorable Togo D. West, Jr.
Mr. Clifford L. Whitehill
Ms. Virginia S. Wilcox
Mr. Will Wilkins
Ms. Katherine A. Wilkins-Van Hollen
Mrs. Bonita R. Williams
Mrs. Pat Williams
Mrs. Pete Wilson
The Honorable David L. Winstead
Mr. Kevin G. Woelflein
The Honorable Clayton Yeutter
The Honorable Barry Zorthian

MANAGEMENT & CONTACT INFORMATION

Meridian Management

Hon. Stuart W. Holliday
President

Hon. Kenton W. Keith
Senior Vice President

Mr. Robert T. Coonrod
Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Kurt M. Sodee
Chief Financial Officer & Vice President, Operations

Ms. Susan Cabiati
Vice President, Programming

Ms. Hannelore Starr
Vice President, Custom Programs

Dr. Curtis Sandberg
Vice President, Art for Cultural Diplomacy

Mrs. Mary Ellen Matheson
Director, Development

Mr. Douglas Maguire
Director, Private Sector Partnerships

Mr. Jake Stafford
Director, Communications & External Affairs

Meridian International Center

1630 Crescent Place NW
Washington, DC 20009

Telephone: (202) 667-6800
Fax: (202) 667-1475
Email: info@meridian.org

www.meridian.org

Media Enquiries / Press Office
(202) 939-5526

Public Programs
202-939-2282

Membership and Contributions
202.292.2288

For Special Events
202-939-5592



MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER