

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

### Happy Tears

*Tracy Betts*

I recently attended the wedding of my beautiful goddaughter and, as usually happens whenever I go to a wedding, I got all choked up during the ceremony. The older I get, the more the tears seem to flow. Whether it's a civil or religious ceremony, every time it gets to the part where one person commits to another by saying their vows—traditional or otherwise—I am moved to tears (unless, of course, it's the high heels pinching). And that got me wondering why I always get so emotional, even though I've heard wedding vows countless times before.



I suppose the tears come from the joy in celebrating young (and not so young) love, two people beginning their married lives together, and all that implies. I am delighted to hear the promise of lifelong companionship, comfort and caring, hopefully with a lot of laughter thrown in, as my mother always recommended.

And today, more than ever, when so much cynicism, divisiveness, and senseless violence is happening all around us, such a public commitment to love, honor and comfort, in sickness and in health, restores my faith in humanity. Whether you have said those vows or not, or said them more than once (as I have), I invite you to reflect on all the different types of love you have in your life and recommit to them. Think about the love of a partner, sibling, parent, child, good friend or a pet and celebrate all the joy it brings. And don't worry, I'll pass the Kleenex for your happy tears!

*When one's heart is overfilled with joy, some may spill from the eyes— Rita Hsiao, Chris Sanders, Philip LaZebnik, Raymond Singer, and Eugenia Bostwick-Singer,*

screenwriters for “Mulan.”

*Joy's smile is much closer to tears than laughter—Victor Hugo*

## WHAT'S NEW

### Improving Our Elections

At its June 22 meeting, the Board of Directors approved a proposal by the Legal Affairs and Governance Committee to improve the process to elect officers and directors. The measures, designed to streamline elections and encourage more members to participate, include increasing the number of Nominating Committee members, allowing the committee more time to recruit potential candidates, shortening the voting period, since the overwhelming majority of members vote electronically.

## IN THE WORKS

### Health Insurance Plan Administrator

The selection process to hire the next administrator of the health insurance plan is now in its final stages. We expect the IDB Human Resources Department to inform us of the winner in the next two months. Association members who have specific questions about the plan can check our [website](#) for a list of contacts.

### Annual Meeting 2023

Yes, you read that correctly. Work is already underway to prepare for our next Annual Meeting. We want to improve both logistics and content. In addition to making it easier for people to join the meeting and reach a quorum quicker, we would like to involve members in setting the agenda. We will hold a series of Town Hall meetings early in 2023 so you can tell us what priorities we should focus on during the meeting and throughout the year.

## EVENTS

### UPCOMING

**July 19: Association Picnic.** On Tuesday, July 19 at 12:30 pm (EST) the Association will be hosting a second picnic, this time in Virginia at Lake Fairfax, in the pavilion facing the lake. We will offer a cold lunch and beverages and, of course, great music for all to dance to. Come join us! Check your email for more details and [register here](#).



**July 20: Open House.** Join us for our second Open House on Wednesday, July 20 at 12:30 pm (EST) where the Association's Board of Directors tell you what they are working on and answer any questions you may have. The event will take place virtually through this [Zoom link](#) Webinar ID: 837 1052 8034. We would appreciate receiving your questions before the event at [retirees@iadb.org](mailto:retirees@iadb.org).

**July 25: Go Native.** Did you know that you can attract many more butterflies and songbirds to your yard if you grow plants native to the area? On Monday, July 25 we will host a Zoom talk with a master gardener who will teach us how to incorporate more native plants into our gardens in order to maintain healthy, biodiverse local ecosystems. This is an ideal talk for those of you who love gardening! Stay tuned for more information.



Ageratina Altissima (White Snakeroot)  
Virginia



Lupinus Perennis  
Washington, D.C.



Monarch Nectar Plants  
Maryland

## PAST



Alexandra Russell having fun!

**June 7: Association Picnic.** On June 7, the Association had its first picnic of the summer at beautiful Lake Needwood in Rockville, Maryland. Sixty enthusiastic participants met at the Needwood Pavilion, a covered structure facing the lake. We kicked off the festivities by catching up with one another over a delicious lunch prepared by *To Your Taste Catering*. And it wouldn't be an Association event without dancing to our favorite merengues, salsas and cumbias. Some attendees took to the water in canoes, kayaks, and paddle boats. All in all, a wonderful afternoon with friends, despite a few

**June 22: Open House.** Many thanks to the 84 of you who joined us virtually for our first Open House on Wednesday, June 22. We introduced the Board committees and their work and fielded questions from attendees. In the online survey we did earlier this year, which 70% of you responded to, more than half of the respondents reported that they were not at all familiar with what the Association does. So we invited you to find out!

During the hour-long event, we took a quick poll among those present. Roughly 35% of the participants answered, and we learned that:

- 67% resided in the US, 27% in Latin America, and the remaining 6% in other countries.
- 80% had accessed our website.
- 50% were members of the Facebook Group.
- 7% were members of WhatsApp Group.

If you missed the Open House, please join us on July 20<sup>th</sup> (see above) or click [here](#) to view the recording.

## TAKE NOTE

### Sharing on Social Media

We were delighted to see the number of members involved in the recent exchange on the cost-of-living adjustment in our Facebook Group! In addition to the Facebook Group, the Association posts its official announcements on the IDB Association of Retirees Facebook page, as well as on our website, and, of course, sends them in our emails from [retirees@iadb.org](mailto:retirees@iadb.org). The Association's Facebook page is visible to the public, while the IDB Retirees Group is private, open only to IDB Group retirees and current staff. Any official Association posts that appear in the Facebook Group will have the Association logo next to them. To join the Facebook Group, simply answer a few short questions about whether or not you work or worked at the Bank or are married to a retiree and agree to our Facebook [Rules](#) found in the About section under Policies and Strategies, on our website. The WhatsApp Group can be accessed through [this link](#).

### Guess Who Turned 100?

The Association would like to wish the happiest of birthdays to our member Manuel Valderrama, who had a long and respected career in the Legal Department and who, in his late 80s, served the Association on the Legal and Governance Committee. We congratulate you on this important milestone Manuel and wish you all the very best for continued



health and happiness!

## Visit Our New Gallery

Check out our newly created [Gallery](#), under the For Members Only section, where we currently have on display artwork by our talented retirees Patricia Giovannoni and Arne Paulson. Are you an artist, too? Please share your creativity with us by sending high-resolution photographs of your creations to [retirees@iadb.org](mailto:retirees@iadb.org).

## Quill and Ink

Read a touching remembrance of our departed colleague Edgar Roberto Rivera Araya by Sandra Darville, published in our [Quill and Ink](#).

# NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who joined the Association in July:

- Ricardo Cassorla, United States
- Fernando Glasman, United States
- Ramdeholl Ragubir, Guyana
- Marcos Robles, United States
- Ernani J. Sfoggia Pilla, United States
- Verónica Zavala Lombardi, United States

# IN MEMORIAM

Our heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of our deceased colleagues:

- Kenneth H. Cole
- Raimundo D. Domínguez
- Estela M. Jiménez
- Vera Lawrence
- Herbert Alfonso Perryman
- Edgar Rivera Araya, and

- George Ensor, widower of our deceased colleague Elba Ensor

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