



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

December 2014

Dear Friend,

With this first annual letter that I write on behalf of the Lois Roth Endowment (LRE), let me say how honored I feel to be carrying on the legacy of both my stepmother, Lois W. Roth, and my father, Richard T. Arndt, who built the Endowment in her memory.

I think you will agree that the work outlined in the accompanying Annual Review does justice to them and to the Endowment's 28-year mission: to foster international dialogue by means of small investments in select individuals. Let me start with two highlights of the last program year:

- As you may remember, in 2012-13 we established the third in a trilogy of awards for Excellence in Cultural Diplomacy, designed to recognize the major groups involved in representing US cultural affairs overseas: Foreign Service Officers, Foreign National Employees, and Domestic Employees of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). This year's honorees—Sherry Keneson-Hall, Dominique Benbrahim and Michael Weider—embody the very essence of each award.

As, exceptionally this year, all three were able to attend the ECA awards ceremony in Washington, we held a small luncheon for them and the members of the ECA jury. There the conversation revealed a truly inspiring degree of mutual awareness and confluence across their different areas of responsibility, as well as repeated expressions of the importance of our awards in building morale and a sense of worth. I found this experience deeply moving, and regard it as a confirmation of the underlying goals the Endowment has sought to actualize through these awards.

It was therefore the proverbial icing on the cake when we learned, at the end of the awards ceremony the next day, that ECA plans to name a conference room for Lois W. Roth. Our thanks for their interest and support go to ECA Assistant Secretary Evan Ryan, her Principal Deputy Kelly Keiderling and Senior Advisor Rick Ruth.

- Another highlight of the program year was an apparent increase in top-notch literary translations into English—a particularly welcome development, given a widespread lack of awareness of foreign authors among US readers. LRE offers two prizes for translations into English. Our Persian Translation Prize went to the

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