50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER COMMITTEE

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50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER STEERING COMMITTEE

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Sheila Nemazee • Harold J. Newman • Kathleen Sloane • Washington SyCip
Karen Talwar • Marie-Hélène Weill • Laurence F. Whittemore
The 50th Anniversary Dinner Chair
Richard C. Holbrooke, Chairman of the
Vishakha N. Desai, President
and the Trustees of Asia Society
request the honor of your presence.

Asia Society
Gala 50th Anniversary Dinner

HONORING
David Rockefeller and
The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV

REMARKS ON THE ROCKEFELLER LEGACY
The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
The Honorable Condoleezza Rice*

SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY
The Ahn Trio

Thursday, February 23, 2006
The Waldorf-Astoria, 301 Park Avenue, New York City
Receptions at 6:30 P.M. • Dinner at 7:30 P.M.
Asian National Dress or Black Tie

RSVP by February 10, 2006

For information or reservations: www.AsiaSociety.org/anniversary_dinner
TEL: 212.327.9235 FAX: 212.517.8315 EMAIL: AnniversaryDinner@AsiaSoc.org

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Asia Society is the leading global organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States.

We seek to enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of policy, business, education, arts, and culture.

Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, New York, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Washington, D.C.

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TABLE/TICKET BUYER (AS YOU WISH TO BE LISTED):

NAME __________________________ TITLE __________________________
COMPANY __________________________
ADDRESS __________________________
CITY __________________________ STATE ____ ZIP _______ COUNTRY ________
TEL _______ EMAIL _______________ FAX _______
COMPANY CONTACT NAME (OPTIONAL) __________________________
TEL _______ EMAIL _______________

Please respond by February 6 to be included in the Gala Journal.
Final RSVP date is February 10.

☐ GALA CHAIRMAN at $100,000
☐ CO-CHAIRMAN at $75,000
☐ VICE CHAIRMAN at $50,000
☐ BENEFACOR at $25,000
☐ PATRON at $15,000

☐ GOLDEN TICKET(S) at $5,000 each
☐ PREMIUM TICKET(S) at $2,500 each
☐ INDIVIDUAL TICKET(S) at $1,500 each
☐ I/We cannot attend, but enclose a fully tax-deductible contribution of $__________

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Asia Society ☐ Invoice me

Asia Society Gala 50th Anniversary Dinner
725 Park Avenue • New York, NY 10021-5088
For additional information: www.AsiaSociety.org/anniversary_dinner
TEL: 212.327.9235 FAX: 212.517.8315 EMAIL: AnniversaryDinner@AsiaSoc.org
BENEFITS

GALA CHAIRMAN $100,000 • 2 seats at Head Table, table of 10 in Chairmen’s Ring and 12 tickets to Chairmen’s Reception • Half-page acknowledgement in the Gala Journal • 12 tickets to the VIP opening of the Rockefeller Collection Exhibition

CO-CHAIRMAN $75,000 • Table of 10 in preferred location on Main floor and 10 tickets to Chairmen’s Reception • Prominent acknowledgement in the Gala Journal • 6 tickets to the VIP opening of the Rockefeller Collection Exhibition

VICE CHAIRMAN $50,000 • Table of 10 on Main floor and 10 tickets to Chairmen’s Reception • Special acknowledgement in the Gala Journal

BENEFACTOR $25,000 • Preferred table of 10 • 4 tickets to Chairmen’s Reception and 6 to General Reception • Special listing in the Gala Journal

PATRON $15,000 • Table of 10 and 10 tickets to General Reception • Listing in the Gala Journal • Very limited availability

GOLDEN TICKET $5,000 • Top seating and entry to Chairmen’s Reception

PREMIUM TICKET $2,500 • Preferred seating and entry to Chairmen’s Reception

INDIVIDUAL TICKET $1,500 • Entry to General Reception • Tier seating • Limited availability, for Asia Society members only

GUEST LIST

Names may also be faxed to 212.517.8315 or emailed to AnniversaryDinner@AsiaSoc.org

Guests of

1. ___________________________________________ 6. ___________________________________________
2. ___________________________________________ 7. ___________________________________________
3. ___________________________________________ 8. ___________________________________________
4. ___________________________________________ 9. ___________________________________________
5. ___________________________________________ 10. ___________________________________________

The Asia Society is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The estimated fair market value of the dinner is $200 per person or $2,000 per table. The balance is deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Gala 50th Anniversary Dinner
Asia Society
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New York, NY 10021-5088
ASIA SOCIETY GALA 50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER
honoring the Rockefellers
REMARKS by HAK
Waldorf=Astoria – Grand Ballroom
301 Park Avenue, New York, NY
Thursday, February 23, 2006

Contact: Loretta Graham in Holbrooke’s office @ (212) 651-6404
Mike Kulma @ Asia Society (212) 327-9224
or cell phone (917) 648-7276

Evening timeline

6:20PM Arrive Silver Corridor
3rd Floor (Lexington Avenue side)
Mike Kulma will meet HK & NMK in Silver Corridor

6:45PM Photo session

7:15PM Escorted to Ballroom and seated for appetizer

7:40PM Escorted to Stage Entrance

7:45PM Program – Part I
Welcome Vishakha Desai, President
Video President Bush
Remarks Richard Holbrooke, Chairman

STAGE MANAGER TO CUE HK
REMARKS Henry Kissinger
HK EXITS STAGE ENTRANCE
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50th Anniversary Dinner Gala Dinner

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Points about Jay Rockefeller

- [Following personal comments about David, add a few lines about Jay Rockefeller]

- Jay Rockefeller has carried on in the tradition of his father, John D. Rockefeller 3rd, who founded the Asia Society. Jay has had a very personal connection with Asia all of his life. As a young man, he spent three years studying Japanese at International Christian University in Tokyo, and graduated with a degree from Harvard in Far Eastern Languages and History.

- His connection with and deep understanding of Asia has also benefited this country, as commitment to economic growth has included close business ties with Japan and other Asian nations.
• Jay's commitment to public service and his own passion for Asia have come together in his continued involvement as an Asia Society trustee.

• Jay and David have both, in their own ways, continue to embody this great Rockefeller commitment to Asia, and it is an honor to have them both with us tonight representing the family.

• I know that they would each like to say a few words. So, first, would you please join me in welcoming David Rockefeller.
Asia Society Gala 50th Anniversary Dinner  
Thursday, February 23, 2006  
Henry A. Kissinger

How to move a society from where it is to where it has never been, from a familiar present to an unknown future, is a challenge that political leaders cannot meet alone or perhaps even primarily. Political life imposes its own priorities, which emphasize the urgent at the expense of the important.

For over four generations now, the Rockefeller family has devoted itself to the task of raising our sights to our possibilities. When the Rockefeller Foundation was formed in 1913, its goal was proclaimed as promoting “the well-being of mankind.” By then, this vast aspiration had already been given substance in philanthropies that had founded the University of Chicago, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now Rockefeller University), the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission, the General Education Board, and Spellman College in Atlanta.

There was one underlying theme to these benefactions, then and in the decades since, which was the proposition that great achievements were usually somebody’s idea before they became a reality. It is the Rockefeller tradition to discover and to encourage these dreams, to treat the Rockefeller patrimony not as an opportunity to enhance freedom, but to give hope to the oppressed and disadvantaged, and to help their society walk in the paths of justice and compassion.

This commitment has been continued in every generation, and each generation contributed not only resources but participation and personal commitment.

In the Rockefeller generation I know best – the grandchildren of John D. Rockefeller – each of the brothers had a special field of activity. All took pride in the efforts of the others and frequently contributed resources to those efforts through the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. It would take most of the evening to list all of the projects. To mention just a few: There is Laurance’s commitment to land conservation and Memorial Hospital; Nelson’s Special Studies Project
to enroll America’s ablest thinkers in a view of the nation’s future; the commitment of David, who has honored us here tonight with his presence, to two projects to relate democratic societies to each other: the Bilderberg Conference, founded in 1954 for dialogue with Europe, and the Trilateral Commission to bring first Japan and then other Asian countries into a global consideration of our future.

And, we are here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Asia Society, which is a tribute to the imagination and dedication of John III.

Building on the family commitment to Asia that had led to the founding of the Peking Union Medical College in 1921 and the rebuilding of the Imperial Library after the Tokyo earthquake, John III traveled to Asia in 1929. He served on John Foster Dulles’s mission to negotiate a Japanese peace treaty in 1951; in 1953, he founded the Population Council to address the demographic issues, especially of Asia, and the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs, later named the Agricultural Development Council, designed to foster the social aspect of agricultural development, culminating in the founding of this institution in 1976. Since then, the Asia Society has created centers in Houston and Washington and Asia Societies in the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Australia.

In retrospect, achievements tend to appear inevitable. But in 1956, John D. Rockefeller III’s original conception was path-breaking. America had no relations with mainland China; Japan was emerging from occupation; Vietnam was not yet a trauma; and India was just establishing itself as a presence on the international scene. American foreign policy was focused on Europe and the Cold War. So little was understood of Asia’s potential that even so sophisticated a student of international affairs as John Foster Dulles could give the advice to Japanese leaders that since high-tech industrial and production methods were beyond their reach, Japan should focus its economic development on the less complex economic sectors. The Asia Society provided a unique and indispensable forum for Americans to broaden their understanding of Asia and to bring Asian leaders in all fields into increasing contacts with Americans and with each other. The significance of the Asia Society was demonstrated by the fact that President Bush selected it as the forum for a major speech prior to his trip to South Asia next week.

One of the basic themes of the Rockefeller family has been its appreciation for art, partly because of genuine personal interest but
also because of the role of art in liberating the human spirit. The role
of art in Rockefeller values and its link to personal values of restraint
and anonymity are reflected in a letter John D. Jr. wrote to his father
asking for a loan to purchase some Chinese ceramics in 1921:

"I have never squandered money on horses, yachts, automobiles
or other foolish extravagances. A fondness for these porcelains
is my only hobby – the only thing on which I have cared to
spend money... This hobby, while a costly one, is quiet and
unostentatious and not sensational."

The brothers followed the same course. David’s commitment
was the Museum of Modern Art, Nelson’s to the Museum of Primitive
Art, and John III’s to the Museum of the Asia Society.

From the first, John III focused many of the Society’s efforts on
the cultural field. Under his leadership, the Asia Society became a
center for important exhibitions of Asian art. In 1972, John III and his
wife, Blanchette, pledged their collections of Asian art masterpieces to
the museum of the Asia Society.

* Extemporaneous remarks about Jay Rockefeller inserted here.

The Rockefeller legacy has helped tie Asia and America
inextricably together and both with the rest of the world. That the
center of gravity of world affairs is shifting to Asia is a commonplace
by now. But it is too often interpreted as a call to Asia to implement
American strategic or domestic designs. America is indeed a
superpower, perhaps the only genuine superpower in the world. But,
paradoxically, the issues amenable to solution by power alone are
shrinking.

Asia is part of a global system. It is also the home of nations
proud of a long history and emerging nations striving to express their
identities. Asia repeats some rivalries similar to those of nineteenth-
century Europe and many of the achievements of the post-modern
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Winston Churchill once said: "There are periods in history where it is not enough to do one's best; sometimes we have to do what is required."

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"Do not look back. The future is ours to shape and to conquer. Do not be afraid or ashamed of your heritage; neither hoard it nor abuse it. It is not a burden but God's blessing conferring an opportunity to enhance freedom, to give hope to the oppressed and disadvantaged, and to walk in the paths of justice and compassion."

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There was one underlying theme to these benefactions, then and in the decades since, which I would sum up some years ago as follows:

"Do not look back. The future is ours to shape and to conquer. Do not be afraid or ashamed of your heritage; neither hoard it nor abuse it. It is not a burden but God's blessing conferring an opportunity to enhance freedom, to give hope to the oppressed and disadvantaged, and to walk in the paths of justice and compassion."
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Asia Society Speech

The Rockefeller family has contributed so much to the honor and greatness of our society that [a discussion of] its indispensable role in the foundation and evolution of the Asia Society must begin with a few remarks about its impact on our society as a whole.

Since the Rockefeller philanthropies started nearly a century ago, the world has been in upheaval. How to move a society from where it is to where it has never been, from a familiar present to an unknown future, is a challenge that political leaders cannot meet alone or perhaps even primarily. Political life imposes its own priorities, which emphasize the urgent at the expense of the important.

For over four generations now, the Rockefeller family has devoted itself to the task of raising our sights. When the Rockefeller
Foundation was formed in 1913, its goal was proclaimed as promoting "the well-being of mankind." But then, this vast aspiration had already been given substance in philanthropies amounting to half a billion dollars that had founded the University of Chicago, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now Rockefeller University), the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission, the General Education Board, and Spellman College in Atlanta. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Rockefeller philanthropy was that each generation contributed not only resources but participation and personal commitment.

There was one underlying theme to these benefactions, then and in the decades since. I summed it up in a eulogy to Nelson in some years ago:

Rockefeller's virtues:
- Do not look back. The future is over to shape and conquer.
- Do not look back. The future presents us with vast challenges.

Do not be afraid or ashamed of your strength; neither hoard it nor
To mention just a few, there's Canada's commitment to land conservation and mental health; Nelson Mandela's Green Booklet Project in South Africa; and the lessons in a view of the nation's future from the scores of luminaries we assembled to study the Processes of Democracy. But, David H. George's book, "The Integration of Europe and the United States," to relate democratic societies to each other in the Federal Conference founded in 1955 for dialogue with Europe and its Treadwell Commission to bring Japan and other Asian democracies into a global perspective of our future.

With the help of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Ford Foundation, with a tribute to the important role that the Ford Foundation and its sister foundations have played in promoting democracy and justice in the world, we are celebrating together.
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Rockefeller

In the generation I know best - the grandchildren of John D.

Rockefeller - each of the brothers had a special field of activity. All
took pride in the efforts of their siblings and frequently contributed
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resources to those efforts. It would take most of the evening to list all
before turning to the principal themes of the evening
of the projects, so I will mention just two: one originated by David

who honors us with his presence tonight. In 1954, he was one of the

founders of the Bilderberg group [that] brings together leaders from

Europe and America, which is still the gold standard for high-level

dialogue between Europe and America. Twenty years later, he created

the Trilateral Commission for high-level exchanges between America,

Europe and Asia, which was the first international

forum for the exchange of views not confined to Europe and

Japan. His work on the Trilateral Commission will be a part of the

history of the 20th century. This evening we have gathered

together this evening to celebrate the 50th anniversary of

the founding of the Trilateral Commission.
The organized effort for America to be worthy of its potential is
the real celebration of tonight's commemoration of the fiftieth
anniversary of the Asia Society's founding. Every great achievement
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their understanding of Asia and to bring Asian leaders in all fields into increasing contacts with Americans and with each other. The significance of the role of art in Rockefeller values and its link to personal values of restraint and anonymity are reflected in a letter John D. Jr. wrote to his father asking for a loan to purchase some Chinese ceramics in 1921:

"I have never squandered money on horses, yachts, automobiles or other foolish extravagances. A fondness for these porcelains is my only hobby – the only thing on which I have cared to spend money... This hobby, while a costly one, is quiet and unostentatious and not sensational."
Under John's leadership, the Asia Society became a center for important exhibitions of Asian art. In 1972, John D. Rockefeller III and his wife, Blanchette, pledged their collections of Asian art masterpieces to the museum of the Asia Society. The Asia Society thereby filled a fundamental need. That the center of gravity of world affairs is shifting to Asia is a commonplace by now. But it is too often interpreted as a call to Asia to implement American strategic or domestic designs. America is indeed a superpower, perhaps the only genuine superpower in the world. But, paradoxically, the issues amenable to solution by power alone are shrinking.

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There was one underlying theme to these benefactions, then and in the decades since, which was the proposition that great achievements were usually somebody's idea before they became a reality. It is the Rockefeller tradition to discover and to encourage these dreams, to treat the Rockefeller patrimony not as an opportunity to enhance freedom, [but] to give hope to the oppressed and disadvantaged, and to help their society walk in the paths of justice and compassion.

This commitment has been continued in every generation, and each generation contributed not only resources but participation and personal commitment.
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For nearly a century, the Rockefeller family has encouraged our society to do its best and inspired us toward what is required.

We are here to thank them for this. I know that they would each like to say a few words. So, first, would you please join me in welcoming David Rockefeller.
Asia Society Speech

How to move a society from where it is to where it has never been, from a familiar present to an unknown future, is a challenge that political leaders cannot meet alone or perhaps even primarily. Political life imposes its own priorities, which emphasize the urgent at the expense of the important.

For over four generations now, the Rockefeller family has devoted itself to the task of raising our sights to our possibilities. When the Rockefeller Foundation was formed in 1913, its goal was proclaimed as promoting “the well-being of mankind.” By then, this vast aspiration had already been given substance in philanthropies that had founded the University of Chicago, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now
Rockefeller University), the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission, the General Education Board, [and] Spellman College in Atlanta. This commitment has been continued in every generation since. One of their distinguishing characteristics was that each brother contributed not only resources but participation and personal commitment.

There was one underlying theme to these benefactions, then and in the decades since, which I would sum up some years ago as follows:

“Do not look back. The future is ours to shape and to conquer. Do not be afraid or ashamed of your heritage; neither hoard it nor abuse it. It is not a burden but God’s blessing conferring an opportunity to enhance freedom, to give hope to the oppressed and disadvantaged, and to walk in the paths of justice and compassion.”
In the Rockefeller generation I know best – the
grandchildren of John D. Rockefeller – each of the brothers had
a special field of activity. All took pride in the efforts of the
others and frequently contributed resources to those efforts
through the Rockefeller Brother Fund. It would take most of
the evening to list all of the projects. To mention just a few:
There is Laurence’s commitment to land conservation and
Memorial Hospital; Nelson’s Special Studies Project to list
America’s ablest thinkers in a view of the nation’s future; the
devotion of David, who has honored us here tonight with his
presence, to two projects to relate democratic societies to each
other: the Bilderberg Conference founded in 1954 for dialogue
with Europe and the Trilateral Commission to bring, first Japan,
and then other Asian countries into a global consideration of
our future.
We are here to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Asia Society, which is a tribute to the imagination and dedication of John III in the founding the Rockefeller Foundation.

Every great achievement was an idea before it became reality. The inspiration for the concept of the Asia Society came from John D. Rockefeller III. Building on the family commitment to Asia that had led to the founding of the Peking Union Medical College in 1921 and the rebuilding of the Imperial Library after the Tokyo earthquake, John D. Rockefeller traveled to Asia in 1929. He served on John Foster Dulles's mission to negotiate a Japanese peace treaty in 1951; in 1953, he founded the Population Council to address the demographic issues, especially of Asia, and the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs, later named the Agricultural Development Council, designed to foster the social aspect of
[agricultural development], culminating in the founding of this institution in 1976. Since then, the Asia Society has created centers in Houston and Washington and Asia Societies in the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Australia.

In retrospect, achievements tend to appear inevitable. But in 1956, John D. Rockefeller III’s original conception was path-breaking. America had no relations with mainland China; Japan was emerging from occupation; Vietnam was not yet a trauma [and] India was just establishing itself as a presence on the international scene. American foreign policy was focused on Europe and the Cold War. So little was understood of Asia’s potential that even so sophisticated a student of international affairs as John Foster Dulles could give the advice to Japanese leaders that since high-tech industrial and production methods were beyond their reach, Japan should
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and to bring Asian leaders in all fields into increasing contacts
with Americans and with each other. The significance of the
Asia Society was demonstrated by the fact that President Bush
selected it as the forum for a major speech prior to his trip to
Southeast Asia next week.

One of the basic themes of the Rockefeller family has
been its appreciation for art, partly because of genuine
personal interest but also because of the role of art in
liberating the human spirit. The brothers followed the same
course. David’s commitment was the Museum of Modern Art,
Nelson’s to the Museum of Primitive Art and John III’s to the
Museum of The Asia Society. The role of art in Rockefeller
values and its link to personal values of restraint and anonymity are reflected in a letter John D. Jr. wrote to his father asking for a loan to purchase some Chinese ceramics in 1921:

"I have never squandered money on horses, yachts, automobiles or other foolish extravagances. A fondness for these porcelains is my only hobby – the only thing on which I have cared to spend money... This hobby, while a costly one, is quiet and unostentatious and not sensational."

From the first, John III focused many of the society’s efforts on the cultural field. Under his leadership, the Asia Society became a center for important exhibitions of Asian art.

In 1972, John III and his wife, Blanchette, pledged their
collections of Asian art masterpieces to the museum of the Asia Society.

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The Rockefeller legacy has helped tie Asia and America inextricably together and both with the rest of the world. That the center of gravity of world affairs is shifting to Asia is a commonplace by now. But it is too often interpreted as a call to Asia to implement American strategic or domestic designs. America is indeed a superpower, perhaps the only genuine superpower in the world. But, paradoxically, the issues amenable to solution by power alone are shrinking.

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Asia Society Speech

The Rockefeller family has contributed so much to the honor and greatness of our society that its indispensable role in the foundation and evolution of the Asia Society must begin with a few remarks about its impact on our society as a whole.

Since the Rockefeller philanthropies started nearly a century ago, the world has been in upheaval. How to move a society from where it is to where it has never been, from a familiar present to an unknown future, is a challenge that political leaders cannot meet alone or perhaps even primarily. Political life imposes its own priorities, which emphasize the urgent at the expense of the important.

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**Rockefeller, as follows:**

"Do not look back. The future is ours to shape and improve."

Do not be afraid or ashamed of your strength; neither hoard it nor
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Rockefeller

In the generation I know best - the grandchildren of John D. Rockefeller - each of the brothers had a special field of activity. All took pride in the efforts of their siblings and frequently contributed resources to those efforts. It would take most of the evening to list all of the projects, so I will mention just two: one originated by David, who honors us with his presence tonight. In 1954, he was one of the founders of the Bilderberg group [that] brings together leaders from Europe and America, which is still the gold standard for high-level dialogue between Europe and America. Twenty years later, he created the Trilateral Commission for high-level exchanges between America, Europe and Asia, which was to foster international cooperation and understanding. The vision of John Rockefeller III was to connect the East and West, and this evening presents an opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this visionary effort.
To mention just a few: Their Candor's commitment to land conservation and pioneering Hospital; Nelson's special interest in projects to aid America's eldest thinkers in a view of the nation's future and to encourage the next generation of leaders.

To the memory of his late wife, and the special projects to relate democratic societies to each other, its Bulletin conference founded in 1954 for dialogue with Europe and its industrial economies to bring first Japan and then other Asian countries into a global consideration of our future.

We are here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ford Foundation, which in a decade of the unwrapped imagination and inspiration of dedication to founding the Rockefeller Foundation were the celebrating

In my capacity as a representative of the Ford Foundation, I am pleased to join you in this celebration.
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My brother followed the same course. For Daniel's commitment was to the Museum of Modern Art, Nelson to the Museum of American Art and Juliette to the Museum of Victoria Society.
Under John's leadership, the Asia Society became a center for important exhibitions of Asian art. In 1972, John D. Rockefeller III and his wife, Blanchette, pledged their collections of Asian art masterpieces to the museum of the Asia Society.

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[For] over four generations now, the Rockefeller family has
devoted itself to the task of raising our sights. When the Rockefeller
Foundation was formed in 1913, its goal was proclaimed as promoting “the well-being of mankind.” But then, this vast aspiration had already been given substance in philanthropies amounting to half a billion dollars that had founded the University of Chicago, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now Rockefeller University), the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission, the General Education Board, [and] Spellman College in Atlanta. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Rockefeller philanthropy was that each generation contributed not only resources but participation and personal commitment.

There was one underlying theme to these benefactions, then and in the decades since. I summed it up in a eulogy to Nelson Rockefeller as follows:

"Do not look back. The future presents us with vast challenges. Do not be afraid or ashamed of your strength; neither hoard it nor
abuse it. It is not a burden but God’s blessing conferring an
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In the generation I know best – the grandchildren of John D.
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The organized effort for America to be worthy of its potential is the real celebration of tonight’s [commemoration of] the fiftieth anniversary of the Asia Society’s founding. Every great achievement was an idea before it became reality. The inspiration for the concept of the Asia Society came from John D. Rockefeller III. Following the family commitment to Asia that had led to the founding of the Peking Union Medical College in 1921 and the rebuilding of the Imperial Library after the Tokyo earthquake, John D. Rockefeller traveled to Asia in 1929. [He] served on John Foster Dulles’s mission to negotiate a Japanese peace treaty in 1951; in 1953, he founded the Population Council to address the demographic issues, especially of Asia, and the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs, later named the Agricultural Development Council, designed to foster the social aspect of [agricultural development], culminating in the founding of this institution. Since then, the Asia Society has created centers in
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One of the basic themes of the Rockefeller family has been its appreciation for art, partly because of genuine personal interest but also because of a devotion to liberating the human spirit. Therefore, from the first, John III focused many of the society’s efforts on the cultural field. The role of art in Rockefeller values and its link to personal values of restraint and anonymity are reflected in a letter John D. Jr. wrote to his father asking for a loan to purchase some Chinese ceramics in 1921:

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There was one underlying theme to these Rockefeller’s benefactions, then, in the decades since as follows: I summed it up in a eulogy to Nelson Rockefeller as follows:

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When the Rockefeller Foundation was formed in 1913, its goal was proclaimed as promoting “the well-being of mankind.” But then, this vast aspiration had already been given substance in philanthropies amounting to half a billion dollars that had founded the University of Chicago, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now Rockefeller University), the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission, the General Education Board, [and] Spellman College in Atlanta. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Rockefeller philanthropy was
that each generation contributed not only resources but participation
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In the generation I know best – the grandchildren of John D.
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At this moment when the growing role of Asia is a commonplace, all this may seem inevitable. But in 1954, John D. Rockefeller III's original conception was path-breaking. America had no relations with Mainland China; Japan was emerging from occupation; so little was understood of Asia's potential that even so sophisticated a student of international affairs as John Foster Dulles could give the advice to Japanese leaders that since high-tech industrial and production methods were beyond their reach, Japan should focus its economic development on the less complex economic sectors. Vietnam was not yet a trauma, and Indonesia had just begun its national role. American foreign policy was focused on Europe and the Cold War. The Asia Society provided a unique and indispensable forum for Americans to broaden their understanding of Asia and to bring Asian leaders in all fields into increasing contacts with Americans and with each other.

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Asia Society Speech

It is a great privilege to be asked to make a few remarks about the Rockefeller legacy. The Rockefeller family has contributed to the honor and greatness of our society. I have had the privilege of working with the Brothers in ways that shaped the direction and the purpose of my life.

This is why I will begin by extending my remarks beyond the celebration that has assembled us here and comment briefly on what the Rockefeller family has meant for American society and not only for the Asia Society as a whole.

The deepest challenge for any society is to move from where it started nearly a century ago, over the world has been to where it [has] never been. The stability of a country depends on the competence to deal with the urgent problems presented by day to
It is to these aspects that we must turn to understand the present and day existence. But the greatness of a society reflects its vision of the future. A great society links an understanding of where it is with the faith in a future it is determined to reach.

This is not a task that political leaders can carry out alone or perhaps even primarily. Political life imposes its own priorities driven by gaining and holding office. Many of our most pressing issues are beyond the realm of power. Fortunate is the society which produces leaders with imagination and courage to navigate the often lonely journey from reality to possibility.

Over four generations
For nearly a century, the Rockefeller family has devoted itself to this task. They have treated their heritage as an obligation to encourage the best of which America was capable and to foster America’s relationship with the rest of the world. The charter of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1913 stated the goal as promoting “the well-being of mankind around the world.”
Now in a eulogy to Helen Rockefeller, I summed up what I took to be the Rockefeller message as follows: "The fortune presents us with vast challenges. Do not be afraid or ashamed of your strength; use it. Love it, use it, abuse it. It is not a burden but God's blessing, conferring on opportunity and enabled freedom, to give hope to the underprivileged and to walk boldly in the paths of justice and compassion."

When the Rockefeller Foundation was formed in 1913, its goal was proclaimed as promoting "the well-being of mankind." By then, this vast aspiration had already been given substance in philanthropies of food, to half a billion dollars that had founded.
By then, of course, the founding Rockefeller, John D. Rockefeller,
had already given away nearly half a billion dollars. He had founded
the University of Chicago, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical
Research (now Rockefeller University), the Rockefeller Sanitary
Commission, the General Education Board, [and] Spellman College in
Atlanta. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Rockefeller
philanthropy was that each generation contributed not only resources
but efforts, participation, and personal commitment.

In the generation of the Brothers best — the grandchildren
of John D. Rockefeller. Each of the Brothers had a special field of
activity, but all took pride in the efforts of their siblings and frequently
contributed resources to those efforts. Thus David devoted himself
most of his evening to a list of all the questions to political dialogue. I met him when, as a promising young man, he
protests as I would mention first time these questions sponsored a study at the Council on Foreign Relations to study means
by which schools teach us with his presence to increases of avoiding the cataclysm inherent in the use of nuclear weapons.
Then this was a problem of managing a two-power world; today we face the evolution of this nightmare through proliferation in a multi-nuclear world. A little later he was one of the founders of the Bilderberg group which, fifty years later, is still the gold standard for high-level dialogue between Europe and America. Twenty years later, he created the Trilateral Commission for exchanges between America, Europe and Asia.

Nelson focused on developing a vision for America’s future by creating the so-called Special Studies Project that brought together the best talent in America for an examination of the country’s long-term responsibilities and opportunities. Meeting with a group of academics in a forerunner enterprise, Nelson defined the challenge as follows:

“Don’t spend your effort on tactics that I hear all day long. You are here to tell me what is right, and if I cannot convince the administration, I will do it from the outside.”
What is right? That query and the commitment to its resolution are the defining contribution of the Rockefeller family to our society.

The question and the organized effort to answer it provide a framework for what brings us together in celebration tonight: the fiftieth anniversary of the Asia Society's founding. The inspiration for the concept of the Asia Society was John D. Rockefeller III. Following the family commitment to Asia that had led to the founding of the Peking Union Medical College in 1921 and the rebuilding of the Imperial Library after the Tokyo earthquake, he had traveled to Asia in 1929, served on John Foster Dulles's mission to negotiate a Japanese peace treaty in 1951; he had founded the Population Council in 1953 to address the demographic issues, especially of Asia, and the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs, later named the Agricultural Development Council, designed to foster the social aspect of
agricultural development; the biological aspect of agricultural development was supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.

In 1956, John D. Rockefeller III founded the Asia Society; in the founding of this institution, 1972, he convened the first Williamsburg Conference to provide a forum for the discussions relating to Asia. Over the decades the Asia Society has created centers in Houston and Washington and Asia Societies in the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Australia.

The landmarks familiar to everybody in this room, at a moment when the growing importance of Asia is a commonplace, must be seen in the context of John D. Rockefeller III's original conception. In 1954 America had no relations with China; Japan was emerging from occupation, and John Foster Dulles gave the benign advice to Japanese leaders that since high-tech industrial and production methods were beyond their reach, Japan should focus its economic development on the less complex economic sectors. Vietnam was not yet a trauma
and just shedding French colonial rule. Indonesia had just begun its national role. American foreign policy was focused on Europe and the Cold War. The Asia Society provided a forum for Americans to broaden their understanding of Asia and to bring Asian leaders in all fields into increasing contacts with Americans and with each other.

One of the basic tenets of the Rockefeller family has been its appreciation for and hearty belief in individual interest and also because of its devotion to education and the arts. From the first it focused many of its efforts on the cultural field. The devotion to act and the appreciation of it was always a Rockefeller characteristic and pursued with typical Rockefeller discretion. This is reflected in a letter John Jr. wrote to his father asking for a loan to purchase some Chinese ceramics:

"I have never squandered money on horses, yachts, automobiles or other foolish extravagances. A fondness for these porcelains is my only hobby – the only thing on which I have cared to spend money. I have found their study a great recreation and..."
diversion and I have become very fond of them. This hobby, while a costly one, is quiet and unostentatious and not sensational."

Under John's leadership, John III saw to it that the Asia Society became a center for important exhibitions of Asian art. As always, the Rockefellers led the way when, in 1972, John D. Rockefeller III and his wife, Blanchette, pledged their collections of Asian art masterpieces to the Asia Society.

The Asia Society clearly fills a fundamental need. The symbolism of this gesture is of profound relevance to our time. That the center of gravity of world affairs is shifting to Asia is a commonplace by now. But it is too often interpreted as a call to Asia to relate itself to American designs. America is, a superpower, perhaps the only genuine superpower in the world. But, paradoxically, the issues amenable to solution by power alone are shrinking.
Asia is part of a global system. But it is also the home of some nations proud of a long history and emerging nations striving to express their identities. [They reflect some of the national rivalries of nineteenth-century Europe and some of the achievements of the post-modern world. The historic task is to contribute to a world order embracing all continents which other nations join, not because they must, but because they want to. The great cultures of Asia must come to consider America as a partner in a common destiny based on mutual respect for each others' customs and understanding of each others' aspirations. The Asia Society has made a great contribution to this task and will become even more pivotal in the decades ahead.

Winston Churchill once said: "There are periods in history where it is not enough to say that one has done one's best. It is crucial to do what is necessary."
For nearly a century, the Rockefeller family has encouraged our society to do it best and to point it to the necessary.

We are here to thank them for this.