50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER COMMITTEE

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The Honorable Roy M. Huffington  The Honorable John C. Whitehead

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Acadian  Clare Tweedy McMorris and
Condé Nast Publications  Howard McMorris III
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
List In Formation

50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER STEERING COMMITTEE
Co-Chairs
Gina Chu • Lisina Hoch • Charles Rockefeller
Payal Chaudhri • Emily Chen Carrera • Bal Das • Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel
T. Richard Fishbein • Anla Cheng Kingdon • Vana Lavidas • Yoko Makino • Tara Menezes
Sheila Nemazee • Harold J. Newman • Kathleen Sloane • Washington SyCip
Karen Talwar • Marie-Hélène Weill • Laurence F. Whittemore

Friends of Asia Society
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The Wall Street Journal
The 50th Anniversary Dinner Chaired by
Richard C. Holbrooke, Chairman of the Board
Vishakha N. Desai, President
and the Trustees of Asia Society
request the honor of your presence at the

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

*Invited
The 50th Anniversary Dinner Chair
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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
___ BENEFACCTOR 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 $ ______

O Check enclosed, payable to Asia Society  O 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

BENEFACTO $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
725 Park Avenue
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   Escort to Ballroom and seated for appetizer

7:40PM   Escort to Stage Entrance

7:45PM   Program – Part I
         Welcome
         Video
         Remarks

STAGE MANAGER TO CUE HK
REMARKS
HK EXITS STAGE ENTRANCE
Remarks
Presentation to DR
Remarks
Present. to Sen. Rockefeller
Introduction
Performance

Vishakha Desai, President
President Bush
Richard Holbrooke, Chairman
Henry Kissinger
David Rockefeller
Hushang Ansary
Senator Rockefeller
Charles Rockefeller
Vishakha Desai
Ahn Trio

As of 2/21/06
BLACK TIE or ASIAN
NATIONAL DRESS
NMK also attending
8:30PM  Part I concludes
(Main course & dessert served)
9:30PM  Program Part II
9:50PM  Part II concludes
10:00PM Guests depart
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.
As prepared for delivery

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 world. The historic task is to contribute to a world order in which the great cultures of Asia 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 seminal contribution to this task and will become even more pivotal in the decades ahead.
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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
Remarks                  David Rockefeller
Presentation to DR       Hushang Ansary
Remarks                  Senator Rockefeller
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Introduction          Charles Rockefeller
Performance              Vishakha Desai
                        Ahn Trio
8:30PM  Part I concludes  
       (Main course & dessert served)
9:30PM  Program Part II
9:50PM  Part II concludes
10:00PM Guests depart
Asia Society Speech

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ROLE OF JAY TO BE INSERTED

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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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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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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: *"Do not look back. The future is over due & plays no part. Luster Do not be afraid or ashamed of your strength; neither hoard it nor..."*
To mention just a few, there is Canada's commitment to land conservation and the Hospital; Nelson's Gunflint Studies Project to study America's first thinkers in a view of its nation's future. We defend the question of the processes of Christianity itself; David E. Newton to the question of the United States and the American project to relate democratic societies to each other in the Bullock conference founded in 1985 for dialogue with Europe and its traditional communities to bring Jewish thinkers and other climate countries into a global consideration of our future. Finally, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Ford Foundation which is a tribute to the imagination and dedication in founding the Rockefeller Foundation. We are celebrating courage.
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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.

This was the first international
summit for the exchange of conversations with leaders from
Japan. Other members John Rockefeller
had the lead in the effort during us
together this evening. This is the celebration
of a long and involved tradition in the celebration
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NEW MATERIAL

How to make a society where it is to wear the free

revolution came from a similar process to an unknown science to a

development, not only in Europe, but also in other parts of the world,

even with many, if not all, of its major economic and social changes.

In the case of development, the role of the president is to

revolutionize. When the President's Foundation was given to

1974, the idea was to transfer the power of the president of the

managing. By this new association and other research

institutes in Philadelphia to the field of education to raise the

Cameroon put into action. This was for national and

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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

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We are here to thank them for this. I know that they
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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
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 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.

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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 that 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 join international talks for the development of conversations right up to the time of the end of the Cold War.]

Japan. Throughout John Rockefeller's life, the two countries, together this evening, he was the last meeting of a long, honorable tradition in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the genealogy of the twin societies.
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to the memory of Sir William, David's idea
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society to do its best and to point it to what is required.

We are here to thank them for this.
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.

Since the Rockefeller philanthropists started nearly a century ago, some of 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 those values that statesmen have always turned to the spiritual present to an everyday existence. But the greatness of a society reflects its vision of the unknown 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 the need to secure and expand the power of the compelling 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, now, 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."
In a eulogy to Helen Rockefeller, I summarized what I took to be the Rockefeller message as follows: “The fortune presents us with hard challenges. Do not be afraid or ashamed of your strength, with the hand it was given you. It is not a burden but God’s blessing, conferring an opportunity to embrace freedom, to give scope to the disadvantaged, and to walk happily in the paths of justice and compassion.”

When the Rockefeller Foundation was founded in 1913, its goal was proclaimed as promoting “the well-being of mankind.” By then, this vast aspiration goal had already been given substance in philanthropies of love to half a billion dollars that had funded 5 p. 3.
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 and night of all the activities to political dialogue. I met him when, as a promising young man, he proffered to [I will mention just two or three] sponsored a study at the Council on Foreign Relations to study means 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.

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 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.