

Dodona Dispatch



Official Newsletter of



THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Celebrating 75 Years of the Marshall Plan

Marshall's Enduring Lesson Still Matters

The grainy black-and-white images still grab our attention: European cities in ruin... endless streams of refugees fleeing the rubble to find comfort far from home... the weary expressions of those who remain to face the aftermath.

As World War II came to a close, the United States faced a challenging set of decisions regarding whether and how to remain engaged in the world, especially war-torn Europe. History records that a group of leaders in key roles – including President Harry Truman, Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Dean Acheson and our namesake George C. Marshall – rose to the occasion.

Resisting the historic pull to withdraw from the world, these American leaders took risks and led a nation and much of the world to a better place. They stepped up and developed a post-war framework (including the Marshall Plan) that secured democracy, restored economies and pushed back against the aggression of autocrats.

Fast-forward to 2022 and, quite unexpectedly, similar images are now streaming in full color and high



definition over multiple channels every minute of every day. Once again, war rages in the heart of Europe. Just as the Marshall Center prepares to mark 75 years since Secretary of State Marshall's seminal speech at Harvard in 1947, the need for selfless service, unwavering integrity and visionary leadership is once again apparent to all.

The Marshall legacy still offers a core lesson for leaders today. While

the Marshall Center does not weigh in on policy prescriptions or issues of the day, we do stand proudly for the one asset our nation and world need dearly: principled leadership, as Marshall embodied.

As we continue our celebration this year, its meaning is coming into sharper focus. With each passing day we see clearly that, while George Marshall was a great man of *his* time, his example is exactly what *our* time requires. ★



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CLOSING the distance



In many ways, Marshall remains a remote figure to me. Incidentally, we share the same birthday, but my life began decades after his ended. He devoted 50 of his 78 years to military and public service. I've put 2 of my 24 years into classroom and museum education. Both circumstantially and vocationally, Marshall and I stand miles apart.

Despite the fixed historical interval between Marshall and myself, however, I've had the distinct privilege to cross paths with him through my work at the Marshall Center. Developing educational materials for this organization has involved more than just researching, writing and delivering historical content.

It's involved hours of steady reflection on the character of a humble, conscientious and resolute man who bore up under tremendous pressure, carried out critical decisions and stayed the course in every responsibility he undertook. As a result, Marshall has been not only the subject of my work here, but also an inspiration to approach all my work with that same humility, conscientiousness and resolve.

My time at the Marshall Center is drawing to a close. After two wonderfully challenging and rewarding years here, I'll be transitioning to the University of St. Andrews in Scotland for a year-long postgraduate study in history. As I stand at the crossroads of two remarkable opportunities, I can't help but look back on my time here with a profound sense of gratitude.

I'm especially thankful to have had a part in the formative stages of the Ethical Leadership Program. I hope that the students and young professionals who participate in this program will come away with one of the most timely and practical lessons I've learned from Marshall: "When one is young, there is great impatience with the slow development of a career, but it is a long race and the more firm the foundation of the 20's, the more certainty of success after 50."

To the staff, volunteers and board members of the Marshall Center: thank you for helping me lay that foundation. Godspeed on all your work here. To Marshall himself: thank you for everything. I hope you like Scotland, because I'm taking you with me there and anywhere else I go.

Elizabeth Shannon
Education Lead

Editor's Note: During her time with us, Elizabeth Shannon has worked tirelessly to develop fresh and engaging museum-quality material to honor General and Mrs. Marshall. Her total commitment to the development and nurturing of our Ethical Leadership Program has inspired all of us to deliver more for the benefit of future leaders who will learn to lead the Marshall way. We wish her all the best in her studies and future endeavors!

Join Us on June 5

Historian to Address 75th Anniversary of Marshall Plan's birth

A keynote speaker has been announced for the official celebration of the 75th anniversary of Secretary of State George Marshall's address at Harvard University making the case for what would become the Marshall Plan.

Dr. David Hein will discuss the Marshall Plan during our June 5 celebration at Dodona Manor, including its origins, the need for it, passage and consequences by illuminating seven crucial scenes. These scenes start with Marshall's roots in Uniontown, PA, circa 1888, stop in France in 1918 and Moscow in 1947, and conclude in Washington, DC, in 2022.

Attendees can expect to learn about Marshall's moral and spiritual formation, his ethical leadership, his grand strategy and his continuing influence.

Dr. Hein offered Dispatch a few

thoughts in advance:

We speak of Marshall as a man of honor, but exactly what did 'honor'



mean in his life and career? We will also look at what roles realism and idealism played in his thinking and whether he is best described as a "liberal internationalist."

We will observe, too, the significance of his interactions with other leaders, including George Washington, Joseph Stalin, and Franklin Roosevelt. We shall consider the fact that the legislation for the European Recovery Program was passed by a Republican Congress. Was the Marshall Plan a socialistic scheme, a laissez-faire plot or what?

Finally, what would Marshall say to us today? How would he view, in particular, the European Union and American defense capabilities?

About Our Speaker

David Hein is a senior fellow at the George C. Marshall Foundation, in Lexington, VA, as well as a former boarding school master in Virginia and college professor in Maryland. He has published more than 70 articles in professional journals. ★

Remembering Former Board Member Bill Stokes

It is with great sadness that the Marshall Center reports that William "Bill" Stokes, a long-time supporter and two-time member of the Board of Directors, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. He was 57.

"We all have heavy hearts remembering our friend," said Steve Chapin, Chairman of the Marshall Center Board of Directors. "Bill was a strong leader who epitomized the values of George C. Marshall and all that the Marshall Center represents. Beyond his leadership example, he was a good friend to many and a wise voice on key issues both at Dodona Manor and in the business world. We will dearly miss him."

Bill served on the Marshall Center Board from 2014-2016 and 2019-2021. He served on the Executive Committee and, during both terms, chaired the development committee. He



was key to extending the reach of the Marshall Center into local communities. Bill helped introduce LMI CEO Doug Wagoner to the organization, which led to foundational support for Five-Star

Character: The George C. Marshall Ethical Leadership Conference. For his service to the Marshall Center, Bill was inducted into the Marshall Legacy Trust in November 2021.

He facilitated numerous important introductions in Middleburg and with German-American organizations that led to the creation of the German Friends of the Marshall Center. Bill served on the board of directors of the German-American Business Association and was director of the Manfred-Woerner-Seminar for German-American understanding.

Bill was a graduate of The Hill School in Middleburg, Phillips Exeter Academy (New Hampshire) and the College of William & Mary. He enjoyed a long and successful career in business consulting, and he was the founder and chairman of the successful Washington Network Group. ★

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Update on Marshall Center Ethical Leadership Conference

Last August, we successfully launched Five-Star Character: The George C. Marshall Ethical Leadership Conference for high school juniors and seniors from Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland. This February, we held the second edition of this conference and are proud to report that it was another engaging and inspiring session.

On Friday February 25, we welcomed 20 students and their families to the grounds of Dodona Manor for a house tour, dinner and speaker program. The next morning, these students joined us at a sparkling facility operated by QTS, our generous sponsor and host, to embark on an immersive, scenario-based program about Marshall's approach to leadership. Instructors guided them through episodes of Marshall's life, unfolding them in such a way that enabled students to work through the questions, challenges and uncertainties Marshall and other historical leaders faced.

After breaking into small groups to discuss these challenges in more depth, students reconvened to hear how the scenario ended in real life before considering how its lessons might apply to their own lives. We concluded the morning sessions by introducing the three pillars that guide our own work at the Marshall Center: selfless service, visionary leadership and unwavering integrity. As the day unfolded, students referenced these pillars as points as they began considering their own framework for ethical leadership.

A new and well-received addition to this conference was a panel featuring experienced leaders from a variety of industries. The forum brought perspectives from different walks of life and lessons in leadership from the public and

private sectors. Panelists shared personal examples from their lives and careers that have shaped their perspectives on leadership over time. After the discussion, our wonderful panelists fielded questions from students about developing habits of good leadership as young leaders themselves.

The Marshall Center team has designed this conference to bring the relevance of Marshall's approach to ethical leadership into sharp relief through engaging and thought-provoking discussion. One student recently told us that the active student participation of this conference set it apart from others. "The student-led discussions were the driving force," she said, "which made

the conference a more enriching experience."

For another student, working through historical scenarios presented during the sessions helped her connect Marshall's example from the past with her own life in the present: "I was able to explore and determine my personal leadership style." ★



STUDENT VOICES

"I believe that everyone—regardless of career choice, background and opinions—can take something important away from this discussion."

"The Ethical Leadership Conference was unlike any other leadership program experience I've had."

"...rarely will you ever get a conference that is [this] immersive and student-driven."

"You will go into this conference with a certain framework, and [come out] with a richer or completely different one."

"I was able to apply the lesson I learn about Marshall's visionary and action-oriented leadership, which increased my confidence and impact as a leader."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
These programs are free to the students thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and donors.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
We greatly appreciate QTS's sponsorship for our event in February and LMI's sponsorship of our events in 2021 and May 2022. If you're interested in supporting an upcoming Ethical Leadership Program or know someone who is, please email sponsorship@georgemmarshall.org.

Marshall Center Honors Colonel Greg Gadson with **FIRST ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The George C. Marshall Award in Ethical Leadership was presented to Colonel Greg Gadson (U.S. Army, Retired) at the Center's annual gala on April 29, 2022. The event gathered 120 supporters in a packed ballroom at the Army Navy Country Club to celebrate the work of the Marshall Center and raise funds for its efforts to preserve the legacy of its namesake.

"I am honored to receive this award in the name of George Marshall, and I salute you for your work to shape the leaders of tomorrow," Gadson said in his remarks. "We are in a leadership deficit in this nation and this world, and nothing could be more important than what you are doing to address that gap."

The award was presented by Chairman of the Board Steve Chapin. The inscription reads, "The George C. Marshall Award in Ethical Leadership is presented to one recipient each year who embodies the principles of selfless service, unwavering integrity and visionary leadership that characterized the life and example of its namesake."

A West Point graduate and 25-year career Army officer, Colonel Gadson's life is a portrait of courage in the face of adversity. In May 2007, as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, Gadson's greatest challenge came in Iraq, where an improvised explosive device (IED) attack cost him both legs above the knees and normal use of his right arm and hand.

Despite this, Gadson remained on active duty and continued to inspire many with his message of courage, perseverance, determination and teamwork. Refusing to be defined by the proverbial "hail of bullets," he has since drawn upon the lessons of pride, poise and team, learned as an Army linebacker, and applied them to his



life, career and family.

The proceeds from the Marshall Center's annual gala will be used to support a range of the organization's activities, including its growing ethical leadership training program. **Five-Star Character: The George C. Marshall Ethical Leadership Conference** was created to inspire and develop leaders among high school juniors and seniors.

Many thanks to our sponsors who made the evening so special: Jars Residential Properties, LMI, LTG Susan Lawrence, Randy Minchew, Tom Greenspon, Les & Michelle Janka, AFCEA, Cognitio, The Fratelli Group, Maryse Wyser Pratte, Citrus & Pine Design, Purely Picnics, River's Edge, You've Got Maids, Cucinamore, James Madison University and October 1 Vineyards. ★

★ *Going* **PRO** ★

Ethical Leadership Program Expanding to Include Young Professionals

The Marshall Center's ethical leadership training program has added a new offering: sessions for small groups of early-career, professional leaders.

Leveraging the leadership pillars used in the **Five-Star Character** program for high school students, the new seminar series gathers groups of professionals together to discuss ethical leadership and how participants might apply it in their work lives today and into the future.

"This is a natural evolution for our leadership program," reflects Pete Janhunen, Director of the Marshall Center program. "Selfless service, unwavering

integrity and visionary leadership can deliver tremendous value to organizations that embrace them, and we are excited to work with companies and organizations that share our commitment."

The sessions begin with a tour of the house and introduction to the life and times of George Marshall, followed by a discussion of the three pillars and small group work to put them into immediate action.

Companies or organizations interested in learning more about the Marshall Center's professional training program can email us at elc@georgecmarshall.org. ★

CONTINUING THE WORK of B. Powell Harrison

In honor of a recent generous donation from the children of B. Powell Harrison, the visionary Leesburg businessman who led the effort to rescue and restore the Marshalls' beloved Dodona Manor home, we are pleased to remind all our readers of the enduring influence of this special man.

B. Powell Harrison spent the last two decades of his life working to save and restore Dodona Manor. Raising the funds to save Dodona from developers was a goal that turned out to be much more difficult than he envisioned, but he never gave up. Despite setbacks and difficulties, Mr. Harrison and a local committee of dedicated volunteers formed the George C. Marshall Home Preservation Fund (now known as the George C. Marshall International Center) in 1988 to secure the property.

Their heroic efforts resulted in the purchase of the property in 1995 and eventually the 2005 grand re-opening of the restored Dodona Manor and gardens. Under Harrison's skillful leadership, more than 15 years of effort, including the support of more than 1,500 individuals, 130 businesses, 25 foundations, seven U.S. and 15 foreign government entities, seven garden clubs, 10 German Rotary Clubs, 10 U.S. veterans organizations and 25 other organizations, \$9.5 million was raised to purchase and restore the Marshalls' home.

We are honored to be entrusted with the legacy of continuing the work B. Powell Harrison started, and we extend our profound thanks to his children B. Powell Harrison, III, Ravenel Harrison Rhoads, Lalla Harrison Saleeby and Catherine "Cackie" Harrison Kelly for their gift. ★



Join us! A Friendly Membership Appeal

As you can see from this issue, our volunteers, staff and Aboard members are actively engaged in preserving and promoting Marshall's legacy with a variety of projects, programs and events throughout the year. We're proud of what we accomplished in 2021 and excited to continue the work in 2022.

None of this work would be possible, however, without the commitment of our members. As we engage in a year of projects and programs commemorating the 75th anniversary of Marshall's leadership that led to the Marshall Plan, we ask you to consider renewing your membership and inviting others to join our mission as well. We believe that the coming months present us with unique opportunities to share Marshall's story and inspire others to follow his example today and in the future. For more details, visit: georgecmarshall.org/membership ★

Board Member PROFILE

J. Randall Minchew, known to all as “Randy,” has lived and worked in Leesburg for more than 25 years. His service to the community has ranged from founding membership on the Loudoun County Economic Development Task Force to three terms in the Virginia House of Delegates. As a practicing land use and local government law attorney, he is well acquainted with the challenges of historic homes and brings unique expertise to the Marshall Center board.

Why did you choose to join the Marshall Center Board?

As a resident and business owner in downtown Leesburg, I have supported the George C. Marshall International Center since its inception and acquisition of Dodona Manor. I chose to join the Marshall Center Board to provide a heightened level of support and leadership to its great causes. Also, both of my parents – members of the “Greatest Generation” – had the opportunity to know General Marshall, my mother as a staff assistant in the Pentagon and my father as United States Army Air Corps pilot. As a result, I have always felt a familial connection to the General.

Do you think Marshall’s legacy is still relevant today?

Absolutely. I have always held General Marshall as being the most under-appreciated American of the 20th Century, and his leadership, exemplary citizenship and service-above-self character attributes remain a beacon for all Americans. As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan, it is an appropriate time for us to acknowledge Marshall’s selfless service and unwavering integrity and the relevance of those two profound character traits today. ★



Docent PROFILE



Michelle Thrush

Tell us a little about your background.

I am originally from western New York. I earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree at the University of California at Los Angeles and then pursued a career in gerontology and hospice care in Southern California and Northern Virginia.

What attracted you to becoming a docent at Dodona?

Shortly after moving to Virginia in 2000, I saw an article in the Leesburg paper about the restoration of the home of General George C. Marshall. Both my father and mother served in the Army during WW II. After a little cajoling, my father shared with me all he could remember about General Marshall. A couple of years later I saw another notice that Dodona Manor was looking for volunteer docents. I attended a training session conducted by our Marshall Historian Rachel Thompson. Like the good history teacher she is, Rachel had me completely hooked on General Marshall and his role in world history.

What is your favorite part of being a docent?

The most gratifying thing about being a Dodona Manor docent is the opportunity to keep learning. It never stops, including book recommendations by other docents, guests who share their knowledge and personal stories, book forums, lectures and more. ★



THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL
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75th COMMEMORATION

June 5, 2022
Commemoration of Marshall's speech at Harvard University expressing the urgent need to help Europe get back on its feet after the devastation of war.



4th of JULY

July 4, 2022
A community-focused, patriotic salute to our nation with speakers and ice cream.



VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2022
Cohosted by The George C. Marshall International Center (GCMIC), the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County.



MARSHALL PLAN TREE WALK

December 2022
Outdoor event featuring 17 trees decorated to represent each country that participated in the Marshall Plan.

These sponsorships offer the chance to support the work and events of the George C. Marshall International Center all year long. Please email us at sponsorship@georgecmarshall.org with any questions or to express interest.