



Safe Passage Board of Directors Profiles – January 6, 2021



Carolyn Johnson, President - Yarmouth, ME

Carolyn has been a member of the Rotary Club of Yarmouth, Maine, and a Rotarian since 2001. She served as Governor for D7780 (Western Maine/ Coastal New Hampshire) in 2013-14.

Professionally, Carolyn is an educator with more than 30 years experience. She taught and was a principal at the elementary school level. She was selected as a Distinguished Educator by the Maine Department of Education to assist schools in developing Student Support Teams and anti-bullying programs. In 2006, she volunteered with the Guatemala Literacy Project, an effort that quickly evolved into her developing a program to improve the quality of literacy instruction for indigenous children in Guatemala. Carolyn is the founder of the Culture of Reading Program (CORP), providing training and support in effective literacy instruction for rural schools in Guatemala. Beginning in one school in 2008, CORP now serves more than 15,000 children in 80 primary schools.

Carolyn is a member of the Rotary Club of Yarmouth and served as District Governor of clubs in western ME and coastal NH. She is active as a facilitator with Rotary International, working with local clubs and districts. She is a frequent motivational speaker at regional and international events. Carolyn is Vice-chair of the Literacy Rotary Action Group, an advisor to the Rotary Foundation's Water, Sanitation & Hygiene In Schools programs, and serves as a consultant and project reviewer for major Rotary Foundation education & literacy grants. Carolyn was awarded the Service Above Self Award, Rotary's highest award recognizing Rotarians who demonstrate their commitment to others through volunteering their time and talents.

Carolyn has been involved with a number of community organizations, including Yarmouth Senior Housing, which provides safe, affordable housing options for older citizens. She is on the board of Learning Works, which offers education opportunities for at-risk youth, immigrants, and low-income families.

Carolyn and her husband, PDG Peter Johnson, live in Yarmouth, Maine. Their son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren live in Michigan - much too far away from Maine!



Jessica Britt, Co-Vice President - Cambridge, MA

Jessica started her career at Safe Passage as a long-term volunteer nearly a decade ago after graduating from Bowdoin College. While at Safe Passage, she managed the Guatemala-based development team stewarding Support Teams, sponsors, international visitors, and local donors. For three subsequent years, Jess worked as project manager for USAID-funded Democracy and Governance programs throughout Latin America. She also holds a Graduate Certificate in Program Monitoring and Evaluation from American University. Since 2015 Jess has been on the National Research & Evaluation team at Year Up (www.yearup.org) a workforce development organization in 17 US states. In her work at Year Up she focuses on program performance management, staff data capacity building, internal research studies, and externally-funded

program evaluations.



Ines Saravia de Stahl, Co-Vice President - Guatemala

After graduating with a B.S in Biochemistry with a specialization in Genetic manipulation, Ines started out in Business and Science where she founded a food company that she later sold in 2009. Soon after she worked on innovating through science using her background to create the backbone of genetic development for Comeragua in the agricultural industry. After having a family and taking some years to raise three girls, she started collaborating in Colegio Americano de Guatemala (CAG) as a volunteer. In 2014 she became President of the CAG's Parent Teacher Assoc and founded the formal incorporation of the "Asociación Civil de Padres y Maestros del Colegio Americano de Guatemala." In 2018, she was hired as CAG's Development Officer where her focus has been Fundraising, Alumni, and corporate affairs. Here she found her true calling and love for non profit organizations creating strategic relationships with companies to support the programs all while developing a sense of community and identity. She thrives on creating momentum for the causes that she believes in, bringing people together with candor and care. Most recently she founded GuateDon, a Crisis support organization, which delivers food to over +200 families in need. She is also the founder and creator of www.ascendingmind.org which is a platform that gives advice and inspiration to Guatemalas for free while raising funds for different NGOs.



Rebecca Evarts, Secretary - Yarmouth, ME & Barcelona, Spain

After graduating from Harvard in 1974, Rebecca worked as an editor in New York publishing houses. She moved to Barcelona in 1985 with her husband and first child, where they lived for the next seven years. Rebecca has worked as a freelance writer, and in 2002, received an MFA degree from Bennington College. She now lives in Yarmouth, Maine, and spends half the year in Barcelona.

Rebecca's involvement with Safe Passage began in 2006 when she first went to Guatemala as a Spanish interpreter for a group of Maine surgeons and it occurred to her to write an article about Hanley Denning for a Maine publication. During that trip, Rebecca spent a day with Hanley at the Project and came away both amazed by her and by what she was doing. After the tragedy, Rebecca became the sponsor of a two-year-old child, Linda Rosmery Ayapan Sánchez, whose mother was one of Hanley's earliest students. She has been back to Guatemala almost every year since, which has allowed her to get to know her sponsored child, as well as her mother and little brother. Rebecca is now also sponsoring Linda Rosmery's little brother, John Paul Ayapan Sánchez, who has just entered the third grade in the Hanley Denning School. Since 2012, Rebecca and her husband have been working as interpreters for Shared Beat, the group of doctors who conduct twice-yearly physicals of Safe Passage students. This has given her an opportunity to see a broad spectrum of students as well as to observe the evolution of the Project.



Ellen Meyer Shorb, Treasurer - Lincoln, MA

Ellen has over 25 years experience in the nonprofit sector as a senior manager, consultant, trainer, and coach. She is the Principal of Blue Sage Partners, a strategy consulting firm that works with nonprofit and higher education senior teams and boards. She helped start a consulting company with Heifetz and Linsky, who developed the Adaptive Leadership model at Harvard; taught leadership at Northeastern University; and worked in several senior management positions in nonprofits ranging from start-ups to established, nationwide organizations. She holds a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University, an MBA from Stanford University, and a BA from Dartmouth College. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, traveled around the world for a year, is fluent in Spanish & conversational French.



Ernesto Jose Viteri Arriola - Guatemala

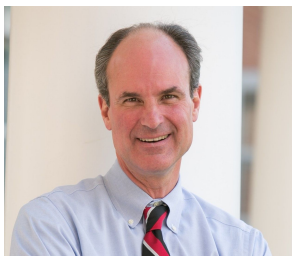
Ernesto Viteri is an attorney practicing in Guatemala. He is a partner at VITERI & VITERI and was admitted to the bar in the State of New York. He is a graduate of Liceo Javier school in Guatemala and Millbrook School in New York State, and holds degrees in law from Universidad Rafael Landivar in Guatemala and New York University in New York. Mr. Arriola is a former faculty member at University Rafael Landivar (Guatemala) and member of the Departmental Electoral Board of Guatemala's Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to Guatemala General Elections.



Douglas McAdams - Pittsburgh, PA

Douglas is one of the original founders of Transport Investments, Inc. and American Transport, Inc. He has over 40 years of experience in the transportation industry. After a successful 10-year career in banking and finance, he entered the trucking industry in 1974 when he joined Jenna Corporation, a company that managed the Special Commodities Division of Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation.

In pursuit of opportunities resulting from deregulation of the transportation industry, Douglas and co-founder Burton S. Singer formed ATI. ATI went on to become the platform and flagship carrier of TII. Douglas holds a B.S from the University of Pittsburgh, advanced studies in Accounting and Finance at the University of Wisconsin, Duquesne University and the University of Pennsylvania.



Kolia John O'Connor - Pittsburgh, PA

Kolia has served as Head of School at Sewickley Academy since 2003. With a B.A. in English from Boston University, and an M.A. in English from the University of Avignon (France), Kolia began his career at a boarding school, teaching English, working in a dormitory, and coaching soccer. He spent the subsequent six years as an English teacher and Dean of Students at the all girls' Chapin School in New York City before moving to The Browning School, an all boys' school where he served as Head of Upper School and was later appointed Associate Head of School. While in New York, Kolia earned an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University, served as secretary of the Assistant Heads Association, and was a founding member of the New York State Association of Independent Schools Diversity Committee. Kolia currently serves on the Boards of Trustees of the Headmistresses Association of the East, where he is the treasurer, and Robert Morris University for which he chairs the Academic Affairs & Enrollment Management Committee. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools and the Assistant Heads Association, for which he served as secretary. Kolia and his wife, Susan, are the proud parents of two sons.



Christian Von Oppen - Berlin, Germany

Christian holds a degree in economics from Humboldt University in Berlin in 2001 and is a certified foundation manager. After completing his studies, he worked for the Munich Re Group in the area of private equity for 7 years. Christian has been an independent entrepreneur in the creative industry since 2007 and founded various photo art and design labels as managing partner of designers group GmbH. As part of a sabbatical, he came to Guatemala for three months in 2006 and volunteered for Safe Passage. Back in Germany, he joined the German support organization Camino Seguro e.V., which he now heads as a board member for more than 10 years.



Alyson Welch - Alexandria, VA

Alyson is an international development professional with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Since 2011, she has worked in increasingly complex roles for large government contractors, managing projects in Latin America financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), including two years in Mexico as the Director of Operations for a project focused on preventing crime and violence and providing opportunities for at-risk youth. She currently serves as a Project Director at DAI, overseeing the implementation of Latin American projects that focus on a variety of governance and environmental issues. Alyson has both bachelors and masters degrees in psychology and is fluent in Spanish. She lives with her family in Alexandria, Virginia.



Kevin González - Guatemala

Creator of technological products through the Guatemalan brand Molvu, which was considered one of the 30 promising companies in Latin America by Forbes magazine in 2015. Kevin has more than 15 years of experience doing business between China and Latin America and is an expert in e-commerce and social networks. He is also a mountaineer and systems engineer. Kevin was winner of the Young Manager of the Year award by the Association of Managers of Guatemala AGG in 2018 and is also recognized as an Illustrious Guatemalan in the business category in 2019.