

In 2024, a new slate of officers for the Pearl S. Buck International Board of Directors began their two-year term. The four women in these roles are excited to lead the organization through its 60th anniversary this year and into the future.



Falesha Grasty
Chair of the Board of Directors

Ms. Grasty serves as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for Penn Community Bank, the largest mutual bank in eastern Pennsylvania. Originally joining the institution as an accountant, she eventually redirected her

natural passion of safeguarding the financial growth of the organization to now playing a pivotal role in advocating for an inclusive workplace and equitable access for every team member. Ms. Grasty is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC where she earned a BS in Accounting. She has been a member of the Pearl S. Buck International Board since October 2018.



Cheryl Castro
Vice Chair of the Board of Directors

Ms. Castro joined the Board in March 2021. She is the owner and president of The Up Agency, a Perkasio-based marketing agency dedicated to helping businesses that are making the world

better. She was previously Vice President of Parlee & Co. Marketing and co-owner of Aaron Mitchell Photography. She has been an ambassador for Pearl S. Buck International for more than 12 years and a member of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce since 2007 and was active in the Women's Business Forum until 2017. Ms. Castro holds a BS in Psychology from Temple University. She and her husband Aaron live in Perkasio.



Susan Berrodin
Board Secretary

Ms. Berrodin joined the Board in January 2019. She is a longtime member of the Pearl S. Buck Volunteer Association, currently serving as volunteer president. She is a retired pediatric physical therapist and spent her career

employed by community hospitals or working as an independent contractor in educational settings. Ms. Berrodin holds a BS in Physical Therapy from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate from Arcadia University. She and her husband Frank have two adult children and two grandchildren and are long-term child sponsors through Pearl S. Buck International.



Maxine Romano
Board Treasurer

Ms. Romano joined the Board in March 2022. She is a retired CPA and spent most of her career employed by Kreischer Miller in their audit group where she was the Leader of the not-for-profit industry. She is very familiar with the unique operations

of not-for-profit organizations. Prior to that, Ms. Romano owned and operated a bakery for 11 years. She has served on numerous not-for-profit boards including Bucks County's Child Home & Community. Ms. Romano holds a BS in Accounting from Temple University. She and her husband Rick reside in Ambler, PA.



The headquarters of Pearl S. Buck International as well as the National Historic Landmark Pearl S. Buck Museum, the former home of Pearl Buck, are located on the grounds of the historic Pearl S. Buck Estate in Hilltown.

In 1964, Nobel- and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, humanitarian, and activist Pearl S. Buck founded the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, headquartered in Bucks County, to help support impoverished and marginalized children of U.S. servicemember veterans and Asian mothers living in countries in Asia. It was the counterpart to Welcome House, the Bucks County-based adoption agency she founded that specialized in placing multiracial children with American families.

In 2024, the former Pearl S. Buck Foundation, now known as Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI), celebrates six decades of cross-cultural humanitarianism, education, and advocacy both locally and abroad. A slate of events and programming are planned throughout the year to celebrate this momentous milestone of bridging cultures, changing lives, and creating hope.

Kickstarting this year of celebration is a special limited exhibit, *Hidden Gems: Fashioning A Legacy*, at the historic Pearl S. Buck Estate in Hilltown. This exhibit showcases the best representations of Pearl Buck's personal style through her intact collection of American and Asian fashion, jewelry, shoes, handbags, hand fans, gloves, and associated archival material. A woman well ahead of her time, Ms. Buck had a distinctive style. She had the opportunity to live in two very different cultures and carefully chose clothing and accessories to represent the two halves of herself and her life.

The fashions exhibited will also be used as the vehicle to tell the story of Pearl S. Buck International's work and impact since 1964 in changing the lives of millions of children, families, and communities around the world. This extraordinary and one-of-a-kind exhibit is open now and will run through the end of May. Tickets are available for purchase at pearlsbuck.org/hidden-gems/.

Join us May 16, 2024 for a special gala at our historic Pearl S. Buck Estate that will not only celebrate this remarkable 60th anniversary milestone but will also share six decades of our humanitarian, intercultural, and educational work as we build on Pearl Buck's legacy and bring it forward into the future, thanks to the dedicated generosity of Pearl S. Buck International's friends, donors, and supporters. Enjoy dinner, dancing, and live and silent

auctions. You will also have the opportunity to meet the directors of our global affiliate offices and learn about the amazing work they are doing in the field, thanks to the support of child sponsors and donors. More information is available at pearlsbuck.org/gala/.

Pearl S. Buck International's Living the Legacy Breakfast: 60 Years will return on June 26—which also happens to be Pearl Buck's birthday. This heartwarming annual event is a community favorite. Inspirational speakers and videos will showcase the lives changed locally and around the globe by the humanitarian, intercultural, and educational work of Pearl S. Buck International. This event will inspire and invite guests to become a part of the 60 years and counting of Pearl Buck's legacy and story.

Join us September 26-28, 2024 as we host the Pearl S. Buck Symposium at various locations around upper Bucks County. In partnership with Delaware Valley University, West Virginia University, and various international institutions, high school, university, and professional scholars are invited to join us in collaboration, discussion, and fellowship at this stimulating and thought-provoking research and educational symposium. A call for papers is now open. For more information and submission guidelines, go to pearlsbuck.org/symposium/.

With all the inspirational events scheduled over the course of 2024 to celebrate Pearl S. Buck International's 60th anniversary, now is the perfect time to get or renew your PSBI membership and become a part of the Pearl S. Buck International legacy. Your



Students in Thailand served through Pearl S. Buck International's child sponsorship program. The Thailand Office Executive Director, along with the EDs from all of PSBI's affiliate offices, will be guests at the May 16 gala.



membership pays for itself with just three visits to the Pearl S. Buck Historic Estate and includes free tours of the Pearl S. Buck House museum, discounts in our gift shop and to our 60th anniversary gala on May 16, and member-only invites to special and signature events throughout the year. In addition to all the perks you receive as a PSBI member, your membership helps support our humanitarian, educational, and cross-cultural work today, tomorrow, and into the next 60 years.

