

## A Collection of Tributes

Linda Whetstone

1942—2021



# **FAMILY WHETSTONE**

<http://digitaleditions.telegraph.co.uk/data/795/reader/reader.html?social#!preferred/0/package/795/pub/795/page/67/article/255956>

Linda Whetstone, evangelist for the free market who also helped to raise standards in British dressage.

Linda Whetstone, who has died aged 79, achieved eminence in two contrasting spheres, becoming a leading libertarian and free-market campaigner as well as a well-known figure in the world of dressage.

Tall, slim and formidably energetic, Linda Whetstone was a past chairman and president of the Conservative Association in Wealden, one of the safest Conservative seats in the country. However, her trenchant views on such matters as farming subsidies, planning and international aid, and impatience with small “c” conservative interest groups such as the National Farmers’ Union and the Countryside Alliance, put her at odds with the party’s paternalist wing.

She was inspired in her free-market principles by her father, Antony (later Sir Antony) Fisher, a Battle of Britain pilot and broiler-chicken farming pioneer who set up the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) and other think tanks including what became the Atlas Network, an NGO dedicated to establishing free-market institutions around the world.

Fisher would have a seminal influence on the development of Conservative policy under Margaret Thatcher. The former Tory MP Sir Oliver Letwin once observed, with pardonable hyperbole: “Without Fisher, no IEA; without the IEA and its clones, no Thatcher and quite possibly no Reagan; without Reagan, no Star Wars; without Star Wars, no economic collapse of the Soviet Union. Quite a chain of consequences for a chicken farmer!”

In 1959 the 17-year-old Linda joined her father at a meeting in Oxford of the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS) an international organisation founded by (among others) Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek, and was inspired by their insistence that liberty is won through ideas, not politics.

After her father's death in 1988, she took over the running of Atlas Economic Research Foundation UK (later Network for a Free Society) and subsequently served as chairman of the Atlas Network. She was a member of the IEA's board of trustees and latterly served as a board member and President of the MPS.

Linda Whetstone summarised her aim in life as “removing obstacles from people's paths”, and her most notable contributions were her initiatives to spread liberal ideas and free-market solutions to reduce poverty in developing countries.

In 2016, with Nouh El Harmouzi, she co-edited *Islamic Foundations of a Free Society*, a book published by the IEA in Dari, Indonesian, Arabic, French and Farsi.

She also developed a CD with key extracts from the work of thinkers such as Hayek and Friedman to provide university students with access to key texts that were otherwise inaccessible in many countries. More than 150,000 copies were distributed in more than 60 countries, inspiring young leaders to establish think tanks of their own.

She inherited her father's indifference to public recognition. Her personal charm combined with the logic of her arguments made her formidably persuasive.

She was never afraid to flutter the doves, however. In 1989 she shocked a 400-strong audience of farmers, planners and surveyors in Scotland with an outspoken attack on subsidised agriculture and the rural planning system.

Rural areas, she maintained, should be protected from decline by a policy of income support, not “through a huge protection programme”, while rural planning controls were “largely a mechanism of the middle and upper classes for the maintenance of their status quo”.

On the countryside, most Conservatives, she observed in 2001, “have ideas that are frankly bananas – that nimbyish ‘not one more brick!’ I say to them, ‘but nurses can’t live in your village. The only people who can are the rich who work in London.’”

Like her father, Linda Whetstone was often described as Right-wing, but she was no hanger or flogger, once saying that if Ann Wid-decombe were ever to become leader of the Conservative Party, “I would be off like a shot.”

True to her Hayekian principles, she had no time for claims that all that is needed is a more charismatic leader or “better presentation”. When Tony Blair was re-elected in 2001, trouncing William Hague’s Conservatives with another landslide victory, she was not surprised: “We deserved everything we got... We hadn’t got any policies,” she told *The Independent* briskly.

The second of four children, Linda Fisher was born on November 17 1942 in Binfield, Berkshire, to Antony Fisher and his first wife Eve, née Naylor, and brought up at Newplace, a large house in Framfield, Sussex, with 440 acres of farmland, that her father bought after the war and where he founded Buxted Chickens, now part of Allied Foods.

Linda and her siblings enjoyed a carefree outdoor upbringing on the farm. One of the few rules their father enforced was that they should attend the parish church at Framfield with their mother, and the Church of Christ Scientist at Haywards Heath with him on alternate Sundays.

As a result Linda had a fairly cursory formal education, with brief attendance at St George’s, Ascot and St Clare’s, Oxford. She was presented at court as a debutante in 1962 after a year in the US where she did short courses in economics and governance.



She would later take A-levels at a London “crammer”, but her father was her main educator: “He never disciplined us or made a conscious effort to teach or train or guide us.

If he did it was by example because we all wanted to please him.”

Antony Fisher’s informal lessons in political economy had a profound effect on his children, though not on his wife, a Conservative in a more traditional mould. Her son Mark recalled that when his mother chaired political meetings in the village hall, he, his father and siblings would sit in the audience “shouting, ‘Boo’.”

Linda’s parents’ marriage would break down in the late 1960s, after which they both remarried.

Linda’s first job was as a researcher in the Economist Intelligence Unit and in 1963 she married Francis Whetstone, a Lloyds underwriter. While bringing up their three daughters, she took a degree in Economics by correspondence at the University of London.

In 1969 the Whetstones bought a dairy farm in East Sussex which Linda managed, milking all the cows herself once a fortnight. She later changed to rearing heifers, then in the 1990s converted the farm buildings into small workshops.

She and her husband often accompanied her father to MPS meetings and, beginning with a paper on milk marketing in 1970, Linda began writing reports on agricultural policy for the IEA and the Adam Smith Institute which would eventually prove instrumental in dismantling market controls in agriculture.

In 1991 she co-authored an Adam Smith Institute paper which argued that European farm-price subsidies should be phased out within 10 years, a policy she reckoned would benefit the average family by

about £1,000 a year – and benefit the environment, as marginal land could be allowed to return to the wild or revert to grazing for sheep.

Linda Whetstone: summarised her aim in life as ‘removing obstacles from people’s paths’



Linda Whetstone always had a love of horses, though it was not until her early 30s that she began riding seriously. She became particularly involved with dressage, competing to advanced level, working to improve the training of British judges and trainers, and serving as chairman of British Dressage.

She was instrumental in the development of the National Championships at Stoneleigh Park and Area Festivals and is credited with playing a vital role in the improvement of standards which saw the British dressage team win an unprecedented number of medals at the London and Rio Olympic Games. In the early 2000s she also served as chairman of the British Equestrian Federation council.

Her opposition to the nanny state was accompanied by a belief in human dignity and a deep well of sympathy for individuals fallen on hard times. She and her husband took in and supported a Rwandan refugee who became a member of their extended family, and two years ago, when the local church called to say there was a homeless person in the porch, the Whetstones took him in and he lived with them for two months.

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House of Parliament

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKzJq8UKjvM>



Jacob Rees-Mogg paid tribute to her in The House of Commons - well worth viewing on youtube.



Fox News  
<https://youtu.be/4BDFFhQWfdY>



If you only have the time to watch one clip on youtube, make it  
FOX News.

Beautifully written and wonderfully presented from the heart.  
Few sons-in-law would be in a position to pay such a tribute.

Even fewer would have the beautiful words.

Almost none would be inclined to do so!

Steve Hilton triumphed as he touchingly  
remembered his mother-in-law.







Edited by Polly Bryan  
polly.bryan@futurenet.com  
@pollyrose21

ONLY IN HORSE & HOUND

## 'A high-flyer in all areas of her life'

Carl Hester pays tribute to Linda Whetstone, and reflects on the ExCeL

NEWS of the sudden death of our British Dressage chair Linda Whetstone came as a huge shock to so many. She was an inspiring person possessed of an incisive intellect; an amazing stickler for detail, timings, and strategies. It was no wonder that one rarely came across anyone who had any complaint about Linda, as one of her chief characteristics was her fairness.

I had heard that she was a high-flyer in all areas of her life but reading the tributes from across the world, and watching the tribute to her in the House of Commons, I realised I had not

*"Linda was the leading light who shaped the way British dressage is today with her precision and innovation"*

idea she was held in such high regard in so many spheres.

Passionate about providing opportunities for learning and training, accessibility, and development in all areas of the sport, Linda was quite simply the leading light who shaped the way British dressage is today with her precision and innovation. That she did such amazing work all over the world to promote, support and defend the concept of a free society was a breathtaking discovery.

A wonderful tribute by Andy Mayer, CEO of the Institute of Economic Affairs, the influential think-tank co-founded by Linda's father, Sir Antony Fisher, and of which she was a board member for over 30 years, lays out the inestimable contribution Linda made, and

### OPINION

how humble and unassuming she was about it. You can read it at 1828.org.uk

Linda, thank you for all you achieved. My condolences to your husband Francis, daughters, grandchildren, and many friends around the world.

### AN EXCELLENT SHOW

THE London International Horse Show at ExCeL was an outstanding success. While it did seem a big ask for the ExCeL to match up to the charm and grandeur of Olympia, the ExCeL proved to have its own personality in bucketloads.

With so much more room, the retailers I spoke to said having the space was better, and the warm-up arenas were particularly appreciated. Riding in a 20x40m arena with big stanchions to dodge, as we did at Olympia, could be pretty challenging for dressage horses and riders preparing to strut their stuff.

The main arena had a really wonderful atmosphere and, while we don't know whether the move will be permanent yet,

I think people with the L did with O.

The original was handsomely seamless foreign capital the journey. They did, what we had the Champions found out across the

### THANK JOURNALISTS

I WAS both delighted and surprised to achieve the British Equestrian Association

It did take me back many

futurenet.com



rior team 1990, after rable Alan Telegraph, of I might be big hope in rd was so e journalists t have for 30 years. message to t that derful of ck in the early 20 . It must t bit of d for. d to ExCeL, he celebrate, as that I rd. This lying. less ice-like staff it ny relief. I the person he London Show? ers@



Rupert Bell presents Carl Hester with the BEWA lifetime achievement award at the London International Horse Show, in its new venue at the ExCeL

One of Britain's greatest dressage riders and trainers, Carl Hester AME is an Olympic gold medalist and multiple medalist at European and World Championships

## British Dressage

<https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/news/linda-whetstone-a-tribute>

Whilst British Dressage comes to terms with the sudden passing of our Chairman, Linda Whetstone, yesterday (15 December 2021) at the age of 79, we reflect on the immeasurable impact that she has had on our sport and the incredible legacy she leaves behind.



Born in 1942 in Binfield, Berkshire, Linda always had a love of horses, but it was not until her early 30s that she was able to start riding more seriously; originally with the East Grinstead Riding Club at un-affiliated level, then moving to affiliated – at which point she took over as organiser of their affiliated dressage shows.

This led to her involvement with the British Horse Society Dressage Group as it was then – and later as it became British Dressage. Providing opportunities for herself and others to learn more about horses and their training was always high on her to do list.







From the late 1980s onwards, she helped bring European judges to train UK judges at Ardingly in West Sussex, while she took respected trainers such as Kyra Kyrklund, Klaus Balkenhol, Gisela Holstein and Maria Gunther on tours around the UK so many people had chance to learn from these leading figures. Linda's vision, drive and foresight has without question helped elevate Great Britain, as a nation, to the forefront of the sport.

BD Chairman since 2018 and a List 1 Judge, Linda Whetstone has been a cornerstone of British Dressage since its formation in 1998. Already a keen competitor up to small tour level and a major organiser, Linda became a founder member of BD and was the first ever Rules and Fixtures Director. Later, she served a term as Judges Director and was a member of the Senior Selection panel for eight years, covering the London and Rio Olympic Games, as well as two World Equestrian Games and four European Championships - during which time the British team won an unprecedented number of medals.

Additionally, she was involved in the restructuring of the British Equestrian Federation in the early 2000s and was then the first Chairman of the BEF Council for four years, playing an instrumental role in bringing together the various member bodies across the sector to work together to develop and promote equestrianism.

A true pioneer and innovator, Linda's contribution to the sport of dressage in Great Britain is immeasurable and impacts everyone involved today, at all levels. As Rules and Fixtures Director, she helped set up the National Championships at Stoneleigh Park in the first year of BD's existence with literally no funding, and shortly after oversaw the creation of the Area Festival series, now a cornerstone of the competition structure, as well as introducing the intensely controversial at the time division between Restricted and Open. Linda also helped to bring together the various different elements that we now know as the Winter Championships.

Under her directorship the BD regions were created, Regional Development Officers were introduced, and competitors were allowed to choose which regional they attended. In addition, the wild card system was set up.

This most influential period of time also included the introduction of the downgrading of horses, brought in scoring in percentages so people could easily compare their performances, and saw changes to the rules to allow para riders to take part in able-bodied classes. Linda was always committed to, and passionate about, making dressage for everyone and accessible to all – and this was fundamental to building and shaping the sport as we know it today.

More recently, Linda has played a central role in developing the new examination and assessment system for BD judges. Her contribution to the Judges Education Project cannot be over-stated. Without Linda's personal energy and input, implementation of the new development framework for our officials would not have been possible, particularly as this has been delivered against the backdrop of the pandemic. All of these values were reflected in her professional life. Linda had a background in economics and from 2016 was Chairman of the Atlas Network, an international association of free-market think tanks – a support network for 485 partner organisations in 93 countries whose missions are to identify and resolve barriers to opportunity and prosperity.

A daughter of Sir Anthony Fisher, co-founder of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Linda served as a member of the IEA's board, as well as on that of the Islam and Liberty Network and had been Chairman of the Board of Free Social Networks since 2000. She was also a board member of the Mont Perelin Society, appointed President in 2020, and was chairman of the International Policy Network. The fruits of her labour can be felt all over the world. From Turkey to the United Kingdom to Kenya; thanks to Linda Whetstone's efforts, people live in greater freedom. Her legacy internationally is quite remarkable.

She was a force to be reckoned with in her professional life and brought this into her personal passion for dressage.

Throughout her life, Linda worked on translating books on the ideas of freedom into multiple languages, helping to spread free market ideas across the world.

Jason Brautigam, BD Chief Executive reflects; “Linda had an incredibly keen intellect and remained as sharp as ever in her ability to assimilate and dissect complex subject matters, breaking them down into clear, concise form in order to build consensus and identify the way forward. This cannot be under-estimated; she was a force to be reckoned with in her professional life and brought this into her personal passion for dressage, for which we should all be immensely grateful.


“Linda was highly motivated, driven and focused, yet was always humble, modest, approachable, extraordinarily kind and extremely generous with her time. Always very supportive of others in the dressage community, full of positivity and encouragement, she has helped countless individuals and was an inspiration to everyone she met. She was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by everybody within our sport, as well as the wider international political and economic community where she was so influential.

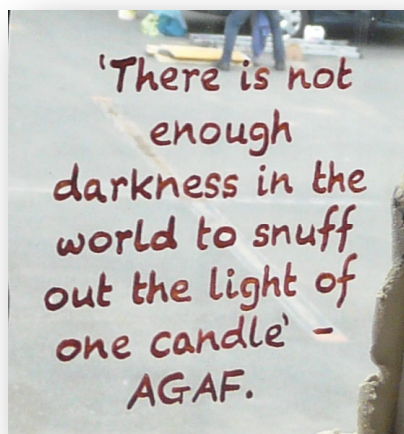
“We all still feel numb from the news and it will take some time to come to terms with her passing. I will personally feel a huge loss as Linda has been a great supporter and mentor to me during my time with BD. Equally, I know that there will be large numbers mourning the loss of such a talisman in our sport, as she touched so many of us, over the past five decades. We will be working on plans to honour Linda and celebrate her achievements which have reached every member of the dressage community.”

Linda’s colleagues on the British Dressage Board and all the staff at British Dressage offer their sincerest condolences to Linda’s husband, Francis, their three children and their grandchildren at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of her friends and family.

***"Linda was also a pioneer and innovator, instrumental in the foundation and success of British Dressage, including the development of our National Championships and Area Festivals. A former Chair of the British Equestrian Federation Council, her loss will be keenly felt by many of her colleagues and friends within the equestrian community."***

From Dananath Fernando, Sri Lanka

I am deeply saddened by the demise of Linda Whetstone a true champion of kindness, eradication of poverty and educator of free thinking in our time. She did a yeomen service not to change the tiny nations, but the entire world. The impact she made to the people all over the world and lives of people like us will remain solid for the coming centuries to be dawn. I always see her as a candle  which ignited so many other candles with her kindness and wisdom. She enlightened the world with hope and freedom. She inspired thousands of young people to make the world a better place even in her absence. "It is better by far to light a solitary candle than to curse the darkness". She lighted many. Thank you very much for your kindness and inspiration.



Bardia Garshasbi.

Yesterday morning, a passionate English heart, a heart that had been beating for liberty for an entire lifetime, suddenly stopped beating at a Liberty Forum in Miami. Linda Whetstone will never die as she lives on in the hearts of many people all across this earth. Just like myself, tears of sorrow will roll down the cheeks of countless souls all over the world, remembering the amazing, larger than life - Linda. Rest in peace, my dearest friend.

Peter Bismark, Ghana

To us, Linda Whetstone was a great fountain of liberty, through which advice, network opportunities, resources, important writings and tireless support flows to committed individuals fighting for freedom in Africa and the world at large.

Amy Stovold

Grief can hit you in so many ways. I have only just started to comprehend the loss of my incredible friend and inspiration Linda Whetstone and I know that forever there will be moments where memories of her will catch me as she has such an enormous impact on my life.

Linda – you took me under your wing and made me believe the impossible was possible. From nurturing my test riding to giving me the self-belief to get to the next level. Even in the darkest days, when all confidence was gone, it was you that gave me the strength to pick myself up and carry on.

You choreographed Macbrians Grand Prix freestyle for Olympia and helped me pick which shows to go to – in many ways you were my backbone and I will be forever grateful for your endless kindness.

You were one helluva woman Linda – to so many I know and in so many ways. I am so very blessed to have had you in my life for so many years – you always had time for others and were so completely honest – rare qualities these days.

Your passing has shocked me and I will miss you so very much my friend. Heaven has gained a good soul. Sending much love to all your family at this difficult time.

June Arunga, Kenya

It's taken me a while to process Linda's passing.

I am so sorry for your loss and our loss. We lost a Matriarch of the movement in the very best sense on the word.

I don't know who else has the easy personal relationships that she had across the globe. Relationships that she easily and generously shared. Webs that she easily wove in service to the mission we are all dedicated to.

What a privilege it was to know and be known by such a beautiful gentle giant spirit.

Linda changed my life in many ways. There is so much to tell and it shall be told one day.

I am honoured to have had the opportunity to hug and laugh with her one last time.

She was amongst people who cherished and valued her truly.

Doing what she loved and dedicated her life to.

What a Dame!

May her spirit continue to inspire us.

**Debbi Gibbs, Chair of Atlas**

**My cries are echoed by hundreds of people on every continent.**

**My friend.**

**My mentor.**

**Our beloved “Agent W”.**

**We are bereft.**



Tom Palmer's nickname for Lin, one she much appreciated, is seen here used in a quotation shared between Tom and Bad Lips, Chief Executive of Atlas, in front of Sir Antony's Keep - a Folly built without Planning Permission in 1988 in Ravenshaw Lane, Solihull, UK as a lasting tribute to her father Sir Antony Fisher

**Mark Littlewood Director General IEA**

Linda was a truly remarkable and inspirational woman and we will all miss her terribly. As an advocate and leader of the freedom movement, she was peerless. She dedicated her life to the cause of freedom and has transformed countless lives across the globe. We may not see her again, but we can be grateful for the incredible legacy she leaves us. My thoughts are with Linda's immediate family—and her enormous extended family - on this very sad day.

The Buckeye Institute, Ohio, USA

<https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/blog/detail/in-memoriam-linda-whetstone>

Some intellectual forces of nature are dreadful bores and terrible dinner companions. Linda Whetstone was exactly the opposite. She personified fun, and her mischievous sense of humor could bring down the house. She made us better, too. She was the brightest star at every event, and was dancing during her Mont Pelerin Society conference at Universidad Francisco Marroquín (UFM) in Guatemala last month like she hadn't a care in the world. That image and her immeasurable impact will live in our hearts forever.

She extended us more kindness and warm hospitality than we ever deserved. She invited and delighted in thoughtful conversations and shared her considerable opinions freely, which we enjoyed endlessly. Her intrepid and accomplished father—**Sir Antony Fisher**—served as the Johnny Appleseed of free-market think tanks, and his generosity ultimately helped to found The Buckeye Institute in 1989 through his efforts alongside and through Atlas Network. We can never repay that debt.

We are grateful from head to toe for the courageous and engaging spirit Linda and her father possessed. Requiescat in pace, our dear spunky and relentless friend. It was the honor of a lifetime knowing you and counting you among our most enthusiastic and encouraging allies, personally and professionally. You inspired us, set our bar extraordinarily high, demanded we exceed it, and celebrated our growth and success as though you were our proudest relative—and we loved you so.

A few years ago, we were blown away when you advocated for The Buckeye Institute as a contender for the prestigious Templeton Prize. We are also infinitely thankful to have spent the past few days with you in Miami and desperately hope you knew and felt how many of us there deeply adored, admired, and appreciated you. Our world will never be the same, we will miss you desperately, and pledge to keep our hats permanently tipped to you.

– Robert & Rebekah Alt on behalf of The Buckeye Institute



**Khalid Ramizy**

She was an inspiration to everyone in worldwide freedom movements and think tanks, and she was a true freedom-lover and supporter. It is very difficult to accept that she is no more among us. 😞

She supported thousands of Afghan youths across Afghanistan to learn the ideas of a free and prosperous society and lead the nation toward enlightenment.

She edited and published the Islamic Foundations of a Free Society book. Until now, it is the only source in Afghanistan that enables us and thousands of other friends to continue our fight for freedom based on Islamic values.

May her soul rest in peace, and may we meet again in the heavenly world.

She did a lot for this world.

You all are very lucky that you were able to meet her on her last minutes of life.

The Adam Smith Institute—Eamonn Butler  
<https://www-adamsmith-org.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s>

We are saddened by the death of Linda Whetstone (1942-2021), a good friend of the Adam Smith Institute and a tireless campaigner and organiser for the cause of a free society and free economy.

In that, Linda took up the work of her father, Battle of Britain pilot Antony Fisher, who in the 1950s, set up the highly influential Institute of Economic Affairs — following advice from the great liberal thinker F A Hayek that liberty is won through ideas, not politics. Knighted under Margaret Thatcher's government for his work in advancing the ideas of liberty, Sir Antony went on to create the Atlas Network, an institution dedicated to establishing and assisting free-market think-tanks around the globe. The Network has by now grown to around 500 partner think-tanks in 100 countries.

Linda became a board member of the Institute of Economic Affairs and of the Atlas Network, rising to become its chair before going on to become President of the Mont Pelerin Society, an international association of liberal-minded scholars and practitioners first created by Hayek in 1947. She still held this office when she died, suddenly, at an Atlas Network forum in Miami on December 15th.

Linda was also a farmer who gave advice to Margaret Thatcher on agricultural policy reform and wrote reports and spoke at events for the Adam Smith Institute criticising the agricultural subsidies system. She bred horses and became Chair of British Dressage, where she was instrumental in the development of the National Championships and Area Festivals.

However, she will be best remembered for her tireless initiatives and effort in helping spread liberal ideas and working with young liberal activists in many countries, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

She developed a CD with key extracts from the work of important liberal thinkers such as Hayek and Milton Friedman, successfully negotiating with publishers to release their copyright for the purpose of public education through this medium. Over 150,000 copies were distributed to over 60 countries. Having access to these ideas — so rarely taught in schools in rich and poor countries alike — brought countless young people their first experience of liberal thought and the arguments to support it. Many of them went on to form their own liberal student societies and think-tanks.

It was Linda who urged me to write, for the Institute of Economic Affairs, *Foundations of a Free Society*, a short introduction to the liberal mind, which she helped get translated into over twenty different languages including Arabic, Swahili, French, Farsi, Dari and many others. So successful was this enterprise that she commissioned another author to write *Islamic Foundations of a Free Society*, which again she helped get translated and distributed across the Middle East and North Africa.

Those who knew her will remember her as a no-nonsense person who railed without tiring against the inbuilt conservatism of governments and organisations, particularly those that were supposedly committed to advancing freedom. She was happiest in the company of young people who were driven by ideas and saw no limits on what could be achieved with application and effort.

She leaves in the liberal movement a gap that is impossible for any other individual to fill. And yet, the countless hundreds of new, young ambassadors for freedom that she inspired and developed will carry on her work in different ways but with no less vigour, commitment, kindness and humility.

The Heritage Foundation, Washington DC, USA

Bridgett G Wagner, Anthony B Kim.

<https://www.heritage.org/conservatism/commentary/remembering-linda-whetstone-champion-liberty>

## Remembering Linda Whetstone, Champion of Liberty.

The world has lost a great ally of freedom.

Linda Whetstone, daughter of entrepreneur and think tank pioneer Sir Antony Fisher, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 15 at the age of 79.

She was an enthusiastic mentor and real champion of academics exploring economic freedom, activists fighting corrupt governments, and entrepreneurs.

More than ever, ideas matter and have consequences, as Whetstone demonstrated in practice.

Whetstone left a remarkable legacy of institutions, academics, students, and activists across the globe that have benefited from her tireless efforts to raise resources, share important texts, advise, open doors, and build a vibrant network of those who fight for freedom around the world.

Whetstone served as chairman of the board of the Atlas Network, an association of free market think tanks, and of the Network for a Free Society, as well as president of the Mont Pelerin Society and as a board member and adviser of the Institute of Economic Affairs and Students for Liberty.

Those who had the opportunity to work with Whetstone, or hear her speak, were inspired. She was an enthusiastic mentor and real champion of academics exploring economic freedom, activists fighting corrupt governments, entrepreneurs, and those battling to protect free speech and private property.

As Ed Feulner, founder and former president of The Heritage Foundation, noted:

Linda Whetstone had accomplished so much, touched so many lives around the world, and encouraged so many causes and institutes to take on the battle.

Her impact ripples across the globe and is visible in the work of the entrepreneur who can now sell his or her wares on the street without the harassment of corrupt officials, in the bustling private schools for the poor, in solitary academics who know they are part of a worldwide network and can share the greatest books and essays with students in seminars, thanks to her efforts to raise the funds and share the resources and spread the ideas of liberty.

She was a good friend of Heritage and of the think tank community. She will be deeply missed.

Indeed, to many of us who have long tracked economic freedom, recent years have served as a vivid reminder of the continuing struggle between the state and the free market.

In times of uncertainty, it might be natural that people will look to their governments for answers. Yet, the long-term solutions to various economic problems do not lie in more government controls and regulations. They lie in a return to free market principles.

Through the Network for a Free Society, Whetstone shared thousands of copies of books and more than 150,000 copies of the “Ideas for a Free Society” CDs packed with dozens of texts with professors and student leaders in 60 countries—many of them in hard-to-reach corners of the globe.

It was not unusual to get reports of librarians and teachers in Tajikistan or Burundi or South Sudan who wrote to ask if they, too, could get access to these ideas. And she delighted in sharing photos of student debates and training programs, and news of essay competitions and new institutions springing up as a result of this work.

As Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips noted, “No one had greater passion for elevating the voices of freedom’s champions in countries that are presently unfree.”

Honouring Whetstone’s memory, the State Policy Network said that “the liberty movement, worldwide and here in the [U.S.], will miss Linda’s presence, but she has left as her legacy a shining example of leadership, passion, and character that those of us in today’s movement can aspire to emulate.”

Truly, that’s what she left us. Rest in peace, Linda Whetstone.



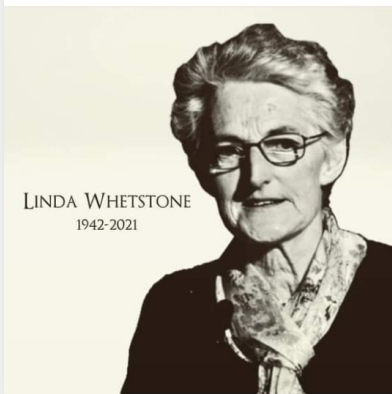
**Moronfolu Adeniyi**

16 Dec 2021 · 🌐



Rest in power [Linda Whetstone](#) the history of the libertarian movement in Africa is incomplete without you. Your lost is a bitter pill to swallow, your impact around the world is unquantifiable, you will remain dearly in our hearts.

Rest in peace a true liberty champion





**Denis Bua Oscar** is with **Mugabi John Socrates** and **84 others**.

17 Dec 2021 · 🌐

The Sharp Memories of a selfless, Supportive, Loving, caring and Concrete Champion of Freedom and Liberty still sound hard. Even if some of us never got a chance to physically meet her, we yet learnt alot from her kind works, passion, zeal, dedication and love for Freedom and Liberty.

We have become more and better grounded to also champion the Classical Liberal ideas for a better Africa and World. Thank you for Inspiring and Supporting Many of us.

Rest in Eternal Peace Linda Whitestone.

[#For](#) the Love of Liberty.

KEFIM is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Athens, whose goal is to increase the individual and economic freedom of Greeks through the dissemination of liberal ideas and political proposals, Its President, Alexandros Skouras, said:

*"Linda Whetstone was a heroine of the world liberal movement. Her work has personally inspired thousands of people from all over the world, including me, to pursue freedom as an ideal, as a way of life and as a means of improving the human condition. The gap left by Linda is sure to be unfilled."*

**Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with Linda's family at this time.**



**Brad Lips**

16 Dec 2021 · 🌐



It's been a rollercoaster of emotion the last few days. On Tuesday night, we filled the Marlins' Stadium with happiness and optimism at our Freedom Dinner, while our dear Linda Whetstone danced among the community she loved and which loves her back.

Those good spirits came crashing down on Wednesday morning and now my Facebook feed is a stream of sorrow. Our team has now posted this remembrance of Linda at [Atlas Network](#), and we invite her friends to add to it. It includes a photo of Linda in her prized Afghan coat given to her by Khalid Ramizy. It includes a video of Linda being remembered today in the House of Commons. It includes expressions of gratitude and sadness that we'll keep adding to in the days and weeks ahead.

Of course, I can hear Linda in my head, disapproving of so many of us feeling down and out -- telling us it's our job to pick ourselves up, get back to work, and regain the good spirits of just a short time ago. But it will be hard.

Brad Lips, Chief Executive of Atlas.





**Mwesige Joram Kyenjojo**

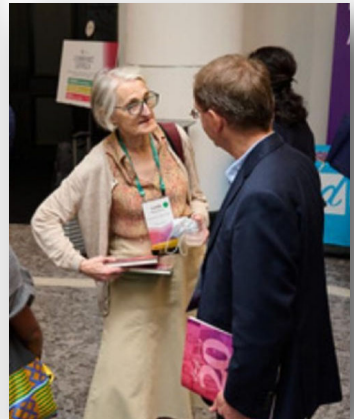
16 Dec 2021 · 🌐

[Linda Whetstone](#) has been champion and icon of liberty movement in the world especially in Africa, I met Linda in Kenya at Africa Liberty camp.

You have gone too early, but your vision and work is a legacy that will still influence the world. Rip, condolences to your families, workmate, libertarians and friend.

This is a decade loss on the side of libertarians in Africa.





Linda in Nepal



Students for Liberty,

<https://studentsforliberty.org/north-america/blog/linda-whetstone/>

In memoriam of Linda Whetstone, a dear friend of liberty

By Julia Kril



Students For Liberty is saddened to learn about the passing of Linda Whetstone, a dear friend of liberty and an esteemed member of the Students For Liberty's Board of Advisors. Linda Whetstone passed away during the morning of December 15 surrounded by friends and family.

Linda Whetstone was a chairman of Atlas Network, an association of free market think tanks, Network for a Free Society, and British Dressage. A daughter of Sir Anthony Fisher, cofounder of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Linda Whetstone served as a member of the IEA's board as well as on that of the Islam and Liberty Network. She was also a board member of the Mont Pelerin Society and chairman of the International Policy Network.

Throughout her life, Linda Whetstone worked on translating books on the ideas of freedom into multiple languages, helping to spread free market ideas across the world. Together with Nouh el Harmouzi, in 2016 she co-edited *Islamic Foundations of a Free Society*, a book that was published by the Institute of Economic Affairs in Dari, Indonesian, Arabic, French, and Farsi, among others.

With Network for a Free Society, she developed a CD called *Ideas for a Free Society* to provide university students with access to texts relating to freedom that were otherwise inaccessible in many countries. Over 150,000 copies were distributed in more than 60 countries. Linda's work inspired many organizations and individuals who, despite challenging circumstances, worked towards changing the world by changing hearts and minds through the ideas of freedom.

*"In 2010, when I came across the ideas of liberty, the Ideas for a Free Society CD produced by Linda Whetstone was one of the first few resources that helped me better understand the importance of a truly free society. She was one of SFL's biggest advocates, supporting many student projects as well as supporting think tanks established by SFL alumni with resources through the Network for a Free Society,"* said Olumayowa Okediran, Students For Liberty's director of student programs.

Linda Whetstone will be deeply missed by all of us at Students For Liberty. She joined Students For Liberty's Board of Advisors during the organization's early days and consistently helped us grow to become better advocates for freedom.

Students For Liberty's CEO Dr. Wolf von Laer said, *"Linda Whetstone's lifework was dedicated to spreading freedom in places which lacked it most. She was a true champion and will be dearly missed. I am proud to have known her for so many years."*

Linda Whetstone was a lifelong supporter of the creative power of free societies and was committed to spreading these ideas where they were little known and much needed. Her work will be forever remembered by generations of liberty advocates across the world.



Cato Institute, Washington, DC, USA

<https://www.cato.org/blog/remembrance-linda-whetstone>

In Remembrance of Linda Whetstone By Ian Vásquez

Linda Whetstone, a great champion of global liberty, passed away last week. She dedicated her life to expanding freedom through tireless activism, the promotion of classical liberal ideas, and through her example, which epitomized the spirit of liberalism. Linda was the president of the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS), chair of the Atlas Network, and was on the board of the Institute of Economic Affairs in London. She served twice on the selection committee of Cato's Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty (with awards going to the Ladies in White Cuban dissident group in 2018 and to Chinese market-liberal Mao Yushi in 2012).



John Garvey, Linda Whetstone and Ian Vasquez

There is hardly an organization or individual in the pro-freedom movement anywhere who has not been influenced by Linda either indirectly or, more often than not, through her direct encouragement and support. She was especially enthusiastic and active in promoting classical liberalism in the most challenging of places, working closely with countless individuals throughout sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and many parts of Asia and beyond.

To give just one of what could be endless examples, my colleague Mustafa Akyol recalls how in 2014, when he was still living in Turkey, Linda arranged for him to speak in Tehran, Iran on

“Globalization and Free Trade from an Islamic Point of View.” The promotion of freedom in Islamic societies was one of her ongoing projects.

I benefited from Linda’s friendship, knowledge, and inspiration, and I know I’m not the only one at Cato who would receive, at least once a year, a handwritten note from her expressing how important she thought our work was. I was fortunate to have spoken with her recently on a couple of occasions—at the Mont Pelerin Society meeting in Guatemala last month and at the Atlas Network annual meeting in Miami last week where the above picture was taken with Cato sponsor John Garvey. Linda marvelled at how far the movement had come from when she first became involved in it (she attended her first MPS meeting in 1959). I marvelled too, but with not nearly the perspective and knowledge she had. We agreed that the growth in size and international representation of the MPS was an impressive and positive sign and that the Atlas Network’s growth and increasing effectiveness in recent years was also a source of optimism at a time when illiberalism poses serious challenges. Those accomplishments too are part of her legacy.

Linda will be missed by people around the world. For other remembrances, see the [Atlas Network page](#), which features a reflection from Cato and Atlas scholar Tom Palmer who notes, in present tense, that “Linda is one of the strongest influences on our movement.” Quite so.

Dr Shahid Jan Kakakhel, Pakistan

Linda Whetstone is no more. I am deeply sad and shocked.

Linda Whetstone was a Chairperson of Atlas Network, an association of free market think tanks, Network for a Free Society, and British Dressage. A daughter of Sir Anthony Fisher, cofounder of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Linda Whetstone served as a member of the IEA’s board as well as on that of the Islam and Liberty Network. She was also a board member of the Mont Pelerin Society and chairman of the International Policy Network.

Throughout her life, Linda Whetstone worked on translating books on the ideas of freedom into multiple languages, helping to spread free market ideas across the world.

The National Review

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/12/global-freedom-fighters-remember-their-humble-leader-linda-whetstone/>

Global Freedom Fighters Remember Their Humble Leader, Linda Whetstone by Deroy Murdock.



In memory of a worldwide hero for the cause of liberty.

My quiet evening last Thursday in Manhattan was rocked by the tragic news of the loss of Linda Whetstone, a lifetime freedom fighter whose last hours, fittingly, were spent advancing individual liberty and nurturing those who struggle for human dignity in the toughest places. She passed away on December 15 in full command of her deep intellect and gracious charms, just hours after participating in the Atlas Network's Freedom Forum and Liberty Dinner in Miami.

Linda was the daughter of Atlas Network founder Sir Antony Fisher. She served as a trustee and board chairman of the organization that Sir Antony launched to "litter the world with free-market think tanks."



Largely through Linda's efforts, Atlas Network indeed has littered the earth with some 500 research institutions and advocacy groups in 95 countries. They all promote private solutions to public problems. Linda's tireless and far-flung travels and her talent for connecting Need A with Expert B helped Atlas Network achieve so much since it began in 1981.

I was fortunate enough to meet Linda in 1995, soon after joining Atlas Network as a senior fellow. I always looked forward to seeing Linda at our events, and those of allied groups, in America and overseas. Her whispered words of wisdom, swift wit, abundant warmth, and quintessentially English demeanor were qualities I cherished and very much will miss.

One early memory emerged from my very first Atlas Workshop, at Ashdown Park in East Sussex, U.K. A few of us went to Whetstone's nearby home. It must have been built in the days of Henry VIII, or earlier. People back then tended to be shorter than they are today, not least because they lacked so much that most people now take for granted: far-lower infant mortality, far-better diets, One-A-Day vitamins, and gallons of calcium-rich milk.

So, the rather tall Linda and her very tall husband, Francis, lived in this abode that harkened back centuries. It was a cozy and unique residence, with the added advantage of the Whetstones' walking from room to room, slightly hunched over beneath ceilings low enough to startle most modern humans. In every respectful sense, there was something endearingly Monty Python-esque about this eccentric detail of the Whetstones' life in the British countryside.

That said, Linda Whetstone was taken very seriously indeed among libertarian leaders for her stewardship of so many organizations and movements. She was president of the Mont Pelerin Society, launched in 1947 by such luminaries as Milton Friedman, Friedrich Hayek, and Ludwig von Mises. In 1959, a teenaged Whetstone travelled with her father to Oxford for her first MPS meeting and its tenth of 90 gatherings to date; Whetstone attended about 30 of them.

"Out of 31 previous presidents, 30 were men, 28 were doctors [Ph.D.s], and 27 were professors, and I have no quarrel with that. But I am none

of those things, and I barely have a first degree, let alone a masters or Ph.D. So, what can my contribution be as president of this Society?" Whetstone asked with characteristic modesty last month at MPS's meeting at Guatemala's Francisco Marroquin University. "I believe we must use today's technologies to share and develop new ideas among those who share our ideals and broad conceptions. To allow minds across the globe to spark off each other and contribute to the preservation and the vision of a free society."

Beyond the ethereal worlds of political theory and individualist philosophy, Whetstone also was a woman of action.

"She worked with the Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organization for 10 years, taking two motivated individuals and helping them build a body that ran an academy, radio station, and educational conferences for over 400 people focused on tolerance, freedom, and peace," wrote Andy Mayer of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Great Britain's leading free-market think tank, which her father launched in 1955. "When disaster struck this year, she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get them out. Using her contacts and networks to create safe passages and new partnerships that have now resulted in over 3,000 lives saved." Incredible: A nearly 80-year-old lady running her own large-scale, covert rescue operation.

Meanwhile, the abruptness of Whetstone's unexpected departure makes her absence that much harder to fathom.

"This is still surreal," said Rob Chatfield, president and CEO of the Free to Choose Network. "There's no way I could sit next to Linda on Tuesday having lunch — soaking up her wit and wisdom — then send notes of condolence the very next day. I am thankful to have spent true quality time with Linda during the past month. Even with a global pandemic, she was able to travel the world and see friends from Mont Pelerin Society and Atlas Network."

Encomia for this dear friend of liberty are pouring in, from every direction.

"It is indeed with great sadness that we mark the passing of Linda Whetstone," said Jacob Rees-Mogg, MP, the Conservative leader of the British House of Commons, at the Palace of Westminster. "We pray for the repose of her soul."

In a stirring on-air tribute, Fox News Channel host Steve Hilton said

Sunday evening: “Over the course of the last few decades, she herself became one of the greatest and most indefatigable champions for liberty in the world. That’s because she focused on the places in the world where people need freedom the most.” Whetstone was Hilton’s mother-in-law.

“Linda Whetstone had accomplished so much, touched so many lives around the world, and encouraged so many causes and institutes to take on the battle,” recalled Edwin Feulner, founder and former president of the Heritage Foundation. “Her impact ripples across the globe and is visible in the work of the entrepreneur who can now sell his or her wares on the street without the harassment of corrupt officials, in the bustling private schools for the poor, in solitary academics who know they are part of a worldwide network and can share the greatest books and essays with students in seminars, thanks to her efforts to raise the funds, and share the resources, and spread the ideas of liberty.”

Whetstone’s collaboration with the Network for a Free Society helped deliver pro-liberty books and articles to those thirsting for these concepts worldwide. She steered some 150,000 copies of “Ideas for a Free Society” CD-ROMs into the hands of instructors, students, and fledgling leaders in 60 nations.

“It was not unusual to get reports of librarians and teachers in Tajikistan or Burundi or South Sudan who wrote to ask if they, too, could get access to these ideas,” Heritage Foundation scholars Bridgett Wagner and Anthony B. Kim explained. “And she delighted in sharing photos of student debates and training programs, and news of essay competitions and new institutions springing up as a result of this work.”

“When I had the immense honor of working with Linda, she was never without a handwritten list of names of people she was eager to discuss,” Cindy Cerquitella, executive director of America’s Future, remembered. “The student in Cote D’Ivoire teaching himself English to participate in trainings, the brilliant female lawyers in Kenya or India, the exciting young man in Nepal . . . the list was never ending, and Linda’s dedication to supporting every person working to advance liberty that she could, never ended either.”



Linda Whetstone receives the Pacific Research Institute's Sir Antony Fisher Award in San Francisco, November 2016. *(Photo courtesy PRI)*

"I am pleased to send my tribute to Linda Whetstone," said Sally Pipes, president of San Francisco's Pacific Research Institute. "I met her in the mid-1970s when her father was helping to get Canada's Fraser Institute off the ground. Linda was a force of nature who will be sadly missed by free marketeers all over the world. Linda, thank you for all you have done on behalf of freedom."

Across the Pacific, Parth Shah offered a mixture of emotions. "It's really so sad!" said the founder and president of New Delhi's Centre for Civil Society. "A Mont Pelerin Society meeting was in Goa in the early 2000s. On the first day, after dinner, some of us were standing on the beach, wondering what to do. It was rather dark, and no one had seen the beach during the day. We thought it too risky to venture. And there was Linda, walking down to the beach quietly. She took a dip and waved us all in. That's really her — her spirit of adventure, undying energy after the long day, and camaraderie to bring us all together. That's exactly what she is to the global freedom movement. By the way, she was the eldest person on that beach that night!"



Linda Whetstone at the Atlas Network's Freedom Dinner in Miami on December 14, her last night on Earth.

If this leaden cloud has any silver lining, it might be that a vigorous woman of 79 did what she loved up to her last moment, was applauded on her final evening by hundreds of those who adored her, and departed the next morning, surrounded by sunshine and palm trees. As exits go, Whetstone's was enviable.

In the 19th century, as the saying went, "The sun never sets on the British Empire." In the 21st century, the sun never sets on the British anti-empire inspired by the lady

Freedom fighters in all 24 time zones join me in saying: "Rest in Peace, Linda Whetstone."

The Advocata Institute of Sri Lanka

<https://www.advocata.org/media-archives/2021/12/22/a-tribute-to-linda-whetstone-from-sri-lanka>

On December 15, 2021, in the midst of those who loved her and all those who she loved back, Linda Whetstone left this world at the epicentre of the institution that her late father, Sir Antony Fisher founded, The Atlas Network.

Linda was a beacon of light to all those who believed in freedom and human dignity. She was a generous donor and an advisor to think tanks and liberals around the world.

The Advocata Institute bears testimony to the support and strength she gave to Sri Lankans to stand against the crude shadow of populist nationalism that had overwhelmed the fabric of social life in our country. Before the founding of Advocata, liberal ideas around economics were held by a few scattered individuals and lacked an organized and coherent voice. Our partnership with Atlas Network, which Linda Whetstone chaired at the time, was pivotal in making us effective communicators and advocates of these ideas in Sri Lanka.

The team at Advocata remembers fondly Linda's strong encouragement, belief and trust in us as a young organization to host the 2019 Asia Liberty Forum held in Colombo. One of the youngest think tanks in the Atlas network to host a major event. Dear Linda, you were one of the cornerstones at the Atlas Network that had the confidence that we could pull it off.

During the 2019 Asia Liberty Forum, Linda personally sponsored half a dozen young people to attend the conference. Over the years with her support, Advocata Institute and The NightWatchman Society has been able to translate books about basic economic ideas to help expand the knowledge of young people and decision makers, a cause she believed in firmly.

Linda Whetstone also has the unique distinction of serving as the President of the Mont Pelerin Society and also as a board member and adviser of the Institute of Economic Affairs and Students for Liberty as well as numerous other organizations.



The world of free market thinkers has lost a champion of liberty. Linda will be fondly remembered by all those who were inspired, encouraged and influenced and who were fortunate enough to have been associated with her in life.

We will miss her infectious energy, her support and friendship.



The founding members of the Advocata Institute

Marianas Davidovich, Ukraine/USA

"I want to share with the world that yesterday we lost one of the greatest human beings I've ever met. Linda Whetstone was my inspiration and role model. She has been such a mighty force and fierce advocate for freedom around the world, full of intellectual depth, humility, but simultaneously with fire and vigor! I met her about 5 years ago at my first Atlas Network Liberty Forum and I was immediately impressed by her strength, determination, and uncompromising principles for individual liberty and love for humanity. And it's not just her inner strength, but overall strength because we just hiked up the Payaca Volcano at the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS) meeting at Universidad Francisco Marroquín Guatemala just a few weeks ago (we also celebrated her birthday)! She supported many organizations and touched thousands of lives, but I'd like to speak of how she inspired and influenced me. I want to tell her family that Linda's unwavering commitment and personal encouragement makes me want to fight even harder to make a significant and long term impact on a mass scale.

**I have no doubt that her father, Sir Anthony Fisher, would have been so proud of the life she chose to lead.**

It's been a difficult journey doing the work I do where women are such a small minority; especially women in executive roles, so I'm grateful that so many of us had Linda to look up to. She was a no-nonsense woman and at the same time incredibly open and generous; full of love. I'm struggling holding back my tears right now... I will just end by saying that the day before yesterday, just before the Freedom Dinner in Miami, we were discussing some of my ideas and her advice and last words to me were, Marianna, keep going- KEEP GOING!!! For my children, for the future of freedom in the U.S. and around the world, and FOR LINDA, I will keep going and more determined than ever. Thank you Linda Whetstone for being in my life".

Ali Salman, Islam and Liberty Network.

Linda Whetstone left this world on 15th December 2021, as a result of a sudden heart attack, while she was attending the annual conference of Atlas Network, the organization her father Sir Antony Fisher founded, and which supports hundreds of free-market oriented think tanks the world. Atlas Network has also supported ILN for some projects.

Around 2006-2007, Linda, alongside Lord Syed Kamall and others, was an early proponent of a network of Islamic thinkers to promote the vision of Islam's compatibility with liberty. Her vision was realized in 2011 and the inaugural meeting of the network took place in Istanbul, so we called it the Istanbul Network for Liberty, since renamed as the Islam and Liberty Network.

She was deeply involved in its development as a co-founder and as a member of ILN's Council. One fun fact is that when ILN was incorporated in Malaysia as a Labuan foundation in 2016, the authorities nominated Linda in a supervisory capacity. Governments rarely make good decisions, but this was certainly one of them!

On the day of her death, we also conducted a scheduled meeting of the ILN Council, not having the slightest idea that we will never see her again. Linda sent us a detailed email just two days before her death with her words of encouragement and support since she would be away attending the Atlas Network meeting. As Linda almost never missed our meetings, she made sure that her opinion reached us even on the very day when she passed away. Acting on her advice, we amended the Council meeting's agenda to discuss possibility of expanding the Council, not knowing that we were about to lose her.

In her life, and in even in her death, she proved to be a great inspiration, a living legend. Her legacy will only grow with time. We pray that her soul rests in eternal peace and her family find comfort in the achievements of her life.

Andy Mayer, Chief Operating Officer, Institute of Economic Affairs

Linda Whetstone: Kitchen table freedom fighter 1942-2021

Linda Whetstone, aged 79, passed on December 15th 2021 in Miami Florida, doing the work she loved, with the friends she made, and the people she helped all around her.

She was not a household name but had toiled behind the scenes of the freedom movement for over sixty years as a self-declared “second-hand dealer in ideas”. This was how Friedrich Von Hayek described the graft of making academic ideas accessible to all – acutely relevant to the work Linda did sharing texts and contacts that enabled change in some of the most deprived places on earth.

In this field she was a titan, the chair of the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS), the Atlas Network, and Network for a Free Society (NFS). She had been a Board member of the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) for over 30 years and also on the Council of the Islam and Liberty Network.

Linda was the daughter of Sir Antony Fisher, the co-founder of the IEA, whose wartime experiences and clear-eyed view of the dangers of communism inspired his lifetime commitment to classical liberalism. In an interview last year with IEA Director General Mark Littlewood she said: “We believed in limited Government and individual freedom... freedom was the solution to many problems, Government wasn’t”.

She was present and involved in her father’s work from the start. When the IEA opened their first offices in Hobart Place she recalled, “there I was at the age of 14 making tea in the basement for Arthur Seldon”, the editor of the IEA’s early publications.

While it took the IEA more than 20 years to have an impact on British public life, in 1971 Sir Antony also set up the International Institute for Economic Research (IIER), similar to the IEA but with a focus on international policy. He remarried, moved to America and in 1981 he founded the Atlas Network as a body for creating IEAs all over the world. After his death in 1988 Linda took over and reshaped the IIER, becoming the International Policy Network, then NFS.

Her key insight was that there were many places where people had no exposure whatsoever to the ideas that had motivated her and her father. “The concept of a free society must be supported, promoted and defended”, she said. But first it must be seen and understood. At the time of his death, Atlas was principally a US-based organisation with 44 members, but in countries already largely free.

In her words, she said “I’m not an academic, I have nowhere near the brainpower of those people, but I have a passion for making their ideas available to people around the world. People who see the misery, repression and poverty in which they live, see the success of so many places in the world, and they wonder what it is they have to do to get that to happen in their countries.”

“Dad was never able to get things into Asia and Africa, it took too long. That changed when the Internet came along, people were able to find us. Turkey, Ghana, India, and Pakistan were early additions (to the network). But what they wanted was books. Books about free societies and the rule of law.”

However, it was still too expensive and sometimes risky to send books, and rarely possible to print them locally. In many places digital and IT infrastructure was so weak that sending attachments was of limited use. Linda’s great innovation was the Ideas for a Free Society CD, a library of over 100 key texts translated into local languages that became a cheap and portable learning resource. Each one only costing a dollar to manufacture and deliver. Each one easy to share and use to train others.

“It started with only a few hundred sent to three countries, and then they came back for more. It ended up with 80,000 sent from our kitchen table”, Linda noted. A number that is now over 150,000. The process of distribution was equally important, enabling Linda to identify and network leaders, who could then be cultivated to form other groups. It is hard to overstate how much personal time she gave directly speaking to people, motivating, and mobilising them to help others.

French translations of Foundations of a Free Society by Eamonn Butler were distributed in Burundi, a country that ranked 186th out of 190 for the world bank doing business index. One contact on exposure to a Students for Liberty event in Kenya went on to create chapters across Burundi, Rwanda, and Congo, eventually setting up a think tank whose work helped cut the cost of registering a business in Burundi from \$78 to \$22, in turn increasing business registrations by 50 per cent in a year.

An Indonesian partner, empowered by translations of the IEA book Free Trade and How it Enriches us campaigned against Government policy encouraging food self-sufficiency that banned imports and drove up the cost of food. Their success in overturning it saved Indonesians over \$1.9bn by 2020.

She worked with the Afghan Economic and Legal Organisation for 10 years, taking two motivated individuals and helping them build a body that ran an academy, radio station and educational conferences for over 400 people focused on tolerance, freedom, and peace. When disaster struck this year, she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get them out. Using her contacts and networks to create safe passages and new partnerships that have now resulted in over 3,000 lives saved. The Taliban would now like AELSO to return and continue their work.



She held an event in Nairobi, handing out CDs. Six months later she got a call from a student in Ethiopia whose brother's friend has attended the conference and passed from one person to another until it had reached him. He'd read all 100 texts and desperately wanted help to set up a think tank.

She had texts on Public Choice translated into Farsi and distributed in Iran. She co-edited Islamic Foundations of a Free Society, highlighting the compatibility of these ideas with the faith. Something she described, again with typical understatement as being "a little cog to make those ideas available".

In the last year she was interested in how digital learning platforms could be utilised to further improve accessibility for even more people. She supported the IEA's newest recruits to build better resources, setting up meetings in Miami for them, and others, in her last days. She was an inspiration to all who knew her and leaves us with so much more than her words.

"I'm more a little old lady than a titan... I've made so many friends... I've seen some amazing changes, and I know all the people who did it... watching countries turn from basket cases into some of the most admired countries in the world."

She made a difference and she helped others make a difference. She will be sorely missed and fondly remembered. Linda Whetstone 1942-2021.



**Faith Ponsonby** ► **Linda Whetstone**



18 Dec 2021 · 🌐

Thank you dear Linda for all you did for us in Dressage Ireland. You were our mentor and great friend. So sorry to hear you are gone from this world. We will miss you and your sage wisdom. Rest in eternal peace 🙏



1

Robert Boyd, good friend, fellow traveller, and think tank colleague.

“I applaud your aim to build on the success of the IEA in Europe, America and further afield.” So wrote the Prime Minister to Antony Fisher forty years ago. No-one did more to fulfill that aim than Linda Whetstone. A vibrant network of now 500 think-tanks in 100 countries, many very far afield indeed in very challenging countries, enthusiastic teams working to high professional standards and supported by generous committed donors: no mean accomplishment for a chicken farmer and his daughter.

## **THE IEA AND ATLAS NETWORK**

Linda’s lifetime engagement with the world of ideas and specifically, ideas of freedom, started in childhood, literally at the Fisher family kitchen table. She knew from its inception the Institute of Economic Affairs her father founded together with his co-founder Ralph Harris, and the influential research and editorial director Arthur Seldon. As a teenager she attended her first meeting of the Mont Pelerin Society, founded on the initiative of F.A. Hayek at the same time as her father was consulting Hayek having read “The Road to Serfdom”. She became acquainted with its eminent scholarly members. She was a keen observer as her father set about replicating the IEA internationally through what is now Atlas Network and she saw the significant value her stepmother Dorian contributed in documenting the processes for success.

Linda served Atlas for 24 years as a member of the board of directors and recently for 4 years as chairman. She was actively engaged with staff at all levels both formally and informally, with a particular interest in the work of the institute relations and grants team which dovetailed with her own activities through other vehicles.

During this period Atlas faced several important strategic and operational decisions in which she played a significant role, thus contributing importantly to the current breadth and depth of Atlas's reach, the professionalism of its operations, and the high value it contributes to members of its network.

Linda's direct involvement with the IEA began as a result of her and her husband Francis's experience as farmers with the effects of the then-European Economic Community's Common Agriculture Policy. Applying her knowledge of economics she wrote on the subject for the IEA from the 1970's continuing to write, edit, speak and broadcast for the next three decades. She did not mince words: "I strongly believe the Common Agricultural Policy...will go down in history as one of the largest, most misguided, pernicious and damaging of economic policies ever devised by man."

Being principled and likeminded, Linda and Francis rejected taking the substantial general agricultural support subsidies available. Linda also being a realist and practical businesswoman, when she and Francis concluded that the farm could not provide a reasonable return she converted the extensive buildings into what was in effect a small commercial estate hosting thirty micro-businesses. Typically, her motives went beyond financial: she was determined to provide an environment for her family that would nurture and bind them together and provide a source of security and belonging. She persisted despite considerable sacrifices both financially and as one more claim on her time and attention, and maintained close contact with her individual tenants, the kind of entrepreneurs she enjoyed so much. In her management approach she provided the flexibility and cheerful encouragement as well as firmness that small businesses need. The result was an untypical landlord-tenant relationship: low tenant turnover and help for Linda and Francis as needed from time to time.

Linda became a Managing Trustee of the IEA in 1991 and was actively involved throughout the following three decades. Her main interest was in the educational, research and publishing programmes but she was a steadfast and positive contributor across the spectrum of activities. An effective fundraiser herself, she understood how hard it is and admired a good proposal. When personnel problems needed to be addressed and difficult decisions taken, she was not one to defer the matter but brought to bear the same combination of forthrightness, firmness and kindness she displayed in each of her many areas of responsibility.

She especially enjoyed working with young people and they in turn welcomed and valued her mentoring, whether formal or informal. A current project which exemplifies what energized her and to which in turn she could contribute so much is the Initiative for African Trade & Prosperity. A mission dear to her heart; the initiative of a young intellectual entrepreneur; a joint project of the IEA and the Vinson Centre at The University of Buckingham; a talented and experienced advisory council; partners across Africa engaged; Atlas Network providing initial funding, the support of its team and contacts available; introductions made to potential supporters. She was committed to giving it all the support and encouragement she could and looked forward to seeing it flourish.

## **NETWORK FOR A FREE SOCIETY**

When the IEA spun out its former Environmental Unit, Linda was the obvious choice to be chairman of what became International Policy Network, a role she performed with her customary enthusiasm and energy at a time in life when many would be thinking to slow down. Always looking for opportunities to spread understanding of the ideas of freedom she was also conscious of the difficulties of gaining access to them faced by intellectual entrepreneurs in many less developed countries.

They could generate interest locally amongst colleagues and students but needed texts to share for recruitment, seminars, workshops, debates and broadcasts. The import, publishing and distribution of books was in many countries difficult, expensive, or dangerous. Use of the internet was – and still is - frequently not a practical option in precisely the countries where people's lives could be most improved through dissemination of market-oriented ideas.

Linda's solution was to create a mini library of classical texts by putting key extracts from the work of important liberal thinkers onto a CD. She selected 100 core texts, negotiated release of copyrights for public education, and organised their editing, production and distribution under the title "Ideas for a Free Society". She was very conscious that creating a publication was not a sufficient end in itself, especially if only available to English speakers, so she found individuals to translate the CD texts into a wide range of languages and oversaw the output. This evolved into her own unique and highly effective multi-country, multi-culture programme conducted for the past decade as Network for a Free Society.

In her own words, *"The NFS mission is to make the texts that explore and explain the principles and values of a free society available in countries and languages where they are currently not accessible, so that more people can understand the relationship between freedom and human flourishing and promote and defend these concepts in their countries."* Having access to these ideas brought countless young people, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia but also Eastern Europe, their first experience of liberal thought and the arguments to support it. Many of them have gone on to form their own liberal student societies and think-tanks, establish others in neighbouring countries, create other forms of grouping suited to their country's particular cultural traditions, and go into journalism or other influential positions. Many of them are working to advance liberty in countries where that is not just difficult, but sometimes outright dangerous.

Books also had a role if they helped people who were attracted by the basic ideas but did not have familiarity with relevant literature that might be taken for granted in more developed societies, to understand fundamental principles. This led to a fruitful collaboration with Eamonn Butler to provide ‘primers’, notably the highly successful “Foundations of a Free Society”, a short introduction to the liberal mind and liberal values, published by the IEA. This book alone has in turn been translated into more than twenty languages so that the ideas can be absorbed, shared and ultimately used to improve policy and allow people to better their own lives, whether their mother tongue is Arabic, Swahili, French (for Francophone Africa), Farsi, Dari or any of many others. In her Summer 2021 report Linda was able to say that translations of other books were under way in Armenian, Chiche-wa, Hausa, North Macedonian, Portuguese (for Brazil), Russian (for Russia and Central Asia) and Urdu.

Providing partners with the material with which to promote ideas was still not the objective. When answering a request for CD’s, books or the small grants she made available to finance events, Linda required a proper plan for their effective use; shared her own wealth of practical experience; put together individuals who could help each other; provided continuing mentoring; and on conclusion of a project required proper reporting of impacts achieved and accounting for any grant provided. An excellent judge of character she also had a good sense of “businessman’s risk”. All this meant that not only were successes many and disappointments negligible but working with Linda was often an excellent practical training workshop of lasting benefit for those involved. While she always gave most of the credit to partners, they knew how much her engagement meant to their successes. And the realism and thoroughness of Linda’s work gave confidence to donors and other supporters. Her annual reports are a rich, detailed and colourful record of Linda’s and her partners’ activity and accomplishments, often tracking the progress of an individual over extended periods from initial contact.

They contain a wealth of information and photographs and are available on the NFS website <https://www.networkforafreesociety.org/about/annual-reports/>

## **ISLAM & LIBERTY NETWORK**

As a consummate networker herself, Linda understood the benefits of bringing people together in person, and if it was hard for people in lower income countries to attend events readily accessible for those in richer countries, then events should be brought to them. She was instrumental in the Mont Pelerin Society holding a meeting in Istanbul and she herself organised one in Nairobi. She also promoted colloquia for intellectuals in Africa modelled on those of the Liberty Fund. Significantly, the gathering in Istanbul led to the formation of the Istanbul Network for Liberty with Linda as a co-founder. It was later renamed the Islam & Liberty Network and remains a collaboration of Muslim researchers, academics, and public intellectuals working to demonstrate the consistency of the universal values of religious, political and economic freedom with Islam.

Literature on the subject was scant and non-existent in many of the countries where it was most needed. Linda's solution, the book "Islamic Foundations of a Free Society" which she co-edited, was a major undertaking involving recruiting and overseeing the work of authors in many different countries, often living in very difficult circumstances. She initially thought of it to enlighten western minds. However, it met eager demand in Islamic countries, especially amongst academics and teachers, and through translation into Farsi and Dari, with Pashto underway, has achieved reach into places one might not have thought it possible and readership amongst people who would otherwise have regarded liberal ideas as inimical. Working together the Islam & Liberty Network and Network for a Free Society organised seminars and workshops attended by women as well as men, in Afghanistan and Iran as well as across North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.



## **THE MONT PELERIN SOCIETY**

While always diffident in seeing herself as an academic, she demonstrated a fine intellect through the books and papers she authored. More to the point, however, in a Hayekian context, she was unequalled as one of his “second-hand dealers in ideas”. Her involvement with the Mont Pelerin Society was important to her; she attended 25 meetings over the years becoming a board member, member of the executive committee and Chairman, bringing to the Society the same no-nonsense approach to institutional conservatism and the powers of persuasion she manifested elsewhere.

She saw the Society as uniquely placed not only as a source of strength and mutual encouragement for its existing members, as it had been in its earliest days, but as one more means to bring the ideas of liberalism to corners of the world where they were unknown or misunderstood. She promoted recruitment of younger academics and researchers, lively meetings, and discussion of contemporary, potentially controversial, topics. Ever keen to enable people in far flung places to benefit from MPS discussions and especially, the networking opportunities they provided, she was eager to adapt the format of sessions so that distant individuals could be involved virtually. She saw that goal realised for the first time in the most recent meeting in Guatemala, which she also attended.

## **BRITISH DRESSAGE**

Few of those who knew Linda through the world of ideas and think-tanks were aware of the extent of her long-time active involvement in the equestrian world and the remarkable contributions she made to it also. She was Chairman of both British Dressage and the British Equestrian Federation Council and British Dressage have provided a fascinating account of her work. <https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/news/linda-whetstone-a-tribute/> Those unfamiliar with the sport will nevertheless recognise the characteristics she brought to bear.

A passionate commitment to improvement; transparency; fairness; learning from the best; innovation; restructuring when necessary; consensus-building; resourcefulness; energy; and a drive for lasting systemic improvements. Always modest about her own contributions, she nevertheless expressed particular satisfaction in the establishment of training for judges and standardised nationwide judging practices.

## **LINDA AND FRANCIS**

Linda did not accomplish so much alone. Her husband Francis was her stalwart supporter throughout and a frequent attender and supporter at her events. His own involvement in the political world was local, as a county councillor, but he travelled widely with Linda. A wise man, a good judge of people, student of history and with a remarkable memory, Francis was an ideal sounding board for Linda. Reflecting on her father's work and particularly the creation of Atlas and other highly influential institutes, she was very conscious of and spoke warmly of the strength his wife Dorian gave to him and the extent to which his impacts reflected Dorian's participation also. Similarly, Francis was at hand to give Linda steadfast encouragement in what must at times have felt a solitary role, especially when difficult or painful decisions needed to be made.

Together, Francis and Linda opened their home to individuals from across Africa, the Middle East and Asia, or just nearby in Sussex. All received a warm welcome with enthusiastic support as well as hospitality. Often those they took under their wings were very much in need of help in a range of forms, sometimes their lives were in danger and Linda was tireless in using all the means she could access to help them. As she was for individuals in the institutes for which she was responsible, she would be a cheer leader and supportive whilst also providing fair, constructive criticism and a clear framework which enabled them to develop and grow to independence. Unsurprisingly, and as an outpouring of tributes shows, especially from partners in Africa and Asia, she was regarded by many as a second mother or as the years went by, a favourite grandmother.

## PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS

Linda's enormous impact in the world of ideas did indeed "build on the success of the IEA...further afield." Although the world is poorer for the loss of this remarkable woman beaver away from her Sussex study, as a result of her efforts seeds have been planted in minds widely across continents giving promise for better times to people who very much need them. Prospects for freedom no longer depend solely on its fortunes in the developed countries.

This was accomplished through finding and backing the people to do it. The *institutions* that mattered to her – and they mattered a great deal - were not those that take the form of buildings or committees of worthy personages. To Linda, institutions meant those that constitute the foundations of a free society: limited government, private property rights, free exchange and an honest and effective legal system. She believed that human betterment was not possible unless people shared that understanding, were able to put it into effect through public policies, and had the tools, training and encouragement to pursue it.

Linda Whetstone was devoted to that end. She applied herself with enthusiasm, wisdom, strength of character, humility, kindness, generosity and good humour, and the partners, colleagues and friends who were fortunate to have known her hold Linda in both the highest esteem and the warmest affection.



"Lin you made us proud"  
Mark, Mike & Lucy xxx

**Here is a stimulating reply from some thoughtful soul, who had met Lin just once, after reading Robert Boyd's tribute.**

"I was touched by the breadth and depth of Linda's work, the evolution of Linda's engagement over time based on how she was influenced by people & ideas and how she impacted others in return.

I didn't realize the extent of the translations of the CD project for NFS.

I'm so inspired to think about how her influence spread so far and wide. It's hard to fathom how one woman could do so much and touch so many people in challenging places.

I also read the British Dressage account of her contributions. I had no idea that she had made so many major contributions to the assessment system for judging and creation of different divisions.

**Linda's partnership with Francis created balance and strength as she followed her drive to share the foundations of a free society that played out in so many fruitful ways.**

Linda had an extraordinary pattern of applying innovation and fairness with unstoppable energy. She's leaving behind a tremendous legacy.

Her life is a testament to what it means to live, love and to leave our world a little better than we found it."

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change The World. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has"

Margaret Mead



Linda Whetstone's Keynote Speech to The Mont Pelerin Society, Guatemala, November 2021 on becoming their new President.

Dear Members and Guests of the Mont Pelerin Society

I want to thank you all for coming to this meeting at this most inspiring of venues, the University Francisco Marroquin. And to thank all those at the university who have put so much into making this an outstanding experience for us all.

I know only too well how much time and effort it takes over many months to put everything together for a meeting such as this and we are extremely grateful to Gabriel and his team for their efforts and to those who have supported this conference financially. Thank you also to the current MPS Board for their work in managing the Society throughout the year.

What a surreal experience it is for me to stand here as President of the MPS! I went to my first MPS meeting at Oxford in 1959 as a teenager with my father Antony Fisher. It was the 10th meeting of the 90 or so that have now been held by the Society, and I have been to about 30 of them. Also, I was organiser of the ones in Nairobi and Istanbul and very involved in the organisation of those in London and Fez. So the MPS has been both a guiding intellectual light for me and an important part of my life.

However, it had never occurred to me that I would ever be the President, until it happened last September. No one was more surprised than me, and I think quite a lot of people were quite surprised. Surprised, but of course honoured and delighted to follow in the footsteps of so many of those thinkers who I have most admired and from whom I have learned so much. Hayek, Stigler, Allais, Friedman, Buchanan, Coase, Becker and Smith. Eight to name only the Nobel Laureates among them. Plus, other great thinkers some of whom were also at this meeting.

But there is one other previous President I must mention on this occasion by name because of his outstanding contribution to the promotion of freedom, particularly in this region. He was the founder of this wonderful University, Francisco Marroquin, where we are today, and of course his name is Manuel Ayau who said. “If the Mont Pelerin Society had not existed it is probable that we would have discarded the idea of founding a university...” Manuel we owe you so much and we miss you.

Out of 31 previous Presidents 30 were men, 28 were Drs and 27 were Professors and I have no quarrel with that. But I am none of those things and I barely have a first degree let alone a masters or PHD. So what can my contribution be as President of this Society—which exists, in the words of its original Statement of Aims—“to contribute to

the preservation and improvement of a free society by facilitating the exchange of views among minds inspired by certain ideals and broad conceptions held in common”.

We owe so much to those who have managed the MPS for 70 plus years since it was founded in 1947—and not least because they have stuck to the original mission. If the original founders were here now, I am sure they would be amazed at the success of the Society’s achievements to date—even if it seems as if the state of freedom in the world does not always go in the direction they or we would like.

But setbacks do not mean that the Society’s purpose and efforts are flawed. Hayek himself was well aware of the challenges that would be faced by future generations of classical liberals when he said in the *Constitution of Liberty*: “If old truths are to retain their hold on men’s minds, they must be restated in the language and concepts of successive generations.”

And I believe there are things that the MPS could be doing better, although some of the new opportunities have only become available fairly recently.

In 1947 Hayek realised that there were only a handful of people left in the world who really understood the concept of freedom, and that without freedom being more widely understood and accepted, the world was doomed to serfdom. So, he determined to get those few people together to discuss what to do about it... the result being the MPS.

Hayek himself however was already working to reverse the tide of communism and socialism that was ravaging the world. *The Road to Serfdom* was published in 1945. It was read by millions, including my father Antony Fisher, who asked Hayek what he might do to ensure better ideas got a fairer hearing. Hayek suggested that he and others who supported the ideas of liberty should form a scholarly research



organisation to supply intellectuals—people in universities, schools, journalism and broadcasting etc—with authoritative studies of the theory of markets and its application to practical policymaking.

As a result, in 1955 the Institute of Economic Affairs was created. This was the first of Hayek's scholarly research organisations to see the light of day. A little over two decades later, the UK was ready for change and other think tanks sprang up. They became a powerful weapon in the fight for freedom because of their foundation in Hayek's philosophy of liberty that made them so effective.

Following on from the success of these early free market think tanks the Atlas Network opened its doors to help others replicate them in their own countries and now collaborates with some 500 independent partners in around 100 countries.

Hayek was not only an intellectual giant, but the driving force behind practical efforts to advance freedom. The forum that is MPS, the university that is UFM and what has become the market oriented think tank movement.

The expanded reach of pro-freedom think tanks was made possible by rapidly changing technology from the 1990s onwards—cheap lithographic printing, fax machines that made it possible to exchange ideas around the globe, automatic typewriters and then computers and the internet. It has allowed these organisations to increase the understanding of the creative power of freedom, particularly where that understanding is so scarce and so much needed.

Yet for a number of reasons, we at the Mont Pelerin Society have not been as innovative as we might in facilitating exchanges of views more widely. I believe we must use today's technologies to share and develop new ideas among those who share our ideals and broad conceptions. To allow minds across the globe to spark off each other and contribute to

the preservation and the vision of a free society.

The Mont Pelerin Society is unique. It has a remarkable history and is internationally respected as the key intellectual forum for liberal ideas. It has a hugely important role to play in the advancement of freedom. That role is entirely different from the role of think tanks. But we can learn much from their success in now populating the planet. We need to bring our exchanges to more people, and by new means. We need to make our ideas accessible to more people, in more countries.

As Hayek himself said, we must make the building of a free society once more an intellectual adventure. We must make the foundations of a free society once more a living intellectual issue, and its implementation a task that challenges the imagination of the liveliest minds.

To me, that means using every tool at our disposal to extend that challenge to the imagination of yet more lively minds. To widen the discussion of the intellectual foundations of a free society. To commit to our belief in the power of ideas—which, as Hayek understood, is the mark of liberalism at its best. That I hope might be my contribution to the strengthening of free societies across the globe in years to come.

Thank you for listening and enjoy the rest of your time here in Guatemala."

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Executive Director, Institute for Liberty and Policy Innovation (ILAPI) Ghana.

"Linda has been very instrumental in the transitional growth and sustainability of free market start-up think tanks in Africa. Through the Africa Journalist for Economic Training (AJEOT), which started in 2017 and supported by Linda in Ghana, 150 journalists and policy enthusiasts across Africa have benefited and demonstrated profound understanding of helping create a free prosperous society.

Though we will miss her more than ever before, the CDs and books she donated are still with thousands of Cheetahs on the continent including Ghana. The resource materials have transformed thinking and made others entrepreneurs and will continue to cause the necessary changes for Africa's prosperity. Anytime I look at the books and CDs, I see her and still think she's alive with us."

She has inspired and nurtured ideas to grow and have had measurable impact for freedom. Her legacy would live on. We would deeply miss her so much and would still have her in our hearts.

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Sophie Sanaz Von Laer

As Wolf and I were waiting for an Uber to leave the hotel when we were told by a friend that Linda Whetstone has left us that morning. My first reaction was disbelief and shock... and then I had a flashback to my last conversation with her the day before.

I remembered her colourful shirt which symbolized her loving, hopeful, playful spirit; her glasses that often fogged up when she was passionate about a subject; her accent getting stronger when telling the story of her latest quest to spread freedom globally.

I remembered how she always connected people across the world to build meaningful bridges.

I remembered her undying support for making everyone in the movement feel included and understood.

I remembered her sharp mind, kind heart, and always caring spirit. She will live on through us. Rest in peace Linda.

From CEO of British Dressage.

Words cannot describe how upset and devastated we all are at losing Linda; she was a truly remarkable lady and has left an incredible legacy in our sport.

I have spent today at the London International Horse Show speaking to many of those whose lives Linda touched over the years. She was an amazing tour-de-force, professionally and personally, yet had such an unassuming, modest and down to earth way about her, which meant that she was very well loved and respected by so many.



Nouh El Harmouzi

16 Dec 2021 · 🌐



Amna Quddusi, Pakistan  
Never knew the most wonderful conversation with you will be the last one.

Dear Linda, may your soul rest in peace! 🙏 🙏

Admir Čavalić, Association Multi, Bosnia and Herzegovina

I met Linda Whetstone for the first time when she awarded me the Smith Student Outreach Award in 2014 for our work at then Youth Association Multi. We didn't get a chance to hang out and talk much then. However, a couple of years later, I got to know Linda and her husband well during the meetings in Istanbul and Marrakesh.

What thrilled me at first was the extraordinary energy of this woman, which I physically perceived as the personification of an English granny. Back then I learned that everyone is like a bee around Linda – she was always in center and surrounded by people. We founded the Istanbul Network for Liberty in Turkey - an initiative aimed at connecting Islam and liberal ideas.

Through talking to Linda, I always got new ideas, mostly from her. She asked questions - can we do this and that? How to promote freedom? What next? What is happening in Bosnia right now? and the like. She was a very specific donor who fit in perfectly with my Bosnian unobtrusiveness. Namely, Linda would periodically send me an e-mail stating that she has some funds that she can invest in improving freedom in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She would ask me if I would use those funds and how. It was mostly book translations, but also the distribution of the Ideas for a Free Society CDs prepared by Linda.

Our correspondence was via e-mail - Linda wrote very long and detailed emails - but also periodically at events where we could chat. I never knew where I would see her next. Our meetings were a combination of different circumstances. But whenever I saw her I felt positive energy.

I was especially glad when she agreed to come to Sarajevo for the OPEN festival in 2016. There she was one of the participants/speakers, where she promoted Islamic Free Social Foundation book published by the Institute of Economic Affairs. In 2018, when we started the first Bosnian translation of Capitalism and Freedom by Milton Friedman, we first created an online fundraising campaign through one of the platforms for these purposes.

The next day I got a message that someone had paid \$ 1,000. That was Linda. She told me later that she had managed to find those funds and that she believed we were doing the right things.

We have been writing for the last two years. I asked her about Covid-19 and the like. We planned to translate new books.

Fast forward

I saw Linda during the Liberty forum, we hugged. I told her about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the possibility of a recent conflict. She surprised me again with knowledge about the topic - she mentioned the responsibility of Mr. Milorad Dodik - a politician who is supported by Russia and who is the source of the current crisis. After that, I watched Linda on stage as a jury in a competition in which I had participated a couple of years earlier. There was no better choice for the jury.

God wanted, and Atlas staff prepared, for me to sit at the table where Linda was at Liberty Dinner.

When Sir Antony Fisher was mentioned, I turned to Linda and looked at her with a smile. She replied proudly. Together with Casey Pifer and friends from Africa who were sitting at the table, I was on the joint photo with Linda that night.

However, for some reason, the idea of a selfie with Linda kept running through my head. I didn't make it. Linda danced that night. She really enjoyed it.

In the morning I was preparing for the Investors Summit. I passed next to Linda during the breakfast. Again the same thought - it would be good to take a selfie.

Fate is a miracle. I thought, okay, I'll do it after the pitch I have.

Next scene - Linda doesn't react. The last thing she talked about was the fight against the big government in the UK. God wanted a real doctor sitting next to her to revive her. Stephanie helped a lot. The staff removed the others. I didn't want to go. I didn't want to believe it was happening to Linda. To my Linda. Linda who was there whenever I needed support.

I stood by her all the time until the ambulance arrived and prayed like a Bosnian Muslim. All the prayers I knew I went through, including the one "Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un" - "Verily we belong to God and verily to him do we return".

That's what eventually happened. Linda returned to God. Surrounded by all those whom she helped and who respected and saw her as a support. Fate wanted it that way. Fate also wanted her not to suffer, but to talk to the end and fight for the ideas of freedom. Everyone should be jealous of the way she died. It's was a beautiful death.

But Linda is missing. Missing after 5 minutes, missing now after a few days as I write this text. We in Eastern Europe and the Balkans find it difficult to show emotions, but it is impossible to write this without tears so I will end here - Linda thank you.

Carmen Rodriguez Alarcon, Guatemala

Deeply saddened by the news of Linda's passing. She was an amazing human and a freedom champion. The world will miss her and already be a better place thanks to her work. I am forever grateful for her care, service, tenacity, courage, wit, commitment, and deep humanity.

Rest In Peace



President of Wealden Conservative Association,  
Councillor Chris Dowling.

<https://www.wealdenconservatives.com/news/linda-whetstone-1942-2021-rip-association-loses-great-friend-and-supporter>

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of a former Wealden Conservatives Chairman and Past President, Linda Whetstone, who has died while attending an international conference in Miami.

Like me, many of you will have known Linda for many years.

Together with her husband Francis they have been stalwarts of the old East Grinstead Association and since boundary changes many years ago, the Wealden Association.

Linda was a great friend and supporter of the Wealden Association. She was also a great character and great personality with direct and forthright views which were always delivered with an engaging smile. The Association will miss her.

Linda was known, and highly respected, in many circles around the world -- not only as a stalwart supporter of the Conservative Party in Wealden and beyond, but as a promoter of the exchange of ideas and about the principles and practices of a free society, as well as in the show-jumping arena, being Chairman at Network for a Free Society Atlas Network and of British Dressage.

Tributes have been pouring in from many quarters. Her husband recently retired as a long-time county councillor for Forest Row, Groombridge and Hartfield.

In 1959, Linda Whetstone and her father, Sir Antony Fisher, participated in her first MPS meeting in Oxford when she was 17 years old.

She was inspired by the revolutionary ideas discussed by the participants and the lectures from lecturers such as Professor Friedrich Hayek. This was the first of the 25 MPS conferences she would attend over the next 60 year.

Linda Whetstone has been Chairman of the Board of Atlas Network since 2016 and Chairman of the Board of Free Social Networks (formerly known as the International Policy Network) since 2000. She also served on the board of directors of the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Istanbul Freedom Network. The fruits of her labour can be felt all over the world. From Turkey, to the United Kingdom, to Kenya; thanks to Linda Whetstone's efforts, people live in greater freedom.

Aimable Manirakiza, Burundi

Hard to believe🙏🙏! Difficult to think about it💔💔💔! Impossible to last a minute without tears flowing in my eyes🙏💔. It's very difficult for me personally because you were a parent to me. I remember our last discussion in Miami on Tuesday night about our families as a love between a child and his mom. I don't know exactly what's going on but know that I will keep at heart your love for freedom, your advice and the need to defend the cause of a free society  
with greater energy.

We will never stop fighting for a free society.

Linda Whetstone never die.

You will live forever in us!

Grief never ends  
But it changes  
It is a passage, not a place to stay  
Grief is not a sign of weakness  
Nor a lack of faith  
It is the price of endless, deep and enduring love



“Lin — of all your incredible achievements, and we may never know their full extent, your greatest by far was to have loved and been loved by so many.”

Mike & Pat xx

