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[Hilltown, PA] FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pearl S. Buck International Hosts Annual Living the Legacy Fundraiser as Hybrid Event
Theme of the October 1 Lunch Was “What America Means to Me”



Pearl S. Buck International hosted its annual Living the Legacy fundraiser on Thursday, October 1, 2020. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the lunch was offered for the first time as a hybrid event, featuring both a socially distanced in-person component and a professionally produced livestream. In total, about 130 people registered to attend either in person or online.

The theme of this year's event was “What America Means to Me,” based on Pearl S. Buck's book of the same name. In her remarks, President and CEO Anna Katz explained that the theme “is an opportunity to reflect on and rekindle the passion we have for this wonderful country of ours, to contemplate both our strengths and our weaknesses.” The event schedule included an enactment of passages on civil rights and social justice from *American Argument*, by Nobel and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Pearl Buck and Eslanda Goode Robeson, an anthropologist, author, and civil rights activist.

Nydia Han, news reporter and anchor for 6abc in Philadelphia and Pearl S. Buck International's 2019 Woman of Influence award recipient, served as emcee via live feed. The keynote address was delivered by Falesha Grasty, Treasurer of the Pearl S. Buck International Board of Directors, who spoke about her experience growing up Black in the South and raising her 12-year-old son in the world today. "All parents want their children to be safe and successful, to thrive in America the Beautiful," Ms. Grasty noted. "And parents are also fearful of the uncontrollable situations—their first fight, their first heartbreak, the unknown and the known." For some parents, including Black parents, there's an extra level of fear in preparing children "to withstand the hate that others may have because of their differences," she continued, "whether is it the color of their skin or their beliefs."

"Being a part of Pearl S Buck International has also been influential to me," Ms. Grasty stated. "To see the passion that the staff, board, volunteers, and visitors have confirms that Pearl Buck was a woman of great insight and who saw everyone as a human being who is deserving of fair treatment, equality and justice. Every time I turn on the path to get to the property, a sense of belonging, comfort, and caring envelopes my spirit. I can breathe a great sigh of relief and am content in knowing that there are places that authentically accept and celebrate all differences."

For more information on Pearl S. Buck International, go to <https://pearlsbuck.org>.

(Photo credit: Brooke Straiton Photography)

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Pearl S. Buck International® provides opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, builds better lives for children around the globe and promotes the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Historic Landmark Home.

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