Shirley Cloyes DioGuardi has served since 1995 as Balkan Affairs Adviser to the Albanian American Civic League, the only registered volunteer lobby in Washington, DC, representing the concerns and interests of the Albanian people. She has lectured widely and written seventy-five articles about the Balkan conflict. With her husband, former Congressman Joe DioGuardi, she has made forty trips to Southeast Europe, including fifteen to Kosova since the end of the war in 1999. She has assisted members of the U.S. Congress in preparing legislation on the Balkans and has testified six times before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, between 1996 and 2013, about the role of U.S. foreign policy in bringing lasting peace and stability to Albania, Kosova, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. During the Kosova war, she was a commentator on radio and TV and also contributed to the indictment of Slobodan Milosevic that led to his extradition to the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. Cloyes is the author of “Breaking the Protracted Silence about Genocidal Rape in Kosova” in Women and Genocide: Gendered Experiences of Violence, Survival, and Resistance (Canadian Scholars’ Press, 2016) and “Unfinished Business in Southeast Europe: Debunking the Myths that Underlie US and EU Foreign Policy in Kosova” in The EU, Security, and Transatlantic Relations (P.I.E. Lang, 2012)

Cloyes DioGuardi is the creator of Besa: An International Oral History Project, which documents the unique role that Albanians played in rescuing every Jew who either lived in Albania or sought asylum there during the Nazi Holocaust. In January 2014, she addressed the United Nations about the Albanian rescue at the UN’s observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

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