



WORLD  
AFFAIRS  
COUNCIL of  
ALBUQUERQUE

Member, World Affairs Councils of America

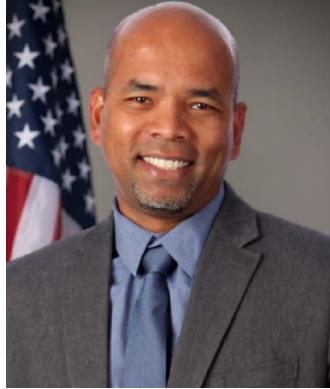
15 April 2024

## ***SPRING HAS SPRUNG – AND THE WIND IS HOWLING***

Greetings to all of our members of the World Affairs Council of Albuquerque and to our reciprocal members at Global Santa Fe, Santa Fe World Affairs Forum and Global Ties Albuquerque. Hard to believe that it's already spring time. In the past several months the Council continued its strong dinner lecture series and took on several additional initiatives to expand the breadth of our programs and the awareness of the Council in Albuquerque and beyond.

### ***OUR RECENT MEETINGS***

The 3d Quarter of the Council's 74<sup>th</sup> program year again delivered three outstanding dinner presentations. At the January meeting, our own Ambassador Will Itoh gave a compelling and comprehensive review of the geopolitical realities confronting American foreign policy in Asia. In February, Dr. Wellesley Pereira from the Air Force Research Laboratory followed on with a perspective on the "Global Race to Space", the explosive growth of the commercial space industry and the advantages that space provides in military conflict and peacetime as well as the impacts that the loss of space capabilities would have to countries that depend on them. In March, Dr. Emile Nakhleh provided a sobering analysis of the current violence in the Gaza Strip and the multiple, crosscutting factors that will drive American foreign policy decisions in Gaza and Israel but with implications across the region and further beyond.



Recent WACABQ speakers: Ambassador William Itoh, Dr. Wellesley Pereira and Dr. Emile Nakhleh

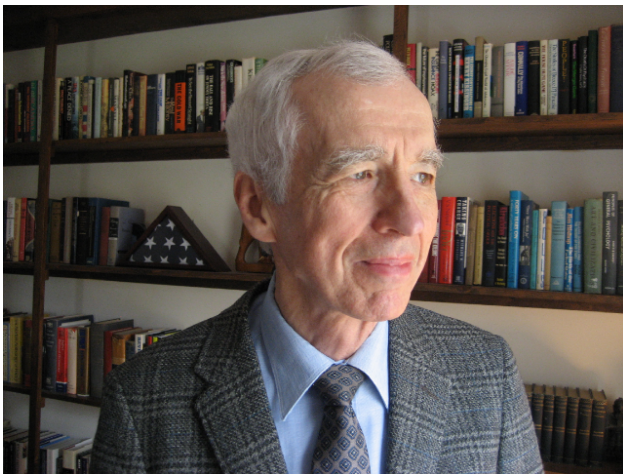
### ***WHAT'S ON TAP – MONTHLY DINNERS AND SOMETHING NEW***

Leading off this quarter, Kathleen Mogelgaard, the president and CEO of the Population Institute, asks if “Demography is Destiny” and will explain “How Population Trends Shape Our Future” as the world’s population surpassed 8 billion people in 2022 and may add another 2.4 billion by the end of the century. In May, Dr. George Beebe of the Quincy Institute and formerly the director of the CIA’s Russian analysis office will present a diplomacy-based US strategy toward resolution of the current war in Ukraine as an alternative to the current administration strategy of “whatever it takes for as long as it takes” advocated by Ambassador William Taylor, our speaker in December. We’ll finish up the quarter in June with a presentation by Mickey Bergman of the Richardson Center on “How to Successfully Negotiate a Hostage Release”.



Upcoming WACABQ speakers: Kathleen Mogelgaard, Dr. George Beebe and Mickey Bergman

While our monthly dinner lectures remain the core of the World Affairs Council of Albuquerque program, we have partnered with the Oasis continuing education center to provide a second series of discussions on foreign policy topics. These programs will be held at the Oasis lifelong learning center located at 3301 Menaul Blvd. NE, Suite 18, in Albuquerque generally at 6:00 PM. They will be pure discussions with no meals attached and WACABQ members are offered the Oasis member rate for each discussion. The Council and Oasis kick off this collaborative initiative on 17 April featuring a conversation entitled "The Gaza War, the Morning After and the United States" featuring Dr. Emile Nakhleh of our own WACABQ and Dr. Paul Pillar, a senior fellow at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. Council members can get further details, open an account (no charge) and register and pay the \$15.00 charge by going to the Oasis website (<https://albuquerque.oasiseverywhere.org/page/4/>), selecting Course 300 and adding to cart.



Dr. Paul Pillar, Dr. Emile Nakhleh

### ***OUR HIGH SCHOOL EFFORTS***

We continued to build on several student and young adult programs. Driven by Board Member Robanne Harrison, delegations from two local high schools participated in our monthly dinner/discussion sessions: East Mountain and Albuquerque Academy. On 8 April, nominations closed for the Council-run Global

Educator of the Year award process that we initiated in August, also led by Robanne Harrison. The first-year winner will be announced at the end of April and will receive a fully funded grant to participate in the four-day training session in July on educational resources available to international educators sponsored by our sister World Affairs Council in Dallas.

### ***WACABQ'S UNIVERSITY LEVEL OUTREACH***

During the quarter, the Council made significant headway resurrecting several initiatives at the University of New Mexico that had gone by the way as a result of the COVID shutdown and then added a new initiative at UNM. The program that brought students enrolled in the Global National Security Studies program has been resurrected on an initial basis that provides two student participants at each WACABQ dinner session, with an anticipated expansion in the fall. Under the auspices of the Dean of University College, each of UNM's three ROTC departments will again have two student seats for our dinner lectures. Moreover, our student member of the WACABQ board, Ella Hatfield, opened up discussions on a relationship with the UNM Model UN organization. Finally, the Council established a working relationship with the University's International Studies Institute that will alert its faculty and student membership to upcoming dinner lectures and make them aware of the reduced membership and event prices available to them.

### ***THE YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM***

The Council's relationship with the young professional organization in Albuquerque, Global Shapers, will renew for another year, underwritten by generous donations from two family members, Bob and Jean Gough and Bob and Susan McGuire. One grant underwrites the membership and all dinner meetings for a single scholarship winner while the second provides for membership and all dinner meetings, with participation at dinners rotating among Shapers members on a month-by-month basis.

### ***BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN ALBUQUERQUE & SANTA FE***

The Council continues to explore opportunities to broaden its interaction among Albuquerque's internationally oriented non-profit organizations. We are looking at ways to expand further the formal reciprocal membership agreement with Global

Ties Albuquerque (GTA) announced last year and formalizing the informal reciprocal relationships with Global Santa Fe and the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum.

In our effort to play a larger role at the national level in the World Affairs Councils of America, we have now joined as a cosponsor of a book review series underwritten by the World Affairs Council of Connecticut. The series is moderated by Jim Falk of Global Santa Fe. WACABQ members will be receiving announcements of the book reviews as they come out.

Keep in mind your reciprocal membership in these three partner organizations as we forward to you announcements of their opportunities for which WACABQ members are eligible at reduced rates. Of particular note, WACABQ members are invited to attend the annual symposium put on by the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum on April 25 and 26 at Santa Fe Community College. Titled “America’s Place in the World -- Still Indispensable?” the program will bring together prominent academic, diplomatic and government experts to assess the future global role of the United States. Detailed information on this program including how to register is available on the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum website, [sfwaf.org](http://sfwaf.org)

### ***NEW SOCIAL MEDIA SITES UP AND RUNNING***

As a reminder, in September, WACABQ launched two long overdue social media sites. Led by Board Member Aaron Velasquez and executed by Esther Hewitt, Facebook and Instagram sites are up and running as we work to broaden awareness of the Council and the opportunities we offer in the local area and beyond. I encourage all our members to check out these sites, use them as a supplement to the email announcements you receive and refer them to acquaintances who may be interested in World Affairs Council events and what else we have to offer. The link to our Facebook site, “World Affairs Council of ABQ” is: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551637121498&mibextid=LQQJ4d>. The link to our Instagram site is: [https://instagram.com/worldaffairsabq?igshid=OGQ5ZDc2ODk2ZA%3D%3D&utm\\_source=qr](https://instagram.com/worldaffairsabq?igshid=OGQ5ZDc2ODk2ZA%3D%3D&utm_source=qr).

### ***TELL US – AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT HAVE INTEREST – WHAT YOU THINK***

As the World Affairs Council of Albuquerque goes forward, we seek input from all of our members on their desires and suggestions to enhance our mission to broaden international awareness in the community. We encourage everyone to spread the

word about Council membership among others – friends and acquaintances -- who might enjoy and benefit from what it has to offer members and guests. Moreover, the board asks for your help with any insights or introductions that our membership may have as WACABQ rebuilds its list of sponsors – commercial enterprises, financial institutions, professional organizations, fraternal societies and others that have interests in global affairs. Already, in February, the West Point Society of New Mexico distributed to its membership an introduction to our Council that, subsequently, resulted in two new memberships. In March, the Council gave a briefing on our organization and its programs to the Del Webb community on the west side of Albuquerque. After the presentation, several attendees expressed an interest in membership. We are eager to continue those types of interactions with organizations whose memberships might be interested in what we do.

### ***LAST THOUGHTS***

As an administrative point of information, your Board of Directors is currently undergoing a review of all policies and bylaws of our organization. Led by Planning and Strategy Committee chair, Munaf Aamir, we expect to complete a review and update by the end of this program year. 30 June.

The members of the board of directors and I'm sure all our members wish to express their profound appreciation for the service that two longtime Board of Directors members have given to our organization. Dennis Sterosky was a diligent member of the team and a determined student of international affairs. He served as the WACABQ president on several occasions and passed away with his family in Arizona several months ago. Jim Baten, for personal reasons, left the board recently. A longtime member of the Council, Jim was the chair of the Education Committee and a strident driver of both our internal high school education programs and Council support to the New Mexico High School Model UN Program. While Jim has left the board, he remains an active member of the Council. We look forward to seeing him at our upcoming dinner lecture series.

### ***ALL THE BEST***

Wishing all of WACABQ all the best as spring matures, the winds die down and the days get longer. We appreciate your continuing membership and your help in growing and look forward to you joining us for all of our upcoming events.

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