



The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (www.wacmb.org)

October 2021

Quick Takes: World Issues in the Age of Covid-19

Quick Takes is a series of short video presentations by leading experts in international affairs. One new *Quick Take* will be produced each month, and is posted to our website. Once posted, ***Quick Takes* are permanently available for you to view at your convenience.** To access the latest video, go to www.wacmb.org, where you will immediately see it on the home page.

October 15, 2021: Peter Martin, Defense Policy and Intelligence Reporter for Bloomberg News

A Conversation with Boyd Haight on China's Wolf Warrior Diplomacy



Chinese diplomacy in the past several years has become more assertive and its diplomats have used sharper language, earning them the title "wolf warriors." In his recent book, *China's Civilian Army: The Making of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy* (Oxford University Press, 2021), Peter Martin traces the roots of China's approach to diplomacy back to the communist revolution of 1949, and tells the story of how it has evolved through social upheaval, famine, capitalist reforms, and China's rise to superpower status. His widely praised book draws on dozens of interviews and, for the first time, the memoirs of more than 100 retired Chinese diplomats.

Peter Martin is a political reporter for Bloomberg News. He has written extensively on escalating tensions in the US-China relationship, and has reported from China's border with North Korea and from its far-western Xinjiang region. His work has been published in *Foreign Affairs*, *The National Interest*, *The Guardian*, *The Jamestown China Brief*, *The Diplomat*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*. He holds degrees from the University of Oxford, Peking University, and the London School of Economics.

For October's *Quick Take*, Mr. Martin will engage in a Q & A session with WACMB Board member and Discussion Group leader Boyd A. Haight. Mr. Haight is an experienced international development professional, skilled in corporate governance, policy analysis, fisheries and aquaculture, and program management.



WACMB in Profile: Nancy Johnson

“WACMB in Profile” is a series of occasional articles that profile the people who make our organization tick.

If you consult the list of board members, officers, and liaisons that appears on the back of every *Passport*, you’ll see that Nancy Johnson is the Secretary of this organization. Since June 2018, she has meticulously noted the discussions held and decisions reached at WACMB’s monthly board meetings. What you *won’t* see on the back of the *Passport* is how much Nancy loves to travel, and how much that has impacted her life.

As an undergraduate at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Nancy majored in Theatre, minored in English, and married Bob Johnson. After graduating, they moved to Salinas, where Bob began his career as a pharmacist and where they raised their son, Matt. In 1993, they moved to Monterey and have been loving life on the Peninsula ever since.

In the 1980s, the Johnson family began to travel more, which inspired Nancy to learn more about world history. She began attending the Gentrain program at MPC and took other courses in literature, history, and philosophy. These studies sparked a desire to teach at the college level, so she started commuting to San Jose State, where she earned an MA in English Literature. With her degree in hand, she went to work at MPC, teaching courses in that same Gentrain program. Her courses were a blend of literature/theatre, art history/architecture, and philosophy/religion in the context of a variety of historical periods and places. In addition, Nancy coordinated Worldtrain, a world-history spinoff of Gentrain, and led domestic and foreign travel-study tours, including numerous theatre tours to London and New York City. She really loved having a career that allowed her to combine her academic interests with her passion for travel.

Nancy has now technically retired. But that

hasn’t slowed down her pace of travel; pre-pandemic, she was still taking at least three major trips abroad every year, and looks forward to returning to that practice once it’s safe to do so. When her husband Bob decided that he’d checked every travel box on his bucket list, Nancy wasn’t at all ready to put her suitcase in the attic. Reluctantly, she tried traveling solo – and discovered that she loves it! Tapping into an adventurous streak that she didn’t know she had, Nancy has traveled on her own to Marrakech, Cairo, Istanbul, Samarkand, and Xi’an, just to name a few. Every summer, she attends a study program at Christ Church College at Oxford University, where she gets to take her meals in the “Harry Potter” dining room, which is great fun. When she’s not on the road, Nancy can be found either working in her garden or making jewelry from beads, amulets, and pendants that she’s haggled for in souks and markets from Marrakech to Kathmandu.

While leading a study tour to Pasadena to study Craftsman-style architecture, Nancy met Judy Sloan, the chair of the WACMB Program Committee. Judy told Nancy about WAC. Nancy checked it out, decided that WAC’s focus on world affairs was right up her alley, and has been part of our organization ever since. So that’s another way that Nancy’s love for travel has affected her life – and we are all very glad that it did!

Discussion Group

On Monday, October 4, the WACMB Discussion Group will address Afghanistan. This thorny topic ties into Dr. Thomas Barfield’s September 15 *Quick Take* on the same subject. The Discussion Group will meet on Zoom from 4:00 - 5:30 pm.

The WACMB Discussion Group is facilitated by Judith Glickman and Boyd Haight. If you are interested in participating in the group, please send an email to info@wacmb.org and let them know.

Come join the conversation!

Affiliate Report: Naval Postgraduate School

Jessica Piombo, the WACMB liaison to the Naval Postgraduate School, has sent this report of events happening at NPS that may be of interest to our members.

- The “NPS Next” initiative to transform the university has begun in earnest, with the formation of almost 20 lines of effort to work on various aspects of the university, from curriculum to operations to culture. We are expecting some of these efforts, such as curriculum consolidation and reform, to take at least a year to complete, while others will be less long-term. The end-state of the transformation is unclear; however, it has become apparent that NPS needs to change its operating model to be better positioned to serve Navy needs, educate the future workforce, and defend NPS against efforts to close it.

- The Naval Education Enterprise has begun a new “Education for Seapower” initiative. This is a central Navy effort from the N7 directorate, (a relatively new office within the office of the Chief of Naval Operations that is in charge of the Naval education enterprise). Its goal is to draft a vision and roadmap for education for the Naval forces. NPS's Vice Provost, Dr. Michael Freeman, will serve on the committee.

- All US military members, civilian employees of the US government, and contractors doing work for the US government are now required to be vaccinated against Covid-19. At NPS, the fall quarter will be a time of transition, with as many classes as possible returning to in-person learning, but with the understanding that some classes may continue to be remote. Those who have not been fully vaccinated, whether students or faculty, will not be allowed in the classroom.

Welcome to Our New Members!

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is delighted to welcome our newest members.

James Atkinson
Sean Batson
Gordon Davis
Christine Duncan
Jack and Marilyn Erickson
Douglas and Nancie Ferguson
Cynthia B. Hall
Scott Hanham
Susan Harker
Rex Holmlin
Robert and Rae Janzen
Larry Marcus
Jubriel Meneses
Patrick and Lindsay Nevis
James Plotts and Allison Henry-Plotts
Kevin and Kitty Rice
Suzanne Taunt

We look forward to meeting you all in person when circumstances permit!

Monterey County Gives! is coming to WACMB!

Great news! The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area has been accepted to participate in Monterey County Gives!, a fundraising program for non-profit organizations in Monterey County. Monterey County Gives! is sponsored by *The Monterey County Weekly*, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, and the Community Foundation for Monterey County.

Watch this space for further details!

This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). WACMB is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.

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- *California State University Monterey Bay
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