Russia and Its War Against Ukraine

The Honorable Steven Pifer

US Ambassador to Ukraine, 1998 - 2000;
Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

Friday, April 29, 2022

11:30 am: Registration  12:00 am: Luncheon  12:45 pm: Program

** Hilton Garden Inn, Aguajito Road, Monterey **

Russia’s relations with the West and with its neighbor Ukraine have grown increasingly difficult over the past decade. What does the Kremlin want in general, and what drove it to launch a major invasion of Ukraine in February 2022? Our speaker Steven Pifer will explore these questions and what the future may hold for Russia and Ukraine.

Steven Pifer is a William J. Perry Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. He is also an affiliate of Stanford’s Europe Center and a nonresident senior fellow with the Brookings Institution.

A career Foreign Service officer, Ambassador Pifer’s more than 25 years with the US Department of State included assignments as US Ambassador to Ukraine (1998-2000), Deputy Assistant Secretary of State responsible for Russia and Ukraine (2001-2004), and Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia on the National Security Council (1996-1997). He also served at the US embassies in Warsaw, Moscow, and London, as well as in Geneva with the US delegation to the negotiation on intermediate-range nuclear forces.

Ambassador Pifer is the author of The Eagle and the Trident: U.S.-Ukraine Relations in Turbulent Times (Brookings Institution Press, 2017). He is a graduate of Stanford University with a BA in economics.

For more information on WACMB’s vaccination and attendance policies, please see page 4.
Boyd Haight moderates one of WACMB’s two Discussion Groups, so many people have had discussions with him about world affairs. But if you were to sit down and have a discussion about Boyd, you would learn that he has led a fascinating life, with careers that have taken him all around the world.

Any discussion about Boyd begins in northern California, where his family has been since the Gold Rush. Boyd was born and raised in Palo Alto. While growing up, he spent time fishing and swimming in Monterey, Carmel, and Santa Cruz, and went hiking and skiing in the gold country and the Sierras. When he graduated from Stanford University in 1976 with a BSc in Biological Sciences, Boyd probably couldn’t have guessed that he would spend 38 of the next 41 years overseas. He began this phase with a stint in the Peace Corps in the Central African Republic, where he spent four years working as an aquaculturist. During the second half of this adventure, he also volunteered with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a large, specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

After completing his service in the Peace Corps, Boyd returned to the US for three years; he earned an MSc from UC Davis in International Agricultural Development, and then worked for the US Department of Energy on an alternative energy grants program for the western states and Pacific island territories. Of even greater consequence, while at Davis, Boyd attended a Halloween party where he met the lovely Susan, a native New Yorker who was then working as a teacher in Woodland. They married in 1983; that same year, Boyd was hired by FAO, and he and Susan headed for Africa. They lived in Kisumu, Kenya; Chipata, Zambia; and Harare, Zimbabwe, where Boyd worked on aquaculture and inland fisheries projects. Susan was able to continue her teaching career; in fact, she founded the Harare International School, which is still going strong today. They had two sons, both of whom are now married. One son lives in New York City, and the other, who lives in Pebble Beach, is the father of Boyd and Susan’s two granddaughters. But we’re getting ahead of the story.

Boyd’s work took him all over eastern and southern Africa, where he worked with farmers, technicians, researchers, and policy makers to help increase farmers’ dietary protein and earnings. These were years filled with adventure in work and family life. In 1996, Boyd was assigned to FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, where the family spent 22 wonderful years that included much travel. He held a series of increasingly responsible positions in FAO’s fisheries and agriculture departments. For the last ten years of his career, Boyd served as Director of Strategy, Planning, and Resources Management and was closely involved with FAO corporate governance, intergovernmental negotiations, and UN inter-agency matters.

Throughout his career, he enjoyed living and working with people of different national and cultural backgrounds on a common purpose, both in the field (in over 50 countries) and in the UN institutional setting. It was challenging to engage with national representatives and make progress on the complex issues of food security, sustainable development, and international agreements on food and agriculture such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Agreement on Port State Measures (targeting illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the Codex Alimentarius on international food standards.

In 2018, Boyd and Susan retired from their work overseas and returned to the United States. They now split their time between homes in Monterey and in the fishing village of Corea, Maine. Their bi-coastal lifestyle makes it easy to keep up with their children and grandchildren, which is Boyd’s favorite thing to do. He also loves hiking in the Coast Range and the Sierras, as well as in Acadia National Park in Maine and the Appalachian Mountains of New England. Given his career, it’s no surprise that he stays closely involved with the United Nations Association of the USA in advocating for the work of the UN.

Boyd joined WACMB to meet and engage with fellow Monterey Peninsula residents on the state of world affairs. Besides attending the luncheon talks, he joined one of WACMB’s Discussion Groups. In 2020, Judith Glickman asked him to become the group’s co-moderator, and he has since joined the WACMB Board. We are grateful to Boyd for his efforts to keep the conversation flowing, and invite any and all WACMB members to have a discussion with Boyd about joining one of the groups!
RESERVATION FORM
Reservations due April 25. Luncheon is at the Hilton Garden Inn in Monterey.

Registration: 11:30 am  Mail form and check or credit information to:  Members @ $36 ________
Luncheon: 12:00 am  WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942  Guests @ $42 ________
Program: 12:45 pm  or fax reservation form to (831) 643-1846  Total $ ____________

or register online at www.wacmb.org

Russia and Its War Against Ukraine

Name/s __________________________________________ Card Holder Name ____________________________
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Vegetarian? (Requires 72 hours notice) ______ Signature __________________________________________

Note: No refunds or credit will be given for cancellations received after the due date

New Liaisons

We are pleased to welcome two new liaisons to the WACMB Board. Dr. Andrew Drummond is the Liaison for CSUMB. The Associate Vice President for Student Success and the Dean of University College, Andrew holds a PhD in political science from UC Irvine. His research focuses on electoral design and ideological bias.

Dr. Loren Steck will serve as the Acting Liaison for Monterey Peninsula College. Loren has served on the MPC Board of Trustees since 2003, and also serves as a trustee on the statewide California Community Colleges Board. He received his PhD in psychology from UCLA, and has made a career of conducting public opinion research for clients in the entertainment industry.

We look forward to working with Drs. Drummond and Steck to continue WACMB’s long and valued relationship of mutual support with CSUMB and MPC!

LUNCHEON MENU

- Salad of Salinas Valley Greens with Berries, Feta, and Walnuts
- Grilled Lemon, Garlic, and Rosemary Salmon on Orzo Pilaf
- Green Beans
- Fresh Bread and Butter
- Double Chocolate Mousse Cake
- Coffee

VEGETARIAN OPTION

Colorful Bell Peppers Stuffed with Grains and Vegetables and Served on a Pool of Corn Pudding
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.

Corporate and institutional support for the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area is provided by
*California State University Monterey Bay
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Make checks payable to WACMB and mail to
WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA, 93942
(Couples, please include both names)
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Names/s: _______________________________________
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* Student rates are for full-time students at accredited colleges, universities, or graduate schools, as well as for enlisted military personnel in Grades E1 to E4.

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Email: info@wacmb.org
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The Passport  April 2022

Vaccination Requirements

- All those attending luncheons (or any other WACMB in-person events) must show proof of full Covid-19 vaccination, including a booster.

- To prove your vaccination status, you can present either your vaccination card or your State of California QR code.

- You only need to present such proof once. Your documentation will be noted, and that box will be automatically checked for future meetings.

- For the time being, no auditors will be permitted to attend any WACMB in-person meetings. This is to ensure that every person in the room has been vaccinated and boosted.

- Thank you for your cooperation with our efforts to keep our members healthy!

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