



World Affairs Council  
of the Monterey Bay Area

## The Passport Newsletter

December 2023



### Politics of the War in Gaza

Professor James Russell  
Department of National Security Affairs  
Naval Postgraduate School

Monday, December 18, 2023  
Hilton Garden Inn

11:15 AM: Registration

11:45 AM: Lunch

12:30 PM: Speaker Presentation & Questions

Hilton Garden Inn, 1000 Aguajito Road, Monterey

Registrations are due by Thursday, December 14, 2023

[www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org)

[Download mail-in form](#)

[Register online for this event](#)

The Israel-Hamas War has polarized political constituencies across the globe, not the least of which is here in the United States. The area is now a key arena for global power politics.

James Russell, a specialist on the Middle East and popular guest at our forum, will discuss the war in Gaza in the context of local, regional, and global politics. He will also assess American strategy and policy to recast a peaceful and stable region across the Middle East.

James A. Russell serves as Associate Professor at the Naval Postgraduate School where he teaches courses on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, military innovation, and national security strategy. His articles and commentaries have appeared in a wide variety of media and scholarly outlets around the world. From 1988 – 2001, Dr. Russell held a variety of positions in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Near East and South Asia, Department of Defense.

Professor Russell holds a Master's in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in War Studies from the University of London.

### Location

Big Sur Room

Hilton Garden Inn

1000 Aguajito Road,

Monterey, CA

### Agenda

11:15 AM: Registration

11:45 AM: Lunch

12:30 PM: Speaker Presentation & Questions

### Menu

Spinach Salad with Mandarin Oranges,  
Blueberries, Feta Cheese & Balsamic Dressing

Bread and Butter

Honey Dijon Garlic Chicken Breast

Over Toasted Almond Couscous

Served with Green Beans

*Vegetarian Alternative*

Bell Peppers Filled with Almond Couscous,

Raisins, Sun Dried Tomatoes & Green Olives

Served with Green Beans

### Tickets

\$36 for World Affairs Council

\$41 for Guests

Lemon Bars with Berries

[Download mail-in form](#)

[Register online for this event](#)

**Registrations are due by Thursday, December 14, 2023**

**Please Note: Our registration desk and name tag pick up has moved inside the Big Sur Room.**

**If you encounter difficulties with our online registration or wish to audit the presentation please email [info@wacmb.org](mailto:info@wacmb.org) to reserve a spot by the registration deadline.**

### Vaccination Requirements

**Until further notice documentation of COVID vaccination will not be required to attend in-person events.**

WACMB will accept auditors to this event, requiring notification to the WACMB office no later than Friday, December 15th to [www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org).

Auditors will be allowed entry at 12:20 pm.

## Welcome to Our New Members



Peter Anastos

Marly Auerbach

Norman and Suzanne Book

Whitney Gravel

Peggy Munoz-Meador

Maria and Guillermo Owen

Darren Peterie

Joanne and Lowell Webster

## MC(G)IVES!

WACMB is thrilled to be selected again for the annual MC - Gives campaign supporting local non-profits in Monterey County. Our **Big Idea** brings the discussion and study of global issues to our local High Schools with the Academic World Quest (AWQ) youth education program. The Academic world Quest (AWQ) Program, a National contest with a fun, fast-paced team competition for high school students that tests participant knowledge of current international politics, geography, global economics, history and cultures.



The AWQ Program is sponsored by the World Affairs Council of America (WACA), our parent organization in Washington, D.C..Funds raised for our Monterey County high school competition will provide both cash awards for the three highest placed teams and an all-expense paid trip for the winning team of 4 students and their Coach to compete in the National competition in Washington D.C. next April. Last year's local winning team Monterey High School will be looking to repeat their success against other County high Schools.

### Help Us Meet Our Goal

Donations submitted at

<https://www.montereycountygives.com/nonprofit/world-affairs-council-of-monterey-bay-area-inc/>

beginning November 9th through the end of December

There are three easy ways to donate to the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB) :

- 1). By credit-card online to the above website.
- 2). By check made payable to "Community Foundation of Monterey County (CFMC)", indicating "to the benefit of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB)". mail checks to CFMC, attn. MC-Gives !, 2354 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940.
- 3). By an IRA Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD). Process information is available on the above website.

We appreciate your generous donation for this exciting and relevant Youth Education Program. WACMB Passport editions will follow the progress of this year's competition.

### Congratulations to last year's team who advanced to the Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2023 Academic WorldQuest National Competition



Monterey High School Academic WorldQuest team from left, River Valdivia, Sindha Gokaraju, Taylor Boothe, and Eunwoo Kim



### Come join the conversation!

The [WACMB monthly Discussion Group](#) will meet on Monday, December 4th at 5:00 pm on Zoom, in partnership with OLLI. The discussion topic is *Whether the Dollar: How shall we be affected if the greenback is no longer the reserve currency?* following on the [November 20th WACMB luncheon presentation](#) on this subject by Professor Barry Eichengreen from UC Berkeley.

If you are interested and have never attended this Discussion Group, just send a request to [discussiongroup@wacmb.org](mailto:discussiongroup@wacmb.org) to receive log-in information and related study materials.

All are welcome!!

## Message from Our President

World Affairs Council



of the Monterey Bay Area



### Join Us!

The energy in the room was palpable at our recent August Luncheon/Lecture featuring Michael Ipson. Following an engaging, well crafted presentation on China's economic and social development over the past 20 years, the Q&A found the audience eager to engage with thoughtful dialogue. This is always my favorite part of our programs, when members get excited about discovering new ideas and perspectives about international issues.

In addition to our monthly lectures, our discussion groups meet regularly to explore these topics in greater depth. It's easy to join in. Just click on the link on our website:

[www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org) to sign up. Our next group meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2023.

Please join us at an upcoming event or discussion group and consider becoming a member of the Council or renewing your current membership at

<https://www.wacmb.org/membership/>.

Our Regards,

Peter Albano

President of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

[Join, Renew, Donate](#)

*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 \*Defense Language Institute \*Monterey Peninsula College \*Naval Postgraduate School \*Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey \*Castle Rock Wealth Management \*Comanche Cellars \*Horan & Lloyd Law Firm \*Cal Alumni Club of the Monterey Peninsula