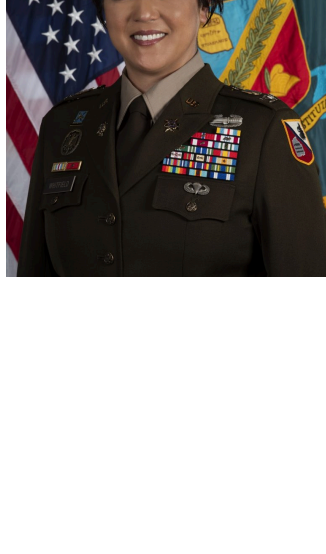


The Passport Newsletter

February 2025



"The State of the Defense Language Institute (DLI) Foreign Language Center"

How Monterey County's single largest civilian employer provides trained and educated linguists essential to the Department of Defense and the National Security Agency.

Colonel Christy Whitfield
Commandant, DLI

Thursday, February 20th, 2025
Lecture Luncheon

Monterey Marriott - The Ferrantes Room

Registrations are due by Thursday, February 13th, 2025
Please note: Cancellations after the deadline are non-refundable.

Download mail-in form

Register online for this event

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) is the largest foreign language school in the world. With 1,000 plus civilian faculty of which 95% are foreign born and educated in the countries of their birth. 84 % of the faculty have graduate degrees and of those 21% have PhDs. The 2,000 plus student body is multi service (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps) and must meet strict recruiting standards to include background investigations providing a Top Secret Security Clearance. Depending on the language they will study, they will undergo six to 15 months of daily intense language and cultural training and education. The student body includes officers and enlisted and is 26 % female. 66% of the student body is under the age of 25.

Please join us to meet the new Commandant of DLI, Colonel Christy Whitfield, and hear her discuss the global footprint of DLIFLC, its mission and vision.

Colonel Whitfield is the 32nd Commandant of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. Prior to her appointment to DLI she served as the senior intelligence officer in the Intelligence Directorate at the United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. Her career has taken her to Korea and Italy and four year long combat deployments in Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. Colonel Whitfield graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Louisiana State University.

Location

The Ferrantes Room
Monterey Marriott
350 Calle Principal
Monterey, CA

Agenda

11:30 AM: Registration
~ 12:00 PM: Luncheon
~ 12:45 PM: Speaker

Tickets

\$55 World Affairs Council members
\$65 for Guests

Menu

Baby Iceberg Wedge
Bacon Lardons, Heirloom Tomatoes,
Crumbed Blue Cheese, Pickled Red Onion
with Point-Reyes Blue Cheese Dressing

Artisan Breads and Butter

Spinach and Feta Stuffed Chicken Breast,
Scalloped Potatoes, Charred Broccoliini with
Carrot-Tumeric Purée, Blistered Grape
Tomatoes with a Lemon Thyme Cream

Vegetarian Alternative

Al Pastor Cauliflower Steak with
Achiote Marinade, Heritage Grains,
Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Grilled Pineapple
with a Vegan Ancho Crema

Dessert

Pineapple-Carrot Walnut Cake

Download mail-in form

Register online for this event

Registrations are due by Thursday, February 13th, 2025
Please note: Cancellations after the deadline are non-refundable.

If you encounter difficulties with our online registration please
email info@wacmb.org or tel. 831-643-1855 to reserve a spot
by close of registration - Thursday, February 13th, 2025

We regret that we cannot accommodate auditors on this occasion.
Recording of this event is not permitted.



ACADEMIC WORLD QUEST

We currently have five high school teams preparing for the AWQ local contest on February 22, 2025 at the Monterey County Office of Education. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first THREE teams. The winning team will be flown for an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national contest on April 28, 2025.

This year's topics include:

- The U.S. and Foreign Languages
- Space and National Security
- Non-traditional Approaches to Foreign Policy
- Music and Globalization
- Indigenous Peacebuilding
- Critical Minerals in Africa
- Borders and Boundaries
- Mexico: 2025 Focus Country
- Great Decisions
- Current Events

The online study guide for the students to use can be found [here](#).

Save the Date: May 15, 2025. Dinner Honoring the Monterey County winning team! Registration at 4:30pm, Dinner at 5:00pm.

Help Us Get The Word Out!

AWQ Student Dinner 2024



MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!

Joining Together for Big Ideas

MCGives! Campaign Report

A BIG thank you to all who donated to this year's MCGives! campaign sponsored by the Community Foundation of Monterey County, the MC Weekly and Monterey Peninsula Foundation. Thanks to our generous donors, WACMB will receive a grant of \$13,740 plus a pro-rata share of an overall matching fund of \$1,390,000. These funds will directly support our local Academic World Quest Competition, team awards and a trip for the winners to compete nationally in Washington, D.C. in April. Your gifts to our Youth Education programs have a lasting impact on Monterey County high school students' global awareness and understanding.

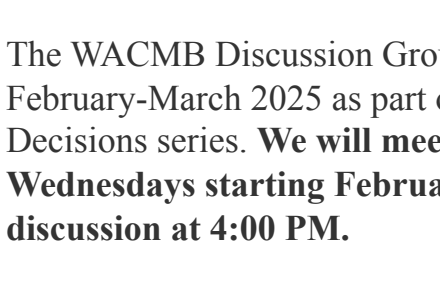
GlobalPost

Published via email every Monday through Friday, [GlobalPost](#) is written in a reader-friendly style and at a length that's optimized for our busy lives. Custom-designed maps accompany every story allowing you to place the news of that country in its regional and global context.

The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area will continue to offer to its members a free annual subscription to [GlobalPost](#), the largest daily newsletter in the United States devoted to world news with more than 170,000 subscribers. As this subscription is a benefit to our members only, there is a simple password required to sign up. Please send an email to info@wacmb.org requesting the password to our [Member Resources](#) page and we'll respond as soon as possible.

We sincerely hope this benefit will enrich your discovery of the world.

With best wishes, Your WACMB Board of Directors



World Affairs Discussion Group

Come join the conversation!

Great Decisions 2025

The WACMB Discussion Group will consider eight critical topics during February-March 2025 as part of the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions series. We will meet by Zoom for eight consecutive Wednesdays starting February 5th at 3:30 PM (video lecture) with discussion at 4:00 PM.

The Great Decisions 2025 topics, set out in the Briefing Book, include:

- *American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads*, by G. John Ikenberry
- *U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy*, by Daniel Drezner
- *U.S.-China Relations*, by Thomas J. Christensen
- *India: Between China, the West & the Global South*, by Leslie Vinjamuri
- *International Cooperation on Climate Change*, by Josh Busby
- *The Future of NATO and European Security*, by Kori Schake
- *AI and American National Security*, by Julie George
- *American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead*, by Daniel Kurtzer

All WACMB members are invited to participate. If you are interested and have never attended our World Affairs Discussion Group, just send a request to discussiongroup@wacmb.org to receive updates and log-in information.

You can order the printed Great Decisions 2025 Briefing Book from the Foreign Policy Association [here](#), or call (800) 477-5836 or send an email using [this link](#) (\$35+ shipping). Alternatively, an eBook version of the 2025 briefing book can be purchased on [Amazon](#) or [Barnes & Noble](#) for \$25.00.

All are welcome!!

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Cruise Italy: Tuscany, Cinque Terre & Amalfi Coast

April 25 - May 4, 2025

June 11 - 19, 2025

June 20 - 28, 2025



LEARN MORE HERE

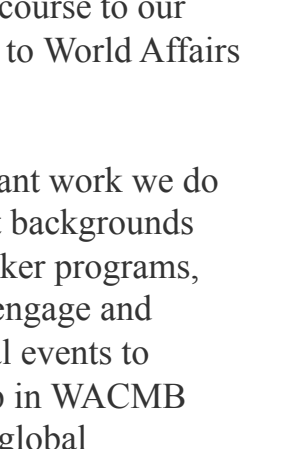
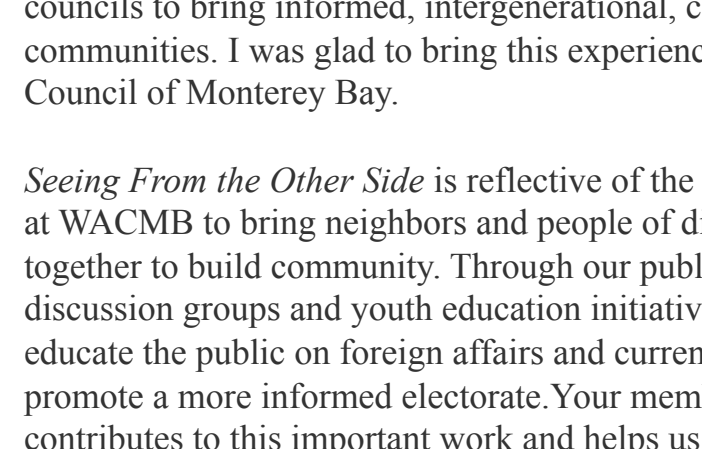
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WACMB partners with the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia & Partners Travel Program to offer unique, curated travel experiences from Diplomacy to Discovery. Embark on a journey with World Affairs, where every tour is a unique blend of immersive cultural exploration, political insights and personal connections.

Message from Our President



Seeing From the Other Side

In November, I travelled to Washington, D.C. for the annual National Conference of the World Affairs Councils of America. This 3-day event included important and timely presentations on Council Values, Best Practices and Diverse Global Perspectives from thought leaders, expert panelists and presenters to an audience from member World Affairs Councils across America. The conference event, *Seeing From The Other Side*, encouraged adopting a new perspective on the work of councils to bring informed, intergenerational, civil discourse to our communities. I was glad to bring this experience back to World Affairs Council of Monterey Bay.

Seeing From the Other Side is reflective of the important work we do at WACMB to bring neighbors and people of different backgrounds together to build community. Through our public speaker programs, discussion groups and youth education initiatives we engage and educate the public on foreign affairs and current global events to promote a more informed electorate. Your membership in WACMB contributes to this important work and helps us foster global awareness.

Our semi-annual membership renewal campaign is currently underway. Know that your continued support is so very much appreciated. And, did you also know that personal invitations and referrals have the most impact on our growth and outreach? Please consider inviting a friend or neighbor to one of our programs. Thank you for your membership and support.

Our regards,

Peter Albano

President of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

Join, Renew, Donate