



World Affairs Council
of the Monterey Bay Area

The Passport Newsletter

December 2024



"U.S. Foreign Policy in Transition: Persistent Problems & Pop-Up Challenges"

Dr. Thomas Fingar

**Former Deputy Director of National Intelligence
Now a Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute
for International Studies at Stanford University**

**Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Lecture Luncheon
Hilton Garden Inn, Monterey**

Registrations are due by Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Please note: Cancellations after the deadline are non-refundable.

[Download mail-in form](#)

[Register online for this event](#)

Foreign policy was not a major focus of the 2024 presidential campaign but developments beyond our borders do not take time out while the new American administration appoints officials and establishes priorities. Dozens of transition papers were prepared by the Biden administration and incoming officials will receive help from the professional bureaucracy, but coping with legacy problems, unanticipated developments, and efforts by other countries to shape administration policy will pose daunting challenges for the new foreign policy team. Tom Fingar, who held senior national security positions during four presidential transitions, will describe the process and illustrate the kinds of problems the new administration will face.

Tom Fingar is Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Center Fellow at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. His previous positions include Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Chair of the National Intelligence Council, Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Analysis. Dr. Fingar is a graduate of Cornell University (A.B. in government and history) and Stanford University (M.A. and Ph.D. both in political science).

Location

**The Big Sur Room
Hilton Garden Inn**
1000 Aguajito Road
Monterey, CA

Menu

*California Field Greens Salad
with Arugula, Cherry Tomato,
Pine Nuts & Shaved Parmesan
with Lemon & Balsamic Dressing*

Bread and Butter

*Seared Chicken Cordon Bleu in a
Mushroom Cream Sauce, Creamy Mashed
Potatoes & Sauté of Seasonal Vegetables*

*Vegetarian Alternative
Spinach & Cheese Ravioli, Tuscan Sauce
of Sun-Dried Tomato, Artichoke,
Kalamata Olives & Capers*

*New York Cheesecake with
Chocolate & Caramel Drizzle
& Spiced Walnuts*

Agenda

11:30 AM: Registration

~ 12:00 PM: Luncheon

~ 12:45 PM: Speaker

Tickets

\$45 World Affairs Council members

\$55 for Guests

[Download mail-in form](#)

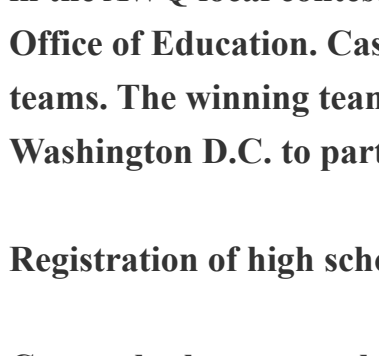
[Register online for this event](#)

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*If you encounter difficulties with our online registration please
email info@wacmb.org to reserve a spot by the registration deadline.*

*A limited number of seats for auditors (at no charge) will be available.
Please notify the WACMB office no later than Tuesday, December 10th to
www.wacmb.org or tel 831-643-1855. Auditors will be allowed entry at 12:40 pm*



ACADEMIC WORLD QUEST

We are pleased to announce that preparations are underway for WACMB to provide all Monterey County High Schools an opportunity to compete in 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.

Registration of high school teams can be done [here](#):

Currently three teams have registered.

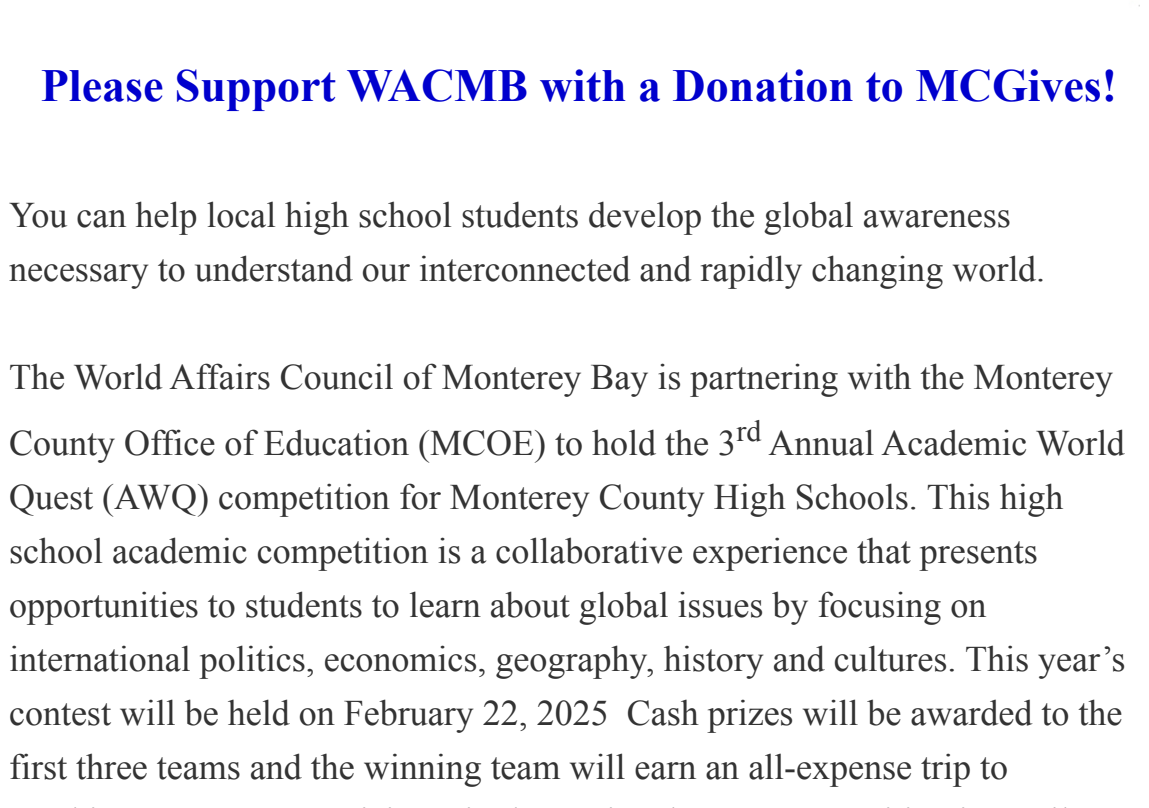
This year's topics include:

- 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](#).

Help Us Get The Word Out!

WACMB AWQ Students 2024



MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!

Please Support WACMB with a Donation to MCGives!

You can help local high school students develop the global awareness necessary to understand our interconnected and rapidly changing world.

The World Affairs Council of Monterey Bay is partnering with the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) to hold the 3rd Annual Academic World Quest (AWQ) competition for Monterey County High Schools. This high school academic competition is a collaborative experience that presents opportunities to students to learn about global issues by focusing on international politics, economics, geography, history and cultures. This year's contest will be held on February 22, 2025. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first three teams and the winning team will earn an all-expense trip to Washington D.C. to participate in the National AWQ competition in April.

You can give online [here](#) and donations will be accepted through December 31st. Thank you to all our members who have supported AWQ these past 3 years. Your support has a great impact on the futures of our AWQ student teams. More information on AWQ and the MCGives! campaign can be found on our [website](#).

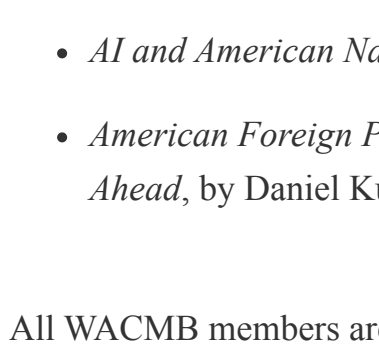
GlobalPost

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 - Save the Dates

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:

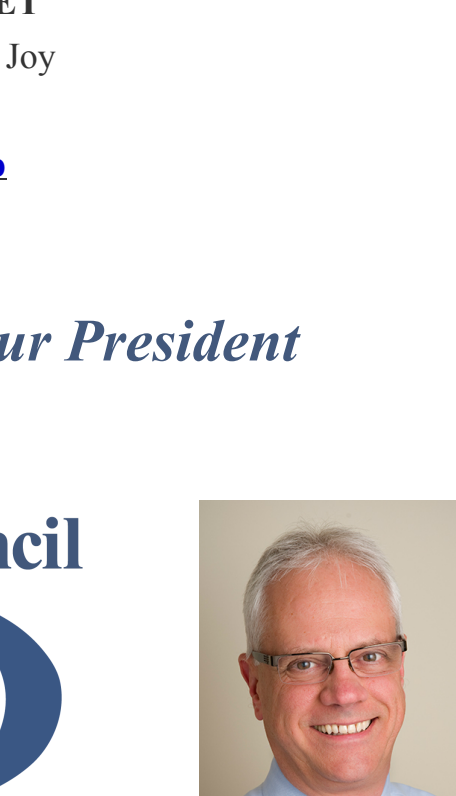
- *American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads*, by G. John Ikenberry
- *U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy*, by Daniel Drezner
- *U.S.-China Relations*, by Thomas J. Christensen
- *India: Between China, the West & the Global South*, by Leslie Vinjamuri
- *International Cooperation on Climate 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 pre-order the printed Great Decisions 2025 Briefing Book from the Foreign Policy Association [here](#), or call (800) 477-5836 or email sales@fpa.org (\$35+ shipping). Ebooks should also be available from online booksellers in January.

All are welcome!!

Are You a Globetrotter?



The World Affairs Council of Monterey Bay, in partnership with the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia's Travel Program, invite you to attend informational live webinars on some of our upcoming tours below. These informational sessions will review the itineraries, ships, and venues, as well as featured speakers and tour leaders, and include live Q&A during which you can ask questions. Whether you're a seasoned or first-time traveler, these sessions will provide valuable insights, highlight each destination, and provide inspiration for planning your next journey with the World Affairs Councils.

November 21, 2024 from 10:00 - 11:00 am ET

Iceland to Greenland Cruise & South American Odysseys

[World Affairs Councils Webinar Sign-Up](#)

December 3, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET

Flavors of Northern Italy & Africa by Private Train

[World Affairs Councils Webinar Sign-Up](#)

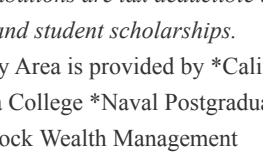
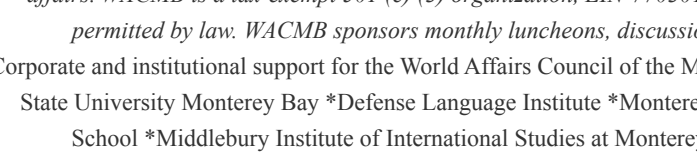
December 5, 2024 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm ET

Odysseys Discovering Portugal with Emily Joy

Join Zoom Meeting

[World Affairs Councils Webinar Sign-Up](#)

Message from Our President



We LOVE our volunteers!

It takes many hands and feet to bring the outstanding speakers and expert analysis of Global Affairs to our members. From monthly program lectures and discussion groups to newsletter publishing, publicity and membership management, our volunteers make it all happen. WACMB is grateful for the financial support of our members and the countless volunteer hours dedicated to raising awareness of international issues in our community.

If you'd like to help, please let us know. Our Membership Application Form on our website lists a number of areas for volunteer help or, just send an email to info@wacmb.org letting us know your interest. We'd be grateful for your support.

Our regards,

Peter Albano

President of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

[Join, Renew, Donate](#)