



World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area

The Passport Newsletter

January 2025



"2024 - The Historic Year of Elections Worldwide: How Well Did Democracy Do?"

Dr. Larry Diamond
Stanford University

Monday, January 27, 2025
Lecture Luncheon
Monterey Marriott

Registrations are due by Monday, January 20th, 2025

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

Download mail-in form

Register online for this event

More people voted in competitive elections in 2024 than in any year in human history. From big countries like India, Indonesia, and the United States, to small ones, barely reported on, such as Botswana and Guatemala; from backsliding democracies struggling to reverse the tide, such as Senegal and Sri Lanka, to liberal but challenged Taiwan. Our guest will explore how democracy fared during this critical year of electoral tests.

Larry Diamond is an American political sociologist and leading contemporary scholar in the field of democracy studies. His research focuses on democratic trends and conditions around the world and on policies and reforms to defend and advance democracy. He is the Mosbacher Senior Fellow of Global Democracy at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, both at Stanford University. For more than six years, he directed FSI's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. He now leads its Program on Arab Reform and Democracy. Dr. Diamond has served as an advisor to numerous governmental and international organizations including the U.S. Department of State, United Nations, World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Larry Diamond received his B.A. in Political Organization and Behavior, his M.A. from the Food Research Institute, and his Ph.D. in Sociology all from Stanford University.

Location

The Ferrantes Room
Monterey Marriott

350 Calle Principal
Monterey, CA

Menu

*Greek Salad with Persian Cucumbers,
Diced Tomatoes, Baby Spinach,
Pitted-Kalamata Olives & Feta Cheese
with Oregano-Lemon Vinaigrette*

Artisan Breads and Butter

*Grilled Salmon with Lemon Risotto,
Roasted Asparagus, Beet-Ginger Purée,
and Blistered Grape Tomatoes
with a Béarnaise Sauce*

Vegetarian Alternative

*Vegan Grain Bowl
Farro, Garlic-Teriyaki Marinated
& Grilled Tofu, Baby Kale, Roasted
Sweet Potato, Roasted Red Bell Peppers,
Broccolini, Sliced Avocado, Black
Sesame Seeds with a Vegan Teriyaki Sauce*

Dessert

Apple Galette

Agenda

11:30 AM: Registration

~ 12:00 PM: Luncheon

~ 12:45 PM: Speaker

Tickets

\$65 World Affairs Council members

\$75 for Guests

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*If you encounter difficulties with our online registration or wish to audit,
please email info@wacmb.org or tel. 831-643-1855 to reserve a spot
by close of registration - Monday, January 20th 2025*

*A limited number of seats for auditors (at no charge) will be available.
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



GlobalPost

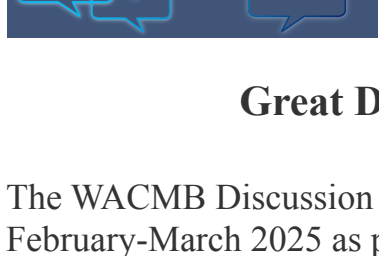
Published via email every Monday through Friday, [GlobalPost](#) is written in a reader-friendly style and at a length that's optimized for our busy lives.

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.

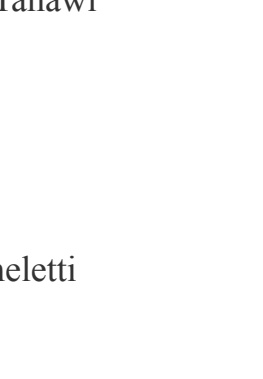
You can pre-order the printed Great Decisions 2025 Briefing Book from the Foreign Policy Association [here](#), or call (800) 477-5836 or send an email using [this link](#) (\$35+ shipping). Ebooks should also be available from online booksellers in January.

All are welcome!!

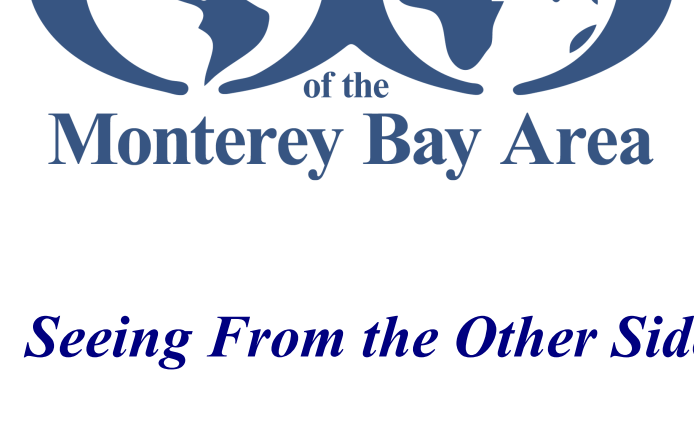
Welcome to Our New Members!



Brandon Bodor
Cheri Callis
Donald Davis & Susan Tahawi
John Fredrickson
J. Stewart Fuller
Erick Hodson
Donovan Leyden
Patrick & Dorothy Micheletti
Peggy Norris
Mary Prather
Jessica Swanson
Jeff Zischke



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 entitled, *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