



The Passport Newsletter

January 2024



Kazakhstan in the Soviet and Post-Soviet World

Ambassador John Ordway
U.S. Department of State, retired

Friday, January 26, 2024
Hilton Garden Inn

11:15 AM: Registration
11:45 AM: Lunch

12:45 - 2:00 PM: Speaker Presentation & Questions
Hilton Garden Inn, 1000 Aguajito Road, Monterey

Registrations are due by Tuesday, January 23, 2024
www.wacmb.org

[Download mail-in form](#)

[Register online for this event](#)

Kazakhstan is a historically, culturally, and resource-rich country in Central Asia; the largest of the five former Soviet Republics in Central Asia. Now independent, it finds itself between two giant neighbors: Russia and China.

Our guest, Ambassador John Ordway, served as U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan from 2004 to 2008. He was also Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan for two extended periods: January-September 2011 and October 2013–December 2014. In his illustrated presentation, Ambassador Ordway discusses how Kazakhstan's geographic fate, and its multi-ethnic character, dictate a careful and balanced approach to ensuring its independence and prosperity in a modern world.

Ambassador Ordway has an extensive background in the Soviet and post-Soviet world, with in-depth experience in a broad range of issues ranging from arms control and nonproliferation, to investment disputes and energy, as well as domestic politics and human rights. A career Foreign Service Officer, in addition to his assignments in Kazakhstan, he also served as U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Deputy Chief of Mission in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, in the U.S. embassies in Prague, Sofia, Vienna, and Kathmandu, and the U.S. Mission to NATO. Ambassador Ordway graduated from Stanford University and the University of California's Hastings College of Law. He resides in Sacramento, California.

Location

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

Menu

Butter Lettuce Salad with Roasted Beets,
California Goat Cheese & Citrus Vinaigrette

Bread and Butter

Maple & Mustard Glazed Salmon with
Basmati Rice & Stir Fried Vegetables

Vegetarian Alternative

Maple & Mustard Glazed Roasted
Cauliflower "Steaks" with Basmati Rice &
Stir Fried Vegetables

Agenda

11:15 AM: Registration
11:45 AM: Lunch

12:45 PM: Speaker Presentation & Questions

Tickets

\$36 for World Affairs Council members
\$41 for Guests

Raspberry Cheesecake Swirl with
Chocolate Drizzle and Mint

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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 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.

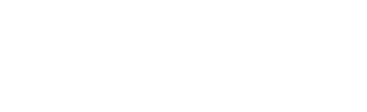
WACMB will accept auditors to this event, requiring notification to the WACMB office no later than Wednesday, January 24, 2024 to www.wacmb.org.

Auditors will be allowed entry at 12:20 pm.

Welcome to Our New Members



Marge Burnett
Cheryl Einsele
Mary Scherer



Just a reminder of an important benefit to your WACMB membership : a FREE subscription to the newsletter the Daily Chatter. Please see the introductory message below from our joining in June 2022, and enjoy this addition to our mission of education and distribution of global news.

We're delighted to announce a wonderful new benefit for members of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area, a free annual subscription to [DailyChatter](#), the largest daily newsletter in the United States devoted to world news with more than 170,000 subscribers.

To take advantage of this opportunity, just click this [link](#) and then use the simple signup form. Once you've entered your name and email address, you will be enrolled and your first edition of DailyChatter will arrive in your inbox the next weekday morning at 6am ET. We hope you'll enjoy this special, free access to one of the best-read newsletters covering the world.

Published via email every Monday through Friday, DailyChatter 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.

DailyChatter is independently owned and completely non-partisan, and it's achieved exceptional levels of reader engagement. The newsletter's editorial mandate is also truly global with more than 150 countries reported on every year.

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

With best wishes, your WACMB Board of Directors



WACMB Academic World Quest

Six Monterey County high school teams spent their winter break studying for the February 24th local Academic World Quest contest. This event is cohosted by The World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay and The Monterey County Office of Education. The winning team will represent WACMB at the national competition in April. The national event is hosted by The World Affairs Council of America. On May 14th, WACMB will host a dinner for the winning team. All WACMB members are invited to attend the dinner.



Great Decisions Discussion Group

The WACMB offers these moderated discussions which for decades have generated insightful exchanges. Eight critical topics in the [Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions 2024](#) briefing book will be discussed in a moderated group setting. After viewing an online master class for each topic, which complements the week's reading, participants are invited to share their knowledge and views. Those who would prefer to listen rather than be an active participant in the discussions are welcome.

Dates: Tuesdays, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 & March. 5, 12, 19, 26
Time: 5:00pm-6:30pm

Fee: Free – All Welcome (8 sessions)
Place: Livestream Zoom

Briefing book not included. Order directly, please: online at
https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=show_material&product_id=16886, or call (800) 477-5836 or email sales@fpa.org (\$35+ shipping)

MidEast Realignment (February 6) - Marc Lynch

The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement or, should it recommit to a leading role in the region?

Upcoming Topics:

Please consult the [WACMB website](#) for more information re. topics and dates/times of subsequent discussions as well as purchase of the briefing book.

Climate technology and competition

Presented by Bud Ward

Understanding Indonesia

Presented by Charles Sullivan

Science across borders

Presented by Mila Rosenthal

High Seas Treaty

Presented by Foreign Policy Association Editors

U.S.-China trade rivalry

Presented by Jonathan Chanis

Pandemic preparedness

Presented by Carolyn Reynolds

NATO's future

Presented by Sarwar Kashmeri

Discussion Group Leaders:

Linda Dilger retired after 36 years of mathematics education leadership. She was also a lecturer at CSUMB and holds master's degrees in educational technology and education leadership.

Boyd Haight spent 35 years living overseas as an official of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and is currently involved with a number of non-profit organizations in the Monterey area.

Message from Our President

World Affairs Council



of the
Monterey Bay Area



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](#)