

DEMOCRACY UNDER THREAT

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025

Live from Camden, Maine
camdenconference.org



38th
Annual

The word **democracy** itself was coined in ancient Greece—

democratia, combining *demos* (people) and *kratos* (rule)—and for at least 2,500 years we have been trying to figure out what it means.

Here are some thoughts to ponder about democracy through the ages.

“ There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide. ”

John Adams, 1814

George Bernard Shaw, 1903

“ Democracy substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few. ”

“ So long as men worship the Caesars and Napoleons, Caesars and Napoleons will duly arise and make them miserable. ”

Aldous Huxley, 1932

E.B. White, 1943

“ Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time. ”

“ People are always teaching us democracy but the people who teach us democracy don't want to learn it themselves. ”

Vladimir Putin, 2007

Maria Ressa, 2019

“ If you want to rip the heart out of a democracy, you go after the facts. That's what modern authoritarians do. You lie. All the time. Then, you say it's your opponents and the journalists who lie. ”

Friday, February 21

► 7:30 – 9:00 PM WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

WAYNE HOBSON

President, Camden Conference

DAVID BRANCACCIO, Conference Moderator

Host and Senior Editor, *Marketplace Morning Report*, American Public Media

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *Facts Matter—Hold the Line*

MARIA RESSA

Professor, Institute of Global Politics, Columbia University; Co-founder and CEO of Rappler, the Philippines' leading digital news site; Nobel Peace Prize winner

Discussion and Questions

Saturday, February 22

► 9:00 – 10:30 AM

What Is Democracy, How Did It Start, and When Does It Prosper?

DAVID STASAVAGE

Carroll and Milton Petrie Professor of Politics at New York University (NYU) and an Affiliated Professor in NYU's School of Law

Drivers of National Populism

MATTHEW GOODWIN

Honorary Professor, University of Kent; Senior Visiting Professor, University of Buckingham

Discussion and Questions

► 10:30 – 11:00 AM BREAK

► 11:00 – 12:30 PM

Does God Love Populists? How Religion Fuels Populist Nationalism

DAVID M. ELCOTT

Taub Professor of Practice in Public Service and Leadership at NYU (retired); Author of *Faith, Nationalism, and the Future of Liberal Democracy*

What Have We Learned about Social Media and Political Polarization?

JOSHUA A. TUCKER

Julius Silver, Roslyn S. Silver, and Enid Silver Winslow Professor of Politics, NYU, and Director of NYU's Jordan Center for Advanced Study of Russia; Co-Director of the NYU Center for Social Media and Politics

Discussion and Questions

► 12:30 – 2:00 PM LUNCH

► 2:00 – 3:00 PM

The Orbán Model: Hungary's "Soft" Authoritarianism

AMB. JOHN SHATTUCK

International Legal Scholar; Diplomat; Human Rights Leader; Former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic

Latin America's Tragic Democratic Failure: The Case of Venezuela

JENNIFER MCCOY

Regent's Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University; Nonresident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Discussion and Questions

► 3:00 – 3:30 PM BREAK

► 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Panel Discussion and Questions

Sunday, February 23

► 9:00 – 10:30 AM

The Enduring Crisis in U.S. Democracy: How We Got Here and What We Can Do about It

COLIN WOODARD

Bestselling Author; Director of Nationhood Lab at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina University

Democracy: A Global Outlook

HAL BRANDS

Henry A. Kissinger Distinguished Professor of Global Affairs at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

Discussion and Questions

► 10:30 – 11:00 AM BREAK

► 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

PANEL OF ALL SPEAKERS WITH MODERATOR

► 12:15 ADJOURN

Submit questions for speakers to ask@camdenconference.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wayne Hobson, *President*
Matt Storin, *Vice President*

Rendle Jones, *Treasurer*

Vee Sheehan, *Secretary*

Don Abbott

Dwight Blue

Bruce Cole

George Cooke

William Hall

Jim Hengerer

Andrea Hester

Wendy Laidlaw

Karin Look

Sarah Miller

Nick Mills

John Reed

Michael Wood

ADVISORY COUNCIL

David Babski

Ann Beaudry

John Bird

Mac Deford

John Doughty

Leslie Fillnow

Charlie Graham

Bob Hirsch

Kathleen Hirsch

Peter Imber

Dave Jackson

Elaine Keyes

Emily Lusher

Jim Matlack

Betsy Mayberry

Merlin Miller

Jane Monhart

Jane Nyce

Cynthia Reed

Judy Stein

Susan Thornton

Ward Wickwire

Mike Wygant

STAFF

Kimberly Scott
Executive Director

Peter Mattox
Administrative Coordinator

This weekend we will explore together complex and disturbing international trends that seem to be threatening democracy globally. The result has been a decline in individual freedom in many countries and a strain on international relations. We sense these are real threats even though more countries held national elections in 2024 than ever before in human history.

The story of threats differs by country, so we will examine case studies as well as global trends. Trends are not necessarily destiny, so we will consider pro-democracy pushbacks and the crucial role of the free press. We will evaluate the growing political clout of populist, nationalist, and ethno-religious leaders in an era characterized by economic inequality, growing international rates of migration, and shifting conceptions of national identity.

The mission of the Camden Conference is to foster informed discourse on world issues. We like to say we bring the world to Maine. We are serious about these ambitions. It is also true that attending the annual February conference is as much an emotional and community-building exercise as it is an intellectual experience. There is a buzz in the air at our venues. It is exciting to be surrounded by so many community members, including high school and college students, who are interested in such important issues and that impressive presenters have travelled to Maine in mid-winter to speak to us. New, sometimes troubling, and always complex ideas are flying around rapidly as we strain to remember and synthesize what we are hearing.

We rely on a wide range of people. David Brancaccio is joining us once again as moderator, bringing his deep knowledge, sense of humor, and quick wit. Our new Conference producer, Josh Povec, leads a crew that maintains our high production values. Behind it all are several dozen dedicated volunteers and our incredible two-person staff: Executive Director Kim Scott, and Administrative Coordinator Peter Mattox. What a great team!

If you are a Camden Conference member or volunteer—Thank You! If you are not yet a member, please consider supporting us. If you want to be even closer to the action, please consider volunteering. You will find it to be interesting, educational, convivial, and rewarding. Explore our website for more information, or scan the lists of volunteers, members, and supporters printed in this program, find people you know and ask them about their experience.

Wayne Hobson, *President*



WAYNE HOBSON is a retired academic who moved to Rockland from southern California in 2005. He served his entire academic career in the American Studies Department at California State University, Fullerton, which he joined after earning a PhD in History from Stanford University. His research and writing interests focused on the evolution of American public memory. He served as chair of his academic department, as the director of the university's honors program, as the university's director of academic advisement, and as president of the California American Studies Association.

Moderator

DAVID BRANCACCIO is Host and Senior Editor of American Public Media's *Marketplace Morning Report*. David often focuses on regulation of financial markets, the role of technology in labor markets, the history of innovation, digital privacy, sustainability, social enterprises and financial vulnerability in older adults. His work has earned some of the highest honors in broadcast journalism, including the Peabody, the duPont-Columbia, the Emmy, and the Walter Cronkite awards. David has co-produced several documentaries including *Fixing the Future*, about alternative approaches to the economy, and *On Thin Ice*, about climate change and water security, with mountaineer Conrad Anker. He is the author of *Squandering Aimlessly*, a book about personal values and money, and is producing a documentary about the intersection of art and science. David grew up in Waterville, Maine, and has degrees from Wesleyan and Stanford. He enjoys moderating public policy discussions at the Aspen Ideas Festival, Chicago Ideas Week and the Camden Conference. He likes making beer and big rockets. Among his heroes are Edward R. Murrow and Wolfman Jack.



Keynote Speaker

MARIA RESSA co-founded Rappler, the top digital-only news site that is leading the fight for press freedom in the Philippines. As Rappler's CEO, Maria has endured constant political harassment and arrests by the Duterte government, forced to post bail ten times to stay free. Rappler's battle for truth and democracy is the subject of the 2020 Sundance Film Festival documentary, *A Thousand Cuts*. For her courage and journalistic integrity, Maria has received numerous accolades. In October 2021, she was one of two journalists awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her "efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace." In 2022, she was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General to the Leadership Panel of the Internet Governance Forum and serves as its Vice-Chair. She is a Professor of Practice at the Institute of Global Politics at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, where she leads projects related to artificial intelligence and democracy. Maria authored *Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia* and *From Bin Laden to Facebook*. Her most recent book, *How to Stand Up to a Dictator*, was released in November 2022 and has been translated into more than 20 languages. Maria focuses critical attention on the breakdown of our global information ecosystem and how interconnected communities of action can hold the line to protect democratic values.



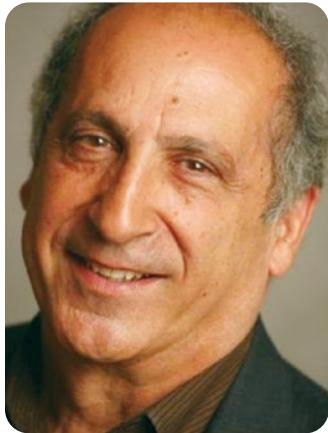
Speakers



DAVID STASAVAGE is a political scientist known for his work on democracy and political economy. He is the author of *The Decline and Rise of Democracy: A Global History from Antiquity to Today*. Deemed "one of the most important books on political regimes written in a generation" by Steven Levitsky, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *How Democracies Die*. Stasavage's work provides a new understanding of early democracy in multiple regions of the world and traces the evolution of modern democracy. Stasavage earned his BA at Cornell University and his doctorate from Harvard. He taught at the London School of Economics from 1999 to 2005, acquiring the rank of reader. While in Europe he worked for the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation, the Centre for the Study of African Economies and the Bank of England. He is the Carroll and Milton Petrie Professor of Politics at New York University's Department of Politics and an Affiliated Professor in NYU's School of Law.

Speakers

MATTHEW GOODWIN is Honorary Professor at the University of Kent and Senior Visiting Professor at the University of Buckingham. His academic background includes studies in Detroit, the Czech Republic, and Canada, reflecting his international perspective on political issues. He holds a PhD in Political Science and in 2014, he was awarded the prestigious Richard Rose Prize, given to one scholar annually for their contribution to the study of politics. He engages widely with governments and corporations around the globe. He has consulted and given talks to the UK Prime Minister's Office, the President of Germany, U.S. State Department, European Commission, Google, Deutsche Bank, UBS, JP Morgan, Rothschild and Cie, Trilateral Commission, and Goldman Sachs. He is the author of the *Sunday Times* bestseller *Values, Voice and Virtue: The New British Politics*, and the *Sunday Times* bestseller *National Populism: The Revolt Against Liberal Democracy*. He co-authored the UK's 2015 Political Book of the Year, *Revolt on the Right*. He is also the author of the 2nd biggest Substack blog in the UK and the 5th biggest in the World Politics Substack leaderboard. This is a weekly newsletter available at mattgoodwin.org.



DAVID ELCOTT, the author of *Faith, Nationalism and the Future of Liberal Democracy* and *A Sacred Journey*, has spent the last thirty years at the intersection of interfaith and ethnic community building. He was the Taub Professor of Practice in Public Service and Leadership at NYU heading social justice programs. He also co-directed the Dual Degree Program of the Skirball Center for Hebrew and Judaic Studies. In 2013, Dr. Elcott received NYU's Martin Luther King Faculty Award. Upon retirement from NYU, he teaches as part of a SUNY college degree program in Green Haven, a maximum security prison. As Vice-President of the National Center for Learning and Leadership, Dr. Elcott has taught leadership and institutional change in over 50 communities across North America. As Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee and as Executive Director of the Israel Policy Forum, he addressed a wide array of public policy issues while continuing to build interfaith and interethnic coalitions. His research, monographs and training programs have emphasized ways to energize civic engagement and democracy around the world. He has represented the Jewish community in interfaith settings in Europe, South America and Asia.

Pop-Up Bookshop—Camden Opera House

Arctic Tern Books will feature a curated selection of conference speaker titles and theme-related books, available on the third floor of the Camden Opera House and at Arctic Tern Books in Rockland. Scan this QR code to browse and order online.



Scan QR code
for a quick link

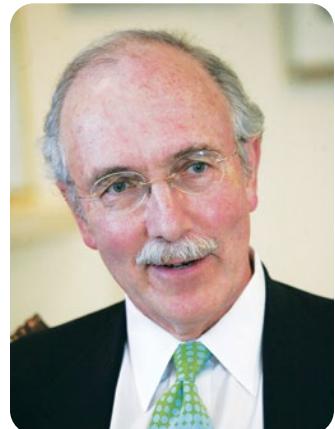
Submit questions for speakers to ask@camdenconference.org

Speakers



JOSHUA A. TUCKER is Julius Silver, Roslyn S. Silver, and Enid Silver Winslow Professor of Politics, the Director of NYU's Jordan Center for Advanced Study of Russia, and co-Director of the NYU Center for Social Media and Politics (csmapnyu.org). His research originally examined mass political behavior in post-communist countries, but for the past dozen years he has focused on the intersection of the digital information environment, social media, and politics. He is the co-chair of the external academic team for the *U.S. 2020 Facebook & Instagram Election Study*, serves on the advisory board of the *American National Election Study*, the *Comparative Study of Electoral Systems*, and numerous academic journals, and was the co-founder and co-editor of the *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. His research has been published in top general scientific journals, including *Science, Nature, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and political science journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, and *The Journal of Politics*. His most recent books are the co-authored *Communism's Shadow: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Political Attitudes* and the co-edited *Social Media and Democracy: The State of the Field*. He also served for over a decade as a co-author and co-editor of the political and policy blog *The Monkey Cage* that was hosted for part of that time at *The Washington Post*.

JOHN SHATTUCK is an international legal scholar, diplomat and human rights leader. As national staff counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union, he led more than two dozen federal court cases, including a successful challenge to warrantless wiretaps conducted by the Nixon White House. In 1986, he joined Harvard University as Vice President for Government, Community and Public Affairs, taught courses on legislative process, privacy, human rights and civil liberties, and was a senior associate at the Kennedy School of Government. In 1993 Shattuck became Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Shattuck helped negotiate the Dayton Peace Agreement that ended the war in Bosnia and was instrumental in establishing the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. From 1998-2000 he served as ambassador to the Czech Republic. In 2009, he became president of Central European University (CEU), an international graduate institution in Budapest, Hungary, where he defended academic freedom against the increasingly authoritarian regime of Viktor Orban. He has published over a dozen books, including *Holding Together: The Hijacking of Rights in America and How to Reclaim Them for Everyone*.



Pop-Up Bookshop—Lunt Auditorium

PRINT: A Bookstore will feature a curated selection of conference speaker titles and theme-related books, available in the lobby of Lunt Auditorium on Friday and Saturday of the conference weekend. Scan this QR code to browse and order online.



Scan QR code
for a quick link

Submit questions for speakers to ask@camdenconference.org

Speakers

JENNIFER MCCOY is Regent's Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University and Nonresident Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as well as Research Affiliate at CEU's Democracy Institute in Budapest. She was named a 2024 Andrew Carnegie Fellow, one of 28 scholars nationwide who will explore political polarization and ways to strengthen American democracy. A specialist on democratic erosion and polarization, mediation and conflict prevention, election processes and election observation, and Latin American politics, Dr. McCoy has authored or edited six books and dozens of articles, including *International Mediation in Venezuela*, co-authored with Francisco Diez. Her latest volume is *Polarizing Polities: A Global Threat to Democracy*, co-edited with Murat Somer. Dr. McCoy's research program on Polarized Democracies examines the causes, consequences and solutions to polarized societies worldwide. As director of the Carter Center's Americas Program, she led numerous election monitoring missions and organized President Carter's historic trips to Cuba in 2002 and 2011. McCoy is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations and co-chair of the Atlanta chapter of the Scholar's Strategy Network. Her next book, *Depolarizing Politics and Remaking Democracy* (with Murat Somer), is expected in 2025.



COLIN WOODARD is the director of Nationhood Lab at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina University. A leading expert on U.S. regionalism and nationhood, he is the *New York Times* bestselling author of six books, including *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America* and *Union: The Struggle to Forge the Story of United States Nationhood*. He won a 2012 George Polk Award and was a 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist. As a foreign correspondent for major newspapers, Woodard reported from over fifty countries across seven continents, covering the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, Balkan conflicts, and climate change in Antarctica. At the *Portland Press Herald*, he covered Congress, Maine politics, and indigenous rights issues. His work has appeared in leading media outlets including CNN, BBC, NPR, *The Economist*, and *The New York Times*. His historical works inspired both an NBC drama and a Ubisoft video game. Born in Waterville, Maine, Woodard graduated from Tufts University and the University of Chicago, and is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

HAL BRANDS is the Henry A. Kissinger Distinguished Professor of Global Affairs at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He is also a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. He is the author or editor of several books, including *The Twilight Struggle: What the Cold War Teaches Us about Great-Power Rivalry*, *Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China*, co-authored with Michael Beckley, and *The New Makers of Modern Strategy: From the Ancient World to the Digital Age*. His latest, *The Eurasian Century: Hot Wars, Cold Wars, and the Making of the Modern World*, was released in January 2025. Hal has served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Strategic Planning and lead writer for the Commission on the National Defense Strategy for the United States. He is a member of the State Department's Foreign Affairs Policy Board and consults with a range of government offices and agencies in the intelligence and national security communities. His writings have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *The Atlantic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and other outlets; he has lectured widely on foreign policy and global affairs to audiences in government, academia, and the private sector.



Who We Are

Welcome to the 38th annual Camden Conference! Thirty-eight years is a pretty good run for the somewhat audacious idea that what folks in mid-winter Midcoast Maine wanted was a conference on global affairs. Turned out that's just what they wanted—a good reason to get out of the house, meet and mingle with friends and neighbors, and discuss world events with world-class speakers.

To turn a Dr. Seuss book title on its head, Oh, the places we've been! The Camden Conference had a small but by no means humble beginning. The people who assembled in a meeting room in the Camden Public Library in February 1988 heard National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, and Maine's senior U.S. Senator William Cohen discuss *The Making of American Foreign Policy: Myth and Reality*. Over the following years, audiences grew until the Conferences had to be moved to the Camden Opera House, and when the audiences kept growing, we added livestreaming venues including Rockland's Strand Theatre.

At this point, the Camden Conference is both an organization and an event. The three-day February conference is augmented by year-round educational outreach through Camden Conference in the Classroom, engaging hundreds of Maine students, and by a series of topic-related Community Events with local experts, hosted by our many public library partners.

We have taken on big topics: *The Media Revolution: Changing the World*, *The Global Politics of Food and Water*, *Afghanistan, Pakistan, India: Crossroads of Conflict*, and many more. Our speakers are recognized experts in their fields, drawn from government, academia, business, and the media. We have remained non-partisan and non-profit, and we have stayed on mission, providing "informed discourse on world issues" or, as we like to say, bringing the world to Camden, Maine.



Past Conferences

- 2024: India: Rising Ambitions, Challenges at Home
- 2023: Global Trade and Politics: Managing Turbulence
- 2022: Europe: Challenged at Home and Abroad
- 2021: The Geopolitics of the Arctic
- 2020: The Media Revolution: Changing the World
- 2019: Is This China's Century?
- 2018: New World Disorder and America's Future
- 2017: Refugees and Global Migration: Humanity's Crisis
- 2016: The New Africa
- 2015: Russia Resurgent
- 2014: The Global Politics of Food and Water
- 2013: The Middle East: What Next?
- 2012: The U.S. in a 21st Century World: Do We Have What it Takes?
- 2011: The Challenges of Asia
- 2010: Afghanistan, Pakistan, India: Crossroads of Conflict
- 2009: Global Leadership and the U.S. Role in World Affairs
- 2008: Religion as a Force in World Affairs
- 2007: Europe: Old Continent in a New World
- 2006: China on the World Stage
- 2005: The Middle East: Compromise or Conflagration?
- 2004: Foreign Policy for the 21st Century: Seeking a Balance?
- 2003: Two Worlds Under Pressure: The Growing Crises of Population and Movement
- 2002: The Politics of Energy and Water
- 2001: Globalization: Its Impact on You and Me
- 2000: Southeast Asia
- 1999: Africa: South of the Sahara
- 1998: Latin America: Troubled Past, Uncertain Future
- 1997: The World's Only Superpower: Challenge or Curse?
- 1996: Islam and Politics in the Middle East
- 1995: China
- 1994: Russia: Today and Tomorrow
- 1993: The United States and Japan: A Critical Relationship
- 1992: The New World Order: What Will It Be?
- 1991: The Global Environment: A Foreign Policy Agenda
- 1990: U.S. Foreign Policy and International Trade: The Mutual Impact
- 1989: The Influence of the News Media in Shaping U.S. Foreign Policy
- 1988: The Making of American Foreign Policy: Myth and Reality

Camden Conference Student Education Programs

Preparing Maine's next generation of global citizens is at the heart of the Camden Conference mission. We bring world affairs into Maine classrooms and welcome students into the broader conversation about critical international issues. The generous support of foundations, corporate sponsors and individual donors makes this vision possible by enabling students from across Maine to participate in the Conference.



Our flagship educational initiative, the **Camden Conference in the Classroom** program, currently engages fifteen high schools throughout Maine, each adapting the program to their unique educational environment. Some schools offer dedicated year-long or semester courses, while others integrate Conference themes into AP curricula, gifted and talented programs, or independent study projects. For every student—whether attending in person at the Opera House or participating virtually—the February Conference weekend serves as the program's cornerstone event.

The Conference experience extends beyond simply attending sessions. When students gather in one venue, they connect with peers from different parts of Maine, broadening their perspectives through both formal sessions and specially designed student events. These connections create an energetic atmosphere that enriches the Conference experience for all attendees while fostering meaningful dialogue among Maine's future leaders.

Thanks to our donors' steadfast commitment to our student education programs, we continue to provide Maine students with unprecedented access to global expertise and perspectives. This investment in education brings fresh energy to our discussions while preparing students to engage thoughtfully with complex international issues.

2025 Participating Schools

High Schools

- Bonny Eagle High School, Standish
- Brewer School Dept., Brewer
- Ecology Learning Center, Unity
- Edward Little High School, Auburn
- Gould Academy, Bethel
- Greenville Consolidated High School, Greenville
- Hampden Academy, Hampden
- Hermon High School, Hermon
- Leavitt High School, Turner
- Lewiston High School, Lewiston
- Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, Hinckley
- Oak Hill High School, Wales
- Oceanside High School, Rockland
- Piscataquis Community High School, Guilford
- Sanford High School, Sanford

Higher Education Partners

- Thomas College
- University of Maine at Augusta
- University of Maine at Farmington
- University of Maine at Orono
- University of Maine School of Policy and International Affairs at Orono
- University of Southern Maine, Portland

Community Events

Each year, the Camden Conference partners with local libraries to organize a vibrant program of free community events related to our conference's annual theme. From lectures by local people with particular area or subject expertise, to book and film discussion groups, these events are offered in a variety of ways. Some libraries present speakers to an in-person audience only, others are hybrid, giving the audience a choice of attending in-person or on Zoom, still others work with speakers to present exclusively online. Some events are recorded, allowing for later viewing on our website. We are very grateful to our seventeen library partners and the dedicated librarians who make it possible for hundreds of attendees to enjoy these events in the months leading up to our conference.



Participating Libraries

Auburn Public Library, Donna Wallace
Lithgow Public Library, Augusta, Sarah Schultz-Nielsen
Patten Free Library, Bath, Lesley Dolinger, Hannah Lackoff
Belfast Free Library, Brenda Harrington
Blue Hill Public Library, Kaleigh Thomas
Camden Public Library, Julia Sagaser
Prince Memorial Library, Cumberland, Thomas C. Bennett, Kelly Greenlee
Cushing Public Library, Wendy Roberts
Falmouth Memorial Library, Genna Mayotte, Keelin des Rosiers
Kennebunk Free Library, Allison Atkins
Portland Public Library, Sarah Moore, Myles Robert
Rockland Public Library, Em Lewis
Rockport Public Library, Julia Pierce
Scarborough Public Library, Chip Schrader, Elsa Rowe
Southwest Harbor Public Library, Erich Reed
Merrill Memorial Library, Yarmouth, Heidi Grimm, Michael Carnes and Courtney Kleftis
York Public Library, Michelle Sampson, Kerry Cronin and Karen Blass

Call for Volunteers

Volunteers power the Camden Conference! Our committees are comprised of people willing to give their time and expertise to planning and executing not only the February Conference, but also the education programs, free community events, and special events that take place throughout the year. We are always in need of volunteers, so if you are interested in meeting and working with a group of like-minded individuals, let us know. We would love to discuss the possibilities with you.

Camden Conference Committees

Community Events

Vee Sheehan, *Chair*

Bill Bachofner
Pamelia Barry
Susan Carter
Janet Edmunson
Ellen Goldsmith
Susana Hancock
Andrea Hester
Wayne Hobson
Karen Massey
Jane Nyce
Lenore Rapkin
Judy Stein
Kathleen Sutherland

Matt Storin
Erin Towns

Finance

Rendle Jones, *Chair*
Don Abbott
Wayne Hobson
Michael Wood

Hospitality

Mary Jo Bateman

Marketing

Nick Mills, *Chair*
Don Abbott
Bruce Cole
Janet Edmunson

Charlie Gale
Vee Sheehan
Matt Storin
Orion Zydlewski

Program

Bruce Cole, *Chair*
George Cooke
Mac Deford
William Hall
Susana Hancock
Bob Hirsch
Karin Look
Chuck Marecic
Jim Matlack
John McIlwain
Jane Monhart
John Reed
Tom Remington

Development

Jim Hengerer, *Chair*
Zachery Annis
Charlie Graham
Bob Hirsch
Carol Holt
Rendle Jones
Jane Nyce
Suzanne Weaver
Ward Wickwire

Education

Dwight Blue, *Chair*
Mary Beth Banios
Susana Hancock
Joe Kleinman
Tom Oeltmann
Nathan Rockwood
Laurie Stone

Community Events Presenters

Alan R. Gitelson
Ellen Goldsmith
William Hall
Susana Hancock
Andrea Hester
Anna Kellar
Luc Kuanzambi
Georges Budagu-Makoko
Carter Meyer
Clarisa Perez-Armendariz
Thomas Remington
Seth Singleton
Richard S. Sloan
Jennifer Yoder
Senem Aslan
Jeanne Bourgault and Ray S. Jennings
Judy Bing and Brooke Harrington
Denise Breed
Charlie Costello
Pamela Cox
Jennifer Cross and students from Oceanside High School's Student Government and Academy Program
Craig Freshley
Allyson Gardner and students from York and Scarborough High Schools

Members and Supporters (as of January 16, 2025)

GLOBAL GIVING CIRCLE

Rendle and Patricia Jones
Andrew Love
Jeanne Murphy
David and Gayle Noble
Cindy and John Reed

PRESIDENTS CLUB

Laureen Bedell
Robert and Kathleen Hirsch
Mike and Wendy Laidlaw
Bill and Eileen Shaughnessy
Matthew and Keiko Storin

AMBASSADOR

John and Mary Beard
Leslie and Robert Fillnow
William and Nancy Hall
Stephen Harder and York-Chi Harder
Diana Rigg
Susan Taylor

DIPLOMAT

Anonymous
Leslie Aitken and Jonathan Treat
JoAnne Bander
Douglas Bates and E. Lynn Kay
Stephen and Susan Black
Andrew and Linda Brenner
Edward and Mary Cady
Bruce and Ann Cole
Thomas M. and Zehra Deford
Tom DeMarco and Sally Smyth
Susan Deutsch and Carlisle Towery
Susan Fuhrman
Jody Gill
Anthony and Sally Grassi
Elizabeth Harder
Carol and Dexter Holt
Gregory Johnson and Carol Hancock
Marty Jones and Christine Armstrong
Sven and Laurie Karlen
Brenda Kean
Steven Koltai
John A. and Susan C. LaCasse
Sima and Douglas Miska
Denise and Burke Munger
Ineke Schair
J.P. and Kaki Smith
Patricia Smith and Richard Tucker
Judy Stein
Melissa Tully
Katharine J. Watson
Ward and Tracy Wickwire
Ted and Mary Jo Wiese
Joan Wright and Howard Robbins
Nancy Young

CONSUL

Anonymous
Heather Abt
Albert and Linda Alschuler
John and Maggie Atwood

Ron and Sally Bancroft

Roger Berle and Lesley MacVane
Jeanne Bourgault and Ray Jennings
Patrick Christiansen
George Cooke and Laura Beckering
Thomas Cooney
Elaine Coulon
Clifford and Sheryl Dacso
Craig and Dawn Evans
Tony and Sarah Everdell
Sally and Alan Gayer
Michael and Claudia Griffiths
Susan and Richard Harris
Wayne and Sharon Hobson
Debbie Hopper
David and Ann Ingram
Gerald and Evelyn Isom
James Jackson
Jason Jones
Hugh and Lois Judge
Val and Carol Kratzman
Karin and George Look
William E Low and Kerr Wissler-Low
Dennis McGuirk
John and Wende McIlwain
Elizabeth McLellan
Susan Michlovitz and Paul Velleman
Sarah Miller and David Babski
Troy and Pat Murray
Kenneth and Mary Pennell Nelson
Jane and Jim Nyce
Roy Pfeil and Topsy Post
Bob and Mary Rackmales
F. Eugene Reil
Walter and Barbara Reitz
Marty and Paul Rogers
Viola and Fred Sheehan
Richard Sloan
Jane Smith and Byron Borst
Mark Stein and Rosa Hallowell
Deirdre Strachan and Jose Mas
Susan Thornton and Joe Daley
Richard Tozier and Carol Gillette
Cynthia Williams

ENVOY

Anonymous (2)
Mary Ainslie
Liz and David Albertson
Marlene Allison
Norman and Maryann Alt
Bill and Carol Bachofner
David Barry
Jane W. Bedford
Judith Bing and J. Brooke Harrington
John and Mary Alice Bird
Kenneth Bishop
Sid and Martha Block
Jim and Felicity Bowditch
Margaret Jay Braatz
Dave Brown and Jane Covey
Gerald C. and Dorothea M. Buckley

Barbara and William Buss
Susan and James Carter
Randall Chanler and Andrew Stancioff
Laurie Cleghorn-Stone
Gianne Conard
Connie and Philip Conner
Charlie Costello
Judith Coulon
Mary Doolan
John and Wendy Doughty
Mary Doughty
Nelia and Charles Dunbar
Patricia and Robert Eddy
Janet Edmunson and Jim Landau
H. Allen and Sally Fernald
Kurt and Lyell Franke
Katherine Gibson
Elizabeth and John Gilmore
Barbara Grossbaum
Alan Hackford
Loie and Stephen Hanscom
Dawn Harlor
Peter Haynes
James and Judith Hengerer
Joan Higbee Cano and Jose Cano
Ann Higgins
Alison Hildreth
Jennifer Hillman
Rona Hokanson
Lee Huber
Sallie Craig Huber
Deborah Jackson Weiss and
Scott T. Weiss
William and Judith Jones
Anne Jordan
Marshall and Kathy Kaiser
Mary Kane
Elaine Keyes
Bruce and Gail Kilgour
Bouzha Cookman and William Lehr
Catherine Lerme
Loren and Corinne Lidsky
Carl and Judy Lindquist
Eric and Marcie Lister
Theodore and Betty Long
Valerie and Stephen Loring
Howard and Mary Lowell
Christopher Lyman and Lori Frazer
Isabel Lyndon
Edith K. Manns
James and Jean Matlack
Betsy Mayberry
Fran McBrearty
Edmund R. and Phoebe Megna
Pat Messler
Ed Modell and Merle Rockwell
Read and Jane Moffett
Janice Mokros
Jane Monhart
John D. and Susan Morris
Mary Neal and Wendy Wolf
David and Heidi Perkins

Lenore Rapkin
Joel and Rachel Reck
Rick and Karin Rector
James and Michelle Rines
John and Susan Roll
Deborah and Ken Rozeboom
Bridget and Jim Saltonstall
John and Karen Sanders
Rick Schneider
Ellen Seidman and Walt Slocum
Robert P. and Susan Snead
Ann and John Snow
Vernon and Julia Squires
Susan St John
Virginia Swain
Ann Swanson
Andrew and Fran Swart
David and Paula Swetland
Robert Teague
Jan Terry
Susan and Norman Thomas
Donald L. Trump and Kristina E. Debye
Carol Tully
Mary and Walter Voskian
Suzanne Weaver and Stephen James
Carmel Wilson
Carolyn Wilson

REPRESENTATIVE

Anonymous (7)
Carole Aaron
Bob and Margaret Ackerman
Kathryn and Tom Ainsworth
Tom and Diana Allen
Oliver Ames
Amanda Anderson
Jennifer and Fred Aronson
Christina Astrachan
David Aylward
Noreen Bagley
Mary Beth Banios
Martha and Gary Banks
Pam Barry
Adria Bates
Wendy Batson and Bob Eaton
Lucie Bauer and Annie Kiermaier
Bonnie Beach
Jonathan Beitler
Julie Benavides
Mimi Benedict and Skip Hoblin
Fred and Ann Benson
Robert and Patricia Bernheim
Richard Bowers
Kathleen Brandes
Dick Brautigam
Dale Bruce
Patricia Burke
Paul and Cheryl Burns
Lorrie and Mike Byrom
David Camenga and Nora Arnold
Katharine Cartwright and Dan Verrillo
David Chosiad and Paula Thompson

Members and Supporters

Maryellen Cillizza	Alison Harris and Bernie Breitbart	Colleen Newcomb	Stephanie Smith
Patrick E and Mary Jane Clancy	Susan and Jack Herney	Walter Nicklin	Lavana Snyder and Max Scholz
Donald Clark	Andrea and Chris Hester	Mrs. Greenway O'Dea	Juhan Sonin
Bruce and Sherry Cobb	Donald and Lee Holmes	Shirley and Edward O'Keefe	Catherine Squires
Suzanne Coffin	Elizabeth Holt	Maureen O'Connell	Gloria Stein and Ted Fraumann
Christine and Jonathan Cohen	David Hoople and Wanda Hodsen	Thomas and Peggy Oeltmann	George Stewart
Jacqueline and Irvin Cohen	Sally Hoople	Norm Olsen	Sarah and Paul Strickland
Douglas Cole	Marilyn Hotch	Victoria Olson	Clinton Strong
Patricia Cole	Chuck and Joan Howard	Nick and Phyllis Orem	Robert Swegle and Carol Hibbert
Susan Conard and David Randall	John and Jinx Hufnagel	Robin Patton and Alice Cahn	Abraham Tabachnick
Betsy and Mike Connelly	Constance Hughes	Lora Philp	Jan Taft
Catherine Cornell	Peter Imber and Jo Dondis	Nancy and Walter Pierce	Allan Teel
Phyllis Cox	Armando and Debra Incera	Thomas Pike and Lys McLaughlin	Paul and Julie Tenan
Donna and Tillman Crane	Mary Ireland	Anthony Pinson	Kiki Tidwell
Ames Curtis and Marti Stone	Caroline Janover	Diana Post	Joan Tilney
LouAnn Daly	Donna Janville	Lynn Potoff	Wes Todd and Jana Goddard
Gary and Judy DeLong	Nancy Harmon Jenkins	Michael Prucker	Chris Tofani
Jeanne Denny	Elizabeth Johnson	Ann Ramsay-Jenkins	Carl M. Toney and Anne M. Summer
Jessica Diday	Bonnie Suzanne Kane	Andrew Raymond	Lynn A Travis-Stancioff
Lauren Dillard	Susan and Ted Kanellakis	John Redman	Vera Trojan
Agnieszka and Michael Dixon	Judith Kildow	Thomas and Nancy Roth Remington	Mary Trotochaud and Rick McDowell
Clark Doran	Jeanne and Paul Klainer	Jonathan Rigg	Ann Waigand
Elizabeth Dunn	Alison and Anton Lahnston	Sandra Roak	Peter and Ann Wakeman
Sally Dunn	Fay Larkin	Betty Robinson	Sondra Wallace
Penny Dunning	Judith and Norman Lasca	Geoffrey and Katrina Robinson	Donald and Charlotte Walter
Marianna Edmunds	Susan Lassen	Doreen Rockstrom	Robert Warrington
Courtney Elwood	Sandra Lathem	Nathan Rockwood	Adam Webster
Woody and Carole Emanuel	Rick Lavigne	Peter Rothschild	Joan Welsh
J Mark Enriquez	Dwight and Wendy Leeper	Rachel Rubeor	Frances Wheeler- Berta
Emily Estes and Roy McAlpine	Sidney LeFavour	Sunil Saksena	Mark Winkworth and Jule Selbo
Gail Evans	Betsy and Skip Lefler	Eric Sass and Eveleen Severn-Sass	Steve Wolfson
Alicia Fagan	Michael Levey	Guy and Claudia Scalzi	Claudia Wu
Terry Field	Virginia Lezhnev	Lee Scheuer	R. John Wuesthoff
Sarah Fisher and Derek Webber	Maryann Lindberg	Susan Schor	George and Liz Zentz
Peter and Susan Fitzgerald	Jeffrey and Marilee Lovit	Michaela Schrader	SUPPORTERS OF THE
Mike Flanagan	Emily Lusher	Micaela Schweitzer-Bluhm and	2024 ANNUAL APPEAL
William Franks	Catherine Lyon	Todd Bluhm	Anonymous
Elsie Freeman and Kip Neale	Maurice Mandel and Ina Selden	Kathryn Scott	Heather Abt
Barbara Gage	Virginia Manuel	Patsy and Jeff Scott	Tom and Diana Allen
Charlie and Carol Gale	Andrea Maricich	Jennifer Seavey	Albert and Linda Alschuler
Christos Gianopoulos	Karen Massey and Jeffrey Thaler	Sheila Seekins	Zachery Annis
David and Karen Giansiracusa	Daniel Mattox	Miriam Shark	John and Maggie Atwood
Steve and Mary Gifford	Dianne Matukaitis Brown	Leigh Sherrill	Ron and Sally Bancroft
Linda and Archibald Gillies	Eva and Bruce McVicar	Pamela Siewers	David Barry
Starr Gilmartin	Nick Mills	Mark Silber	Douglas Bates and E. Lynn Kay
Susan Grant	Douglas Milton	Seth Singleton	Cynthia Beams
Fayal Greene	Debbie and Ken Mitchell	Kathleen Bruen Slack	Ann Beaudry and Craig McEwen
Merna and Joseph Guttentag	Richard Morgan	Bill Slade	Laureen Bedell
Francis and Mary Ann Hackett	Susan Morris	Harry Sleeper	Judith Bing and J. Brooke Harrington
Janet Haines	Melanie Murphy	Charles Smith	John and Mary Alice Bird
Nancy Hanrahan	Carolyn Murray	Courtney Smith	Stephen and Susan Black
Elizabeth Harding	Richard and Sandra Neiman	Melissa Smith	Emelie Born
Lynn Harrington	Jim and Pat Nelson	Sarah Smith	

Be a Member! Join the Camden Conference Community

You make a difference! Your membership in the Camden Conference supports our mission of fostering informed dialogue on the world's critical issues and bringing global insights to students and citizens across Maine and beyond. Please join us and help us to continue this vital educational mission. Visit www.camdenconference.org/membership to explore benefits and opportunities or scan this QR code.



Scan QR code
for a quick link

Members and Supporters

Jim and Felicity Bowditch
Margaret Jay Braatz
Andrew and Linda Brenner
Edward and Mary Cady
David Camenga and Nora Arnold
Nancy Cladel
Bruce and Ann Cole
Connie and Philip Conner
George Cooke and Laura Beckering
Judith Coulon
Donna and Tillman Crane
Gary and Judy DeLong
Susan Deutsch and Carlisle Towery
John and Wendy Doughty
Nelia and Charles Dunbar
Janet Edmunson and Jim Landau
Tony and Sarah Everdell
H. Allen and Sally Fernald
Leslie and Robert Fillnow
Sally and Alan Gayer
Jody Gill
Linda and Archibald Gillies
Anthony P. and Sally S. Grassi
Michael and Claudia Griffiths
Merna and Joseph Guttentag
William and Nancy Hall
Elizabeth Harder
Susan and Richard Harris
James and Hengerer Judith
Susan and Jack Herney
Andrea and Chris Hester
Robert and Kathleen Hirsch
Wayne and Sharon Hobson
Rona Hokanson
Joan Holmes and Shakeel Mozaffar
Carol and Dexter Holt
Marilyn Hotch
John and Jinx Hufnagel
Peter Imber and Jo Dondis
David and Ann Ingram
David and Nancy Jackson
Deborah Jackson Weiss and
 Scott T. Weiss
Elizabeth Johnson
Marty Jones and Christine Armstrong
Rendle and Patricia Jones
Judith and Joseph Kaminski
Bonnie Suzanne Kane
Jack and Evelyn Kane
Susan and Ted Kanellakis
Bruce and Gail Kilgour
Steven Koltai

Mike and Wendy Laidlaw
Catherine Lerme
Penny and Jon Linn
Eric and Marcie Lister
Karin and George Look
Howard and Mary Lowell
Charles Mamane and
 Cathy Landau-Painter
James and Jean Matlack
John and Wende McIlwain
Eva and Bruce McVicar
Merlin and Carlotta Miller
Sarah Miller and David Babski
Nick Mills
Jane Monhart
Susan and Dave Morrison
Richard and Sandra Neiman
Jim and Pat Nelson
Kenneth and Mary Pennell Nelson
Jane and Jim Nyce
Marjorie and Jon Oxman
Betsy Perry and Neale Sweet
Bob and Mary Rackmales
Joel and Rachel Reck
Cindy and John Reed
F. Eugene Reil
Thomas and Nancy Roth Remington
Diana Rigg
Jonathan Rigg
James and Michelle Rines
Sandra Roak
Geoffrey and Katrina Robinson
Marilyn Moss Rockefeller
Guy and Claudia Scalzi
Bill and Eileen Shaughnessy
Viola and Fred Sheehan
Thomas Shepler
Jane Smith and Byron Borst
Lavana Snyder and Max Scholz
Vernon and Julia Squires
Judy Stein
Elizabeth and William Stephenson
Ronald Stern and Elisse Walters
George Stewart
Matthew and Keiko Storin
Deirdre Strachan and Jose Mas
Terry and Sandra Strine
David and Paula Swetland
Richard and Caroline Swett
Jan Taft
Susan Taylor
Paul and Julie Tenan

Jim and Pat Theisen
Susan and Norman Thomas
Melissa Tully
Mary and Walter Voskian
Katharine J. Watson
Suzanne Weaver and Stephen James
Ward A. and Tracy B. Wickwire
Carolyn Wilson
Michael Wood

SUPPORTERS OF THE STUDENT EDUCATION FUND

Anonymous (4)
Bob Adler
Leslie Aitken and Jonathan Treat
Davies Allan and Nancy Shaul
Marlene Allison
Bill and Carol Bachofner
Ron and Sally Bancroft
Mary Beth Banios
Pam Barry
Laureen Bedell
Jane W. Bedford
Kim Benzel and Bruce Campbell
John and Mary Alice Bird
Dan Bookham and Jessie Davis
Kathleen Brandes
Gerald C. and Dorothea M. Buckley
Barbara and William Buss
Laurie Cleghorn-Stone
Bruce and Ann Cole
George Cooke and Laura Beckering
Judith Coulon
Mazie Cox and Brinkley Thorne
Ames Curtis and Marti Stone
LouAnn Daly
Thomas M. and Zehra Deford
Patricia and Robert Eddy
Janet Edmunson and Jim Landau
Tony and Sarah Everdell
Sarah Fisher and Derek Webber
Katherine Gibson
Linda and Archibald Gillies
Charles and Dorothea Graham
Barbara Grossbaum
Merna and Joseph Guttentag
William and Nancy Hall
Stephen Harder and York-Chi Harder
Susan and Richard Harris
Andrea and Chris Hester
Jennifer Hillman
Robert and Kathleen Hirsch

Wayne and Sharon Hobson
Rona Hokanson
Carol and Dexter Holt
Sally Hoople
Barbara Hopkins
Rebecca and David Hotelling
Sallie Craig Huber
David and Ann Ingram
Caroline Janover
Bonnie Suzanne Kane
Jack and Evelyn Kane
Susan and Ted Kanellakis
Elaine Keyes
Jeanne and Paul Klainer
Barbara Klapprodt
Alison and Anton Lahnston
Karol Lawson
K. Prescott Low and Susan Tucker Low
Howard and Mary Lowell
Isabel Lyndon
Edith K. Manns
James and Jean Matlack
Betsy Mayberry
John and Wende McIlwain
Pat Messler
Sima and Douglas Miska
Ed Modell and Merle Rockwell
Jane Monhart
Melanie Murphy
Troy and Pat Murray
Kenneth and Mary Pennell Nelson
Colleen Newcomb
Thomas Pike and Lys McLaughlin
Marcie and Stephen Porter
Lynn Potoff
Bob and Mary Rackmales
Joel and Rachel Reck
Cindy and John Reed
Jonathan Rigg
Marilyn Moss Rockefeller
Guy and Claudia Scalzi
Ellen Seidman and Walt Slocum
Viola and Fred Sheehan
Pamela Siewers
Seth Singleton
Catherine Steiner-Adair and Fred Adair
Lucy and Skip Stinson
Matthew and Keiko Storin
David and Paula Swetland
Susan Taylor
Richard Tozier and Carol Gillette
Melissa Tully

Annual Appeal Donor & Student Education Fund

We wish to thank and acknowledge everyone who enhanced their support of the Camden Conference through the 2024 Annual Appeal and Student Education Fund. The heartwarming success of our first-ever annual appeal helps ensure that we continue to grow stronger and offer the annual conferences on issues that are shaping our world. Our lasting impact on Maine students is made possible only through such generous support.

GLOBAL SPONSOR



Helping you manage the business of life

EDUCATION SPONSOR



FOUNDATIONS



SETH SPRAGUE
EDUCATIONAL & CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORTERS



VAN OTTERLOO
FAMILY FOUNDATION

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS



The 39th Camden Conference

Power, Politics, and Players in Today's Middle East

February 20 - 22, 2026

Live from Camden, Maine

The Middle East region remains one of the world's most intractable trouble spots. It is a volatile arena where regional powers, global interests, and local aspirations intersect in ever-evolving and often violent ways. The 2026 Camden Conference will explore how traditional and emerging powers are reshaping relationships and testing alliances across this globally vital region.

Join distinguished speakers and experts as they analyze the forces driving these regional dynamics.



CAMDEN CONFERENCE

207-236-1034 / info@camdenconference.org / camdenconference.org

P.O. Box 882, Camden, Maine 04843