

قدرت  
פזא'טא'קא  
סינאסיין

TODAY'S  
MIDDLE EAST

POWER  
POLITICS  
PLAYERS

February 20-22, 2026

*Camden Opera House, Camden, Maine*

Satellite venues:

*Strand Theatre, Rockland & Lunt Auditorium, Falmouth*

Available to livestream worldwide

[camdenconference.org](http://camdenconference.org)





## Friday, February 20

---

▶ 7:30 – 9:00 PM **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

**MATT STORIN**

President, Camden Conference

**MEGHNA CHAKRABARTI**, **Conference Moderator**

Host and editor of NPR's *On Point*

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: *What Comes Next for the Middle East After the Gaza War?***

**VALI NASR**

Majid Khadduri Professor of International Affairs and Middle East Studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

**Discussion and Questions**

## Saturday, February 21

---

▶ 9:00 – 10:30 AM

***A History of the Middle East: From Empire to Nation States***

**JOSHUA LANDIS**

Professor and Director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma's Boren College of International Studies

***Flashpoints: Today and Tomorrow in the Middle East***

**ROBIN WRIGHT**

Journalist, Author, and Foreign Affairs Analyst; Columnist, *The New Yorker*

**Discussion and Questions**

▶ 10:30 – 11:00 AM **BREAK**

▶ 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

***The Age of Erdogan: What Explains the Dominance of Turkey's Longtime Leader?***

**SUZY HANSEN**

Journalist; Author, *Notes on a Foreign Country* (Pulitzer Prize Finalist, General Nonfiction)

***Saudi Arabia Under MBS: Ally, Partner, or Something Else?***

**BERNARD HAYKEL**

Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Director of the Institute for Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia at Princeton University

**Discussion and Questions**

▶ 12:30 – 2:00 PM **LUNCH**

▶ 2:00 – 2:50 PM

***Iran at a Crossroads***

**SUZANNE MALONEY**

Vice President & Director, Foreign Policy Program, Brookings Institution

**Discussion and Questions**

▶ 2:50 – 3:20 PM **BREAK**

▶ 3:20 – 4:50 PM

***Israel: Stuck Between Pariah and Superpower***

**ETHAN BRONNER**

Israel Bureau Chief and Senior Editor for the Middle East at Bloomberg News

***Building the Far Side of the Bridge:***

***The Imperative of Imagining a Land for All***

**OMAR M. DAJANI**

Professor of International Law, McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific

**Discussion and Questions**

## Sunday, February 22

---

▶ 9:00 – 10:30 AM

***Stateless Peoples and Peoples Without a State: Intersecting Crises in the Middle East and North Africa***

**STEPHANIE WILLIAMS**

Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy; Former UN Special Adviser on Libya; Author, *Libya Since Qaddafi*

**Discussion and Questions**

***Between Hegemony and Multipolarity: The Middle East, U.S. Power, and a Changing World Order***

**JEFFREY FELTMAN**

John C. Whitehead Visiting Fellow in International Diplomacy, Foreign Policy Program, Brookings Institution; Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

**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 [askaspeaker@gmail.com](mailto:askaspeaker@gmail.com)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Storin, *President*  
Bob Hirsch, *Treasurer*  
George Cooke, *Secretary*  
Dwight Blue  
Bruce Cole  
Leslie Fillnow  
William Hall  
Andrea Hester  
Carol Holt  
Rendle Jones  
Wendy Laidlaw  
Nick Mills  
John Reed  
Vee Sheehan

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

Don Abbott  
David Babski  
Ann Beaudry  
John Bird  
Mac Deford  
John Doughty  
Charlie Graham  
Jim Hengerer  
Kathleen Hirsch  
Wayne Hobson  
Peter Imber  
Dave Jackson  
Elaine Keyes  
Karin Look  
Emily Lusher  
Jim Matlack  
Betsy Mayberry  
Merlin Miller  
Sarah Miller  
Jane Monhart  
Jane Nyce  
Cynthia Reed  
Judy Stein  
Susan Thornton  
Ward Wickwire  
Mike Wygant

## STAFF

Kimberly Scott  
*Executive Director*

Peter Mattox  
*Operations Manager*

On behalf of our many devoted volunteers, welcome to the 39th Annual Camden Conference. Whether in the Camden Opera House, the Strand Theater, the Lunt Auditorium or in the comfort of your living rooms, you are engaged citizens with interest in the world and all its challenges. And, speaking of challenges, our hard-working Program Committee did not choose an easy path for this year's Conference. The choice to delve into the issues of the Middle East in light of the traumatic events of the past two years was not an easy one. In fact, there were long discussions and close votes that led to our topic.

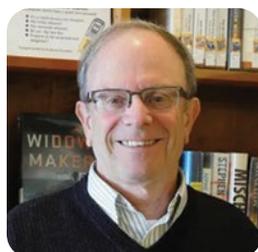
I was among those fearful that tensions could boil over as we tackled a part of the world that has been restive and often the scene of war for decades. Finally, though, we reached a consensus that if the Camden Conference is going to be true to its mission, we cannot run away from the most compelling issues of our time, whatever the risks.

We think you expect no less. The mission of the Camden Conference is to foster informed discussion of world issues. And so we will. If this gathering is anything like its predecessors, there will be a spirit that can only be achieved by listening to brilliant speakers, absorbing new perspectives, and discussing the arguments with fellow attendees. This intellectual energy is enhanced by the young and eager minds in our midst—over 100 college and high school students who have been studying the Middle East over recent months. We are grateful to the professors and teachers who volunteer their time to make our education programs so worthwhile.

Of course, the Camden Conference is much more than these three days. We administer the education programs, coordinate the many library talks, write grant proposals, and, yes, approach our friends for donations, because we cannot run this enterprise on ticket revenues alone. As a volunteer-driven organization, we have just two paid staff members. Executive Director Kimberly Scott and Operations Manager Peter Mattox are essential to our operation in a manner beyond description. In addition to all their responsibilities, this year they worked with the design consultants at Pica in Belfast to launch an entirely new website. We hope you appreciate the improvements, both in content and design. And, coming soon, a new promotional video that we're currently working on in conjunction with Josh Povec, the very talented producer of the Camden Conference.

Next year the Camden Conference will celebrate its 40th anniversary. We're planning ways to celebrate but, above all, we will strive to better stimulate and educate ourselves and all of you.

Matt Storin, *President*



**MATT STORIN** edited *The Boston Globe* (1993-2001) and held editor positions at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *NY Daily News*, *Maine Times*, and *U.S. News & World Report*. His reporting included covering Congress, the White House, and Asia from Tokyo, including the wars in Cambodia and Vietnam. After the *Globe*, he was associate vice president for communications and journalism professor at Notre Dame. He retired in 2014 and lives in Camden.

## Moderator

---

**MEGHNA CHAKRABARTI** is host and editor of NPR's *On Point*, which provides in-depth interviews with extraordinary people, and analysis on broader issues that have an impact on Americans. Under Meghna's leadership, *On Point* has won two national Edward R. Murrow Awards, five Murrow regional awards, five awards from the Women in Media Foundation, a first place from the American Society of Health Care Journalists, and a top prize from the Public Media Journalists Association. Chakrabarti has won awards for individual reporting from both the Associated Press and the Radio Television News Directors Association for her writing and news reporting. A former fellow at the Metcalf Institute for Environmental Reporting, Chakrabarti holds bachelor's degrees in civil and environmental engineering from Oregon State University, summa cum laude, as well as a master's degree in environmental science and risk management from Harvard University, and an MBA with honors from Boston University.



## Keynote Speaker

---

**VALI NASR** is the Majid Khadduri Professor of International Affairs and Middle East Studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and co-director of the Rethinking Iran Initiative at SAIS, the leading hub for fostering a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of contemporary Iran and its regional influence. He has advised senior American policymakers, world leaders, and businesses, including the President, Secretary of State, and senior members of the Congress, and served as Senior Advisor to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. He has written for the *New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post* and is the author of several books including *Iran's Grand Strategy: A Political History*; *The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat*; and numerous articles in scholarly journals. Most recently he co-authored *How Sanctions Work: Iran and the Impact of Economic Warfare*. He received a BA from Tufts University; a master's from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a PhD in political science from MIT.



## Speakers

---



**JOSHUA LANDIS** is the Sandra Mackey Chair and Director of the Center for Middle East Studies and the Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies at the University of Oklahoma's Boren College of International Studies. He is also the past President of the Syrian Studies Association. Landis is a frequent analyst on television, radio, and in print media, appearing regularly on NPR and the BBC. He has received three Fulbright grants to support his research in Syria and has won numerous prizes for his teaching. He has lived 15 years in the Middle East, including four years in Syria, and spent most summers in Syria before the 2011 uprising. His publications include frequent contributions to policy journals including *Foreign Affairs*, *Middle East Policy*, and *Foreign Policy*. His book, *Syria at Independence: Nationalism, Leadership, and the Failure of Republicanism*, will be published by the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies this coming year. Landis received his B.A. from Swarthmore College, M.A. from Harvard University, and Ph.D. from Princeton University.

Submit questions for speakers to [askaspeaker@gmail.com](mailto:askaspeaker@gmail.com)

## Speakers

**ROBIN WRIGHT** is one of the foremost experts on the Middle East and is the author of eight books on the region including *Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World*, which was selected as the Best Book on International Affairs by the Overseas Press Club; and *Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East*. Wright has reported from more than 150 countries on seven continents and been on the ground for a dozen wars, several uprisings, and revolutionary turning points. She is a columnist for *The New Yorker*, a former diplomatic correspondent for *The Washington Post*, and has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *TIME*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *the Los Angeles Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and is a fixture on prime-time news programs as an analyst. Her numerous awards include the U.N. Correspondents Gold Medal for international reporting, the National Magazine Award, the Overseas Press Club Award for “exceptional courage and initiative,” and she was selected as journalist of the year by the American Academy of Diplomacy.



**SUZY HANSEN** is a journalist and author. Currently living in New York, she was previously based in Turkey for more than a decade. Her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *New York Magazine*. Her first book, *Notes on a Foreign Country*, was a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction and winner of the Overseas Press Club's Cornelius Ryan Award for Best Nonfiction Book on International Affairs. Hansen has taught writing at New York University, Princeton University, and Bard College. Her second book, *From Life Itself: Turkey, Istanbul, and a Neighborhood in the Age of Erdogan*, will be published April 28, 2026.

**BERNARD HAYKEL** is a scholar of the Arabian Peninsula, focusing on the politics, economics and history of the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) and Yemen. He is Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University where he teaches courses on energy, history and politics. He is also a Senior Fellow of the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC. He earned his doctorate in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford and is now completing a book on the modern history and transformation of Saudi Arabia and the rise of Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman.



### 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 during Conference weekend and at Arctic Tern Books in Rockland. Scan this QR code to browse and order online.



Scan QR code  
for quick access

### 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.

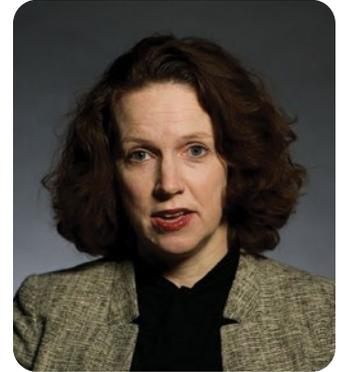


Scan QR code  
for quick access

## Speakers

---

**SUZANNE MALONEY** is the Vice President and Director of the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution, where her research focuses on Iran and Persian Gulf energy. Dr. Maloney has advised both Democratic and Republican administrations on Iran policy and is a leading voice on U.S. policy toward Iran and the broader Middle East, testifying before Congress, briefing policymakers, and engaging with NGOs and corporations. Her publications include *The Iranian Revolution at 40* (Brookings); *Iran's Political Economy since the Revolution* (Cambridge University), and *Iran's Long Reach* (U.S. Institute of Peace). She has also published numerous book chapters and articles in academic and policy journals as well as in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Foreign Affairs*. In 2004, she directed the Council on Foreign Relations Task Force on U.S. policy toward Iran. Dr. Maloney received her PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and studied in Tehran as part of the first academic exchanges between the United States and Iran since the 1979 revolution.



**ETHAN BRONNER** is the Israel Bureau Chief and Senior Editor for the Middle East at Bloomberg News, which he joined in 2015 after seventeen years at the *New York Times*, most recently as deputy national editor. A graduate of Wesleyan University and Columbia Journalism School, he began his career at Reuters in 1980, reporting from London, Madrid, Brussels, and Jerusalem. From 1985 to 1997, he worked for the *Boston Globe* as a general assignment reporter, Supreme Court correspondent, and Middle East correspondent based in Jerusalem. At the *New York Times*, Bronner served as national education correspondent and editor (1997-2001), then joined the investigative unit covering the September 11 attacks. He helped edit a series on Al Qaeda that won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism. He subsequently served as assistant editorial page editor, deputy foreign editor, Jerusalem bureau chief (2008-2012), and national legal reporter. Bronner is the author of *Battle for Justice: How the Bork Nomination Shook America* (Norton, 1989), chosen by the New York Public Library as one of the 25 best books of 1989.

**OMAR M. DAJANI** is the Carol Olson Professor of International Law at McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific. He also currently serves on the Joint Board of A Land for All, an Israeli-Palestinian political movement, is co-Principal Investigator (with Haim Yacobi) of The Shared Homeland Paradigm: Reimagining Space, Rights, and Partnership in Israel-Palestine, and is a Non-Resident Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute. Previously, he served as legal adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team in peace talks with Israel, participating in the summits at Camp David and Taba, and as a political officer in the office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) in Jerusalem. His recent book co-edited with Aslı Bâli, *Federalism and Decentralization in the Contemporary Middle East and North Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) explores institutional design solutions for addressing identity conflict and governance challenges in the MENA region. He holds degrees from Northwestern University and Yale Law School.



Submit questions for speakers to [askaspeaker@gmail.com](mailto:askaspeaker@gmail.com)

## Speakers

---

**STEPHANIE WILLIAMS** is a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Previously, she led the United Nations' mediation that resulted in a nationwide Libyan ceasefire agreement signed on October 23, 2020, and a political agreement reached on February 5, 2021, which produced Libya's first unity government in seven years. She served as the Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General on Libya and Head of the U.N. Support Mission in Libya. Williams retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 2018 after serving as Chargé d'Affaires for the U.S. Embassy to Libya. She also served as Senior Adviser on Syria, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission in Iraq, Jordan and Bahrain in addition to tours in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Pakistan. Williams has authored numerous articles on Libya, Lebanon, and non-state armed actors and is the author of *Libya Since Qaddafi: Chaos and the Search for Peace* (Hurst, 2025). Williams graduated from the University of Maryland with degrees in Economics and Government Relations, earned a master's degree in Arab studies from Georgetown University and is a Distinguished Graduate of the National War College.



**JEFFREY FELTMAN** is the John C. Whitehead Visiting Fellow in International Diplomacy in the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution and a senior fellow at the United Nations Foundation. He serves on the boards of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the American Academy of Diplomacy and as an advisor to Fundación Acordemos and the Una Chapman Cox Foundation. He is a non-resident senior fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute and the International Peace Institute. Ambassador Feltman was the first U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, from April 2021 until January 2022. From 2012 until 2018, Ambassador Feltman was U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Previously, Mr. Feltman was a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. From 2009 until 2012, Ambassador Feltman was the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. Prior to his 2004-2008 tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, he served in Erbil, Baghdad, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Tunis, Amman, Budapest, and Port-au-Prince.

---

## Who We Are

Welcome to the 39th Annual Camden Conference! Established in 1987, the aim of the nonprofit Camden Conference is to foster in-depth, non-partisan discussion of foreign affairs through year-round programming and our multi-day February Conference.

Newcomers often ask, "How did a foreign affairs conference of this caliber come to take place in a small town on the coast of Maine at the most unlikely time of year?" The answer lies in the rich backgrounds and illustrious careers of Midcoast Maine residents who bring remarkable governmental, academic, business, and international experience to this beautiful place. In April 1987, twelve such distinguished individuals launched a conversation devoted to discussing world affairs. Less than a year later, the

first Conference convened at the Camden Public Library, setting remarkably high standards with speakers including a national security advisor, a US senator, the Secretary of State, and a US Ambassador. The Conference moved to the Camden Opera House in 1989 and has grown steadily ever since. Today, technological advances allow us to reach beyond Camden through satellite venues at Rockland's Strand Theatre and Falmouth's Lunt Auditorium, as well as livestreaming to homes worldwide.

Each February, our speakers are recognized experts drawn from government, academia, business, and the media. Beyond the Conference weekend, we offer robust year-round programming, with about 20 percent of Opera House attendees being students from our partnerships with high

schools and colleges across Maine. Throughout the year, we offer many additional events—lectures, films, and cultural programming—most free of charge. Libraries throughout the state host these events (28 of them this year!) and receive funding to purchase books on our annual reading list.

Responsibility for Conference activities is vested in a Board of Directors composed of area citizens actively interested in foreign and public policy. Our organization also benefits from the contributions of an Advisory Council made up of distinguished local individuals, most of whom are past Board members with deep experience in international relations. Both Board and Council volunteer their time, talent and commitment to ensure the success of the organization.



The actual job of putting together the Conference, as well as carrying out our student education and year-round community events programs, falls to roughly 75 dedicated volunteers who collectively put in thousands of hours each year. Thanks to all who serve on our Program, Finance, Development, Marketing, Education, Community Events, and Hospitality Committees! And special thanks to the many eminently capable educators and librarians we collaborate with across the state. While we pride ourselves on being a volunteer-powered organization, everything we do is facilitated by our versatile and collaborative staff of two.

## Past Conferences

- 2025:** Democracy Under Threat: A Global Perspective
- 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 Programs

Each year, Camden Conference Student Programs endeavors to network teachers across the state, supporting them in designing and creating courses relevant to the annual Conference theme and tailored to their specific educational environment. The materials they develop foster critical thinking, knowledge of world issues, and opportunities for dialogue among participating students.

Our flagship educational initiative, the Camden Conference in the Classroom program, currently engages seventeen high schools throughout Maine. 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.

In recent years, about twenty percent of Camden Opera House attendees are students, who add a lively, forward-looking, and well-informed perspective to the Conference proceedings, while simultaneously gaining unprecedented access to global expertise and intergenerational viewpoints. For every student—whether attending in person at the Opera House, Strand Theatre, Lunt Auditorium 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.

The generous support of foundations, corporate sponsors, and individual donors makes all of this possible. By investing in education, these donors help prepare students to engage thoughtfully with complex international issues, and the Conference itself benefits tremendously from their energy and fresh perspectives.

## 2026 Participating Schools

### HIGH SCHOOLS

- Bonney Eagle High School, Standish
- Brewer High School
- Ecology Learning Center, Unity
- Edward Little High School, Auburn
- Gould Academy, Bethel
- Greenville Consolidated School
- Hampden Academy
- Leavitt High School, Turner
- Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, Hinckley
- Medomak Valley High School, Waldoboro
- Oak Hill High School, Wales
- Oceanside High School, Rockland
- Piscataquis Community Secondary School, Guilford
- Portland High School
- Sanford High School
- Yarmouth High School

### HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS

- Harvard Center for Community Partnerships, Bates College, Lewiston
- Thomas College
- University of Maine at Orono
- University of Maine School of Policy and International Affairs, Orono
- University of Southern Maine, Portland

### Community Events

Camden Conference Community Events are free or low-cost programs organized outside the February Conference weekend. Each year, we partner with libraries statewide to present programs related to our annual theme.

Events feature local experts, book discussions, and film screenings. Libraries choose their format—in-person, hybrid, or online—and some recordings are available on our website.

Participating libraries receive funding annually to purchase books from the Conference reading list. Thousands attend these events each year, engaging with our topic even if they don’t attend the Conference itself.

We’re grateful to our library partners and librarians who make these programs possible in the months leading up to our Conference.

## Participating Maine Public Libraries

**Auburn Public Library**, Donna Wallace, Izzy Ruta  
**Belfast Free Library**, Brenda Harrington  
**Blue Hill Library**, Kayleigh Thomas  
**Camden Public Library**, Julia Sagaser  
**Cushing Public Library**, Wendy Roberts  
**Falmouth Memorial Library**, Jenna Mayotte, Kristi Bryant  
**Kennebunk Free Library**, Allison Atkins  
**Merrill Memorial Library, Yarmouth**, Heidi Grimm, Michael Carnes and Courtney Kleftis  
**Patten Free Library, Bath**, Lesley Dolinger, Hannah Lackoff, Aurora Cobb  
**Portland Public Library**, Sarah Moore, Sage Giamportone  
**Price Memorial Library, Cumberland**, Kelly Greenlee, Keelin des Rosiers  
**Rockland Public Library**, Em Lewis  
**Rockport Public Library**, Julia Pierce  
**Scarborough Public Library**, Chip Schrader, Elsa Rowe  
**York Public Library**, Michelle Sampson, Amanda Johnson

## 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 the February Conference, 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 “thinking globally and acting locally” and meeting and working with a group of like-minded individuals, let us know. We would love to discuss the possibilities with you. When you volunteer for the Camden Conference, you’ll make new friends while supporting and sustaining a revered Midcoast organization and event.



## Community Events Presenters

Senem Aslan	Derek Michaud	Micaela
Afarin Bellisario	Robert Morrison	Schweitzer-Bluhm
Nadia El-Shaarawi	Norman Olsen	<b>The Shavarsh Trio</b>
Sandra Garson	Parivash and Nasser Rohani	Eric LaPerna, Jeremey Zela & Leo LaZarate
Ellen Goldsmith	Tad Runge	Mark Van Baalen
Bill Hall	Fatima Saidi	
Arthur Levin		



## Camden Conference Committees

### Community Events

Vee Sheehan, *Chair*  
 Bill Bachofner  
 Pamela Barry  
 Mimi Edmunds  
 Ellen Goldsmith  
 Andrea Hester  
 Karen Massey  
 Gael McKibben  
 Jane Nyce  
 Lenore Rapkin  
 Judy Stein  
 Kathleen Sutherland  
 John Wuesthoff

### Development

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

### Education

Dwight Blue, *Chair*  
 Mary Beth Banios  
 Jennifer Cross  
 David Dethlefs  
 Eric Lister  
 Nathan Rockwood  
 Laurie Stone  
 Matt Storin  
 Erin Towns

### Finance

Bob Hirsch, *Chair*  
 Don Abbott  
 Carol Holt  
 John Reed  
 Rendle Jones

### Hospitality

Mary Jo Bateman

### Marketing

Nick Mills, *Chair*  
 Don Abbott  
 Bruce Cole  
 Janet Edmunson  
 Leslie Fillnow  
 Charlie Gale  
 Vee Sheehan  
 Orion Zydlewski

### Program

William Hall, *Chair*  
 Bruce Cole  
 George Cooke  
 Mac Deford  
 Susana Hancock  
 Stephen Harder  
 Charles Mamane  
 Jim Matlack  
 John McIlwain  
 John Reed  
 Judy Stein  
 Walter Voskian

## Members and Supporters (as of January 5, 2026)

### GLOBAL GIVING CIRCLE

Bob and Kathleen Hirsch  
Rendle and Patricia Jones  
Andrew Love  
Heather McCargo and Brian Mcniff  
Jeanne Murphy  
Cindy and John Reed

### PRESIDENTS CLUB

Anonymous (1)  
Laureen Bedell  
James and Judith Hengerer  
Joan Holmes and Shakeel Mozaffar  
Wendy and Michael Laidlaw  
Bill and Eileen Shaughnessy  
Keiko and Matthew Storin

### AMBASSADOR

Anonymous (1)  
Edward and Mary Cady  
Leslie and Robert Fillnow  
William and Nancy Hall  
Stephen Harder and York-Chi Harder  
Gregory Johnson and Carol Hancock  
Diana Rigg  
Susan Taylor

### DIPLOMAT

Anonymous (3)  
Don and Penny Abbott  
Heather Abt  
Douglas Bates and E. Lynn Kay  
Stephen and Susan Black  
Andrew and Linda Brenner  
Bruce and Ann Cole  
Walter Curchack  
Thomas M. and Zehra Deford  
Tom DeMarco and Sally Smyth  
Susan Deutsch and Carlisle Towery  
Karen Foxwell  
Suzanne P. Fuhrman  
Anthony P. and Sally S. Grassi  
Elizabeth Harder  
Carol and Dexter Holt  
Sandra Jensen and Samuel Broaddus  
Marty Jones and Christine Armstrong  
Hugh and Lois Judge  
Sven and Laurie Karlen  
Brenda Kean  
John A. and Susan C. LaCasse  
Arnie Macdonald and Liza Moore  
Dennis McGuirk  
Sima and Douglas Miska  
Denise and Burke Munger  
Troy and Pat Murray  
Ineke Schair  
J.P. and Kaki Smith  
Patricia Smith and Richard Tucker  
Margaret and Steven Spencer  
Judy Stein  
Jonathan Treat and Leslie Aitken  
Melissa Tully

Elisse Walter and Ronald Stern  
Katharine J. Watson  
Mary White  
Ted and Mary Jo Wiese

### CONSUL

Anonymous (1)  
Albert and Linda Alschuler  
John and Maggie Atwood  
Ron and Sally Bancroft  
Cindy and Fred Beams  
Roger Berle and Lesley MacVane  
David Camenga and Nora Arnold  
Patrick and O'Ann Christiansen  
Lynn Cianchette  
George Cooke and Laura Beckering  
Thomas Cooney  
Mazie Cox and Brinkley Thorne  
Clifford and Sheryl Dacso  
Rodney and Annette Dejarnett  
Laura Eakin Erlacher  
Craig and Dawn Evans  
Pat Finnigan and Barry Jackson  
Sally and Alan Gayer  
Terry and Jacob Gerritsen  
Charles and Dorothea Graham  
Michael and Claudia Griffiths  
Rosa Hallowell and Mark Stein  
Susan and Richard Harris  
Debbie Hopper  
David and Ann Ingram  
James Jackson  
Jason Jones  
Judith and William Jones  
Anne Ketterer and Andrew Keniston  
Steven Koltai  
Catherine Lerne  
Penny and Jon Linn  
Karin and George Look  
William E Low & Kerr Wissler-Low  
Betsy Mayberry  
John and Wende McIlwain  
Edmund and Phoebe Megna  
Susan Michlovitz and Paul Velleman  
Merlin and Carlotta Miller  
Sarah Miller and David Babski  
Mary and Kenneth Nelson  
Jane and Jim Nyce  
Sean Padgett and Margaret White  
Betsy Perry and Neale Sweet  
Bob and Mary Rackmales  
F. Eugene Reil  
Walter and Barbara Reitz  
Sheila Seekins  
Viola and Fred Sheehan  
Dwight Sholes  
Jane Smith and Byron Borst  
Deirdre Strachan and Jose Mas  
Terry and Sandra Strine  
Andrew and Fran Swart  
Susan Thornton and Joe Daley  
Scott and Clia Tierney

Judy and Hugh Tilson  
Donald L. Trump and Kristina E. Debye  
Carol Tully  
Sondra Wallace  
Ward A. Wickwire  
Cynthia Williams  
Carolyn Wilson  
Joan Wright and Howard Robbins  
Patty and Bill Zimmerman

### ENVOY

Anonymous (3)  
Margaret and Bob Ackerman  
David and Liz Albertson  
Marlene Allison  
Richard Anderson  
Bill and Carol Bachofner  
David Barry and Constance Gibbons  
Jane W. Bedford  
Kenneth Bishop  
Margaret Jay Braatz  
Dave Brown and Jane Covey  
Lisa Buck  
Gerald C. and Dorothea M. Buckley  
Holly and Dan Burnes  
Susan Chadima and Mike Steitzer  
Randall Chanler and Andrew Stancioff  
Laurie Cleghorn-Stone  
Douglas and Patricia Cole  
Connie and Philip Conner  
Judith Coulon  
Donna and Tillman Crane  
Sarah Daignault  
Mary Doolan  
Patricia and Robert Eddy  
Janet Edmunson and Jim Landau  
Sarah and Tony Everdell  
Kurt and Lyell Franke  
Katherine Gibson  
Elizabeth and John Gilmore  
Barbara Grossbaum  
Merna and Joseph Guttentag  
Peter Haynes  
Andrea and Chris Hester  
Joan Higbee Cano and Jose Cano  
Wayne and Sharon Hobson  
Rona Hokanson  
Lee Huber  
Sallie Craig Huber  
Marshall and Kathy Kaiser  
Elaine and George Keyes  
Alison and Anton Lahnston  
Darrow Lebovici and Margaret Twohey  
William Lehr and Bouzha Cookman  
Loren and Corinne Lidsky  
Eric and Marcie Lister  
Theodore and Betty Long  
Howard and Mary Lowell  
Christopher Lyman and Lori Frazer  
James and Jean Matlack  
Fran McBrearty  
Pat Messler

Ed Modell and Merle Rockwell  
Janice Mokros  
Jane Monhart  
Susan and John D. Morris  
Mary Neal and Wendy Wolf  
David and Heidi Perkins  
Lenore Rapkin  
Rick and Karin Rector  
James and Michelle Rines  
Nathan Rockwood  
Susan Roll  
Daniel and Wendy Rowland  
Jenny and Dennis Rushovich  
John and Karen Sanders  
Patsy and Jeff Scott  
Ellen Seidman and Walt Slocombe  
Tom and Rosanne Shepler  
Ellen Slotnick  
Ann and John Snow  
Sally and Charlie Stone  
David and Paula Swetland  
Jan Terry  
Katherine Vogt  
Mary and Walt Voskian  
Suzanne Weaver and Stephen James

### REPRESENTATIVE

Anonymous (22)  
Carole Aaron  
Nancy Adams  
Mary Ainslie  
Amanda Anderson  
Holly L. Antolini  
Jennifer and Fred Aronson  
Robert Atwood  
Newell Augur  
Noreen Bagley  
Mary Beth Banios  
Karin Barndollar  
Cecily Bastedo  
Wendy Batson and Bob Eaton  
Lori Bedell  
Jonathan Beitler  
Julie Benavides  
Mimi Benedict and Skip Hoblin  
Claude Berube  
Ann Bex  
Constance Bingham  
John and Mary Alice Bird  
Barbara Bitner  
Christina Bobrow  
Victoria & Erno Bonebakker  
Kathleen Brandes  
John and Georgia Brock  
Robert Buckner  
Patricia Burke  
Joan and Robert Butler  
Todd Butler  
Joanna Calderwood  
Susan Carr  
Katharine Cartwright and Dan Verrillo  
James Chalfant

## Members and Supporters

William Chamberlin	Nancy Harmon Jenkins	Diana Post	Julia Weeks
David Chosiad and Paula Thompson	Winston Jenkins	Lynn Potoff	Jonathan Wells
Lynne Church	Donald Kalsched	Pat Profeta	Joan Welsh
Bruce and Sherry Cobb	Jack and Evelyn Kane	Mark Puglisi	Ann Willauer
Christine and Jonathan Cohen	Susan and Ted Kanellakis	Andrew Raymond	Steve Wolfson
Betsy and Mike Connelly	Judith Kildow	Joel and Rachel Reck	Samantha Wood
Catherine Cornell	Bruce and Gail Kilgour	Chris and Betsy Rector	Larry Zarin and Lisa Orden-Zarin
Charlie Costello	Jeanne and Paul Klainer	John Redman	Stanley Paige Zeigler
Phyllis Cox	Peter LaBonte	Marianne Reynolds	Liz and George Zentz
Ames Curtis and Marti Stone	Frederick Lancaster	Jonathan Rigg	<b>SUPPORTERS OF THE</b>
Theodore Dalton	Judith and Norman Lasca	Sandra Roak	<b>2025 ANNUAL APPEAL</b>
Lou Ann Daly	Susan Lassen	Betty Robinson	Anonymous (8)
Elizabeth and Ralph DeOrsay	Sandra Lathem	Doreen Rockstrom	Carole Aaron*
Jeanne DeVine and Ken Podell	Dwight and Wendy Leeper	Erica Roodhouse	Albert and Linda Alschuler
Martica Douglas	Sidney LeFavour	Margaret Rosch	John and Maggie Atwood
Sally Dunn	Michael Levey	Peter Rothschild	Newell Augur
Penny Dunning	Dale and Richard Lewis	Rachel Rubeor	Ron and Sally Bancroft
Elizabeth Eaton	Jane K Lewis	Eric Sass and Eveleen Severn-Sass	Mary Beth Banios*
Courtney Elwood	Virginia Lezhnev	Guy and Claudia Scalzi	David Barry and Constance Gibbons
Woody and Carole Emanuel	Maryann Lindberg	Audrey and Arthur Schick	Douglas Bates and E. Lynn Kay*
Kyle Emery	Carl and Julie Lindquist	Susan Schor	Laureen Bedell
Emily Estes and Roy McAlpine	Karen and Clark Lindsey	Michaela Schrader	Jane W. Bedford*
Sarah Fisher and Derek Webber	Sara Litt	Judith Schwartz	Kim Benzel and Bruce Campbell*
Peter and Susan Fitzgerald	Emily Lusher	Kathryn Scott	John and Mary Alice Bird*
Mike Flanagan	Isabel Lyndon	Miriam Shark	Stephen and Susan Black
Sean Flynn and Jessica Goldfin	Virginia Manuel	Leigh Sherrill	Dan Bookham and Jessie Davis*
Charlie and Carol Gale	Karen Massey and Jeffrey Thaler	Pamela Siewers	Margaret Jay Braatz
Christos Gianopoulos	Daniel Mattox and Betsy Norman	Kathleen Bruen Slack	Kathleen Brandes
Sally Giddings Smith	Lys McLaughlin Pike and Thomas Pike	Bill and Julie Slade	Emily Breitner*
Steve and Mary Gifford	Nick Mills	Harry Sleeper	Andrew and Linda Brenner
John Gilliland	Barry Minkin	Courtney Smith	Robert Buckner
Dennis Gormley	Debbie & Ken Mitchell	Susan Snider	Edward and Mary Cady
Susan Gormley	Read and Jane Moffett	Lavana Snyder and Max Scholz	Laurie Cleghorn-Stone*
Susan Grant	Jana Mohr Lone	Juhan Sonin	Christine and Jonathan Cohen
Alan Hackford	Andrew Moore	Cynthia Stancioff	Jacqueline and Irvin Cohen
Elizabeth Harding	Barbara Moore	Gloria Stein and Ted Fraumann	Bruce and Ann Cole*
Lynn Harrington	Jim and Pat Nelson	William and Elizabeth Stephenson	Betsy and Mike Connelly
Alison Harris & Bernie Breitbart	Colleen Newcomb	George Stewart	George Cooke and Laura Beckering
Deborah Haviland	Greenway O'Dea	Sarah and Paul Strickland	Donna and Tillman Crane
Pamela Hawkes and Scott Teas	Maureen O'Keefe	Kathleen and John Sutherland	Lou Ann Daly*
Susan and Jack Herney	Maureen O'Keefe	Robert Swegle and Carol Hibbert	Janet Edmunson and Jim Landau
Harry Hoblin	Shirley and Edward O'Keefe	Abraham Tabachnick	Craig and Dawn Evans
Marilyn Hotch	Maureen O'Connell	Wes Todd and Jana Goddard	Sarah and Tony Everdell*
Rachel Houlihan	Destry Oldham-Sibley	Vera Trojan and Mark Carthy	Leslie and Robert Fillnow
Chuck and Joan Howard	Norm Olsen	Marian Vidaurri	Karen Foxwell
Jinx and John Hufnagel	Nick and Phyllis Orem	Kevin Voigt	Sally and Alan Gayer
Maureen Hurley	Patrick and Anita Owen	Ann Waigand	Jody Gill
Peter Imber and Jo Dondis	Connie Page	Peter and Ann Wakeman	Judith Glickman
Armando and Debra Incera	Robin Patton and Alice Cahn	Suzanne Waller	Lewis Golden
Mary Ireland	David Pendleton	Donald and Charlotte Walter	Anthony P. and Sally S. Grassi
Nancy Irving	Anne Peyton	Linda Washburn	Merna and Joseph Guttentag*
Debra Jay	Nancy and Walter Pierce	Donna Watson	
	Anthony Pinson		

*\*denotes contribution to the Student Education Fund*

## Be a Member! Join the Camden Conference Community

Your membership makes a vital difference! By joining the Camden Conference, you support our mission to foster informed dialogue on critical global issues while bringing world-class perspectives to students and communities throughout Maine and beyond. Help us continue this essential educational work—visit our website to discover membership benefits and opportunities or scan the QR code for quick access.



Scan QR code  
for quick access

## Members and Supporters (as of January 5, 2026)

---

### SUPPORTERS OF THE 2025 ANNUAL APPEAL (continued)

William and Nancy Hall	Elaine and George Keyes*	Shirley and Edward O'Keefe	Keiko and Matthew Storin*
Elizabeth Harder	Bruce and Gail Kilgour*	Don Peccerill and Leslie Curtis	Sarah Strauss*
Susan and Richard Harris	Barbara Klapprodt*	Diana Post*	David and Paula Swetland
James and Judith Hengerer*	Wendy and Michael Laidlaw	Lynn Potoff*	Susan Taylor*
Andrea and Chris Hester	Michael Levey	Bob and Mary Rackmales	Jan Terry
Jennifer Hillman	K. Prescott Low and Susan Tucker Low	Ann Ramsay-Jenkins	Jim and Pat Theisen
Bob and Kathleen Hirsch	Howard and Mary Lowell	Cindy and John Reed*	Norm and Susan Thomas
Wayne and Sharon Hobson	Maurice Mandel and Ina Lee Selden*	F. Eugene Reil	Jonathan Treat and Leslie Aitken
Rona Hokanson	Edith K. Manns*	Diana Rigg*	Carol Tully
Carol and Dexter Holt*	James and Jean Matlack	Jonathan Rigg*	Melissa Tully
Sallie Craig Huber*	John and Wende McIlwain*	James and Michelle Rines	Mary and Walt Voskian*
David and Ann Ingram*	Edmund and Phoebe Megna	Ellen Seidman and Walt Slocombe	Katharine J. Watson
Nancy Harmon Jenkins*	Nick Mills	Viola and Fred Sheehan	Suzanne Weaver and Stephen James
Elizabeth Johnson	Jane Monhart	Tom and Rosanne Shepler	Ward A. Wickwire*
Marty Jones and Christine Armstrong	Troy and Pat Murray	J.P. and Kaki Smith	Michael & Heather Wood
Yvonne Jumper*	Jim and Pat Nelson	Lavana Snyder and Max Scholz	
Jack and Evelyn Kane	Mary and Kenneth Nelson	Judy Stein	
Susan and Ted Kanellakis	Jane and Jim Nyce	Catherine Steiner-Adair and Fred Adair	

*\*denotes contribution to the Student Education Fund*

---

## Annual Appeal Donors & Student Education Fund

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who strengthened their support of the Camden Conference through our 2025 Annual Appeal and Student Education Fund. The success of our Annual Appeal enables us to sustain and expand our Conference programming on the pressing issues shaping our world. Your generous contributions to the Student Education Fund ensure we can continue making a meaningful, lasting impact on Maine students and their understanding of global affairs.

---

## Create a Lasting Legacy Through the Camden Conference

When you include the Camden Conference in your estate planning, you'll make a lasting investment in our mission of fostering informed dialogue on world issues. Your gift will create an enduring impact on international understanding in Maine and beyond and will support educational programs that shape future global citizens. Ready to discuss your legacy? Contact our office to learn more about planned giving opportunities. Your foresight today will help shape tomorrow's conversations—and tomorrow's citizens.



---

## GLOBAL SPONSOR

---

**RMD** | R.M.DAVIS  
PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

*Helping you manage the business of life*

---

## FOUNDATIONS

---



SETH SPRAGUE  
EDUCATIONAL  
&  
CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION

---

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

---



---

## STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORTERS

---



VAN OTTERLOO  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



Camden Rotary Club of Camden, Maine • West Bay Rotary Club of Camden, Maine

---

## BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

---





## The 40th Camden Conference

February 19-21, 2027

### China, America, and the Future of World Order

For more than 80 years, the world has operated under an American-led international order based on multilateral institutions, open trade, and alliance networks. That era is ending. In recent decades, China has emerged as a global power with the economic reach, military capability, and institutional ambition to match, or even overtake, the United States. Meanwhile, the United States, once the architect and guarantor of the international system it fostered, is turning inward.

Both powers are challenging the old rules, but no new framework has emerged to replace them. Are we entering a New Cold War of ideological and economic blocs? Fragmenting into regional spheres of influence? Returning to 19th-century great power competition? Our 40th anniversary Conference examines this global rupture and explores what the future of world order might look like—and whether "order" itself remains the right framework for understanding our century.

**CAMDEN CONFERENCE**

207-236-1034 / [info@camdenconference.org](mailto:info@camdenconference.org) / [camdenconference.org](http://camdenconference.org)

P.O. Box 882, Camden, Maine 04843