Friday, February 25

7:30 pm Welcome and Opening Remarks

KARIN LOOK
President, Camden Conference

DAVID BRANCACCIO
Conference Moderator
Host and Senior Editor, Marketplace Morning Report
American Public Media

Keynote: Democracy, the Global Economy, and Climate Under Pressure: Is Transatlantic Diplomacy Able to Save Them?

STAVROS LAMBRINIDIS
Ambassador of the European Union to the United States
Former Foreign Affairs Minister of Greece
Former European Union Special Representative for Human Rights

Discussion and Questions

Friday, February 25

12 noon – 1:30 pm Break

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm US-European Relations

Looking Ahead: A Dialogue

CONSTANZ STELZENMÜLLER
Fritz Stern Chair on Germany and Transatlantic Relations
Center on the United States and Europe, Brookings Institution

DOUGLAS E. LUTE
Chair, International and Defense, BGR Group
CEO, Cambridge Global Advisors, LLC
Former United States Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council, NATO

Discussion and Questions

Saturday, February 26

8:45 am – 10:15 am Challenges to “Europe Whole and Free”

Will Covid-19 and Climate, Migration and Corruption Make or Break Europe?

JUDY DEMPSEY
Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe
Editor-in-Chief, Strategic Europe Blog

The Illiberal Challenge to European Democracies: Who is Vulnerable?

OTHON ANASTASAKIS
Director, South East European Studies, Oxford University
Senior Research Fellow, St. Antony’s College

Discussion and Questions

10:15 am – 10:45 am Break

10:45 am – 12 noon Economic Challenges

Between the Devil and the Deep Red Sea: European Economies Confront a Turbulent World

MARK BLYTH
Director, William R. Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance; William R. Rhodes ’57 Professor of International Economics, Brown University

Saturday, February 26

10:45 am – 3:00 pm Break

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm Connections and Disorder

The Age of Unpeace: How Connectivity Causes Conflict

MARK LEONARD
Co-Founder and Executive Director
European Council on Foreign Relations
Host, “Mark Leonard’s World in 30 Minutes” podcast

Discussion and Questions

Sunday, February 27

8:45 am – 10:30 am Europe’s Foreign Policy Challenges

A Difficult Path to Becoming a Relevant Actor

PIERRE VIMONT
Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe
Former Ambassador of France to the United States
and to the European Union

How Can Europe Hold Its Own Between China and the USA?

DANIELA SCHWARZER
Executive Director for Europe and Eurasia
The Open Society Foundations

The US Approach to Managing the Kremlin Challenge in Eastern Europe

JOHN E. HERBST
Senior Director, Eurasia Center, The Atlantic Council
Former United States Ambassador to Ukraine and to Uzbekistan

Discussion and Questions

Sunday, February 27

10:30 am – 11:00 am Break

11:00 am – 12:15 pm Final Panel of All Speakers
Over these past 24 months we have looked increasingly inward to our family’s health, to the pressures on our democracy and to the weirdness of empty market shelves. Those worries are not, of course, ours alone as the pandemic spans the world and democracy is under pressure globally. We are indeed interconnected, as the Camden Conference has reminded us every year for 35 years, and thus it is critical that we refresh our understanding of the world’s complexity and of the United States of America’s role in that world.

This weekend we turn our thoughts to Europe: Challenged at Home and Abroad. Many of us believe we know Europe. Perhaps we worked there, read its press or enjoy its culture. The countries of Europe are finding life at least as uncertain and worrisome as we are in the United States. Europe is devising ways to navigate the challenges it faces, at times as a united Europe and at other times as the separate nations they remain. Most have longstanding relationships with the United States, some are our closest allies, and nearly all are members of the NATO Alliance. How Europe handles itself as we move through the third decade of this century matters to the United States and to the peace and prosperity of the entire world. For example, we see this now as we assess Putin’s threat to the sovereignty of Ukraine—threatened, in large part, because of its relationship with the West.

As we present our 35th Camden Conference I am deeply saddened that, despite planning all year for an in-person plus virtual conference, the realities of COVID-19 led us to decide in December that even a “hybrid” conference was no longer feasible or wise. Thanks once again to the efforts of our production director and his team, this excellent and timely Conference is being “livestreamed” to you. I sincerely expect that we will be in-person and engaged in discourse together in Maine in 2023.

This second pandemic year has taxed every one of us and the organizations we love and support. The Camden Conference has relied more than ever on our volunteers, members, students, those who support us and our tireless Executive Director and Office Manager. We succeed and prosper through our collective efforts and the continuing support of all our community. Thank you to every one of you.

Karin Look
President

KARIN LOOK developed U.S.
national security policy and
engaged with U.S. partners and
adversaries over the course of
her more than 30-year career.
In doing so she negotiated with
the Soviet Union and its former
republics, our NATO allies, and
Libya. She retired in 2011 as a
senior member of Secretary
Clinton’s State Department.
Moderator

DAVID BRANCACCIO is Host and Senior Editor of American Public Media’s Marketplace Morning Report. Most recently, his reporting has focused on “The Economy Reimagined” and on the complex logistical and fairness challenges of distributing COVID-19 vaccines to the world. He also covers regulation of financial markets, the role of technology in labor markets, human rights, the environment, and social enterprises. His work has earned some of the highest honors in broadcast journalism, including the Peabody, the Columbia-duPont, the Emmy, and the Walter Cronkite awards. Mr. Brancaccio anchored the award-winning public television news program NOW on PBS until 2010. He is author of Squandering Aimlessly, a book about Americans applying their personal values to their money. Mr. Brancaccio has a B.A. from Wesleyan University and M.A. in journalism from Stanford University. He grew up in Waterville, Maine and attended schools in Madagascar, Ghana and Italy. He enjoys public speaking, moderating, bicycling and photography.

Keynote Speaker

STAVROS LAMBRINIDIS has been Ambassador of the European Union to the United States since March 2019. From 2012 to 2019, he served as the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights. In 2011, he was Foreign Affairs Minister of Greece. Between 2004 and 2011, he was twice elected Member of the European Parliament (MEP) with the Greek Social Democratic Party (PASOK). He served as Vice-President of the European Parliament (2009-2011), Vice-President of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (2004-2009), and Head of the PASOK Delegation (2005-2011). Between 2000 and 2004, he was Director-General of the International Olympic Truce Centre. Previously he had been an attorney in Washington, D.C. specializing in international trade, transactions, and arbitration. He has received numerous recognitions for his work on human rights and privacy, including the Electronic Privacy Information Center’s “Champion of Freedom Award” in 2020 and the Boston Global Forum’s “World Leader in Artificial Intelligence Award” in 2021.

Submit your questions for speakers anytime to camcon2022@gmail.com

Speakers

OTHON ANASTASAKIS is the Director of South East European Studies at Oxford University and Senior Research Fellow at St. Antony’s College. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, a Visiting Professor at the Prague School of Economics, and a Region Head of Europe at Oxford Analytica. Dr. Anastasakis is the Principal Investigator of research projects exploring the relationship between Greece and its diaspora in the context of economic crisis and migration diplomacy and Turkey-EU relations. His other research interests include European populism and the extreme right, transition and democratization in Southern and South Eastern Europe, Balkan comparative politics, Turkish foreign policy in the Balkans, Greek-Turkish relations, Russia in South East Europe, and the European Union’s enlargement. In addition to degrees in economics, comparative politics, government and international relations, Dr. Anastasakis holds degrees in French literature and politics and in Spanish literature, history, and the history of art.
**Speakers**

**JUDY DEMPSEY** is a Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe and has been editor-in-chief of its Strategic Europe blog since 2012. Prior to that, she was a columnist for the *International New York Times* and the *International Herald Tribune’s* Germany Correspondent in Berlin (2004-2011). From 2001 to 2004, Ms. Dempsey was the *Financial Times* Diplomatic Correspondent in Brussels covering the NATO and European Union enlargements. She has also been the *FT*’s Jerusalem bureau chief (1996-2001), Berlin correspondent (1992–1996) and Eastern European correspondent (1990-1992). During the 1980s, Ms. Dempsey reported from Vienna on Central and Eastern Europe for the *Financial Times*, the *Irish Times*, and the *Economist* and was on the ground during the tumultuous months of 1989 and 1990. She has been awarded several journalism prizes; the most recent was the 2021 Ernest Udina Prize to the European Trajectory, awarded by the European Journalists Association in Catalonia. She is the author of several publications including *Das Phänomen Merkel*.

**MARK BLYTH** is Director of Brown University’s William R. Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance and the William R. Rhodes ’57 Professor of International Economics, with a joint appointment in political science. Dr. Blyth studies how uncertainty and randomness impact complex systems, particularly economic systems, and “why people continue to believe stupid economic ideas despite buckets of evidence to the contrary.” Dr. Blyth’s research spans two main areas: the political power of economic ideas and the political economy of the rich democracies. His books have included *Great Transformations: Economic Ideas and Institutional Change in the Twentieth Century*, *Austerity: The History of a Dangerous Idea*, *The Future of the Euro*, and *Angrynomics*. His forthcoming book is *The New Politics of Growth and Stagnation*. A native of Scotland, Dr. Blyth serves on a council advising the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, on economic matters.

**CONSTANZE STELZENMÜLLER** is the inaugural holder of the Fritz Stern Chair on Germany and Transatlantic Relations in the Center on the United States and Europe at Brookings. Dr. Stelzenmüller was a speaker at the 2015 Camden Conference on Russia. An expert on German, European, and Transatlantic foreign and security policy and strategy, she has been a Senior Fellow in the Center on the United States and Europe, held the Kissinger Chair on Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress, and served as the inaugural Robert Bosch Senior Fellow at Brookings. Dr. Stelzenmüller was previously a Senior Transatlantic Fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and former director of GMF’s Berlin office. From 1994 to 2005, she was an editor for the political section of the German weekly *DIE ZEIT*, where she had also served as defense and international security editor and covered human rights issues and humanitarian crises.

**DOUGLAS LUTE** is Chair, International and Defense, for the BGR Group; CEO of Cambridge Global Advisors; McDermott Distinguished Chair of Social Sciences, United States Military Academy, West Point; Senior Fellow, Belfer Center, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and Senior Advisor, Jones Group International. Ambassador Lute was United States Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council, NATO’s standing political body, from 2013 to 2017. A West Point graduate and a career Army officer for 35 years, he retired from active duty as a lieutenant general in 2010. During the Bush and Obama administrations, General Lute served a total of six years in the White House, as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor under President Bush charged with coordinating the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a member of the National Security Council staff in the Obama Administration, his primary focus was on South Asia.
Speakers

**MARK LEONARD** is the Director and Co-founder of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a council of 300 European leaders including serving and former presidents, prime ministers, economics and foreign ministers. His expertise and interests include geopolitics and geoeconomics, China, EU politics and institutions. His most recent book, *The Age of Unpeace: How Connectivity Causes Conflict*, discusses how geopolitics is reshaping the global economy as all the things that bind us together—supply chains, infrastructure, migration, the internet—are turned into weapons and currencies of power. Mr. Leonard hosts the weekly podcast “Mark Leonard’s World in 30 Minutes” and writes a syndicated column on global affairs for *Project Syndicate*. Previously he worked as director of foreign policy at the Centre for European Reform and as director of the Foreign Policy Centre, a think tank he founded at the age of 24 under the patronage of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

**PIERRE VIMONT** is a Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe. His research focuses on the European Neighborhood Policy, Transatlantic relations, and French foreign policy. During his thirty-eight-year diplomatic career with the French foreign service, he served as Ambassador to the United States (2007-2010), Ambassador to the European Union (1999-2002), and chief of staff to three French foreign ministers. He holds the title “Ambassador of France,” a lifetime honor bestowed on only a few French career diplomats. Ambassador Vimont served as the special envoy for the French initiative for a Middle East Peace Conference in 2016-2017. Previously he had been personal envoy of the president of the European Council, leading preparations for the Valletta Conference between European Union and African countries to tackle the causes of illegal migration and combat human smuggling and trafficking. Prior to joining Carnegie Europe, Ambassador Vimont was the first executive secretary-general of the European External Action Service (EEAS).

**DANIELA SCHWARZER** is Executive Director for Europe and Eurasia of the Open Society Foundations. An expert in European affairs and Transatlantic and international relations. Prof. Dr. Schwarzer is an honorary professor of political science at Freie Universität Berlin and a senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center. Prior to joining Open Society, Prof. Dr. Schwarzer was director and CEO of the German Council on Foreign Relations. Before this, she had served on the executive team of the German Marshall Fund of the United States and worked at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. She has been a special advisor to European leaders such as EU High Representative Josep Borrell and to countries including Poland and France during their EU Council presidencies. Prof. Dr. Schwarzer has also worked as an opinion page editor and France correspondent for the *Financial Times Deutschland*.

**JOHN E. HERBST** is Senior Director of the Atlantic Council’s Eurasia Center. For 31 years, Ambassador Herbst served as a United States foreign service officer, retiring at the rank of career minister. He was US Ambassador to Ukraine (2003-2006), where he worked to ensure the conduct of a fair Ukrainian presidential election and prevent violence during the Orange Revolution. As Ambassador to Uzbekistan (2000-2003), he led efforts to establish an American base to support operations in Afghanistan and to encourage the Uzbek government to improve its human rights record. In his last four years at the State Department, he was the coordinator for reconstruction and stabilization, leading the US government’s civilian capacity in societies in transition from conflict or civil strife. He oversaw the establishment of the Civilian Response Corps of the United States for reconstruction and stabilization operations overseas. He most recently served as director of the center for complex operations at National Defense University.

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THE NEWS OF THE WORLD IN FEBRUARY 1988 was of dreams and disasters, successes and dramatic failures, conflicts and shifting political sands—in other words, a lot like the news of the world today.

It was a presidential election year, and in Iowa Democratic Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Kansas Republican Senator Bob Dole won their parties' caucuses; neither would become president.

President Ronald Reagan's request for $43 million for the Nicaraguan Contras was defeated in Congress. Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega was indicted by Florida grand juries on drug trafficking charges. The U.S.S.R. said it would begin withdrawing from Afghanistan in May. In the Black Sea a Soviet frigate rammed a U.S. Navy cruiser—twice. Soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev's call for openness—glasnost—sparked calls for autonomy in the Baltic states. Gorbachev's policies also led to progress in negotiations over the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, INF, and on December 8, 1987 the treaty was signed by Reagan and Gorbachev; the U.S. Senate would give its advice and consent in May. The weekend of February 22-24, 1988, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was in Moscow for further strategic arms talks.

That same weekend in Camden, Maine, former Ambassador (to Yugoslavia) Lawrence Eagleburger told a rapt audience at the Camden Public Library that the bonds between the U.S. and Europe—of course he was referring to Western Europe—had been fraying for several decades, eroding the “commitment to common goals and to the institutions that have made it possible for us to work together toward those goals.” Eagleburger, who the following year would be appointed Deputy Secretary of State by President George H.W. Bush, warned that the West was in danger of entering the 21st century “plagued by the same failure of will and creativity that marked the transition from the 19th to the 20th century.” And he enumerated the failures of the 20th century—two world wars, a great depression, the rise of national socialism and communist totalitarianism, and the Cold War.

The ambassador’s talk was a highlight of the first-ever Camden Conference, an ambitious effort to bring world-class speakers to a small town on the Maine coast for three days of wide-ranging discussion on matters of global importance. The title of that inaugural conference was The Making of American Foreign Policy: Myth and Reality.
Pretty heady stuff for little Camden, Maine, but here we are in 2022 celebrating 35 years of Camden Conferences whose subjects and speakers have spanned the planet.

The origin story of the Camden Conference has been retold often. Camden’s picturesque harbor, charming village and bold mountain backdrop had attracted first one, then more retirees who had spent their careers at centers of power—people from the State Department, Central Intelligence Agency and Foreign Service who had not only seen the world but had helped to run it. In retirement, they wanted to bring that world to Camden for one weekend a year. Robert “Bob” Tierney—a West Point graduate who had been a Strategic Air Command pilot during the Cuban Missile Crisis and had served in the CIA and at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations—took the lead. For what started as a Camden Rotary Club project, he assembled a dozen founders in 1987 to plan for a midwinter conference in which matters of global concern would be discussed and debated. Calling upon their wide circle of Washington connections, they persuaded an impressive cast of speakers to come to Camden for three days in February. Besides Lawrence Eagleburger, there were Brent Scowcroft, the retired Army general who had been National Security Adviser to President Gerald Ford; James McCullough, staff director to the Director of the CIA; and Maine Senator William Cohen. They were the “insiders.” The view from the outside came from Peter Milius, a member of the editorial board of the *Washington Post*; William May, the former CEO of American Can Company; and Minoru Tamba, Consul General of Japan in Boston. Speakers from around the world often expressed how impressed they were that a group of volunteers in a small New England town could put on a world-class foreign policy conference for a large, engaged, local audience.

The success of the first Camden Conference encouraged the founders to do it again—and again. Beginning in the second year, the Conference moved to the First Congregational Church, but the Friday evening keynote address and the Sunday sessions were held in the Camden Opera House and were open to the public. The Conference moved fully to the Opera House in 1998. When demand for tickets continued to grow, Rockland’s Strand Theatre and, later, auditoriums in Belfast and Portland were added as livestreaming venues. As its popularity and renown increased, the Conference evolved from an annual weekend event into a year-round enterprise. Programs were added for Maine high school and college students. “The growth of our education program over the past decade has greatly enhanced the value of our mission,” according to Matt Storin, chair of the Camden Conference Education Committee. “It allows the students of our state to better prepare themselves for life in the global economy. It can truly change their goals and ambitions.”

Once the theme for the following year is chosen, the Community Events Committee recruits folks with special knowledge or expertise on the subject from Maine colleges and local communities, and they speak at libraries along the coast from Southwest Harbor to York and inland to Bangor and Auburn, starting in September and running right up to the February Conference.

Year after year, the Program Committee comes up with not only timely issues—remarkable since the topics are chosen over a year in advance—but great speakers to share their knowledge on those topics. Attracting a cast of high-octane speakers to Midcoast Maine in the darkest days of winter might seem daunting, but word got around from the first few groups that the experience had been highly enjoyable. Program Committee chair Charlotte Singleton notes that Camden Conference speakers “have consistently said how much they value this opportunity for frank discussion and debate with other world experts from governments, organizations, universities, media and business. Speakers are also unstinting in their praise of the attentive, savvy, and enthusiastic Camden Conference audience and their perceptive, challenging questions and comments.”
Peter Imber, a former ABC Network news producer and former member of the Camden Conference Board of Directors, defines the Conference with four words: wide-ranging, topical, prescient, and trustworthy. From the beginning, the Conference has tackled diverse, complex issues of global importance and has attracted first-rate speakers from around the world. At times, Peter writes, the Conference board seems “uncannily forward-looking”—though the topics are chosen months ahead of the event they remain relevant come February of the following year. And our members know that the Camden Conference can be trusted to provide an informative, in-depth exploration of issues that deserve our attention and concern. You’re invited to visit our website to see the complete range of subjects we’ve explored through the years: www.camdenconference.org

And all this is accomplished with a full-time staff of exactly two. The Board of Directors and all the committees are volunteers—and we’re always looking for individuals who can lend their expertise and skills. Volunteers from all backgrounds and experience are welcome and needed. If you’d like to play a role in the next Camden Conference, please get in touch!

Conference topics have often mirrored global events and trends. For the 10th anniversary, Maine’s U.S. Senators, Margaret Chase Smith and Edmund Muskie, discussed the U.S.’s role in the post-Soviet era: The World’s Only Superpower: Challenge or Curse? The 20th Conference focused on Europe—Old Continent in a New World, and by the 30th Conference, in 2017, the New World seemed to be overwhelming the Old Continent in a tidal wave of humanity fleeing from conflicts and environmental stress; hence, Refugees and Global Migration: Humanity’s Crisis.

In early 2020 the COVID-19 virus was gaining traction and the February 2020 Conference, The Media Revolution: Changing the World, got in just under the wire. A highlight of that Conference was the electrifying presentation by Maria Ressa, the courageous Filipina journalist who in 2021 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with Russian journalist Dmitri Muratov.

Then came the Year(s) of the Zoom. The global pandemic necessitated that in 2021 we held the first all-virtual Conference, The Geopolitics of the Arctic. That Conference was a real test of the ingenuity, flexibility and capability of the Camden Conference’s board of directors, staff members, volunteers, and producer Jim Ruddy. Thanks to their combined efforts we presented a lively, informative event with speakers from Russia, Norway, the United Kingdom, Greenland, Finland and the U.S presenting simultaneously from across ten time zones! Our keynote speaker was Iceland’s five-time former president, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson.

And here we are in 2022 once again bringing the world to Camden with the 35th Anniversary Conference. Europe: Challenged at Home and Abroad presents issues that are timely and relevant to the U.S. as well as to a post-Merkel Europe struggling with difficult economic, political, military, environmental and social challenges. With the world still battling the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary for us to go fully virtual again. We hope you find the 2022 Conference informative and interesting, and we also hope you will continue to support the Camden Conference through your membership, attendance, and generosity. Thank you! We look forward to seeing you “live and in person” in 2023!
One of the greatest challenges of the 21st century is to prepare the next generation of citizens and policy leaders to address the complex issues facing the global community. Our Student Education Programs seek to engage students at Maine’s universities, colleges, and high schools in each year’s Conference theme and to support their attendance in the Conference itself. This year, for the first time, the University of Maine is hosting all participating students at its Orono campus to view the Camden Conference livestream together. The weekend will include a student/faculty reception and a dedicated Conference Speaker Q & A session. We are grateful to the University for its hospitality!

College and high school students participating in our programs all are engaged in courses at their respective schools related to our 2022 topic, Europe: Challenged at Home and Abroad. We extend our thanks to the dedicated professors and teachers who support this program.

Camden Conference in the Classroom
Participating high schools:
Bonny Eagle High School, Standish
Brewer School Dept., Brewer
Edward Little High School, Auburn
Foxcroft Academy, Dover-Foxcroft
Gould Academy, Bethel
Lincoln Academy, Newcastle
Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, Hinckley
Mt. View High School, Thorndike
Oceanside High School, Rockland
Piscataquis Community High School, Guilford
Sanford High School, Sanford
Watershed School, Camden

College and Graduate School Students
Institutions represented:
Bowdoin College
University of Maine at Farmington
University of Maine at Orono
University of Maine at Augusta/University at Rockland
Muskie School of Public Service
University of Southern Maine
University of Maine School of Policy and International Affairs
University of Maine School of Law
Thomas College
University of New England
Columbia University

Maine students from other high schools have been encouraged to participate and are registering for the weekend with support from the Camden Conference Education Fund. Again this year, and in recognition of the challenges from COVID, the Camden Conference board has voted that any college or high school student may view the livestream events at no cost.
Community Events

The Camden Conference Community Events Committee partners with local libraries every year to organize a vibrant program of free public events related to the annual theme. From lectures by local people who have particular knowledge in the topic, to discussion groups and films, these events, usually held in person at libraries throughout the state, were offered virtually through Zoom or as hybrid events with both in-person attendance as well as Zoom, throughout the pandemic. We are grateful to our 15 library partners and the dedicated librarians who made it possible for hundreds of attendees to enjoy these events live or watch the recordings on our website.

Participating Libraries
Auburn Public Library, Donna Wallace
Lithgow Public Library, Augusta, Sarah Schultz-Neilsen
Belfast Free Library, Brenda Harrington
Blue Hill Public Library, Kaleigh Thomas
Camden Public Library, Julia Pierce
Prince Memorial Library, Cumberland, Elizabeth Manning
Falmouth Memorial Library, Andrea Kazilionis
Kennebunk Free Library, Allison Atkins
Portland Public Library, Myles Robert
Rockland Public Library, Em Lewis
Scarborough Public Library, Lucy Norvell
Southwest Harbor Public Library, Erich Reed
Merrill Memorial Library, Yarmouth, Trudy Briggs
York Public Library, Michele Sampson

Call for Volunteers

Volunteers drive 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 and free community 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 Planned Giving Program

Please consider making a planned gift now to benefit the Conference in the future. Including a bequest to the Camden Conference in your estate planning ensures the quality of the Conference’s programs will continue for years to come. A legacy gift offers friends of the Conference a way to make a significant contribution to the ongoing, vitally important work of fostering informed dialogue about world issues. Please contact the Conference Office if you’d like more information. Thank you.

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The 2023 Camden Conference will highlight the importance of global commerce to our lives. Speakers will explore the interrelationships of resources, environmental protection, distribution, labor, and capital that now shape the world economy and have consequences for the global balance of power and for domestic concerns about resilience, economic inequality, jobs and migration.

Future challenges to America’s access to essential resources and transformative technologies are being exacerbated by climate change and the rise of populist and nationalist movements. Risks for the economy and national security have become apparent with disruption of the global supply chain on which commerce depends. In an increasingly polarized world, is a commitment to the free trade model still in America’s best interest?

How can the interests of business and the public be protected? Speakers will assess the viability of the present rules-based regulatory structures, including the utility of coercive (tariffs, embargoes and subsidies) or collaborative (bilateral/multilateral) tactics to advance national interests. Look for discussion of the role of multinational companies, the US-China trade balance, and the impact of artificial intelligence.

Check the Camden Conference website for updates on speakers, programs, community events, and registration:

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