



It's Your World...Know It!

Newsletter

December 2006

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**President's Awards for Council Excellence - Call for Applications**  
**Due January 10, 2007**

Since 2003, the President of the World Affairs Councils of America has given an Award for Council Excellence. Councils chosen for the award demonstrate growth, innovation, and excellence in programming.

Awards are given in the following categories:

- Large Council
- Medium Size Council
- Small Council
- All-Volunteer Council

There is also the Carol Marquis Award for Excellence in School Programs.

This year, WACA President Barbara Propes would like to invite all councils to apply for these awards. Please e-mail Barbara at [barbara@worldaffairscouncils.org](mailto:barbara@worldaffairscouncils.org) a one page description of your council's achievements over the last year.

[To see past winners...](#)

**Places Still Available for the 2007 National Conference**  
**February 1 - 4, 2007 Washington, DC**

WACA conferences are unique because they present participants with the chance to interact directly with policy makers, ambassadors, and journalists. This year's conference on ***Bridging the Desert:***

***the Middle East in the Next Decade*** will be no different. This is an extraordinary opportunity to hear directly from people working on and with the region about what the future holds.

Plenary sessions will include panel discussions about the Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process with Amb. Dennis Ross and Dr. Ziad Asali, President of the American Task Force on Palestine. There will also be an address by Amb. C. David Welch, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

Breakout sessions will include speakers such as Sir Eldon Griffiths and Amb. Bruce Laingen on *Turbulent Iran*, Kani Xulam of the American Kurdish Information Network on *The Kurdish Dilemma*, and *The Stalled War on Terrorist Financing* with John Cassara.

In addition, former Secretary of Defense and CEO of the Cohen Group, William Cohen will accept the WACA Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chairman's Circle Dinner. The dinner is an opportunity to honor someone who has done much to shape foreign policy and support the World Affairs Councils of America.

[Register here...](#)

## 2007 Teacher Workshop on South Asia

July 10 - 13, 2007



Applications are available for the 2007 Teacher Workshop on South Asia. In its third year, the WACA teacher workshop is a great opportunity for teachers using *World in Transition* materials to expand their knowledge on a particular region of the world.

In years past, the workshops on the European Union and Africa have included visits to the State Department, the World Bank, and various embassies in Washington. The small size of the workshop allows for the teachers to engage in a conversation with our speakers.

To qualify, teachers must use a unit in the *World in Transition* series. Preference will be given to high school teachers, but if space allows we will accept middle school teachers. Applications are due by April 16, 2007. Please pass the application on to any teacher you think would benefit.

[Download the application here...](#)

### **Great Decisions 2007**

The Great Decisions Television Series airs on local PBS stations nationwide beginning January 1st, featuring the 8 Great Decisions topics plus 5 specials. Check your local PBS station listings for times and dates, or contact the Foreign Policy Association to purchase the series on DVD or VHS.

The latest Great Decisions briefing book will be available in January.

Topics include:  
The Middle East  
Climate Change  
Mexico  
Migration  
South Africa  
War Crimes  
Central Asia  
Children

[Click here for show titles, guests, PBS listings and to purchase GDTV 2007...](#)

### **CALME**

As a way to encourage dialogue, the World Affairs Councils of America has affiliated with many organizations. In no way do we endorse partisan or political agendas.

However, as we focus on the Middle East and especially bringing peace to the region in our upcoming conference, the Executive Committee has agreed to join with hundreds of non-partisan leaders to make available for our members the information on CALME - the Campaign for American Leadership in the Middle East.

We invite you to look over the information on their

website.

[Read on...](#)

## **Travel the World**

### **Arabian Cruise: March 15-25**



Join this wonderful exploration of Arabia — a fascinating kaleidoscope of contrasts in a distinctive blend of modern city and timeless desert, east and west, old and new visiting the United Arab Emirates; Oman; Kish Island, Iran; and Bahrain. Cruise roundtrip Dubai aboard the deluxe Silversea Whisper with Ambassador Mark Johnson, Executive Director of the Montana Council and a 30 year career foreign service officer with extensive experience in the Middle East, as he puts into context.

There are Special Council rates for traveling with the Philadelphia and Cooperating councils as well as a \$250 on-board credit. The trip price includes lectures from our Middle East expert and an exclusive embassy visit. Prices now start from \$3,916. Air package available with pre- and post-night hotel stay.

Trips sponsored by the WACA Flagship Travel the World program offer all the highlights of touring plus access to political leaders and other local experts who give behind the scenes views and briefings that make our trips special and unique. Because of its reputation as one of the nation's leading forums, the Council has established connections around the globe that allow us to offer members access that they can't get when traveling alone or on other tours.

Call Flagship Travel Director, Joan Russell at 1-800-942-5004 x 209 for more information.

[See more 2007 trips...](#)

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Please note that the WACA offices will close on December 22 and reopen on January 2, 2007.

From all of us here at the World Affairs Councils of America, happy holidays and we look forward to seeing you at the conference in February!

World Affairs Councils of America

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