

The World Affairs Council of Central Illinois

September 2019 | Issue No. 183

COMMUNIQUÉ

2019-2020

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Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Presenter: Mariela Shaker, Adjunct Professor of Music, Knox College

"Ode to Syria"

Reception 5:30 pm | **Dinner** 6:15 pm | **Program** 7:30 pm

Public Affairs Center, Brookens Auditorium, University of Illinois Springfield

The public is invited to attend this free program. For dinner, see menu and reservation form on page 2.

Ode to Syria

Mariela Shaker strives to build understanding and nurture peace through her discourse and her music. She will inform us with her words and her music about the plight of Syrian refugees and the families that are left behind in violent war-torn Syria.

She will also describe an odyssey that begins with a harrowing escape from Aleppo, continues with obstacles surmounted to acquire her music education at Monmouth College and follows with performances at the Kennedy Center, in the White House, and for the queen of Jordan. She would like those hearing her story to reflect on their own life journey.

Born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1990, Mariela began her study of the violin at age nine. For five years, she taught violin at the Arabic Institute of Music in Aleppo, after which she furthered her musical studies in London. She holds a bachelor's degree from Aleppo University and also from Monmouth



College, which she attended on a full scholarship. Mariela Shaker has appeared as a concert soloist at engagements across the world and as a moving speaker about the refugee experience.

Upcoming Event

Coming up on Thursday October 10, we will welcome as our guest speaker, Ambassador John F. Maisto. His topic will be "The United States and Latin America: Challenges and Opportunities". Now retired, he was the United States Ambassador to Venezuela, Nicaragua and the Organization of American States.

Location for 9.10.19

Public Affairs Center,
Brookens Auditorium,
University of Illinois
Springfield

Dinner Reservations

Reservations are required
for dinner and must be
prepaid and received on or
before **September 1, 2019**.

There is no guarantee of
seating beyond that date.
In the event of possible of
late reservations, contact
Lynn McMenamin, 217-502-
6956, lcm1300@aol.com, to
determine whether seating is
available. Seating is limited to
maximum room occupancy
allowed by the Springfield
Building Code.

***Please make your
reservations early!!***

World Affairs Council of Central Illinois Tuesday, September 10, 2019

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Menu for 9.10.19

Middle Eastern/Syrian Menu

On Tables:

Pitas with Hummus and Olive Tapenade

Fattush Salad with Garlic Dressing
Fresh Fruit with Poppyseed Dip

Lamb Kofta Kabobs
Middle Eastern Rice with Black Beans
Lentils with Roasted Vegetables

Baklava
Sweet Stuffed Dates

BAR Wine, beer, soda, and available hard liquors
(cash bar cost not included in meal price)

Please detach and mail

**September 10, 2019 Event
Dinner Reservation Form: - Deadline - September 1, 2019**

Name _____ Phone# _____

Per meal cost: ____Members \$30 ____Non-Members \$35

____Number of vegetarian meals requested ____Number of gluten-free meals requested

Total Enclosed \$ _____ No. Attending _____

Please mail this form with check payable to: WACCI, Box 2233, Springfield, IL 62705

World Affairs National Network

By David Anderson, President

WACCI is one of 99 members of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) from 42 States and Puerto Rico. WACA sponsored a Leadership Event in Kansas City on June 13-14 that attracted approximately 40 participants from 24 local World Affairs Councils across the USA including staff from WACA located in Washington, DC. As the national organization, WACA focuses on leadership development through annual and regional conferences, provides its members organizational development resources, publicizes programs of local council members, and maintains a data base of recommended speakers.

WACCI was represented at this regional Leadership Event by Kathy Hoffmann and me. Both of us attended at our own expense. Presentations focused on membership models, membership development, collaboration with

non-profit organizations, and strategic planning. Among the participants, the majority of World Affairs Councils were large organizations with significant budgets and paid staff. However, other participants represented organizations with smaller budgets and led by volunteers while some employed an Executive Director. There were numerous opportunities for us to network with people from different organizations including the Peoria Area World Affairs Council.

A key characteristic of the member organizations of the World Affairs Councils of America is a commitment to non-partisan education about international relations and global issues. It means the educational focus is not on "breaking

news", but on "issues" that provides diverse perspectives and on engaging the public to be informed citizens in a democratic nation.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR WACCI MEMBERSHIP

September marks the start of the WACCI programs offered for the 2019-2020 year. Member financial support is the backbone of the budget expenses that make possible the eight programs offered from September to May and for the Great Decisions six-week seminar program offered in the spring.

For new members who signed up during April to June of 2019, your membership covers the 2019-2010 program year. For continuing members, please renew your membership by October 1. Thank you for your participation and support.

— — — — — Please detach and mail — — — — —

WACCI Membership Form

WACCI membership is open to individuals and household members. The recommended time for the payment of annual membership renewals is September, the beginning of the program year (September through May). New members joining in the spring (April through June) will have their membership extended to the June following the current one.

WACCI membership is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number (s): _____

Email Address: _____

WACCI members will be mailed the newsletter, *Communiqué*. If you also desire the email version of the newsletter, please check here:

Please email the WACCI *Communiqué* to me.

Please indicate your membership level:

Benefactors - \$500 Sustainers - \$250 Supporters - \$100

Friends - \$50 Students - \$10

At all membership levels, your name will be listed periodically in the *Communiqué*.

I would like to become a board member in the future

I would like to serve on a committee

Please mail a check payable to: WACCI, Box 2233, Springfield, IL 62705

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Upcoming WACCI Meetings

October 10, 2019

Ambassador John Maisto
(ret.), Program on "U.S./Latin
American Relations."

November 8, 2019

Professor Darin Byler,
University of Washington,
Program on "Terror Capitalism:
Uyghur 'Reeducation' and the
Chinese Security Industrial
Complex."

December 4, 2019

Kathy Johnson, U.S.
Department of State (ret.),
Program on "The Importance
of Diplomacy."

