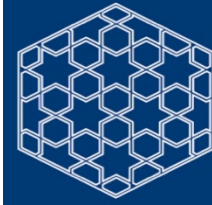




2017 GABR FELLOWS AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART IN NEW YORK CITY



The  
SHAFIK GABR  
Foundation

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

February 2018, Issue 7

IN THIS ISSUE

*I had the pleasure of recently attending the World Economic Forum, where I had the opportunity to engage with thought leaders from an array of countries. Despite their differences in background, everyone in attendance was committed to the same goal: building a better and more equitable world for all global citizens.*

*'The East West: The Art of Dialogue' Initiative shares these same values. Each year, we connect committed young leaders through an intensive learning experience. I am pleased to announce that the application for the upcoming 2018 cohort will launch on February 12, 2018. This Initiative, the Foundation's flagship program, brings together extraordinary individuals from the East and West to participate in round-table discussions, networking events, and cultural site visits. This is an opportunity to launch a dialogue centered upon communication, collaboration, and cooperation that builds bridges between the two regions.*

*I look forward to welcoming a new cohort to this life-changing opportunity. These new Fellows will join a community of extraordinary individuals, many of whom are profiled in this latest newsletter. I have also included some exciting news coming out of Egypt. Happy reading and I hope you enjoy the latest edition of the Foundation newsletter.*

**M. Shafik Gabr**

## In Brief...

- Noha Eid receives honorable mention for her jewellery design
- Stephanie Cate Lord welcomes a daughter
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- In the News: The 49<sup>th</sup> International Book Fair launches in Cairo
- In the News: Ramese II statue finds a permanent home
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- Abdelrahman Amr named KingFut Reporter of the Year
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- Michael Matthiesen and Amr Seda write about President Trump's Jerusalem decision

## *In Focus...*

### **Noha Eid Receives Honorable Mention**



**Noha Eid (2013 Gabr Fellow)** received an honorable mention for her jewelry design at the Cairo Design Awards. For more details, visit [www.cairodesignawards.com](http://www.cairodesignawards.com)

### **Stephanie Cate Lord Welcomes a Daughter**



**Stephanie Cate Lord (2014 Gabr Fellow)** and her family welcomed a daughter, Winston Tennessee "Tenley" Lord, on Saturday November 18. Mother and daughter are both healthy and we welcome the newest member of the Gabr Family!

### **Egyptian Fellow Reunion**



Gabr Fellows from Egypt met with Chairman and Founder Mr. Shafik Gabr. They discussed personal and professional achievements, action project updates, issues concerning Egypt and the wider region, and the role that social media will continue to play in disrupting traditional news media.

### **49<sup>th</sup> Cairo International Book Fair Launched**



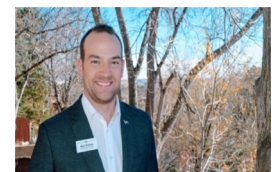
The 49<sup>th</sup> International Book Fair launched on January 27<sup>th</sup> and will be open until February 10<sup>th</sup>. The Fair features participants from over 27 countries and more than 850 publishers.

### **Ramses II Finds a New Home**



The National Geographic reports on the new home of Ramses II at the Grand Egyptian Museum, following its journey from Giza. Read more: <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/01/colossus-ramses-statue-move-cairo-egypt-museum/>.

### **Nick Thomas Campaign Profiled**



**Nick Thomas (2015 Gabr Fellow)** is running for Congressional office in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of Colorado as an independent candidate. Nick was recently featured in IVN's "Is Colorado Looking at its First Independent Congressman?" Read more here: <https://ivn.us/2018/01/09/colorado-looking-first-independent-congressman/>.

## Abdelrahman Amr Named Reporter of the Year



**Abdelrahman Amr (2017 Gabr Fellow)** was recognized as the KingFut Reporter of the Year. As a freelance writer and reporter since 2014, Abdelrahman has written over 1,000 articles for the publication. KingFut is an English-language Egyptian website providing news and sports commentary. Abdelrahman also won this award in 2015.

## Anis Issa Participates in International Conference



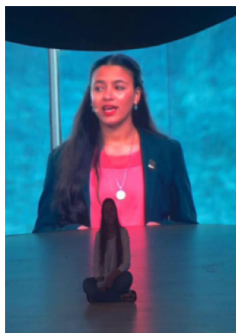
**Anis Issa (2016 Gabr Fellow)** participated in the Al-Azhar International Conference in support of Jerusalem. The conference highlighted the soft power of Egypt and its religious influence through Al-Azhar. Al-Azhar was able to gather key figures from the Middle East and North Africa to critique the recent U.S. decision on Jerusalem.

## Applications Open February 12 for the 2018 Fellowship



Applications for the 2018 Gabr Fellowship open on February 12, 2018. If you, or someone you know, is passionate about creating lasting relationships, wants to participate in an immersive cross-cultural experience, and is interested in building a stronger, more inclusive world, then they should apply. This program is open to emerging young leaders between the ages of 24 and 35. More information can be found on <https://eastwestdialogue.org>.

## Sarah Hesham Joins Presidential Campaign



**Sarah Hesham (2017 Gabr Fellow)** will be a part of the re-election campaign for President Al-Sisi. Sarah has been nominated to be in charge of the Alexandria Governorate, where she will help monitor election progress and launch a training in science communication in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth as part of a new program to engage youth in science. Congratulations Sarah!

## Dalia Younis Continues Making Her Musical Rounds



**Dalia Ihab Younis (2017 Gabr Fellow)** was featured on the CBC show *This Morning*, where she performed two Christian hymns that were hailed as a gesture of tolerance and love. She also performed at the Cairo Runners 'Unstoppable Run,' dedicated to raising awareness and support for the deaf and mute. She also wrote lyrics that raised awareness about how to use sign language to be more inclusive. View her videos and more on her Facebook page: **Dalia Ihab Younis- Word & Voice Artist**.

# ‘East-West Chitchat: U.S. Jerusalem Decision

By Amr Seda and Michael Matthiesen, 2017 Gabr Fellows

Amr and Michael explore the recent US decision to move the Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and what it means for the region and global security.

View full article at [www.curias.net/politics/2018/1/10/us-jerusalem-decision](http://www.curias.net/politics/2018/1/10/us-jerusalem-decision)

President Trump called upon “young and moderate voices in the Middle East” to speak up during his recent speech announcing the move of the US Embassy to Jerusalem. So here we are responding to the call, a 30-year old moderate Egyptian with a Western education and an “Americanized” upbringing, who grew up highly affected by American values like freedom, justice, and tolerance, and a 28-year-old Arab-American born and raised in Miami, FL.

The Shafik Gabr Fellowship took us both recently to Egypt and the US on a cultural exchange program. For the Egyptian Fellows, being there, living and working with other American Fellows, meeting American officials, and taking cultural tours, we quickly realized that America is as great as we had always learned from the movies. However, there is nothing great about moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem. It had nothing to do with the ‘American’ values we grew up learning. It does not promote freedom, tolerance, or justice. America was supposed to broker “the deal of the century.” Instead, it was unjust and biased. It was very clear that the US is taking sides — making it less trustworthy and no longer a neutral convener in peace negotiations.

This decision makes it harder for the Palestinians and the Israelis to come together and throws conversation and negotiation out of the window. Perhaps the world’s reaction is the largest indicator of how dangerous and ill-sighted this decision was.

Egypt, a close US ally and a country that has been making several efforts in the peace process over the years, described the recent move by the US as “a serious threat to the future of the peace process” and that the situation in Palestine now “puts the whole region on the verge of burst.”

The European Union is not happy either. “He expects others to follow Trumps’ decision to

move the embassy to Jerusalem. He can keep his expectations for others— because from the EU member states’ side, this move will not come,” said EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini after a meeting with PM Benjamin Netanyahu.

Understandably, the sharpest reactions came from the Palestinians themselves. President Abbas said during the Islamic summit in Istanbul that Trump’s decision “crosses all red lines” and “is the greatest crime.” Fatah and Hamas announced that the decision “will open gates of hell.” It is obvious that disrupting the status quo by “shocking the system” has been part of Trump’s strategy, but this is dangerous with the Israel-Palestine conflict. The most distressing part is that Trump was only thinking of the domestic political victory that this decision will bring him. It’s an example of an administration prioritizing domestic politics over foreign affairs because of a President who can’t tell the difference. In foreign affairs, this decision is a disaster, however those who only look at this decision through an international lens will be missing the fuller picture.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) praised the decision. In a press release, AIPAC said that the US has finally fulfilled the 1995 Jewish Embassy Act that requires the US embassy to be in Jerusalem. AIPAC is one of the most powerful lobbying groups in Washington DC, and its presence in Washington explains why the US continues to support Israel over the Arab World. Establishing favorability with AIPAC would make Trump’s life easier, which begs the question: *How is compromising America’s national security for a Washington lobby “draining the swamp?”*

For several years, the GOP has also been rebranding itself as the “pro-Israel” party, and for strategic reasons. The US and Israel are the only countries that have a larger Jewish than Arab population, meaning the GOP can get more voters than they lose with the Jerusalem decision. Jewish communities are prominent in swing states like Florida, and members of the community are large donors to political campaigns. So, in short: more money, more votes, how is this not a win?

However, Trump fails to consider why his predecessors never moved the embassy before. The 1995 Act even compelled President Clinton to move the embassy and he wouldn’t do it. Why? Because this decision endangers US interests more than it helps. America considers itself Israel’s protector, but Palestinian terrorists are only more likely to increase their efforts against Israel. The fight against terrorism is only going to be made harder with this decision, with more money and lives lost.

Finally, another question to ask is why haven’t any of the US’ closest allies (UK, Canada, France, or Germany) made this decision before? It’s because it makes working with key stakeholders in the Middle East a lot more difficult. There are 1.8 billion Muslims in the world, all concentrated in countries of strategic interest or concern, like: Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Egypt. How is deescalating a nuclear Iran made easier by this decision? How can the US still be a legitimate mediator between Qatar and the rest of the Middle East if a majority of the stakeholders don’t trust Trump? For many of these issues, each of national security concern to the US, Trump may have surrendered all moderating privileges to Russia. Regardless of Trump’s admiration for Putin, Russia will not be looking out for US interests.

Those 1.8 billion will be citing international law on why this was a bad decision, specifically the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 476 and 478 of 1980, which did not recognize any measures that would change the status quo in Jerusalem and unanimously rejected all Israeli laws aimed at claiming Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel. Moreover, one year ago in 2016, the Security Council resolution 2334 reaffirmed in very clear language, the condemnation of all measures aimed at changing the geographical situation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

To read more, visit [www.curias.net/politics/2018/1/10/us-jerusalem-decision](http://www.curias.net/politics/2018/1/10/us-jerusalem-decision) and stay tuned for more articles and thoughts from Gabr Fellows in the next newsletter.

# The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

For more information on the Shafik Gabr Foundation and its *East-West: the Art of Dialogue* Initiative, please visit the website <https://eastwestdialogue.org/>.

For earlier itineraries of the US program, please see the previous years' reports at <https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/>



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