



GABR FELLOWS WITH CHAIRMAN SHAFIK GABR ATTENDING THE RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF THE LATE PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT IN CAIRO, FEBRUARY 2019



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

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A Year Later

March 2021. We have now come to a full year living with COVID-19.

Lockdowns, working from home or being furloughed, lack of human contact and direct communication, and, above all, fear for our loved ones, have made their mark on all of us.

A well-known UK psychiatrist said that the coronavirus crisis “poses the greatest threat to mental health since the second world war, with the impact to be felt for years after the virus has been brought under control.”

This has been a year of anxiety, fear and grief for many people. The road ahead is long, and nobody knows yet when the crisis will end.

However, my message is, do not lose hope. We are in a much better position than we were a year ago. We must remain cautiously optimistic, do what we can to protect ourselves and those around us, and at the same time keep our mental strength and capacity to endure.

We are in this together. We shall persevere. And in moments of doubt, you may wish to fall back upon this saying by Winston Churchill – “Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts.”

M. Shafik Gabr

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Charles Truxal Participates in US Capitol Defense Mission



2018 Gabr Fellow Charles Truxal participated in the military defense mission of the US Capitol in January this year.

Charles conducted the Capitol riot response mission with his unit, the 229th Engineer battalion of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Wes Rogerson Joins Environmental Defense Fund



2018 Gabr Fellow Wes Rogerson started a new job in March. He is now serving as the Environmental Defense Fund's Manager of Grassroots Organizing and Activism.

Environmental Defense Fund or EDF is a US-based nonprofit environmental advocacy group. The group is known for its work on issues including global warming, ecosystem restoration, oceans, and human health, and advocates using sound science, economics and law to find environmental solutions that work.

Ibrahim Hammouda Establishes New Office



2017 Gabr Fellow Ibrahim Hammouda established his new office in contracting and construction called IMH.

IMH work in establishing buildings from scratch. They furnish flats, companies, offices and have a team of engineers, interior designers and suppliers. They have finished and successfully built electricity rooms in the New Administrative Capital as well as villas in the North Coast. They are currently working on flats in 6th October City and Zayed, Egypt.

Sponsor a 2021 Gabr Fellow



Sponsoring a Gabr Fellow for the 2021 Fellowship Program helps build bridges of cross-cultural understanding between the East and the West.

The sponsorship package costs \$35,000 which includes the sponsoring of a Fellow who can carry the name of the individual, organization or corporation making the contribution. Sponsors will be recognized in all Foundation publications, marketing materials, and events. Contributions of any amount, big or small, are encouraged and welcomed with sincere gratitude. More information can be found here:

eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-support

Fabrice Guerrier's interview with Libya's new Foreign Minister



Libya's new Foreign Minister is Najla Mohamed El-Mangoush.

As a conflict-resolution expert, she was the country representative in Libya for the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). A trained lawyer, Minister El-Manghoush was a Fulbright Scholar in the US, a graduate of the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at EMU university in Virginia, Officer for Peace-building and Traditional Law at the Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution in Arlington, Virginia and has a PhD in conflict analysis and resolution at George Mason university.

Sarah Badr speaks at the Regional Review Conference of the Global Compact for Migration in the Arab Region



2017 Gabr Fellow Sarah Badr recently spoke on behalf of the UN's Major Group for Children and Youth at the first Global Compact for Migration (GCM) review in the Arab region. This was part of her role as the Regional Focal Point in MENA.

The remarks addressed the key challenges young migrants from the region face in implementing the GCM and brought forward key youth recommendations to governments, civil society and the UN migration network. The event was hosted by IOM, and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the League of Arab States, in cooperation with the members of the UN Network on Migration in the Arab Region. Here is the link for the conference, and Sarah's intervention starts at 00:56:00: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL6Tbt1hq6U>

Gabr Fellows Meeting in February



On 17 February in Egypt, Mr Gabr held a meeting with the Gabr Fellows at ARTOC HQ in Mokattam, Cairo. The meeting was attended by Moataz Hussein (2013 Gabr Fellow), Hadir Helal (2015 Gabr Fellow), Yasser El Zahar (2016 Gabr Fellow), Ibrahim Hammouda (2017 Gabr Fellow), and Muhammad El Hawary (2018 Gabr Fellow).

These meetings are invaluable for Fellows from all years to get to know each other and update one another as well as Mr Gabr on their lives, careers, and plans. They also provide chance to discuss current world affairs from different angles and perspectives.

Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



The Foundation Reading Corner encourages Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended to them in each issue. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends *The Fall of the Human Empire: Memoirs of a Robot* by Charles-Edouard Bouée and *Samsung Rising: The Inside Story of the South Korean Giant That Set Out to Beat Apple and Conquer Tech* by Geoffrey Cain.



The Fall of the Human Empire traces the little-known history of artificial intelligence from the standpoint of a robot called Lucie. She (or it?) recounts her adventures and reveals the mysteries of her long journey with humans, and provides a thought-provoking storyline of what developments in A.I. may mean for both humans and robots.

In *Samsung Rising*, based on years of reporting on Samsung, from his base in South Korea, and his countless sources inside and outside the company, Geoffrey Cain offers a penetrating look behind the curtains of Samsung and shows how a determined and fearless Asian competitor has become a force to be reckoned with.

Whirling Away Stereotypes: First Female Sufi Dancer in Egypt

by Menna Farouk, 2017 Gabr Fellow

The sounds of music were loud in a dinner hall inside one of the floating restaurants in Cairo's upscale neighbourhood of Maadi. Outside the hall, Hanaa Moustafa, 35, was preparing to enter and perform as the first Sufi whirling dancer in Egypt.

"I feel really spiritual when I dance," Moustafa told Majalla before making her three performances at the restaurants.

Hanaa works every day until the early hours of the next morning and participates in parties and events.

"I entered the world of tanoura (Sufi whirling) through folklore, as my mother used to work in costumes in the balloon theater, and I used to go with her to the theater. So, I loved the art of folklore," she said.

Moustafa joined a folklore troupe when she was six years old and took part in many international festivals as a folk dancer.

"Then, I met my husband who is a professional tanoura dancer and he trained me and was my main motivation," Hanaa revealed.

Moustafa was also provoked by the popular idea that a girl dancing tanoura is unlikely, which prompted her to become professional in this art.

The dancer received rejection from her colleagues in the folklore troupe as their comment was always "how can a girl dance the tanoura?"

"But my reply was that if a man did it a woman could do it as well because tanoura is not restricted to a certain gender. If we look at belly dancing for example, we will find that most belly dancing trainers are men," she said.

Her husband trained her in tanoura for one month and then she started to take part in shows.

SPIRITUAL DANCE

Tanoura is a dance of mystical origins and is popular among Arabs and foreigners alike. It is a rhythmic dance that is collectively performed in circular motions, which stems from Sufi Islamic philosophy.

The dance's performers see that the movement in the universe starts from a point and ends at the same point, and therefore they reflect this concept in their dance. Their

movements come in circular motion, as if they draw with them halos that reinforce their beliefs, spinning and spinning as if they were the planets swimming in space.

This dance first originated in Turkey in the thirteenth century while some studies indicate that Turkish philosopher and poet Jalal al-Din al-Rumi was the first to introduce the Dervish or Mevlevi dance, which is the spiritual circular dance from which the tanoura dance was derived.

Often the dance is accompanied by prayers and praise of God and performers whirl not just for the sake of whirling, but because they want to reach a sublime stage of spiritual clarity.

ONLY FEMALE TRAINER IN EGYPT

Moustafa is also the only female trainer of tanoura dancing in Egypt. She has also participated in a number of international festivals and has traveled to a number of countries, including Turkey, Qatar, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Emirates.

When she performed in Turkey, which is the origin of the art of tanoura, she received wide accolades from the audience.

Moustafa has trained many female foreign dancers in tanoura and she believes that women are not practicing this kind of art because they think they will be not able to bear the vertigo.

"Sufi whirling is an exhausting dance, but the most difficult thing about it is the vertigo. But by doing certain practices that break the dizziness, any woman can perform well," she said.

"Women are still underrepresented in many fields and the increase of their representation in any field would not only benefit those women socially and economically but also would benefit the whole society," Randa Fakhri El-Deen, a women's rights activist and executive director of the NGOs' Union on Harmful Practices Against Women, said.

She added that having those women fighting for a space besides men in art and workplaces in general would gradually break deeply-rooted misconceptions and social stereotypes as well as increase women's representation in different walks of life.

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation. This article was originally published in Majalla: <https://eng.majalla.com/node/120651/culturewhirling-away-stereotypes>

Question of the Month: A Pulse of the Gabr Fellowship Community



As the Gabr Fellows enter into leadership roles—in business, diplomacy, government, finance, and more—they will continue to grapple with significant challenges, magnified by an increased pace in technological advancement, the potential for ramped up global inequalities, and changes in governance and economic structures.

To better understand the pulse of the Gabr Fellowship community and to begin to articulate substantive dialogue, the Foundation polls the Fellows each month on the key issues facing their respective countries and the global community at large.

1. As Egypt has been negotiating with Ethiopia regarding the Dam issue for years and no results so far, is it legitimate for Egypt to take military action given that Ethiopia plans to start Phase 2 of filling the Dam?

Yes: 24%

No: 52%

I don't know: 24%

2. Is Bitcoin a medium you trust?

Yes: 31%

No: 52%

I don't know: 17%

3. Do you think the new US Administration will aim to regulate tech companies like Google and Facebook more strictly?

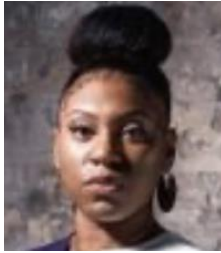
Yes: 76%

No: 21%

I don't know: 3%

Stay tuned for next month's question of the month and the Gabr Fellows' takes on current events, as our community of future leaders grapple with the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



March 3: Erika Witt, 2014 Gabr Fellow



March 22: Dan Sullivan, 2013 Gabr Fellow



March 23: Karim El Sharkawy, 2018 Gabr Fellow



March 30: Murray Abeles, 2015 Gabr Fellow

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



Frederick Arthur Bridgman, *Preparations for the Wedding, Algiers*, oil on canvas, The Shafik Gabr Collection

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