WHERE IS HENRY...?

Watching soccer is a ritual. I was in London at the beautiful grand home of Charles O’Brien in Regents Park... It was a beautiful, unusually sunny day and Charles—in a pale blue shirt and a navy blue jacket—was hosting a group of friends to watch the Chelsea-Real Madrid soccer game in his high-tech widescreen cinema.

We all arrived within minutes of each other, Frank Gifford, a British banker, in jeans and a green polo shirt, Ezra Friedman, an Israeli tech entrepreneur, in a leather jacket and NY cap, Nancy Rahman, in a yellow cut dress, a Lebanese journalist living in Paris, Sofia Lopez, a political analyst living between Madrid and London, in a warm light blue two-piece suit and I were all warmly directed by the host to the cinema room.

A beautiful buffet was set up with coffee, tea, beer, wine and finger food. A pitcher of iced tea on the side with very large chocolate chip cookies of every shape reflected O’Brien’s Texas roots although he is now semi-retired in London.

The referee gave a wave and a whistle, and the game was on. In less than thirty minutes you could tell Charles, Frank and Nancy were Chelsea fans. They jumped up and cheered as Chelsea quickly scored not once, but twice. The fans in the stadium were screaming with raised arms reminding me of the fans in the coliseum watching the gladiators. Sofia was silent, and Ezra was multitasking, fiddling with his cell phone and reading something off a pocket notebook. I was enjoying the game, munching on a cookie, and sipping a tall glass of iced tea. Soon after halftime it was three-nil to Chelsea and Sofia was unhappily arguing with Frank that soccer was not as it used to be. Her point was that there are too many fouls and violence and not enough style. Two Real players were injured in the first half and substituted, and she was not a happy Spaniard.

The second half brought more surprises as Benzema from Real Madrid won the game with a goal early in extra time after Real Madrid had levelled it late. Sofia had a wide smile and was clapping, and so was Ezra. As the referee sounded the final whistle it appeared although everyone was not happy, all were satisfied. The players and coaches crisscrossed the field waving and jumping like gladiators as the crowds waved flags, clapped and screamed in English and Spanish.

Charles guided us to a beautifully manicured fenced garden behind his detached house. We settled in the garden with tea, scones, jam, cream, and pastries were passed around by a butler.

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As the game ended, Charles asked Frank about the impact of the Ukraine war on markets. Frank’s face soured and he said “pretty bad”. He added the world does not yet realize what we have unleashed. Economic disruption he mentioned, inflation, bankruptcies, slowdown of growth, more supply chain challenges and sanction mania that will have many knock-on impacts. All this, he said waving his arms in the aftermath of a pandemic that is not over yet.

Sofia said Frank is right. Look at the prices of commodities, energy and food prices surging in Europe and the Middle East. Even Asia and Latin America are impacted, said Nancy as she devoured a scone with jam. Sofia interjected as she crossed her legs and adjusted in her seat and said it was not over yet. Even as we sit here, she added, Zelensky is enjoying the attention he is becoming a hero from zero while Ukrainians are dying and infrastructure is being destroyed, with millions of Ukrainians becoming displaced and migrating.

Ezra looked at Sofia “whose fault is that?” he asked. “Putin has been on a rampage for weeks” he emphasized with an outstretched palm. “But what did you expect Putin to do?” Nancy said standing up and balancing her teacup. “Putin has been for over a decade warning no more infringement of NATO towards Russia. Instead of the West understanding, everyone in America, Britain and the EU encouraged Zelensky to poke the bear.” Ezra was about to respond but Nancy continued “on solid based information” she added, “NATO has been supplying arms to Ukraine undertaking training and advising Ukrainian forces for the past year so what did you expect Putin to do?” She asked.

“To every story,” Charles interjected “there are two sides…” and he added “there is also a media war ongoing to paint Putin as Hitler and what the Russians are doing as genocide.” “Rubbish” Sofia responded, “Putin is protecting Russia from missiles in Ukraine just as Kennedy protected America from missiles in Cuba. As for genocide, if 3000 civilians are killed as per US and UN sources is genocide then what do we call what happened in Iraq or Afghanistan?” she added.

There was a moment of silence and I said: “there is something very strange in this Ukraine war.” Everyone looked at me as I slowly put my glass down and took a moment and said “Where is Henry…? “

Charles smiled with an understanding look, Frank and the rest looked puzzled as if I had gone off the conversation topic. After another moment of silence, Frank said “what are you talking about?” I shuffled in my seat, crossed my legs and said “Have you all not noticed that there is no undergoing negotiation, no mediation, no Henry Kissinger to identify common ground and bring a cease-fire – as if all parties want–other than the antagonists–the conflict to go on?”

Nancy slowly said, “it looks like the West wants to fight Russia down to the last Ukrainian.” Frank said, “Common sense apparently is no longer common and is replaced by screaming media and calls for escalation.” Ezra got up and walked towards the pastries and turned around and said: “There are no longer Henry Kissingers in today’s world. Sadly, we lack wise, capable and serious leadership that is rational and has the benefit of humanity as its ultimate goal. Conflicts everywhere,” Ezra emphasized, “from my own country and across the world... conflicts that can be solved but no one really is interested to invest the energy and resources to do so.”

I said, as Ezra came back to his seat with a plate of pastries, “I was twenty years old buying flowers for my late mother from a shop across from the American Embassy in Cairo as Kissinger’s motorcade arrived for the first step in his amazing and fruitful shuttle diplomacy.” I remembered Henry would leave DC at night to have breakfast in London, tea in Paris, lunch in Cairo and dinner in Tel Aviv as he prepared the groundwork for bringing the conflicting parties together and moving to a ceasefire and then to a settlement. “At times” I added, “he would shuttle between Tel Aviv and Cairo four times a day negotiating, cajoling, threatening and providing an array of incentives.”

The group was nodding, and Charles said “it’s strange how there are no more Kissingers on the world stage. Kissinger opened up China, brought a ceasefire to the Israeli–Egyptian war, navigated a difficult transition from Nixon to Ford and much more,” he added as the conversation was winding down.

“I met Kissinger several times. We don’t have any Kissingers today,” he said sadly. He asked, “Has anyone of you met Kissinger?” No responses from the others and I said “Yes, I had met him at a reception in New York over 15 years ago and asked about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and how it can be brought to an end. Walking slowly, he looked at the ground and in his famous, gruff voice said: “Today there is no Sadat’, as he waved goodbye heading to the exit.

As we were leaving and thanking our host, my thoughts turned to the night of September 13th2017, when I was honoured by the London Center for Policy Research in New York along with Dr Kissinger. An honour I will always cherish but still, there seemed to be no answer to “where is this generation’s Henry?”.

Shafik Gabr
FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES

SARAH BADR

After two years of being postponed because of COVID-19, 2017 Fellow Sarah Badr finally had her in-person graduation ceremony from the faculty of Engineering, Imperial College London.

The ceremony was held at the memorable Royal Albert Hall and was streamed live.

Sarah is the Official Spokesperson for the World Youth Forum, Regional Focal Point for UN Migration Working Group in MENA and a Geoscientist at Schlumberger.

FABRICE GUERRIER

2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice Guerrier spoke at the World Intellectual Property Day event Hosted by ITIF and the U.S Chamber of Commerce.

World Intellectual Property Day is a celebration of creativity—innovators, creative people and diverse creators everywhere in their contribution to the economic sustainability of our world founded by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000.

Fabrice Guerrier, Founder and CEO of Syllble Inc., a sci-fi and fantasy production company, spoke on his vision of Syllble as the future of fanbase social commerce and social entertainment.

ERIKA WITT

2014 Gabr Fellow Erika Witt participated in the Council on Library and Information’s podcast "Material Memories."

Erika, librarian and curator, spoke about Southern University at New Orleans’s African art collection, her transformative trip to Egypt during the Shafik Gabr Fellowship, and how galleries, libraries, archives, and museums can and must make themselves more inviting and accessible to visitors who are black, indigenous, and people of color.
At the invitation of the Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, M. Shafik Gabr, the Gabr Fellows met in Washington DC on Monday, April 25, 2022, at the Regus Office.

The get together discussion was focused on the Fellows’ current work development and information update on their network groups. The Fellows also brainstormed ideas on how to reignite the relationship between the different annual groups of the Fellowship that visited Egypt and the US along with their Egyptian counterparts. The American Fellows in attendance updated news of their current activity and outlined their present status and their future endeavours.

Another key discussion point was a proposal by the Chairman to hold a reunion of all Gabr Fellows of all the classes in Egypt. After much discussion with each Fellow in attendance, it was agreed that two reunions should take place, one in Egypt in 2022, and in parallel another reunion to be held in DC in November during a weekend, which would include a renowned guest keynote speaker such as Mike Pompeo or James Mattis.

The group then discussed the Chairman’s plans to restart the “East-West Dialogue” initiative in the Autumn of 2022 and to reopen the application process. Several suggestions were made and discussed.

It was also agreed to open the application process for new cohort by June 2022 and to re-invite all the former applicants.

The following action points are underway:

1. Open the application process from June until the end of August 2022
2. Selecting dates for a reunion in Egypt
3. Organize an event in DC in a resort nearby Dulles Airport

The Fellows in attendance were:

Kemp Gouldin, 2015 Gabr Fellow
John Ryan, 2016 Gabr Fellow
Allison Feikes, 2018 Gabr Fellow
Charles Truxal, 2018 Gabr Fellow
On Thursday, April 28th, the O’Callaghan Family were honoured by The Family Center at their annual Spring Soiree with the Sustainer’s award. The event took place at the Tribeca Rooftop in New York City.

The Family Center is an organization which offers a unique program of social and legal services, including guidance on health care and wellness, to New Yorkers struggling with a family crisis or loss.

For nearly two decades, the O’Callaghan family — Tony & Patti, with their children Tony (LT), Julie, and Bonnie — has been dedicated to the well-being of Family Center children and youth. In the summer of 2005, Tony hosted the first-ever Central Park Picnic & Softball Game for the Family Center’s clients’ children and families. Come winter, the roles of Santa and his elves are always held by O’Callaghan family members at The Family Center Annual Holiday Party. Sisters Bonnie and Julie have served as TFC Leadership Council members for many years. Bonnie also served as Co-Chair to their first Harvest Ball in 2017. Tony, Patti and their children attribute their drive to give back to the O’Callaghan Family Patriarch, R.A. (Tony) O’Callaghan, who passed away in 2021 after a life of service to others.

The O’Callaghans have been long-time generous supporters of the Shafik Gabr Foundation.

This April, the Shafik Gabr Foundation was proud to provide Platinum sponsorship in honour of the O’Callaghan family at The Family Center’s award evening.
QUESTIONS 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.) Do you see Elon Musk’s possible takeover of Twitter as positive or negative?

- Positive - 31%
- Negative - 38%
- Neutral - 31%

2.) Is Egypt’s role in Gaza as a mediator between Israel and Palestine positive?

- Yes - 78%
- No - 6%
- I don’t know - 16%

3.) How long do you predict the Russia – Ukraine conflict to last?

- Less than 3 months - 0%
- 3-6 months - 25%
- More than 6 months - 75%

4.) We are in the second year of Joe Biden’s presidency. Has he been successful thus far?

- Yes - 19%
- No - 28%
- Neither successful nor unsuccessful - 53%

Stay tuned for next month’s ‘questions of the month’ and the Gabr Fellows’ takes on current events, as our community of future leaders consider the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.
WASHINGTON—The Federal Bureau of Investigation performed potentially millions of searches of American electronic data last year without a warrant, U.S. intelligence officials said Friday, a revelation likely to stoke longstanding concerns in Congress about government surveillance and privacy.

An annual report published Friday by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence disclosed that the FBI conducted as many as 3.4 million searches of U.S. data that had been previously collected by the National Security Agency.

Senior Biden administration officials said the actual number of searches is likely far lower, citing complexities in counting and sorting foreign data from U.S. data. It couldn’t be learned from the report how many Americans’ data was examined by the FBI under the program, though officials said it was also almost certainly a much smaller number.

The report doesn’t allege the FBI was routinely searching American data improperly or illegally.

The frequency of other forms of national-security surveillance detailed in the annual report generally fell year over year, in some cases continuing a multiyear trend.

The 3.4 million figure “is certainly a large number,” a senior FBI official said in a press briefing Friday on the report. “I am not going to pretend that it isn’t.”

More than half of the reported searches—nearly two million—were related to an investigation into a national-security threat involving attempts by alleged Russian hackers to break into critical infrastructure in the U.S. Those searches included efforts to identify and protect potential victims of the alleged Russian campaign, senior U.S. officials said.

Officials declined to give more details on the alleged Russian threat, including whether it was linked to the Russian government or a criminal hacking group. Russia has historically denied accusations of hacking the U.S. or other nations.

The number of searches of American data doesn’t correspond to the number of Americans who may have had their personal information examined.

An individual’s name, telephone number, email addresses and social security number can all be searched, sometimes repeatedly, and each instance of each term would count as a search. Searches of U.S. information can pertain to data about U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents and U.S. companies. And searches can yield a mix of metadata and content of collected communications.

One source of the discrepancy between the 3.4 million figure and the potentially much lower quantity of searches of Americans’ data: Sometimes FBI analysts perform large searches of hundreds or thousands of terms, and if just one term in the batch is associated with an American or U.S. entity, all the terms would be counted as a potential search of U.S. data, officials said.

Section 702 was passed into law in the years following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to enable the U.S. to spy on non-Americans overseas. The NSA uses the Section 702 program to collect intelligence from international phone calls and emails about terrorism suspects, cyber threats and other security risks. Data on Americans is often vacuumed up as well, for example when a foreign spy is communicating with someone in the U.S. or when two overseas targets are talking about an American.

Some congressional lawmakers have asked the FBI to disclose how often it taps into that data to look at U.S. information, arguing that doing so amounts to a backdoor search on Americans that dispenses with requirements to obtain a warrant. U.S. intelligence officials have broadly defended Section 702 as among the most valuable national-security tools at their disposal. Congress last renewed Section 702 in 2018, and then-President Donald Trump signed the renewal into law after openly questioning the measure over unsubstantiated concerns that it was used to spy on his presidential campaign. It is set to expire again at the end of next year, and current and former intelligence officials have said they anticipate a bruising political battle.

To read the full article,

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author’s alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.
Egypt undertook exchange rate, monetary and fiscal measures in response to adverse global developments (including soaring prices and tightening financial conditions), aggravated by the war in Ukraine. Yet, these policy actions also reflect underlying structural challenges. The surge in growth to 9 percent in H1-FY2021/22 (supported by rebounds in export-oriented sectors) is expected to slow down gradually through FY2022/23. Reforms to enhance private investment, exports and FDI remain crucial for the economy’s resilience and competitiveness.

Key conditions and challenges

Egypt implemented macroeconomic stabilization and energy sector reforms, as well as structural measures to address entrenched problems through taking steps to strengthen public debt management and enhance aspects of the business environment. These concerted efforts since 2016—along with the measures undertaken at the onset of COVID-19 to ease monetary conditions, provide selected sectoral support and mobilize external financing—enabled the country to face the pandemic with relative resilience.

Nevertheless, the global economic consequences of the war in Ukraine and associated sanctions on Russia, along with ongoing COVID-related disruptions, threaten to exacerbate long-standing challenges facing Egypt’s external balances, mainly through widening the current account deficit (given the country’s net commodity importer status, and the concentrated nature of trade with Russia and Ukraine). Egypt’s growth model that shifted over the past two decades towards non-tradable lower productivity sectors contributed to the relatively limited export penetration and sophistication, as well as below-potential labor market outcomes.

Official estimates indicate recent gains in welfare; however poverty rates were at 29.7 percent, as reported for the period October 2019—March 2020. Despite significant fiscal consolidation, government debt remains elevated. Financing requirements are thus high, at a time when global financial conditions are tightening as advanced economies unwind their accommodative monetary policies.

Going forward, enhancing public expenditure efficiency and revenue mobilisation will be crucial to avail the fiscal space needed to advance human and physical capital for the population of above 103 million. Importantly, continuing to pursue structural reforms to unleash the private sector’s potential in higher value-added and export-oriented activities are necessary to create jobs, and improve living standards.

Recent developments

On March 21, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) allowed the exchange rate to depreciate overnight by around 16 percent to stem the widening net exports deficit, and raised policy rates by 100 basis points to curb inflation and contain portfolio outflows. Meanwhile, the government introduced a mitigation package worth LE130 billion (1.6 percent of FY2022/23 GDP) to alleviate the impact of the rising prices through hikes to public sector wages and pensions, tax measures, and expanding coverage of the cash transfer programs, among other measures.

Prior to the external shock that triggered these policy measures, the economy was recovering, although pressures on external and fiscal accounts were building. Growth had surged to 9 percent during H1-FY2021/22 (July—December 2021), compared to a modest rate of 1.4 percent a year earlier. The resumption of international travel and trade, global pent-up demand and favorable base effects allowed for strong rebounds in the export-oriented sectors, such as tourism, the Suez Canal, non-oil manufacturing, and gas extractives. The communications and construction sectors also continue to be important contributors to growth. On the demand side, consumption and investment improved, but the net exports deficit widened, partly because the steady and marked real exchange rate appreciation over the previous years favoured imports growth, and the accelerating global commodity prices also inflated Egypt’s import bill.

Domestic prices were gradually rising, and inflation spiked to 8.8 percent in February 2022 (more than 2.7 percentage points higher than its average since the beginning of FY2021/22), reflecting early repercussions of the war in Ukraine.

Outlook

The recent surge in economic activity has set Egypt on track to achieve growth of 5.5 percent in FY2021/22. However, base effects and the demand overshoot are expected to start tapering off and economic activity will be adversely affected by the repercussions of the war in Ukraine. Thus, growth is expected to slow down to 5 percent in FY2022/23. Inflation is forecast to surpass the CBE’s inflation target range (7 percent +/-2 PPT) through the remainder of FY2021/22 due to the impact of the depreciation, imported inflation, possible supply bottlenecks, along with the potential continuation of upward adjustments to retail fuel prices. While some mitigation is expected from the recent fiscal package, existing food subsidy and cash transfer programs, as well as the relatively large reserves of wheat and other cereals, poverty may still increase as inflation undermines real incomes.

To read the full article, 

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author’s alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.
Launched in 2012, the Gabr Fellowship programme helps to connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders between the ages of 24 and 35. Each year, the Fellowship consists of 20-24 Fellows, half of which are men and the other half women, with an equal distribution between participants from the United States and Egypt. The Fellowship also accepts applicants from Jordan, Lebanon, France and the United Kingdom. Fellows represent a variety of sectors, including the arts, law, finance, tech, non-profits, and entrepreneurship – both business and social.

The mission of the Fellowship is to promote greater mutual understanding by building bridges between the two cultures by instigating dialogue and the exchange of ideas between emerging leaders from the United States and Egypt. Together, they explore one another’s cultures, political realities, business trends and their goals for the future.

In addition to engaging in deep discussions with key stakeholders from both countries in business, government, academia, religion, science, tech and finance, all Fellows are invited to form multinational teams to complete an action project. These projects empower the Fellows as inter-cultural ambassadors, amplifying the Fellowship’s reach and impact.

Ultimately, through hands-on activities, rigorous discussions, cultural site visits, and the collaborative action projects, the Fellows have a greater understanding of both countries and become part of an international cohort dedicated to building a more equitable and peaceful world.

The Gabr Fellows have acquired a greater understanding of both Egypt and the United States and the challenges faced by both communities. Having served as cultural as well as linguistic ambassadors to one another, they then return home to play the role of diplomat, introducing Egyptians and Americans to a people, a culture and a future never before explored in this way.

Together, they are creating the legacy of 'The Gabr Fellowship': an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to their regions' most pressing issues.
The Shafik Gabr Foundation invites you to invest in the future and partner with the Foundation using one or more of the following means:

**Sponsor a Fellow** - Individuals have the opportunity to nominate a Fellow and if selected, sponsor their participation in the Gabr Fellowship. Sponsors will be recognised in all Foundation publications, marketing materials, and at all events.

**Corporate patron** - Corporations can nominate Fellows for participation in the Fellowship Foundation and sponsor their participation on a company-wide level. The company will be listed in all publications, the logo will be presented on the Foundation’s homepage and be given visibility at all events in the United States and Egypt.

**Unrestricted support** - A general operating grant can empower the Foundation to continue to invest in innovative platforms to facilitate ongoing dialogue between the East and West. From new technologies to expanding the programme to more countries and a greater number of participants, the Fellowship can create a broader multiregional impact.

To support the Foundation, [CLICK HERE](#)

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**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 *How Civil Wars Start: And How to Stop Them* by Barbara Walter and *Manifest: 7 Steps to Living Your Best Life* by Roxie Nafousi.

In *How Civil Wars Start*, Barbara F. Walter, who has advised on political violence everywhere from the CIA to the U.S. Senate to the United Nations, explains the rise of civil war and the conditions that create it. As democracies across the world backslide and citizens become more polarised, civil wars will become even more widespread and last longer than they have in the past. This book explores a path back toward peace.

Written by the self-development coach Roxie Nafousi, *Manifest* explores seven simple steps to understand the art of manifestation in order to create a happy and fulfilled life.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY FELLOWS!

Ola Ali  
2015 Gabr Fellow  
May 1

Ahmed El Habibi  
2013 Gabr Fellow  
May 7

Hayley Rose  
2018 Gabr Fellow  
May 10

Nayra Gadallah  
2016 Gabr Fellow  
May 10

Hani Elzoumor  
2016 Gabr Fellow  
May 11

Kristina Ryan  
2017 Gabr Fellow  
May 18

Hanan Hayal  
2018 Gabr Fellow  
May 19

Chase Bowman  
2014 Gabr Fellow  
May 22

Michelle Matus  
2015 Gabr Fellow  
May 23

Courtney Joline  
2017 Gabr Fellow  
May 25

RJ Johnson  
2018 Gabr Fellow  
May 30

Yasser El Zahar  
2016 Gabr Fellow  
May 30

May 2022  
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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/

Ludwig Deutsch, The Qanun Player
oil on panel
The Shafik Gabr Collection

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The Shafik Gabr Foundation

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