



# THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

## Monthly Newsletter



Mr and Mrs Shafik Gabr and the Gabr Fellows after presenting Chariman Gabr with a token of gratitude at the Fellows Reunion in Luxor, April and May 2023

## It's Still Round

Paris is an attractive city year-around. I was visiting for two nights staying at the George V, a stone's throw from the Champs-Élysées. My long-standing friend Pierre Lamont suggested a meeting at the Fouquet's, the famous upscale brasserie on the corner of the Champs-Élysées and Avenue George V. I confirmed that I would be there at 4pm and I started walking from the hotel at 3.45pm as it was a short walk...It was cloudy and there was a bit of a drizzle, but I had a raincoat on and an umbrella. I took my time and did a bit of window shopping.

I arrived on time and there was Pierre standing up at a table full of friends I had known for years. What a surprise! Hussein Nashet, a friend from Cairo who immigrated to Paris years ago was an architect; Raouf Touma, an old school buddy from our soccer days who lives in Cannes most of the year and is a fund manager; Michelle Laurent, a former professional soccer player and now a well-known coach; Hala Jono, a Moroccan fashion designer and shop owner in Paris; and finally Al Kirkland, an American friend, investor who lives in a chateau in Bordeaux where he has a famous vineyard. After hugs and a warm welcome, we all sat down. Although it was early, they were all sipping Al's wine and munching on hors d'oeuvres. I asked for a double espresso as I was jet lagged and had not slept well the previous night.

After a lot of catching up and learning about the latest news of each of us, Al turned the conversation to soccer and said the next World Cup will be played in America, Canada, and Mexico, "very different than the one which took place in Qatar." Raouf said that what took place in Qatar was amazing and the very best World Cup from its inception. Raouf sipped from his glass of wine, grabbed a cheese cracker, and added: "The stadiums were very well designed, the logistics very well thought out and the organization beyond excellent." Raouf apparently spent two weeks in Qatar watching the games and he was invited by some Qatari investors that are participating in his fund. Al who had attended the final said: "Yes, Qatar did a great job, but let's not forget how they got the World Cup." A sinister plot of corruption, Al explained, was underway for years and tens of million dollars, if not hundreds, were spent and pocketed by many involved. Hussein coughed and then sneezed. We all shuddered and backed off and Hussein said: "Only an allergy." Al continued: "Did you watch the documentary about FIFA or read The Ugly Game by Heidi Blake and Jonathan Calvert?" Al explained the detailed research done by Blake and Calvert was mind boggling and said that it is a surprise that more people who were involved are not in jail. He gestured with his right arm that FIFA is self-supervised and a lot of things happen under the table.

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Hala, a slim, tall, and model-like Moroccan twisted in her chair and looked at Al. She smiled showing her perfect teeth and said: "Regardless, it was a great experience." She continued: "I attended all the Morocco games and was so proud of what they accomplished." Michelle was interestingly quiet and whilst Pierre tried to get him to engage, he remained silent. Michelle refilled his wine glass and picked a vegetable spring roll with his fingers and placed it on his plate. Pierre looked at me and said: "What are your thoughts about the Qatar World Cup?" I finished my double espresso, put the cup down and reflected for a moment. I confirmed Qatar had done a great job and intelligently invested in bringing Qatar to the world stage and it will not any longer be called "Gutter" as it was referred to before the global event. I admitted I had watched the games on TV and did not attend as I was travelling. I suggested to compare this World Cup with earlier world cup tournaments, and kicked off the comparisons by listing the following points: the most expensive tournament; the best revenue for FIFA; the most expensive players. Raouf jumped in, interrupted and said: "No player had sideburns like the old days, most had shaved their heads, long shorts compared to the short shorts of older days, long socks with more advanced shin guards, some African hair styles, greater number of substitutions, and more games ending in draws and penalties." "Technology is more involved than before, with referees on-line, VAR and remote cameras from all angles," said Al. "The crowds were as never before," Hala added, "The makeup, masks, drums, colors, flags," she described in detail. "There was also a sense of fanaticism like when the gladiators fought in ancient Rome." Hala raised her arm, pointing her finger to the sky and added, "More amongst the crowd than the players, and the lack of alcohol and keeping politics out of the event were wise decisions."

A pause followed while Al was pouring wine to all the group except myself. I asked for a tea as I was feeling the cold. Al suddenly said that one more thing should be noted, soccer has become all about money: "Look at the prices of teams in the high billions, prices of players, their endless sponsorships and advertising with their faces shared with ships, luggage, watches and socks." He added that he was considering buying a French soccer team, and he asked Michelle what his thoughts were. Before Michelle could respond, Pierre mentioned that funds are investing in teams, promoting soccer business like never before. Napoli, Pierre added, bought by the famous Aurelio De Laurentiis (brother of Dino, the movie maker) brought Napoli from the lowest ranks to the Italian championship using movie techniques.

Michelle, who was very quiet, said in a strong French accent: "It's important to continue answering Shafik's question before dwelling on the topic of buying a French soccer team." Michelle continued saying that soccer and this World Cup had changed the game completely. He added several points using his right-hand fingers:

1. First, bringing soccer's World Cup to a country that has no soccer. A major shift - he emphasized.
2. Secondly, the game has become more muscle and less style. Today, the players need to be—and are—strong and armed with muscles all over their bodies. There is much more pushing, physical handling, and force than ever before.
3. Third, Michelle said, this physicality versus style and tactics has resulted in many games ending in draws, despite the extended times, and finally being resolved by penalties.
4. The refereeing, Michelle added as a fourth point, has been uneven with violent acts not being regarded as fouls. Dangerous sliding, tackling, disrupting the flow of the game and physically dangerous holds were commonplace during the matches.
5. Fifth, he said, pointing at his thumb, the change in the offside recognition rule resulted in endless and unnecessary controversy.
6. Michelle moved over to his other hand and pointed to his forefinger saying that his sixth and final point is the change in the fact that a ball touching a player's arm in the box regardless of whether it had any goal potential, or even if the player had his back to the ball is called a penalty. This made and will make players make use of this rule for their unfair advantage which is quite controversial.

Michelle's professionalism in outlining the changes made the table go silent. Hussein looked at Michelle, nodding in agreement and said: "For the survival of the game and care for the players, sliding tackles, tackles from behind and man-handling at corner shoots, must come to an end and deserve a red card if violated." Michelle nodded and said: "That would open the game to greater strategy, tactics and more goals." Hala moved forward and with emphasis said: "Will you touch on the issue of corruption in soccer? How can ethics be brought back?" Raouf jumped in and said that it has become a politically-powerful and business-rich highly successful and popular platform with 2 billion fans. The President of FIFA, he added, has more constituents than the largest country on earth. Hala returned to her focus saying that the present President of FIFA is from the same team that ruled over the past World Cup during the Qatar scandal that was carefully covered and brushed away. "Not only that," Hussein said with a knowing smile, "when an attempt was made to do a Super League outside FIFA's domain, it was quashed and firmly destroyed, showing who is boss." Pierre tried to make light of the conversation and said that the World Cup tournament also witnessed more players spitting, nose picking and blowing one nostril while plugging the other, than in any other tournament. Many laughed and smiled in agreement, and Hala said that Mbappé gets the crown in that category. Raouf responded and said that Morocco gets the crown for the most loved team. The conversation continued while dusk descended, and the lights of Paris and the Champs-Élysées came on, flickering with warmth in a cold evening. It was clear that a lot had changed in the game, and more was to come as the next World Cup was to welcome more countries and more teams and result in more money generation for FIFA and the unregulated czars of soccer.

As the cold was bothering me because of the steel in my left leg, I got to bidding everyone goodbye and agreeing to meet tomorrow for dinner. As I slowly walked back to the hotel, I was deep in thought about FIFA's dictatorship that was surviving and cleverly covering its earlier wrongdoings of giving the World Cup to Qatar over America. Crossing the street, my thoughts went over to the next World Cup which will be held in America, and the rapid death of the Super League reflecting the political realm in which soccer has become not unlike many nations of this world. As I entered the brightly-lit lobby of the hotel and headed to the elevator, I thought to myself that hopefully the only thing that would remain unchanged in soccer is the ball to remain round.

# FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



## JEREMY PESNER, 2022 FELLOW

2022 Gabr Fellow Jeremy Pesner has been invited to participate at the in Drew University's Center on Religion, Culture & Conflict (CRCC) New Jersey Institute for Emerging Leaders program on 5 June.

The NJ Institute for Emerging Leaders (NJIEL) seeks to respond to the widening divisiveness in today's society by preparing young leaders to foster peaceful and pluralistic relations in their communities, using religion as a positive force.

The Institute is built on CRCC's International Institute on Religion and Conflict Transformation and attracts renowned academics, practitioners, and thought leaders as faculty.

## BASMA FAHIM, 2015 FELLOW

2015 Gabr Fellow Basma Fahim was invited to a reception at the residence of the Turkish Ambassador to Egypt, Salih Mutlu Sen.

During the course of the reception, Basma also had the chance to meet with Mrs Suzy El Gendy, Deputy Chief Editor at Al Ahram newspaper.



## FABRICE GUERRIER, 2018 FELLOW

2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice Guerrier was a Guest on the Imagination Desk Podcast from the Center for Science and the Imagination.

The Center For Science and The Imagination is the leading center in the world that studies the imagination. Fabrice discussed how he uses the imagination in his work at Syllble and as a writer, and how imagination can be used to create better social futures.

He was interviewed by Ed Finn, CSI's Founding Director and Associate Professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and the School of Arts, Media and Engineering at Arizona State University.

To listen to the podcast,



# FELLOWS NEWS AND UPDATES



## NOURHAN MOUSSA, 2014 FELLOW

2014 Gabr Fellow Nourhan Moussa was granted an opportunity to participate in a program on International Law at Fordham University. Nourhan will be in the United States from the 9th of June to the 5th of July, and she will be dividing her time between New York City and Washington, D.C.

## INTERVIEW WITH....

## DALIA IHAB YOUNIS, 2017 GABR FELLOW



Dalia Ihab Younis is a medical doctor by training, a content creator and a strategist in the development sector by profession, but by passion she is an independent artist.

In 2017, Dalia started community-based singing initiatives, performed on stage and in churches, wrote her own lyrics, music and a cappella arrangements, joined and led choirs and facilitated a cappella and song-writing workshops.

**1) What are the 3 most important takeaways of your 2017 Gabr Fellowship experience?**

- The great people I met in my cohort, and other cohorts.
- The insightful inside knowledge about the American society
- The chance to see America in Autumn, which was a childhood dream.

**2) Would you visit the US again?**

- Definitely yes!

**3) What 3 things can make Egypt-US bilateral relations stronger?**

- Exchange programs allowing intercultural exploration.
- Joint science and business projects led by young people from both countries.
- Art projects that build bridges between the two nations.

**4) Did the program in Egypt and the US bring new knowledge to you?**

- Yes, it gave me both the theoretical knowledge and the hands-on experience, plus the insights of American Fellows.

**5) How would you describe the Gabr Fellowship program in three words?**

- Life-changing experience.

# Gabr Fellows Ten-Year Reunion 2012 – 2023

28 April – 1 May 2023  
Cairo and Luxor, Egypt



Shafik and Gigi Gabr and their daughter Malak Gabr with the Gabr Fellows at the Reception in Cairo hosted for the Fellows on 28 April 2023

The Gabr Fellowship is the flagship program of the *East-West: Art of the Dialogue* initiative at the Shafik Gabr Foundation. This fully-funded dynamic exchange program is designed to facilitate constructive relationships between future leaders from Egypt and the United States. Founded in 2012, the Foundation has 142 Gabr Fellows to date.

Established in response to the increasing tensions building between the East and West, the Foundation sponsors and fosters exchanges between emerging leaders from Egypt and the United States in multiple fields.

The Gabr Fellows explore one another's cultures, political realities, business trends, technological advancements and their goals for the future. Together, they are creating the legacy of 'The Gabr Fellowship': an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to the world's most pressing issues. The Foundation's mission and belief is that it is only by building bridges of understanding, investing in young leaders – and finding common interest and mutual benefit – that young leaders will be able to contribute to a better world tomorrow.

Hence, from Friday 28th April to Monday 1st May, The Shafik Gabr Foundation held its first ever Gabr Fellows reunion, with 60 Gabr Fellows from the United States and Egypt travelling to Cairo and Luxor for a four-day get-together.

The guests of honour during the ten-year Reunion were Mr. Dale Buxton, a global investor and technology expert, and Mr. Sean Cleary, a seasoned diplomat who is Chairman of Strategic Concepts and Executive Vice-Chairman of the FutureWorld Foundation.

The event consisted of tours of historic sites, talks by prominent speakers, and panel discussions on various topics such as AI, cybersecurity, art, spirituality, business, and tourism.

On day one, the Fellows arrived to Cairo where they had a tour of the Sakkara and Wahty Tombs, followed by a welcome meeting with Chairman Gabr and the guests of honour at ARTOC HQ. After that, the Foundation hosted a Reception for the Gabr Fellows, with over 200 guests including Ministers, Ambassadors, and prominent leaders in academia, culture, media, politics and business, including Ambassador Arturas Gailiunas, Lithuanian Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Axel Wabenhorst, Australian Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Dominic Goh, Singaporean Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Francois Coronet d'Elzius, Ambassador of Belgium to Egypt; Ambassador Gonzalo Urriolabeitia, Argentinan Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Han-Maurits Schaapveld, Dutch Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador John Desrocher; US Charge d'Affairs; Ambassador M.K. Pathmanathan, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Salih Mutlu Sen, Turkish Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Michele Quaroni, Italian Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Mohamed El Orabi, Egypt's former Foreign Minister; Dr Hany Helal, Former Egyptian Minister of Higher Education; General Mohamed El Keshky, Former Assistant Minister of Defense; Mr Hossam Heiba, CEO of the General Authority for Investments (GAFI); Dr Ahmad Dallal, President of the American University in Cairo (AUC); Prof. Mohamed Loutfi, President of the British University in Egypt (BUE), among numerous other distinguished guests.

The following morning, the Fellows were flown to Luxor, where they had guided tours of the Karnak Temple and Luxor Temple. The afternoon was dedicated to the presentation of Mr Dale Buxton, entitled "World Changing Technologies for Good and Bad", where he discussed four world-changing technologies for the next five years: quantum computing, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and genomics. The enlightening presentation was followed by an extended discussion and questions from the Fellows. The next event on the agenda was a panel by Gabr Fellows Judson Moore, Nourhan Moussa, Zeyad Kelani and Wessam Baher, on the topic of AI and Cybersecurity in the 21st century. The day ended with a breathtaking private tour of the Valley of the Kings, generously hosted by Mr. Buxton.

On their third day, the Fellows went to Luxor's West Bank, where they had a tour of the tombs of Amenhotep II and Hourmoheb, the Hatshepsut Temple, and the Colossi of Memnon. The afternoon was spent in thought-provoking conversation with Mr Sean Cleary, who held his presentation entitled "Strategic Foresight in an Age of Disruption" where he presented a compelling overview on current geopolitics, war, inflation, and the future. His presentation sparked a lively debate and a deep discussion with the Fellows. The day concluded with the screening of Gabr Fellow Nick Thomas's full-length movie "An Egypt Affair," and the screening of Gabr Fellow Mohamed Hassan's short movie "Ostaz Hamam."

The fourth and final day started with a guided tour of the Valley of the Nobles, Medinet Habu and Deir el-Medina. After this, the Fellows flew back to Cairo for a Fellows' panel entitled "Art, Spirituality, Business and Tourism", presented by Gabr Fellows Jeremy Pesner, Erika Witt, Magda Kura, and Amr Hesham. This was followed by a concluding meeting with Chairman Shafik Gabr, Mr Dale Buxton and Mr Sean Cleary, where the Fellows had an opportunity for an open discussion on the topics touched upon during the previous four days, and they also discussed the power of intercultural dialogue and in-person connections that change our outlook on the other.

The reunion, attended by 60 Gabr Fellows, was a remarkable opportunity for these young leaders to explore each other's cultures, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and visit historic sites in Egypt. The presence of distinguished guests - Dale Buxton and Sean Cleary - added further expertise and insights to the event. These interactions stimulated intellectual curiosity, sparked debates, and fostered a sense of collective responsibility to address today's pressing issues.

Beyond the enriching experiences, the reunion highlighted the significance of in-person connections and intercultural dialogue. The Gabr Fellowship strives to build bridges of understanding, invest in the potential of young leaders, and find common interests for the mutual benefit of both Egypt and the United States. By doing so, they contribute to the creation of a better world tomorrow, where cooperative solutions are pursued to address shared challenges.

The success of the Gabr Fellowship and its reunion is a testament to the power of dialogue, exchange, and cooperation. As we continue to invest in the potential of young leaders and cultivate opportunities for intercultural engagement, we move closer to a more inclusive and interconnected world, where cooperation triumphs over division.



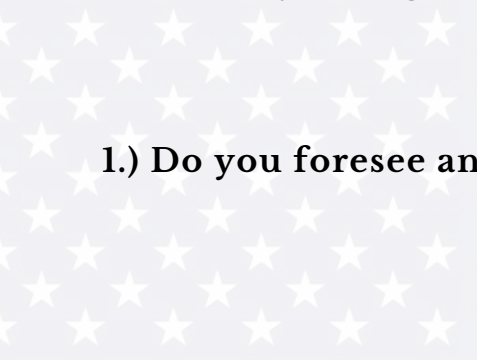
Mr Sean Cleary and Mr Dale Buxton during their presentations



Gabr Fellows at Deir el-Medina and Hatshepsut Temple

# 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 foresee an end to the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2023?**

Yes - 6%

No - 89%

I don't know - 5%

**2.) Who do you predict will be the Republican nominee for the 2024 US Presidential election?**

Donald Trump - 69%

Ron DeSantis - 28%

Glenn Youngkin - 0%

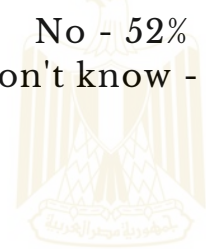
Other - 3%

**3.) Can Egypt overcome the FX crisis in 2023?**

Yes - 6%

No - 52%

I don't know - 42%



Stay tuned for next month's 'questions of the month' where the Gabr Fellows' take on current events, as our community of future leaders consider the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.



# Palestinians Will Pay for Saving Israeli Democracy

By Daniel Kurtzer and Aaron David Miller

*Foreign Affairs*, June 2023

After putting his plans for antidemocratic judicial overhaul on ice in April, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would like to gear up for a second try. The legislative proposals would effectively neuter the Israeli Supreme Court and prevent it from acting as a check on executive power, but the project's success is not guaranteed. Mass protests against the overhaul have continued unabated, putting pressure on the government to stall further or even compromise.

The longer Netanyahu waits, however, the more he faces discontent in the ranks of his far-right coalition government. Netanyahu has already tried to calm the waves with massive state subsidies for Israel's ultra-Orthodox population. His next move will be to pay off the radical religious Zionists and far-right politicians in his cabinet in annexationist coin: if he cannot muzzle the Supreme Court—long the bane of the Israeli far right—he may instead give the extremists in his coalition free rein in their efforts to bind the West Bank permanently to Israel, to annex the territory in everything but name. In fact, this process has already begun.

In other words, the battle over Israel's democracy may further inflame conflict with the Palestinians. Neither the Palestinian Authority, nor Hamas, nor the Palestinian public is interested in a massive or sustained uprising against Israel. But a far-right Israeli government that seeks to effectively seize the West Bank and quash the last attenuated hopes of a sovereign Palestinian state will almost certainly lead to escalation with the Palestinians. For the United States, this looming confrontation offers only tough choices. The Biden administration is already preoccupied with Europe and the Indo-Pacific. It sees little advantage in embarking on a major diplomatic initiative that would almost certainly fail and embroil it with pro-Israeli voices in Congress ahead of an election year. But the United States still has a stake in avoiding an explosion of violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

Israel's coalition government reflects a devil's bargain among three elements, each with its own narrow interests. Netanyahu, desperate to avoid further prosecution on corruption charges, needs allies willing to help him legislate his legal problems away, which is one of the objectives behind the planned legal overhaul. The ultra-Orthodox parties, which represent the *haredim* and are generally in tune with Netanyahu's right-wing politics, mostly want more government funding for their religious institutions and even broader religious exemptions from military service for their constituents.

Finally, there are the ultranationalists, all of whom seek eternal Israeli control over the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and many of whom hope the government's bid to enfeeble the Supreme Court will allow them to enshrine their Jewish supremacist ideology in Israeli law.

In his efforts to cater to this menagerie of political sects, Netanyahu has thrown his usual caution to the wind. Satisfying the demands of the ultra-Orthodox has not proved difficult. Bezalel Smotrich, Netanyahu's far-right finance minister, has left the treasury coffers wide open to the *haredim*, and Netanyahu has already agreed to provide additional funding.

More challenging are the demands of the ultranationalists. Many in this camp remain dead set on curbing the power of the judiciary and effectively subordinating it to the whims of the governing coalition—even in the face of mass protests, which continue to draw hundreds of thousands into the street every week.

If Netanyahu agrees to a compromise on the judicial overhaul—an outcome pushed for by Israel's president, Isaac Herzog—he will risk the collapse of his coalition.

To read the full article,

[CLICK HERE](#) 

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author's alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation.

# Russia and Ukraine: The Missing Dialogue

By Michael Goff, 2014 Gabr Fellow

As of this writing, we are well over a year into the horrific war in Ukraine, with no end in sight. The war serves nobody's interest. Ukraine has suffered the worst, with the murder of its people and destruction of its cities. Russia has suffered serious economic losses, devastation of its army, and the loss of trust and respect around the world. Everybody else has suffered from the high food and energy prices and the disruption of trade. It is clearly in self-interest for all parties and in the humanitarian interest to bring the war to a speedy conclusion and to institute a lasting peace in Eastern Europe. The question for Western policymakers is how to do so. A fundamental problem is a lack of trust. Russian President Vladimir Putin and senior Russian leaders believe—not entirely without justification—that the United States and Western allies are fundamentally against the Russian state.

The Kremlin perceives the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the 2002 abrogation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and expansion of American missile defense; the invasion of Iraq; the Color Revolutions in Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan; and Euromaiden in Ukraine and that country's growing Western orientation; as threatening, anti-Russian acts.

American President Joe Biden and senior American leaders believe—not entirely without justification—that post-Soviet Russia, especially under its current leadership, is an imperialistic power that simply cannot be trusted to act responsibly in the world. They look at the brutal crackdown in Chechnya in the 1990s, the invasion of Georgia in 2008, the seizure of Crimea and territory in Eastern Ukraine in 2014, the information campaign in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election, and various acts of cyber warfare, among other grievances as signs of Russian duplicity.

Rebuilding trust will not be quick or easy, nor will it be sure to succeed. As Seán Cleary stated in his presentation on April 30, 2023 to the Gabr Fellowship, a just and lasting peace must be predicated on all countries, including Russia and Ukraine, feeling secure in their borders. Russia must ensure the West that it respects the sovereignty of all other countries. The West must ensure Russia that it has no objection to Russia's status as a great power.

While the pathway to constructive dialogue is murky, one step may be to revise the sanctions regime away from broad sanctions designed to damage the Russian economy, and toward sanctions targeted specifically at military industries.

That way, the business and travel relations that will lay the groundwork for government-to-government dialogue can proceed. In the meantime, Russia is clearly the aggressor in the war, and the Western nations have both national security interests and moral interests in ensuring that Ukraine is able to repel the invasion as quickly as possible.

Though it seems unlikely today, dialogue is possible. When Ronald Reagan assumed the U.S. presidency in 1981, he took a hard line toward the Soviet Union. Reagan's budget called for a major increase in military spending, he backed the Afghan mujahideen against the invasion from the Soviet Union, and he described the Soviet Union as an "evil empire". But in his second term, Reagan found a working partner in Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and negotiated the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Dialogue did not come at the cost of abandoning core principles such as adherence to capitalism; rather, dialogue was about finding common ground despite fundamental differences.

For the foreseeable future, it is not guaranteed that dialogue can resolve the war in Eastern Europe. But it is guaranteed that without dialogue, a just and lasting peace is impossible.

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# ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

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.



2022 Gabr Fellows at the National Defense University with the NDU's President, Lt Gen Michel Plehn

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.



Gabr Fellows with Major General Mohamed El Keshky, Egypt's Former Assistant Minister of Defense



Gabr Fellows take on the Pyramids

# SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

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.

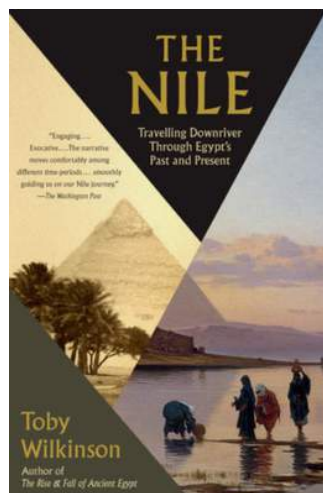
**Corporate patron** - Corporations can nominate Fellows for participation in the Fellowship Foundation and sponsor their participation on a company-wide level. The company will be listed in all publications, the logo will be presented on the Foundation's homepage and be given visibility at all events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

<https://www.eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-support/> or

CLICK HERE



## 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 *I Swear: Politics Is Messier Than My Minivan* by Katie Porter and *The Nile: Traveling Downriver through Egypt's Past and Present* by Toby Wilkinson.

*I SWEAR: Politics Is Messier Than My Minivan* is a witty, down-to-earth exploration of what it's really like to serve in Congress, particularly as a single mom. Katie Porter offers Americans a clear picture of what their elected leaders are doing—and how they're doing it—exposing the gaps between politicians' press conferences and real people's lives.

In *The Nile*, renowned Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson takes us on a journey downriver that is both history and travelogue.

Along the way, Wilkinson introduces us to the gods, pharaohs, and emperors who joined their fate to the Nile and gained immortality; and to the adventurers, archaeologists, and historians who have all fallen under its spell. Peerlessly erudite, vividly told, *The Nile* brings the course of this enduring river into stunning view.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MAY FELLOWS!



**Ola Ali**  
2015 Gabr Fellow  
May 1



**Ahmed El Habibi**  
2013 Gabr Fellow  
May 7



**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*

# THE GABR FELLOWSHIP

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



**Giulio Rosati, *A Game of Tavli***  
Pencil, watercolour and gouache on paper  
The Shafik Gabr Collection

Connect with us



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