



2nd November Café Milano for the 2025 Gabr Fellows

Information Statement



On November 2, 2025, Mr Shafik Gabr Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation convened a dinner for Gabr Fellows and special guests at Café Milano in Washington, DC.

Chairman Shafik Gabr, his wife, Mrs. Gigi Gabr, his daughter, Ms Malak Gabr, Mr Mohamed Ramzi, Board Member, and staff were joined by the 2025 Gabr Fellows and 23 special guests.

Special guests were in attendance were Congressman Darell Issa and his wife, Mrs Rebecca Glover. His Excellency Motaz Zahran, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United States of America & his wife, Mrs Hala Zahran. Lieutenant General Michael T. Plehn (USAF Ret.), former president of the National Defence University. The Honorable Laura Gil, Assistant Secretary General to the Organization of American States. Congressman Nick Rahall, he represented West Virginia's. Mr James Schmeling, President and CEO of the National Defence University. Mr. Moon Suflab, Administrator of Information Technology in the office of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell; Mr. Alex Moczarski, the former Chairman of Marsh McLennan Companies. Dr. Aaron Lobel, Founder & President of America Abroad Media and his wife, Mrs. Aysen Lobel the Chief Development Officer of the Middle East Institute. Ms Irene Vandraki, Chair of the Board & Executive Director of Greek House Davos. Mr Jim Fragenberg, Founder & Wealth Advisor of Velaris Wealth Planning and his wife, Mrs Maria Fragenberg. Professor De Kai, Independent Director for the AI-ethics think-tank The Future Society. Mr Jonathan Marder, CEO of Jonathan Marder and Company. Ms Julia Munoz a jewellery designer at Julia Munoz Arevalo.

The evening began with a lively drink's reception at the bar, where guests gathered in warm conversation and laughter. The atmosphere was one of ease and camaraderie as attendees mingled freely, engaging not only with one another but also with the Fellows, sharing stories, introductions, and the first toasts of the night.

Referencing the increasing rates of conflict around the world, Mr. Gabr opened the dinner by reflecting on the importance of maintaining interpersonal networks and face-to-face engagement across national, political, and cultural divides. Mr. Gabr emphasized the Foundation's crucial work in nurturing a community of international leaders, where mutual understanding and support can produce real-life social and political solutions.

During the main course of the evening, Mr. Gabr stood at the centre of the long, candle-lit table, his presence commanding yet warm. With a calm and gracious demeanour, he turned toward each guest, addressing them one by one. For every person seated before

him, he shared a story, an anecdote, or a cherished memory—each moment carefully chosen to reflect the unique bond he had built with them over the years.

Some memories drew laughter; others stirred emotion and quiet reflection. Yet through every recollection ran a thread of deep gratitude and respect. As he spoke, the atmosphere around the table filled with nostalgia and affection, the kind that only comes from shared experiences and genuine connection. With attendees from diverse fields of art, military service, business, finance, policy, and academia, and hailing both from Egypt and many corners of the U.S., the gathering was a living practice of the Shafik Gabr Foundation's initiative, East-West: The Art of the Dialogue.

The Shafik Gabr Foundation holds a minimum of six Fellowship dinners per year around the world as part of its annual programming to develop some of the brightest and creative minds of the next generation and allow them to exchange diverse ideas.