



# THE GABR FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER



*Chairman M. Shafik Gabr, and Dr. Mohamed Kamal, with 2025 Gabr Fellows: Maries Meshrequey, Lydia Kamiel, Mariam El Sherif, Clara Sherwood, George D. Williams, Crystal Staebell, Omar Talaat, Mahmoud Elmakkawe, Ingy Musallam, George Bogden, King Frimpong, Abdallah Hussien, Youssef Emam, Kristina Arkelyan, Jude G Husein, and Alphaeus D. Hanson.*

**At the Shafik Gabr Foundation | ARTOC HQ, Cairo, Egypt.**

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# Nukes Away

M. SHAFIK GABR

October 2025

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It was a very cold evening. Grey, dull, drizzling rain and horrific traffic.

As I arrived ten minutes late to “Ralf Denton”, my friend’s home in Hampstead north of London, I remembered I had not visited since my accident in Kenya in 2019.

I was greeted by Ralf’s butler Alfred who has been with the Denton family for decades since I met Ralf the first time in 1983. Alfred took my overcoat, hat, scarf and gloves and gave me a warm but formal statement of welcome. Alfred, in military style steps took me through the vast entry lobby, all marble, through to a long corridor which I knew led to the great hall.

Whilst Ralf was retired since he turned 70 and made a bundle of money selling his real estate business that had operated in the US, UK, Romania, Belgium, Switzerland and the Baltic states he never sat still. Ralf attended conferences around the world from security forums to art exhibitions and many more in between. You would find Ralf in Davos in January, in Munich in February, in Baku in March, in Singapore in April, in Palo Alto in May and frankly I lost track but presently he was very focused on AI, human causes and education.

Ralf was a tough but human boss with a habit of educating his staff and enhancing their capabilities. But I remember over the years he demanded loyalty, trust, precision, reliability and a dozen traits be outlined again and again from his team. His team were quite amazing in their precision and achievements to the extent two ended up in the White House and one in Downing Street.

As I entered the great hall, a magnificent room with amazing paintings, sculptures and a ceiling of 12 feet or more, the size of the room was at least 5000 SQM and designed to have multiple seating areas. One was fully occupied by Ralf and about 6 persons none of which I could recognize at the first instance.

Ralf got up as he saw me and walked towards me and took me in a bear hug. It has been too long. Ralf then grabbed me by the arm and introduced me around.

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Mohamed Soliman, a Saudi entrepreneur based in Zurich. Chantal Munoz a Spanish jeweler. Alexander Smirnoff, a Russian owner of a giant conglomerate, alcohol, steel and mining. Brian Taylor, a British lawyer who is the Chairman of a British defense company. Standing a couple of feet to the side were Jeff Moran and Ann Kennedy.

Jeff looked 20 but was in his late 30's, he was in casual dress, a black turtle neck pullover, blue jeans and a leather jacket. Jeff is a Palo Alto, Silicon Valley entrepreneur and owns three startups focused on sensors, remote control systems and unmanned robots. Ralf mentioned to me quietly that Jeff was involved in top secret projects in the defense sector.

Last but not least I was introduced to Ann Kennedy who met me with a broad smile and a warm hello. Ann, like Jeff were both Americans but Jeff from the West Coast and Ann from the East Coast. Ann, a descendant from a famous family is a humanist. She has an NGO with an interesting name "Strategic Initiatives to Preserve Humanity."

After the welcoming pleasantries we sat in a circle and Ralf asked for my opinion about what was going on in the Middle East which I summarized in bullet points plus I discussed my peace plan for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict which I proposed on 15 October, 2023 reminding everyone that Egypt warned Netanyahu since 2006 about Hamas whom he kept funding till August 2023.

The discussion moved to Iran and Brian explained Iran's nuclear ambitions and Mohamed discussed the Saudi-Pakistan joint defense agreement with Pakistan being a nuclear power.

Smirnoff was cynical of the fear the US and Israel has of Iran having a nuclear weapon. He explained that an Iranian nuclear weapon would be for Iran not to be bombed as a deterrent because if Iran used a nuclear weapon, it would be wiped off the face of the Earth.

Chantal and Ann went into detail about nuclear weapons. They explained that out of 200 countries, nine possess nuclear weapons and they are Russia, USA, China, France, UK, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. They added that Russia had the most war heads (4,299) and North Korea the least (50).

Mohamed Soliman interrupted saying the total is 12,000 plus nuclear warheads if you add that to the worrisome developments in biotechnology, the life span on earth of human beings at best is 50 years. Ann responded, Mohamed you are an optimist.

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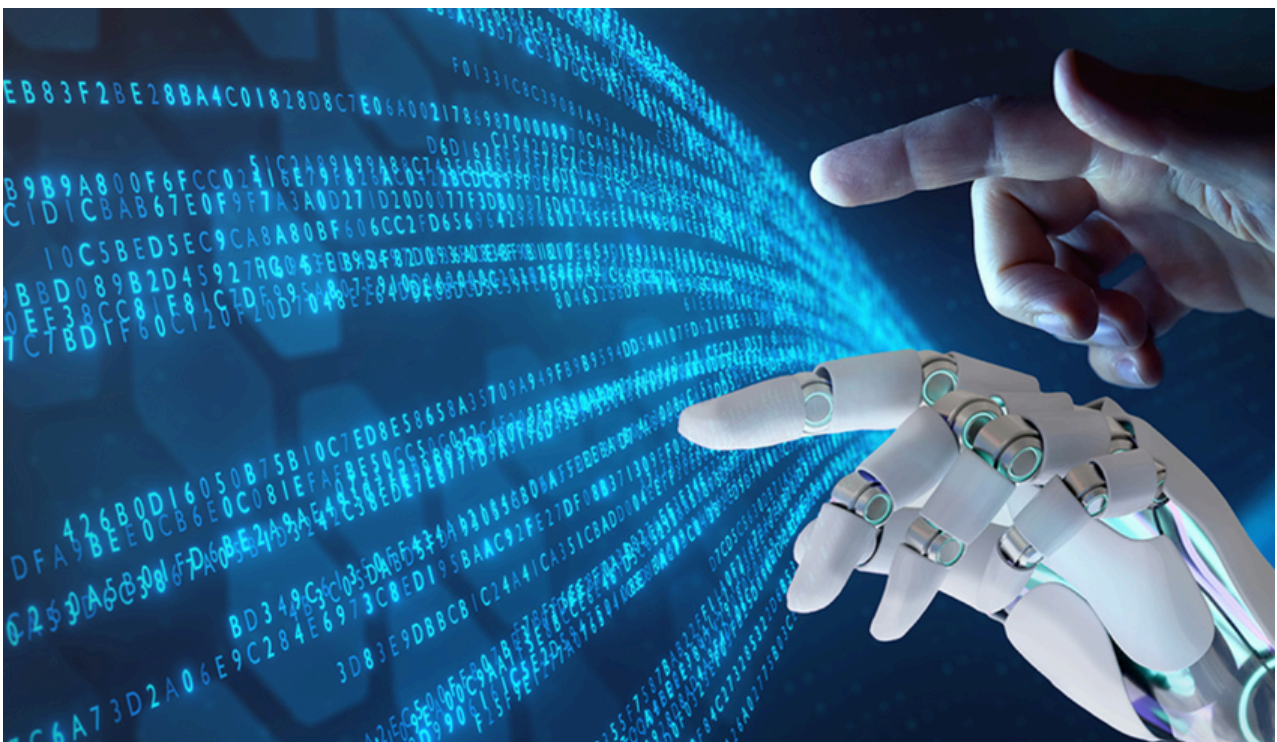
Ralf looked at me and said what do you think? I responded that I know Ann Kennedy by reputation and she is a humanist however there is no political leadership with a humanist agenda, rather it is how to hold on to power agenda.

Jeff interrupted, Shafik has a point. I continued that even though Mohamed's predictability is a serious one, there is an alternative scenario. There is no question that power and ultimate power is aspired to by the super countries but I foresee nuclear weapons going into total hibernation as AI rises.

I reminded all of what recently happened in Spain and Portugal. Remember, I said for 36 hours Spain lost electricity, water, internet, total blackout of communication, no cell, no ATC, no fuel, no trains, no nothing. It was total paralysis. If continued its bend the knee time for whomever is under and victory time for whomever controls the AI tools.

Faces went grim except Jeff who was smiling. Ralf got up in a dramatic motion and said dinner is served before the lights go out. We got up and moved to the dining room and Ralf whispered to me "good that Nukes are away but not so good for the prospect of paralysis."

As I took my seat at the dinner table, I was thinking that is why trillions of dollars are being sunk to gain the upper AI/cyber hand rather than deal with the state of humanity. A sad but factual reality.



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# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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M. Shafik Gabr is a renowned leader in international business, innovation, and investment, and is one of the world's premier collectors of Orientalist art, and an accomplished philanthropist.

During his career, Gabr established over 25 companies, plus three investment holding companies, including ARTOC Group for Investment and Development, which is a multidisciplinary investment holding company with businesses in infrastructure, automotive, engineering, construction, and real estate. Over the past three years, he has focused on investment in technology and artificial intelligence.

Gabr is the Chairman and founding member of Egypt's International Economic Forum (EIEF), a member of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum, a Board Member of Stanhope Capital, International Chairman of the Sadat Congressional Gold Medal Committee, and a Member of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum.

Gabr is on the Advisory Board of the Centre for Financial Stability, the Advisory Board of The Middle East Institute, and the Global Advisory Council of the Mayo Clinic. He is also a former Member of the Metropolitan Museum's International Council and a former member of the Business Council of the World Economic Forum.

In his capacity as Chairman of EIEF, Gabr has hosted global leaders from the worlds of politics, economics, business, media, technology, and culture. These include President Vaclav Klaus, President Atifete Jahjaga, President Boris Tadić, President Zlatko Lagumdžija, Prime Minister Tony Blair; Secretaries James Mattis, John Kelly, and Rex Tillerson; H.E. Amr Moussa, members of Congress, business leaders in technology, academics, and media figures from CNN, Fox, and CNBC. Gabr has also hosted six CNBC programs on 'World Business' and 'Peer to Peer.'

Moreover, as Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Gabr regularly hosts his interactive 'Expecting the Unexpected' working dinners in Cairo, Davos, London, Munich, and Washington, DC. The dinners are off the record and engage leaders across the board in timely predictions of geopolitical and geoeconomic issues. The most recent dinners were held in Davos on January 16th, 2025, during the World Economic Forum, and on February 16th, 2025, at the Munich Security Conference. The guests included former Presidents, Ministers, Ambassadors, members of Congress, international organization chairs, heads of think tanks, business leaders, and distinguished scholars from Europe, the Middle East, the United States, and Asia.

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Gabr has previously served as the Chairman of the COMESA (Common Market for East and South Africa) Business Council and a member of the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce (Paris). He also served on the advisory boards of Zurich Financial Services and The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Furthermore, Gabr was a founder of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt in 1982, serving as its first Egyptian President from 1995 until 1997, and was a Founding Member of the Wilson Global Advisory Council.

Gabr has been recognized among the “Most Influential Arabs” and “Top 50 Business Leaders in the Arab World.” In 2009, Mr. Gabr was presented with the Foreign Policy Association’s (FPA) award for Corporate Responsibility. In June 2014, Mr. Gabr was awarded the Meridian Global Citizen Award, and in November 2014, the Middle East Institute’s Visionary Award. In March 2015, Gabr received the American University in Cairo’s Global Impact Award in New York. In May 2016, Gabr was awarded the College of Mount Saint Vincent’s Saint Vincent de Paul Award and Drew University’s Peacebuilder Award. In September 2017, Gabr received the Policy Direction and Leadership Award from the London Centre for Policy Research. Most recently, in November 2024, Gabr was awarded the highest honor conferred upon foreign nationals by the President of Italy: the ‘Grande Ufficiale’ (Grand Officer) of the ‘Ordine della Stella d’Italia’ (Order of the Star of Italy) for his extraordinary achievements and merit.

Since 2016, Gabr has focused his attention on innovation and investment in technology, as well as his Foundations. Gabr has invested in a wide spectrum of technology companies, ranging from startups to fully mature companies, and across a wide variety of sectors. Gabr’s focus is multidimensional in a world of technology, which is reflected in his personal approach to the sector through its multifaceted applications, including AI, machine learning, data mining, mobility, and business.

M. Shafik Gabr’s contributions and insights have been the subject of numerous articles, including some published in Egypt Independent. Additionally, his perspectives on international business, investment trends, and cultural diplomacy have been featured in interviews with global media outlets such as Bloomberg, CNBC, BBC, Al-Horra and many more. Through these platforms, Gabr has highlighted his extensive work on cross-cultural dialogue and offered perspective on world markets and geopolitics.

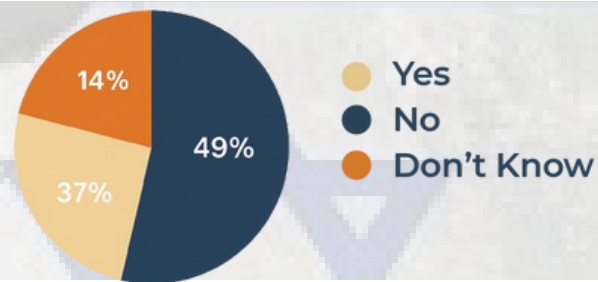
Through The Mohamed Shafik Gabr Foundation for Social Development, Gabr is helping to improve elementary-school education in Egypt, introducing students to arts and culture, and promoting sports and physical fitness for youth. In the area of higher education, Gabr is a major supporter of the American University in Cairo. The Foundation also developed a free medical-care system by providing “Medical Caravans” for residents of underprivileged areas of Greater Cairo. The Foundation established its first Medical and Social Development Centre in Mokattam, Cairo, offering free medical and health services. In 2012, Gabr established the Shafik Gabr Foundation in the U.S., which supports educational and medical initiatives and, in November 2012, launched the ‘East-West: The Art of Dialogue’ initiative (see [www.eastwestdialogue.org](http://www.eastwestdialogue.org)), promoting exchanges between young emerging leaders from the U.S. and Egypt with the purpose of cultural dialogue and bridge-building. At present, the Foundation’s Fellowship program has over 140 Fellows.

Gabr is recognized as one of the world’s largest collectors of Orientalist art, amassing a unique and extensive collection that captures the beauty, culture, and history of the Middle East and North Africa. His collection showcases masterpieces from the 19th and early 20th centuries, reflecting the works of prominent Orientalist painters who were captivated by the region’s vibrant landscapes, traditions, and people. Through his dedication and passion for preserving and sharing these historical artworks, Gabr has significantly contributed to fostering cultural appreciation and understanding of the Orientalist movement on a global scale.

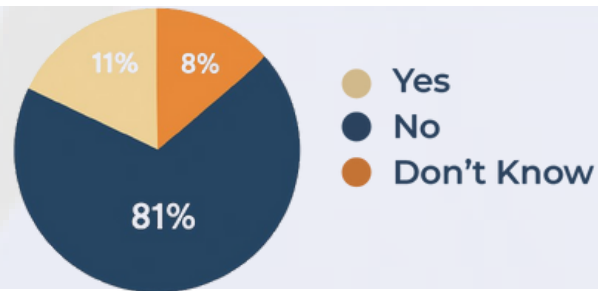
Gabr holds a BA in Economics and Management from the American University in Cairo and an MA in Economics from the University of London.

# MONTHLY WORLD PREDICTIONS

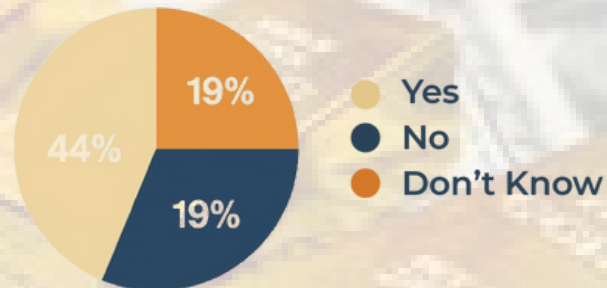
Will the ceasefire between the Israelis and the Palestinians hold until the end of 2025?



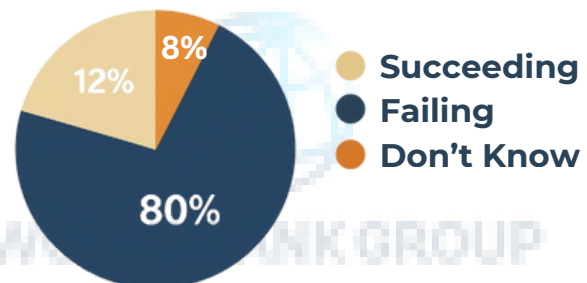
Will President Trump end the war between Ukraine and Russia before the end of 2025?



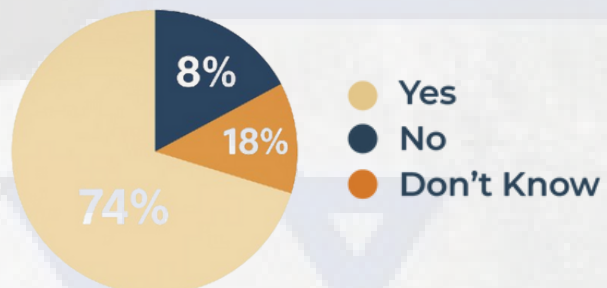
Do you foresee the price of gold breaking the USD 5,000 barrier by the end of 2025?



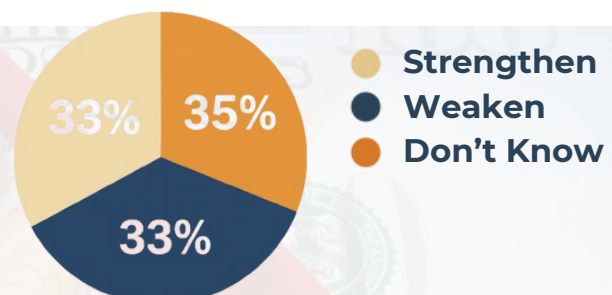
Are global institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank succeeding or failing in bringing more peace and prosperity to the world?



Is what Israel has done in Gaza and is doing in the West Bank making it a pariah state?



Do you expect the U.S. Dollar to strengthen or weaken against the Egyptian Pound by the end of the year?





# FELLOWS' UPDATES

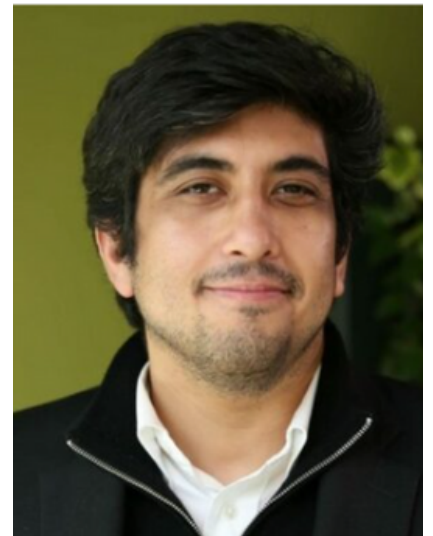


## **Abdullah Hussein, 2025 Fellow**

Abdullah Hussein, 2025 Gabr Fellow, launched a youth-driven initiative promoting entrepreneurship and regional cooperation across the Middle East, empowering young leaders to create sustainable economic impact.

## **Alen Amini, 2022 Fellow**

Alen Amini, 2022 Gabr Fellow, was selected as a Presidential Leadership Scholar for 2025, joining a cohort of distinguished changemakers recognized for advancing civic engagement and innovative governance models.



## **Erika Witt, 2014 Fellow**

Erika Witt, 2014 Gabr Fellow, continues her work as Director and Chief Curator of The Art and Race Gallery, where she curated an exhibition highlighting African and diaspora artists and their impact on global contemporary art.





# FELLOWS' UPDATES



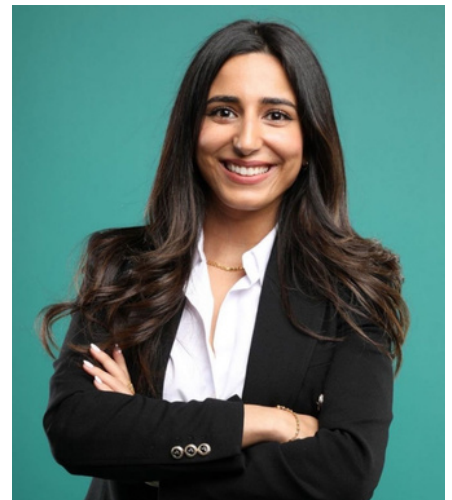
## **Hunter King, 2017 Fellow**

Hunter King, 2017 Gabr Fellow, and his family celebrated the arrival of their second child, Beckham Arendao King.

## **Jude Husein, 2025 Fellow**

Jude Husein, 2025 Gabr Fellow, was named to the Arab America 30 Under 30 on October 25 and was recently featured in an interview with WHYY, highlighting her leadership and community impact.

**[Click here to watch interview](#)**



## **Kellie Quinn, 2022 Fellow**

Kellie Quinn, 2022 Gabr Fellow, completed advanced professional certification in strategic communications and joined a global media firm, where she develops cross-cultural campaigns focused on social impact storytelling.



# FELLOWS' UPDATES



## **King Adjei-Frimpong, 2025 Fellow**

King Adjei-Frimpong, 2025 Gabr Fellow, was honored by UCLA for his leadership in civic engagement and public service, recognizing his work empowering young African leaders through policy innovation and dialogue.

## **Lydia Kamiel, 2025 Fellow**

Lydia Kamiel, 2025 Gabr Fellow, served as a facilitator at an international sustainability forum, leading discussions on innovation, technology, and inclusive economic growth across emerging markets.



## **Maries Meshrequey, 2025 Fellow**

Maries Meshrequey, 2025 Gabr Fellow, participated as a facilitator at a global leadership summit, contributing to the design and delivery of sessions promoting intercultural dialogue and youth diplomacy.

# ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP



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

Launched in 2012, the Gabr Fellowship program helps connect and build constructive relationships between future leaders aged 24 and 35. Each year, the Fellowship consists of 16-24 Fellows, half of whom 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 facilitating 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 intercultural 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.



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

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 region's most pressing issues.



**Gabr Fellows at 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 recognized 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 program 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/>**

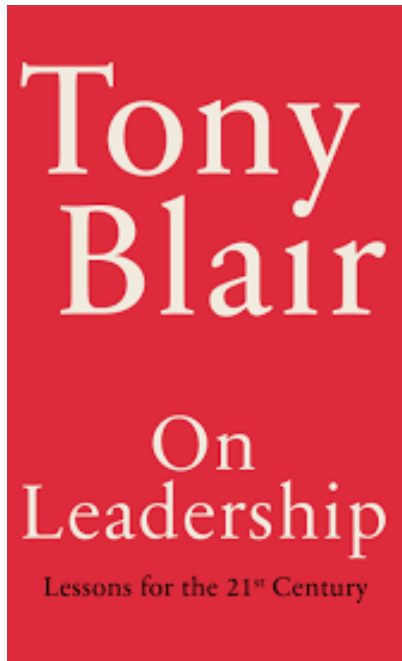
**We also invite our community to contribute thoughts, stories, and recommendations for the newsletter!**  
**Please write to [chairman@shafikgabrfoundation.org](mailto:chairman@shafikgabrfoundation.org)**





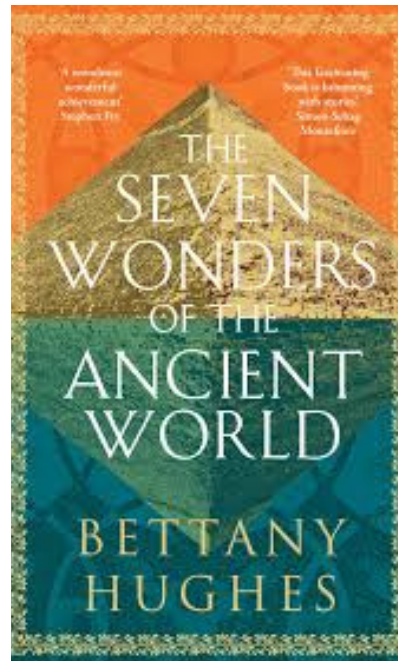
# CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

## BOOKS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



### On Leadership

**Tony Blair's views on leadership**, recently detailed in his 2024 book *On Leadership: Lessons for the 21st Century*, emphasize a blend of clear strategic direction, effective implementation, and adaptability in the face of modern challenges like technology and global change.



### The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

**Bettany Hughes** published her book, *The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*, in 2024. In it, the historian explores the history, construction, and legacy of the iconic ancient structures, including the six that have been lost to time.

## MOVIES & DOCUMENTARIES



### Eden (2024)

This film is based on the true events surrounding several European settlers who arrived on the isolated Floreana Island in the Galápagos Islands in the 1930s to start a new life. The story documents how their utopian dreams dissolve into chaos as tensions rise between the various parties.



### The Wrong Man (1956)

This is an American docudrama film noir directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Henry Fonda and Vera Miles. It is unique among Hitchcock's films for being a near-documentary-style presentation that strictly adheres to a real-life case of mistaken identity.

# October 2025

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR OCTOBER FELLOWS!



**Hadeel Hassan**  
2016 Gabr Fellow  
October 1



**Esraa El Zokem**  
2022 Gabr Fellow  
October 1



**Michael Matthiesen**  
2017 Gabr Fellow  
October 4



**John Ryan**  
2016 Gabr Fellow  
October 5



**Allison Feikes**  
2018 Gabr Fellow  
October 9



**Amr Hesham**  
2022 Gabr Fellow  
October 10



**Ibrahim Hammouda**  
2017 Gabr Fellow  
October 14



**Hayley Rose**  
2018 Gabr Fellow  
October 15



**Magda Kura**  
2015 Gabr Fellow  
October 24



**Thomas Hanna**  
2016 Gabr Fellow  
October 25



**Stephanie Cate**  
2014 Gabr Fellow  
October 29



**Leah Moschella**  
2015 Gabr Fellow  
October 31





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/>



*Henri-Guillaume Schlesinger, Egyptian Girl*  
*Oil on canvas*

**THE SHAFIK GABR COLLECTION**

Connect with us



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