

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

April 19, 2024

100 Years



1924

WELCOME

On behalf of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut, I am proud to welcome you to the **Centennial Celebration: an evening 100 years in the making.**

The World Affairs Council of Connecticut was founded when a small group of people came together in 1924. They saw a nation leaning into isolationism. They pushed back against that trend by educating themselves and others about the world and their place in it.

For the past century, the Council has remained at the forefront of history. It has hosted some of the world's most prominent figures including Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Ambassadors from more than 100 nations. That same founding desire - to build global connections and understanding - still drives the Council today.

In 2024, the strength of the Council is a reflection of the contributions of thousands of members, supporters, community partners, and leaders - all of whom cared to learn about the world, their place in it, and the ways in which they can make it a more informed, empathetic, and peaceful place.

Thank you for your contribution to this legacy.

At the Council, we believe that knowledge is power and that the future is global. A century of experience has proven that together we are prepared to meet it.


Sincerely,



Megan Clark Torrey
CEO, World Affairs Council of Connecticut

NEW CENTURY. SAME MISSION.

Since 1924, the Council has been bringing the world to Connecticut. Today, we are more committed than ever to building a community empowered by global engagement, informed discourse, and access to powerful global leaders. I want to welcome you to the Centennial Celebration and invite you to join us as a partner in our mission.

A black and white photograph of General David H. Petraeus in military uniform, speaking at a podium. He is gesturing with his right hand. The background is a plain wall. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“To have survived, to have prospered, to have done such important work for a century is really an extraordinary milestone.”

2009

*General David H. Petraeus
addresses the World Affairs
Council of Connecticut*

SUPPORTERS

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

GREGORY BOYKO

THOMAS LIPS

CENTENNIAL LEADERSHIP

StanleyBlack&Decker

AMBASSADOR

SUSAN & PETER G. KELLY

CHARLES P. REAGAN

SE-MIN SOHN

EMISSARY



JEANNE & JAY BENET
*In Honor of
Marjorie Anderson and Alice Young*

ALEX & JANE CORL

SUPPORTERS

ATTACHÉ



BARNES

UConn

GLOBAL

MARK & LINDA CAPLAN

P.J. CIMINI

DONNA COLLINS

ARTHUR & RITA HOUSE

JEFFREY & NANCY HOFFMAN

DIPLOMAT



**TARIQ & ASMA FARID
FOUNDATION**

**McCarter
English &**



**THE ROBERT & MARGARET
PATRICELLI
FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC.**

Trinity College

**JAMES & JACKIE
CONNOR**

GLENN CREAMER
*Chairman, World Affairs
Councils of America*

ENVOY

BFS BRADLEY
FOSTER &
SARGENT



DAVIS INTELLIGENCE
DAVISINTELLIGENCE.COM
POWER. STRATEGIES. THAT GET RESULTS!

EVERSOURCE

Mohegan Sun
a world at play

**MURTHA
CULLINA**

REID & RIEGE
ATTORNEYS

Robinson+Cole



Trinity Health
Of New England

V.F. McNeil
INSURANCE
Since 1886

EDWARD & LOIS F. LEWIS

KATHLEEN MURRAY

WALTER MURPHY

GENE ROSTOV & HEATHER KNAPP

In Honor of Pauline Tyler and Alice Young

SUPPORTERS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



PATRICIA MCLAUGHLIN

IMPACT

JOHN MEYERS / MEYERS GLOBAL & ASSOCIATES

JANE & PATRICK SHEEHAN

CLIVE THOMAS

PATRON

**Suzan Bibisi
Clive Cunliffe
Robby Cvejanovich
Do Dang
Beatriz Gutierrez
Chris Healy
Shariq Iqbal
Alan Krezcko
Meghann LaFountain
Rebecca Latimer**

**Maudie Long
Bonnie Malley
Gabby Nelson
Jon Pensa
Dr. Shyamala Raman
Maggie Salem
John Schuyler
Alan Spier
Rosalind Spier
Adam Wood**


PHOTOGRAPHY BY



NICK CAITO PHOTO

**SPENCER A. SLOAN
PHOTOGRAPHER**





**"Have empathy,
understand the
other side, and
let's make the world
a better place."**

2015

*Abhishek Malani, Model UN
Student President addressing
1,000 student delegates*

PROGRAM

5:30PM

International Cocktail Hour

Featuring performances by:

Friendz World Music,

Winner of Season 1 of *Hartford's Got Talent*

QALA Creations Bollywood Dance Company

7:00PM

Main Event

Recognizing all past and present Presidents and Chairs of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut

Honoring

Chairman Peter G. Kelly

Chair Emeritus Paul W. Bucha, Medal of Honor Recipient

Model United Nations: Our History

Featuring CTWAC Model UN Alumni:

Phil Cocchiola, 1955

Allen Haugh, 2016

Ma Sei Pan, 2018

Keynote

William J. Burns

Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

Moderated by

Norah O'Donnell,

Anchor and Managing Editor of CBS Evening News

8:30PM

Champagne Toast

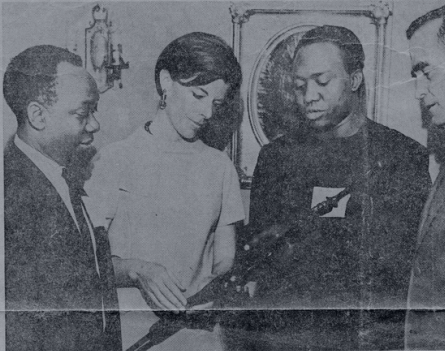
Dessert, cordials, and a toast to the next 100 years

HERE FOR YOU. THANKS TO YOU.

Tonight is an evening to celebrate those in attendance and also the hundreds of thousands of members, attendees, volunteers, students, supporters, teachers, leaders, and speakers who have been a part of the Council's history these past 100 years. **Thank you for making the Council the vibrant place it is today.**

PHOTO

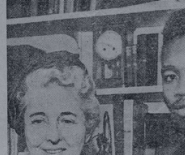
ambassador and Mrs. John... of the United Repab... Tanzania, were guests of... at a reception given by... World Affairs Center (form... Foreign Policy Association... (center Hartford) on April... the home of Mr. and Mrs... Smith of Mountain... Rd., Farmington.



CARVINGS ON THE CANE: Ambassador Molecia of Tanzania, second from right, explains the meaning of the carved symbols on his cane to his fascinated observers: from left, I. H. Milgrom, Mrs. Burgess Smith (Courant Photos by Maurice Murray).



IN THE SMITH LIBRARY: From left, William S. Zeman of West Hartford, Philip Martin of Tanzania, and Mrs. Albert Zeman of Glastonbury, Mr. Martin, now living in Hartford, is in the USAID administrators training program at the University of Connecticut (Courant Photo-Maurice Murray).



Peace on earth: Bill Richardson (left), United States Ambassador to the United Nations and member of the National Security Council, spoke at a recent World Affairs Council event in Hartford. Also pictured is Kathy Murray, president of the World Affairs Council. At the event, Richardson noted that more

Over the last century, the Council has brought more than **120,000 distinguished leaders** to address our community including Presidents, Prime Ministers and Ambassadors from of more than 100 nations.

Hartford Courant

302 HARTFORD, CONN. THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 28, 1976—100 PAGES

ty Executives Hear Kissinger

by JOEL LANG
Secretary of State Henry Kissinger visited Hartford yesterday afternoon and naturally enough, chairs of great import, just diplomacy, southern racial tensions, hegemony in Eastern and more.
his entrance into the Hartford Insurance Group union, where he composed of his infrequent conferences, was hardening of Kissinger, who was described as one of the most powerful men in the world.
newsmen in manually accorded only minutes looked to the rear auditorium for his entrance. A hand was seen with the black curtains. After a few seconds, the curtains parted and Kissinger hunched forward his chest in his trousers. The electronic show for their tape recording.
Kissinger walked and chat with national press who follow his Hartford to address the businessmen members of the Executive Forum of the World Affairs Center, Kissinger said he has made no decision on his own future in an improbable event," he telling that Democrat Carter wins Tuesday election.
Kissinger also insisted his appearance in Hartford and his

press conference only five days before the election had nothing to do with domestic politics.
"I suppose it's going to be impossible for me, until Nov. 2, to say anything which isn't going to be charged to presidential politics," said Kissinger. He said it was in July that he accepted the invitation to address the Executive Forum. The invitation was extended personally by Rolf D. Bihov, vice president of the international division of United Technologies Corp. Kissinger also said domestic

See City, Page 14

Kissinger Set For City Speech

October 27 10/6/76
Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will speak in Hartford on Oct. 27, a spokesman for the World Affairs Center, Inc., said today.
Kissinger will speak on the current world political environment at a meeting of the center held at the tower suite of the Hartford Insurance Group.
George Bush, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is to speak at another meeting of the center on Oct. 28.
The World Affairs Center is an organization of local residents interested in foreign affairs.



Kissinger's Three Faces
Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger smiles, talks and sips water Wednesday afternoon at a press conference in Hartford. He was later to address the Executive Forum of the World Affairs Center (Courant Photos by Arman G. Haisian).

ty Executives Hear Kissinger

from Page 1
layed on the proposed

ment of fact that could be corrected. Mr. Carter made a policy statement that for the rights of people in South Korea, he said

its investigation that congress pay off from Reagan govern the truth of it

Air Officer To Speak on Advanced SST
10/1%
1/2%
Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle will speak on...
The luncheon speaker is sponsored by the officers and directors of the World Affairs Center, 1380 Asylum Ave.
For information call the center at 236-5277.

The Foreign Policy Association of Hartford

—presents—
1955
HARRISON SALISBURY
Who just returned from 5 years as the New York Times Correspondent in Russia
Whose trip to Soviet Asia was the "most extensive ever made in modern times by any foreigner to this area."
Report From



RUSSIA

FEBRUARY 3, 1955 — 8:00 P. M.
Phoenix Insurance Company Auditorium
1105 Asylum Avenue, Hartford
General Admission 60c Members Free Student Admission 30c

- other activities in foreign affairs
- Feb. 9th, "India and Pakistan in the World Today," Phillips Talbot, sponsored by the Alumni Association of Hartford College.
 - Feb. 11th, Series on "Understanding Latin America," Service Bureau for Women's Organizations
 - Feb. 15th, "Charting a Course for U.S. Tariff Policy"—Wesley S. Brann, sponsored by the League of Women Voters

SPEAKERS



WILLIAM J. BURNS

Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

Bill Burns was sworn in as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in March 2021, making him the first career diplomat to serve as Director. He was promoted to Cabinet rank by President Biden in June 2023.

Director Burns has served six Presidents and Administrations of both parties during nearly four decades of public service.

He is only the second serving career diplomat in history to become Deputy Secretary of State, and served as U.S. Ambassador to Russia and Jordan.

Following his retirement from the Foreign Service in late 2014, Director Burns served as President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He is the author of the best-selling book, *The Back Channel: A Memoir of American Diplomacy and the Case for Its Renewal* (2019).



NORAH O'DONNELL

Anchor & Managing Editor, CBS Evening News

Norah O'Donnell is the anchor and managing editor of the "CBS Evening News." She also anchors all of CBS News Election Specials and is a "60 Minutes" contributing correspondent.

O'Donnell is a multiple Emmy Award-winning journalist with nearly three decades of experience covering the biggest stories in the world and conducting impactful, news making interviews. She is covering her seventh presidential election and has interviewed every living president of the United States.

Recently, O'Donnell has taken the "CBS Evening News" broadcast across the world to provide viewers with a first-hand look at some of the most important stories of our time. Currently, O'Donnell is the only woman to anchor an evening news program on broadcast television. During her distinguished career, she has covered the White House, Congress, and the Pentagon.

O'Donnell is currently writing a book on a female-focused retelling of American history that will feature women who have been forgotten from our country's narrative. The book will be published by Ballantine in the first half of 2026.

HONORING

The World Affairs Council of Connecticut is proud to honor all those who have served as Chair and President of the Council. Through the past century, the dedication of the Council's leaders has created an organization that continues to build in strength and vitality.

Thank you to all of the Council's leaders - past and present - who embody the Council's mission to foster a globally informed and engaged community. The commitment of these individuals has created an enduring impact on the Council and the world in which we live.

CHAIRMEN

PETER G. KELLY

PAUL W. BUCHA

Medal of Honor Recipient

PAST PRESIDENTS

2022-	Arthur House	1973-75	G. William Seawright
2020-22	Dan Weiner	1968-73	Arnold O. Freas, Jr.
2016-20	Se-Min Sohn	1966-68	Archibald M. Woodruff
2012-16	Jay Bruns	1965-66	Herbert J. Kramer
2012-13	Gregory Boyko	1963-65	John R. Kenney
2011-12	F. Scott Wilson	1961-63	William Zeman
2008-11	Laurie Aylsworth	1959-61	Richard Morgan IV
2006-08	Larry Brown	1957-59	Joseph R. McCormick
2004-06	Leslie Robertson	1956-57	W. Ainsworth Greene
2002-04	Alexander M. Corl	1954-56	Ward E. Duffy
1999-02	Bruce Vakiener	1953-54	Lawrence Barber, Jr.
1998-99	James Scott	1948-53	John C. Parsons
1996-98	Kathleen Murray	1947-48	Lucius F. Robinson, Jr.
1995-96	Gerry Briels	1944-47	William J. Foote
1992-95	Jay Benet	1943-44	Robbins W. Barstow
1991-92	Rolf Bilbow	1939-43	Walter K. Schwinn
1989-91	Seth Warner	1938-29	Sherman Custer
1984-89	Ken W. Butterworth	1936-38	Harold Chapman Bailey
1976-84	Oliver F. Johnson	1934-36	Berkley Cox
1975-76	Victor C. Terek	1924-34	Henry A. Perkins

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Remarkably, in one hundred years of history the World Affairs Council of Connecticut has been helmed entirely by women. The women who have served as Executive Director (and today, CEO) have been sought-after speakers on international relations, advocates for social and political issues, political candidates, and more. Some names have unfortunately been obscured by history and the Council continues to research their identities. The female leadership of the Council is an incredible characteristic the organization's legacy. Below are a few highlights of the women who have shaped the past century of the Council.

Susanna Floyd Hepburn

Eleanor Brewster

Jane Hamersley Wright
Founded the Model UN

Ruth E. "Bette" Knapp

Betsy Hart

Marjorie Anderson

Felicity Harley

Megan Clark Torrey
Current Chief Executive Officer

HIGHLIGHTING



Bette Knapp, Executive Director, 1950s - '60s
A remarkable leader in multiple arenas, Knapp served as Executive Director in the 1950s and early '60s. She used a wheelchair and traveled the world to speak on global issues and disability rights. She was instrumental in the development of handicapped accessible parking spaces, bathrooms, and entrances. Knapp also hosted her own radio show on international affairs where she interviewed world leaders.



Marjorie Anderson
Executive Director, 1974-2004

Anderson immigrated to the U.S. during WWII as an evacuee. She ran for Congress in 1980 and grew Council programs tremendously



Felicity Harley
Executive Director, 2004-2013

Harley helmed the Council for nearly a decade and is also a climate advocate, award-winning author and playwright



Megan Torrey
CEO, 2013-present

Torrey inaugurated the Global Security Forum, and is also the first-ever Connecticut Community Amb. to the U.S. Navy



The World Affairs Council of Connecticut
presents the
Peter G. Kelly
Global Scholar Award
to
Liliana Garcia
In recognition of her commitment to understanding the
world around her and her expertise of world affairs.

I Am Malala
MALALA YOUSAFZAI
WITH HIRSHI KHAN
Illustrated by
SARAH CANTRELL

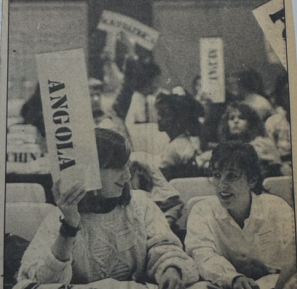
2016

*Liliana Garcia receiving the
Peter G. Kelly Scholar Award*



2020

Paul "Buddy" W. Bucha, Medal of Honor Recipient, being honored at the annual Luminary Award



Students Tackle World Crises at Model UN



Hugh Donagher, Joe Anderson and Todd Schroeder participated in the Model United Nations program sponsored by Hartford's World Affairs Center.

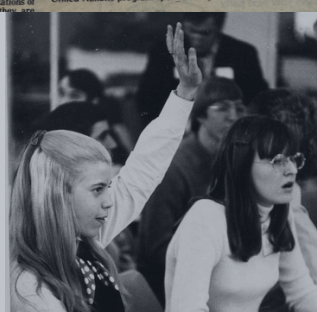
Richard Messina's special to the Court... left, and Shiloh Levine, both students at Canton High School, during a meeting on human rights at the Kover Community Center at the University of Connecticut.



160 Students Tackle World Crises at U.N.

Assembly Meets in Korea

A United States delegation of 160 students and faculty members met in a heavy agenda Tuesday afternoon in Seoul, Korea and divided their time between the problems. All students and faculty were sent back to their respective countries.



Students in my generation are the most passionate people I have ever met. If we all open our eyes to become aware of the world around us, we will make a tremendous impact on our world. **Anmol Chowdhary '20**

Model UN gives me the ability to step into the shoes of a global leader and solve international issues through collaboration and compromise, while preparing me to be a compassionate and conscientious global citizen. **Ritika Aggarwal '23**



BETH McDONALD, Avon High School, representing Argentina: The Falklands are still the big issue. The loss of military influence...



MODEL DIPLOMATIC DOINGS — Students taking part in 27th annual Model United Nations discuss proposed resolution prior to putting it to a vote. Student diplomats are, from left, Gracy Eakin, and Jonathan Betty, West Hartford, who were appointed as the Saturday at American School for the Deaf in West Hartford. More than 125 high school seniors from Greater Hartford area took...

Model UN is not only important, it makes me feel more powerful. **Shanae Porter, '18**

sponsors the Model U.N., said pleased with the level of debate.

Model UN delegates mull Mideast



Model U.N. Convenes

Delegates to the World Affairs Center Model United Nations Saturday in the University of Connecticut Law School auditorium vote on a resolution establishing a 200-mile limit for territorial waters. At right, Mrs. Kezia Kinyanjui, third secretary of Kenya's U.N. mission, gives a critique of the students' performance.

The exercise was valuable to the student delegates, she said, because it "let them become familiar with the problems of the world and, possibly gave them a chance to question the policies of their own country". Grant Photo by Anthony Baciewicz.

Debate Crackles in Mock U.N. Assembly

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

FEATURING



Phil Cocchiola
Model UN 1955

Pictured here in 1955 at Model UN attending a meeting with a UN representative



Allen Haugh
Model UN 2016

Pictured here in 2016 addressing 1,000+ Model UN delegates in his role as president



Ma Sei Pan
Model UN 2018

Pictured here in 2018 accepting the Peter G. Kelly Global Scholar award at the Luminary Awards

The World Affairs Council of Connecticut Model United Nations is one of the longest continuously-running Model UN programs in the world. This transformative learning experience has prepared over 50,000 Connecticut high school students to become global leaders.

What began at Hartford High School in 1952 with 130 participants, has since grown into one of the largest student-run conferences in the nation. Today, more than 1,200 student delegates participate, from more than 40 schools across the state.

This unparalleled global learning opportunity brings together students from across Connecticut - from rural, urban, public, parochial, and private high schools - to collaboratively tackle the world's most critical issues. Students have debated topics from nuclear proliferation to water rights and from the creation of a Digital Geneva Convention to mediating conflict in the South China Sea.

Uniquely, the CTWAC Model UN is entirely high school student-run and includes a trip to the United Nations in New York City, where students attend meetings with diplomats from the countries they represent.

At the Model UN, students experience the inner-workings of international policy-making as they tackle global issues and controversies, draft resolutions, navigate crisis scenarios, debate, and ultimately vote representing their nations on global solutions. In the process, students become global thinkers, confident speakers, and peer leaders, ready to enter our global workforce.

In a globalized world, student engagement with critical international issues has never been more important. Their participation in Model UN challenges them to understand a variety of viewpoints and incorporates their own creative and innovative ways of looking at the world. Each of these students has the power to change the world.

"I don't think there's been a time since our nation's founding that the mission of the World Affairs Council has been more important to our nation."

Major General Michael Jones

2018

Major General Garrett S. Yee, U.S. Army and Major General Michael D. Jones, U.S. Army (Ret.) discuss the future of cybersecurity

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

In 1924, a group of Hartford educators and business leaders started a forum for the discussion of international issues. By 1926, this Hartford forum was formally recognized as a chapter of the National Foreign Policy association based in New York City. Professor Henry A. Perkins of Trinity College formally became the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) of Hartford's first president in 1930. During this period, the Foreign Policy Association focused its attention primarily on Europe and Japan. In one event, on November 25th, 1932 Professor Perkins presided over a session entitled "Japan and the League" at the Town and County Club on Woodland Street. (How the times have changed! Admission was \$1.50 for members and \$2 for nonmembers, and even included a lunch for attendees.) A 1934 program entitled "Who are the Japanese? What are they doing?" featured speaker Upton Oose, who stated that a war between the U.S. and Japan was inevitable. The Foreign Policy Association of Hartford continued to host these meetings at the Town and Country Club on Woodland until 1937.

The 1940s brought one of the Foreign Policy Association's major milestones, with the 25th Anniversary Celebration taking place in 1944 at the Bond Hotel in downtown Hartford. Dr. Robbins Barstow, President, established a mission statement for the organization that is still relevant today: Create a well-informed public regarding international affairs, and seek wisdom and clear vision through unbiased objective analysis and give constructive interpretation of history in its making.

The Association received its first grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in 1945, and in 1946 President William J. Foote started a membership drive aimed at educating the Hartford community on "the second year of the Atomic Age." As one could imagine, the immediate post-war years were very active ones for the Foreign Policy Association, with a host of journalists, politicians, and professors addressing audiences at West Middle School in Hartford. The talks were almost entirely on the state of post-War Europe and Russia, and there were numerous discussions of what nuclear weapons would mean for world peace. 1948 saw the appointment of the Association's first Executive Director, Mrs. Robert Hepburn (Susanna Floyd Hepburn), and its first office at the Parish House of Center Church on Gold Street in downtown Hartford. At the end of that same year, the Association's Treasurer's report stated a cash balance of \$53.05, from a membership of 343 adults and 160 students.

Seven hundred people attended the event "Europe Today" in 1951, a talk given by U.S. representative Abraham Ribicoff for the Association. The program was co-sponsored with the Hartford Teachers League, a reflection of the abundance of Hartford schoolteachers active in the Foreign Policy Association at the time. The next year, 1952, saw the first Model United Nations for Connecticut high schools—conducted by teacher and Association Member Lillian Mansfield. The Model UN took place at

Hartford Public High School with 130 students participating. Also beginning that year was the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions series of discussions on international relations. The 1957 Great Decisions theme was "Can the U.S. Maintain World Leadership?" and topics ranged from U.S. military strategy in the Nuclear Age and with regard to colonialism, how the U.S. should compete with Russia, and whether the U.S. should deal with China, among other major controversial questions present in the U.S. consciousness during the Cold War.

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, the Foreign Policy Association was a highly respected and rather fashionable organization to be a member of and many Association members featured prominently on the 'society pages' of both *The Hartford Times* and *The Hartford Courant*. Businesspeople, schoolteachers, university professors, and other pillars of the Hartford community were active participants in the organization. By 1963, the Foreign Policy Association underwent a change, spearheaded by then President Walter Schwinn, and began working more closely with major local companies such as The Hartford and the United Aircraft Corporation. Carol Davidson arranged the new program, the Executive Forum, which worked to organize discussions between top decision-makers from government and business and these major Connecticut companies.

At the 1967 Annual Meeting, the organization changed its name to World Affairs Center because the programs encompassed more than just foreign policy, and the organization was no longer linked to its former parent in New York. The Center, which was previously housed in an office building on Asylum Hill, moved to 1380 Asylum Avenue near Elizabeth Park. At the time, many thought the entire stately mansion belonged to the Center but the building was owned and primarily occupied by the University of Connecticut—the Center's office was tucked away in the attic! This period during the late 1960s and early 1970s saw the reinvigoration of the World Affairs Center under the presidency of Arnold O. Freas and the Center continued to expand. President Dr. Archibald Woodruff (1966-68) led the Center as the organization continued to arrange the Executive Forum, the Model United Nations, Great Decisions, and other programs including adult study groups. The programs, discussions, and events hosted by the World Affairs Center in the following years continued to be highly reflective of the spirit of the times. The theme of the 1969 Executive Forum was "The Future of the Human Spirit in the Urban Environment", and the Center's Fall lecture series focused on revolutionary unrest and civil violence—including discussion of current events in the United States.

In the mid-1970s, under the presidencies of Bill Seawright, Victor Terek and Oliver Johnson, the Center's activities increased drastically. In 1976, the Center hosted both the then-CIA Director George H.W. Bush and then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the Tower at The Hartford. 1977 was also a particularly significant year, and saw the introduction of the International Visitor Program by board member Pauline Tyler. This featured programming at the Center for visiting VIPs, government officials,

journalists, businesspeople, and others from all over the world. The 1980s continued to be a period of immense growth in the Center's membership, funding, and number of programs. Marjorie Anderson, who had worked part-time for the Center in the 1970s, became a full-time Executive Director. In 1983, members John Bonee and Ormsbee Robinson recognized a need for younger members of the Council to network and started the World Forum—a suborganization of the Center for professionals in their 20s and 30s. The Center also moved to new quarters at 770 Asylum Avenue, donated by the ITT Hartford Insurance Group.

The late 1980s and the start of the 1990s saw further growth of the organization under presidents Ken Butterworth, Seth Warner, and Jay Benet. The Center changed its name to the World Affairs Council and moved back to its original home in downtown Hartford at office space on Constitution Plaza, donated by the Travelers Insurance Companies. The change of name from the World Affairs Center to the World Affairs Council meant that the organization was one of the first of what is now 90 World Affairs Councils all across the United States. A record 102 programs were held in 1993 and 1994. The 2000s and 2010s saw the introduction of several other major events for the Center. The Luminary Award was a major fundraising event — featuring notable speakers such as Henry Kissinger, Harry J. Gray, Alexander Haig, Cokie Roberts, President Mary Robinson of Ireland. The Center began expanding the programming offered, and in 2009 hosted the then-Central Command Leader General David Petraeus. The 2010s also saw the creation of the Global Security Forum by Chief Executive Officer Megan Clark Torrey. The Model United Nations program continued to expand, growing to well over 1000 students participating in the annual two-day conference.

In its early years, the Council's programming reflected the U.S.' concerns with Japan and Europe. During the Cold War, the Council focused on Russia, global security, the United Nations, NATO, and engagement with newly independent post-colonial nations. The expansion of world trade and international business defined programming during the 1970s and 80s. Today, the Council's programming is more diverse than ever—with greater focus on Asia, the Indo-Pacific, Africa and Latin America—and programs focused on topics of politics, business, and communication across cultures. What started in 1924 as a series of discussions among Hartford educators and business leaders has become one of Connecticut's most valuable institutions.

The history of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut, with all of its changes, is reflective of a constantly evolving organization responding to its community's interests and global conditions. Many things have remained a constant throughout the 100 years of Council history - the close relationship between the Council and local colleges and corporations, and the ability to create timely, impactful, and significant programming for the Connecticut community. The World Affairs Council of Connecticut is now a national leader in its field, expanding our reach to global audiences.

COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman

Gregory Boyko, Honorary
Consul General of Japan

Co-Chairman

Charles P. Reagan

Committee Members

Mark Caplan
Donna Collins, Film Producer
Arthur House, UConn

Chair Emeritus Board of Directors

Peter G. Kelly, Esq.,
Updike, Kelly, & Spellacy, LLC

Chief Executive Officer

Megan C. Torrey, Community
Ambassador, U.S. Navy, CT

Committee Members

Alan Krezcko
Pat McLaughlin, Advance CT
Se-Min Sohn

A SPECIAL THANKS TO



For those who
make the world.TM

For those shaping and reshaping our world through hard work and inspiration, Stanley Black & Decker provides the tools and innovative solutions trusted to get the job done – and we have since 1843.



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2024

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100 Years