



December 2023 SDWAC Newsletter

Message from the President Christine Sheckler

Dear San Diego World Affairs Council Members:

As 2023 closes out, all of us at the San Diego World Affairs Council want to thank you for your ongoing support. It was a very good year for SDWAC, and we plan for an even better one in 2024 with your continued participation. We are driven to provide you with important global perspectives and opportunities for action.

We wish each of you, your families, and loved ones near and far, living in peace or conflict, a New Year that brings inner and outer peace to all.

As the SDWAC President (thank you for that honor), I want to give a special acknowledgment and note of deep appreciation to our all-volunteer Board and Volunteers/Interns, without whom we couldn't deliver on our Mission. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEAR OF DEDICATION!**

BOARD: Anchalee Gaffney, Bettina Hausmann, Catherine Greenberg (VP), Chayanika Deka, Dennis-Michael Broussard, Gina Ing, Ibrahim Al-Mirashi, Kiran Shelat, Knox Bell, Manish Parikh (CFO), Maria Sarchi (Sec), Mary Agnes (Pres. N. County Chapter), Mike Williams, and Sabodh Garg.

VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS: Andrew Silva, Andrew White, Daniela Bautista Vanegas (Colombian), Dorothy Wood, Elena Calderon, Ethan Besnard, Jared Hernandez, Kimberly Vincent, Mallory O'Malley, Maria del mar Chacon (Colombian), Saleena Ordorica, Thiago Goncalves (Brazil), Yavuz Basaran (Turkish American), Shivangi Gupta, Denisse Medina, Isabella McMillan, Sofia Pedras, and Christy John.

**Blessed holidays and a safe and Happy New Year
from all of us at the San Diego World Affairs Council!
See you in 2024!**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out a few highlights of our upcoming events. For the full lineup, please visit our website [here](#). Please register (and invite your friends to join us).

11 JANUARY 2024

VENUE - KNOBBE MARTENS AUDITORIUM (Buffet dinner)

» JAN 11, 2024.

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF SOCIAL MOBILIZATION IN CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS: IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL ACTION
6:00PM - 8:00PM.
KNOBBE MARTENS AUDITORIUM.

Preview:
Every molecule of carbon dioxide that we put into the atmosphere does permanent damage to our environment, - making climate change the most important issue of our time. Therefore, it's important that we learn how to spread the word about this issue through social media messaging. Come make a difference at this joint event between the San Diego World Affairs Council and TIE South Coast.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES
"THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF SOCIAL MOBILIZATION IN CONFRONTING THE CLIMATE CRISIS: IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL ACTION"
FEATURING
PROFESSOR ADAM ARON

COMING CLEAN

Logos for San Diego World Affairs Council and TIE South Coast are visible in the top right corner.

Register here: <https://sdwac.org/event-5372141>

22 FEBRUARY 2024
VENUE - INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS (UCSD CAMPUS)



**SAN DIEGO
WORLD
AFFAIRS
COUNCIL**

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024, 6-8 PM

**"2024 ELECTIONS IN MEXICO AND THE U.S.:
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP"**



AMBASSADOR JEFFREY DAVIDOW
FORMER AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO

WITH
RICHARD KIY, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS &
RAFAEL FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO, DIRECTOR OF UCSD'S GPS CENTER FOR U.S. - MEXICAN STUDIES



**INSTITUTE OF
THE AMERICAS**




**CENTER FOR
U.S.-MEXICAN
STUDIES**
UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF GLOBAL POLICY AND STRATEGY

VENUE: INSTITUTE OF THE AMERICAS, UCSD CAMPUS

Register here: <https://www.sdwac.org/event-5470907>

7 MARCH 2024
HALL OF NATIONS (BALBOA PARK)




**SAN DIEGO
WORLD
AFFAIRS
COUNCIL**
GEOPOLITICS MADE CLEAR


DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024, 6-8 PM

MARIE ARANA
PERUVIAN AMERICAN
AUTHOR, EDITOR, JOURNALIST, CRITIC

INAUGURAL LITERARY DIRECTOR OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,
RECIPIENT OF A 2020 LITERARY AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF ARTS & LETTERS

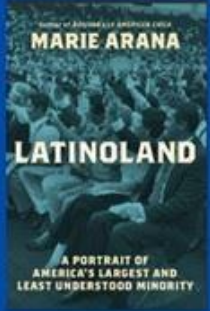


**"LATINLAND: A PORTRAIT OF AMERICA'S
LARGEST AND LEAST UNDERSTOOD
MINORITY"**



VENUE: HALL OF NATIONS, BALBOA PARK
2294 PAN AMERICAN PLAZA
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

6:00PM - 6:30PM NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS
6:30 - 7:30PM PROGRAM
7:30PM - 8:00P Q & A /BOOK SIGNING
FREE FOR MEMBERS | \$10 FOR NONMEMBERS



MARIE ARANA
LATINLAND
A PORTRAIT OF
AMERICA'S LARGEST AND
LEAST UNDERSTOOD MINORITY

Register here: <https://sdwac.org/event-5486483>

15 JUNE 2024

VENUE - DIGITAL GYM CINEMA, UCSD PARK & MARKET (DOWNTOWN)

The poster features the San Diego World Affairs Council logo on the top left. The main title reads "PRIVATE MOVIE SCREENING & DIRECTOR LECTURE SATURDAY JUNE 15, 2024 1-3:30 PM". Below this, the film title "MIDNIGHT TRAVELER: RECOUNTING A PERSONAL REFUGEE EXPERIENCE FROM AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES" is displayed. The event includes the director, Hassan Fazili, and his family. A quote from Vanessa H. Larson of The Washington Post describes the film as capturing harrowing moments and the trauma of waiting. The venue is Digital Gym Cinema at UCSD Park & Market, with a price of free for members and \$10 for nonmembers. The Digital Gym Cinema logo is at the bottom right.

Watch for upcoming Registration link

ACADEMIC WORLD QUEST (AWQ)

Attention: Globally Minded High School Educators and Students

Academic WorldQuest is gearing up its programming to offer area high school students the opportunity to compete and test their knowledge of current international politics, geography, global economics, history, and world cultures. Not only is this a great experience to highlight on college applications, but the winning team will be invited to represent San Diego in the national competition in Washington, DC! Please visit [here](#) to learn more!

Introducing the *SDWAC Resource Board*: Your Gateway to Global Opportunities!

We're thrilled to unveil our latest offering exclusively for SDWAC Council members—the [SDWAC Resource Board](#). This members-only platform is a dynamic database featuring a curated selection of current job opportunities and internship programs, all with a specialized focus on world affairs.

RECENT EVENTS

“The Magical Realism of Colombia: A Balancing Act Between Macro-Economic Stability and Political Violence.” On December 4th, the San Diego World Affairs Council hosted our last Distinguished Speakers Series event of the year featuring Colombian economist and Stanford University Fellow Dr. Javier Mejia on *“The Magical Realism of Colombia: A Balancing Act Between Macro-Economic Stability and Political Violence.”* This standing-room-only event featured Colombian food, a Colombian dance ensemble, and a very lively lecture and Q&A. Many thanks to the Institute of the Americas for their partnership on the event, as well as SDWAC Board member Gina Ing (front center with red shawl) and SDWAC intern Daniela Bautista Vanegas (back row, second from right) for their hard work to realize this fantastic event!

Here is the video link for the *“Colombia, The Country of Beauty”* video (with sound this time), shown during our December program, *“The Magical Realism of Colombia: A Balancing Act Between Macro-Economic Stability and Political Violence.”* You’ll find the video of the diverse Colombian landscapes and the accompanying soundscapes amazing and inspiring. Learn more about the last event below! *[SDWAC plans to host a travel adventure to Colombia in May 2024; please watch for details.]*

YouTube video link: *“Colombia, The Country of Beauty.”*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9Zr31eEaR4>





SDWAC THANKS OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & PARTNERS!



SAN DIEGO WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

2023 Year in Review

The San Diego World Affairs Council is deeply grateful to our members, sponsors, speakers, volunteers, and all who have attended our events this year. We are enriched and fulfilled due to the unwavering support we receive from our generous contributors. In a world experiencing significant conflict, we remain committed to our mission of inspiring and empowering our community (to act) through insightful and educational discussions on global affairs. We wish everyone a joyous holiday season filled with peace, love, and happiness. We look forward to seeing you at our events in the new year & ... we pray for world peace.

HIGHLIGHTS

11

**Distinguished
speaker series events**

18

**Diverse and expert
speakers**

11

**Countries or regions
covered**



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MEMBERS**


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Pamela Palisoul
Zeph & Anna Phillips



**Happy Holidays and
Savor a Wonderful, Safe, & Healthy New Year!**