Last year, at the end of my first year as Executive Director, I told you that it had been a year of reflection for our organization. That we had spent the year questioning our processes and implementing a plan to change membership dues and program scheduling – with the aim of expanding our audience.

This year has given us no opportunity to reflect, and we have been striving to find success in our new plan.

We started this fiscal year with a July, Sunday afternoon speaker event with Amy Chua – the beginning of our move to a year-round monthly speaker series with new weekend options.

In November, we offered a Game Night in downtown Stamford that gave our members the chance to engage and get to know each other in new, fun ways.

In December, we hosted Rana Foroohar for a lunch which brought a record turnout – we had to add another table to the room at the last minute.

We launched a community engagement program which invited local institution leaders into our Program planning and supported them in attending our events, so that we can honestly work to better reflect the concerns of everyone in our community.

Our Program Committee, led by outgoing Board member, George Paik, continued its prescient ability in early 2020 with Hong Kong, Negative Interest Rates, and of course, Covid-19 on the topic agenda.

And then everything changed. And we set out to ask ourselves whether we could maintain the value of our in-person conversations in a new virtual-only world. Our May and June speaker webinars, and the engagement and feedback we have received on them, give us hope that we are on the right path.

I think everyone is aware of the difficult financial environment of far too many nonprofits right now. And we have always been aware that, as an educational nonprofit, we do not fall into the essential “social safety net” category that others do.
But we also know the difficult-to-measure value of bringing a community together for conversations around important global topics. Not only do we provide continuing education for our audience, but we provide a network of concerned and thoughtful people that want to contribute to the conversation and learn from the experiences of others. We are a purposefully nonpartisan space in an increasingly partisan era.

In early March, our efforts to expand our Premier membership were showing substantial results. We grew that membership by over 30% over the prior year. Our average attendance at speaker events was up by 20%. Individual ticket sales to speaker events were on target, bringing in extra revenue and creating greater engagement with non-members.

Our plan is to continue with virtual events as a permanent part of our program offerings. And as soon as our audience feels safe coming back for in-person programs, we will reintroduce those programs. For this, we obviously need your help. We will be reaching out to you for feedback on your engagement. Our programming does not exist without you: our membership and community, and your contribution to the conversation. Our future program plans will reflect the options that you are there to support.

I’d like to thank our loyal and generous members, and ask all of you to either renew your membership or a make a donation to support us in this time of great change. Through the summer, we will continue to provide free access to our monthly virtual programs. To do this, we need those of you who know us best to help us with your financial support.

Wendy Skratt
Executive Director
World Affairs Forum
A Note from the Chair

The momentous recent developments of COVID 19 and Black Lives Matter present our organization with both opportunities and challenges. Our central mission of creating conversations in our community about global affairs and America's role in the world is more important than ever. However, our previous method of delivery, through mostly large in-person gatherings, needs to change. This year, our organization has taken major steps to take advantage of the opportunities and met some of the challenges by implementing new methods of virtual program delivery. There is a lot of work to be done, but we have taken major strides into transforming our organization, so that it remains relevant.

Of vital importance to this organization is its members. Keeping this in mind, past and present staff members, committee chairs and committee members have worked tirelessly to deliver high quality programing to our audience. The organization is not one person's efforts nor could it be as effective without the work of members who volunteer their time. I encourage you to join a committee if you have not already done so to see first-hand how it all comes together. It is also the best way to learn more about other members and find out just how interesting we all are.

We continue to have critical conversations to transform our organization and sustain its core mission. It is an evolutionary reality that an organization adapts to changing environments to thrive. As such, of special importance to our organization is diversity; therefore, I request that each of you reach out to others, who are different from you, and invite them to attend our events and join our organization. Together I am confident that our combined talent, expertise, and passion will support our growth well into the future. It has been an honor to serve on the board for the past six years and be your Chair the last year. Thank you all for your support!

Dr. John D. Knopf, Chair
World Affairs Forum
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. John D. Knopf, Chair
Director, School of Business, University of Connecticut

Joseph Goett, Vice Chair
Financial Advisor, Wells Fargo Advisors

Sara L. Tucker, Treasurer
Senior Vice President & Director of Business Banking, First County Bank

Alice Knapp, Secretary
President, Ferguson Library

Robert C. Babkowski, MD
President, Stamford Pathology Group PC

Elizabeth Behnke
US Head of Marketing, AXA Real Estate (ret.)

H. Perry Boyle
Managing Director, Point72, L.P.

Frank R. Bria
Vice President & Treaty Account Executive General Reinsurance Corporation

Marianne Drost Sr. V.P., Deputy General Counsel & Corp. Secretary, Verizon Communications, Inc. (ret.)

William W. Galvin, III President, The Galvin Partnership
Dr. Joanna Gwozdziewski Political Consultant

Wilmot L. Harris, Jr. Partner, Ivey, Barnum & O’Mara LLC

Derek Harvey
Exxon Mobil Corp, (ret.)
Richard S. Lukaj
President, Lukaj Foundation

Gregory Mills
System Analyst, Interactive Brokers

Adam S. Mocciolo
Member, Pullman & Comley, LLC

J. David Nelson
Former Board Chair, AARP Foundation

Scott C. Nevins
Principal, Bernstein Global Wealth Management

Dave Osborn
Senior Vice President, Wealth Advisor, Wells Fargo, The Private Bank

George F. Paik
Lord Capital, LLC

Gregory Saum
Law Office of Gregory A. Saum LLC

Michelle A. Thompson
Associate Director, Emergency Response, Americares

Damon N. Vocke
Partner, Head of Corporate & Regulatory Insurance Litigation, Duane Morris LLP
Mission:
To create conversations in our community about global affairs and America's role in the world

Purpose:
To connect our community to our world

Vision:
To LEARN about the global issues that impact our lives and workplace; to CONNECT with leaders from foreign affairs, education, arts & business; to GROW a community of socially conscious neighbors; to SEEK understanding through vital discussions about our world.
Attaining our Goals

When we implemented our membership and program changes at the start of our 2019-20 season, we aimed to increase the number of Premiere Members, increase our average event attendance, and increase our dues revenue from Basic Members.

- **141** Premiere Members (Up +30%)
- **94** Average Event Attendance (Up +15%)
- **100** Average Virtual Attendance (Webinars & Meetings)
- **40** Percentage Increase (Basic Membership Income up +40%)
The Premiere series gives members the chance to socialize over breakfast, lunch, cocktails or dinner along with hearing from experts in policy, business, and academia.

Rana Foroohar
"Don't Be Evil: How Big Tech Betrayed Us"
December 2019

Amb. Omar Samad
"Searching for Peace in Afghanistan"
September 2019

Farah Pandith
"How We Win: Defeating the Extremist Threat"
October 2019

Sten Vermund
"Emerging Global Health Threats: Climate Change & Covid-19"
March 2020
“I was fascinated by the breadth of Farah Pandith’s knowledge, and grateful to the World Affairs Forum for bringing her in to the series.”
Experts speak on important international issues at the Ferguson Library in downtown Stamford, where World Affairs Forum members engage with distinguished experts from a variety of international fields.

**Amy Chua**
"Political Tribes"
July 2019

**Congressman Jim Himes & Jack Leslie**
“U.S. Foreign Policy: A Conversation”
October 2019

**Victoria Tin-bor Hui**
"Hong Kong's Last Stand?"
January 2020
We host various special events throughout the year, including WorldQuest, Global Economic Trends Lecture, our Congressional Foreign Policy Debate, the Marie Hurley Memorial Travel Lecture, our Annual Meeting & Dinner, and our Global Web Series.

William English
"Less Than Zero? Banking on Unconventional Monetary Policy"
February 2020
VOLUNTEERS

A special thanks goes out to the World Affairs Forum volunteers, who chose to spend their valuable time with us and helped to facilitate our events and lectures. Thank you for brightening our days!

"It was great to get some first-hand experience as a PoliSci major. Thank you!"
"I was thrilled for the opportunity to ask my Congressman a question. I learned so much today."
This year, the World Affairs Forum introduced "Forum Finds", a weekly digest of curated highlights of articles, podcasts, books, and other media, as an extension of our educational mission.
GLOBAL WEB SERIES

World Affairs Forum introduced our Global Web Series, presenting live, interactive talks online with experts in international affairs.

Evan Osnos, The New Yorker; Brookings Institute

Nikolas Gvosdev, Director, Carnegie Council's U.S. Global Engagement Program
"I joined the Zoom meeting from Mumbai at 9:30 pm on June 5th and enjoyed it very much. Evan Osnos is impressive in his knowledge of and insights about China, and also about Greenwich!"

"I thought the Nick Gvosdev lecture, and yesterday’s lecture with Evan Osnos, were both really thoughtful and well done. Thanks for helping us with the last minute access to the Osnos lecture, I have seen him before and he's always so thoughtful and articulate."

"Clearly knowledgeable about the topic [of China], Evan Osnos was very comfortable with the format. It was definitely a success and while we all miss the experience that comes with being in the same room together exploring the various topics, it was a good alternative."
Game Night!

World Affairs Forum presents World Game Night, where members come together for fun, friendly competition, laughs, food and drinks, with a global trivia theme.
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

**Income**
- Donations**: 52%
- Membership*: 24%
- Sponsorships: 13%
- Event Income: 8%
- Misc Income: 3%

**Expenses**
- Staff: 65%
- Office/Overhead: 19%
- Events: 13%
- Technology: 2%
- Marketing & Advertising: 1%
## Financial Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>19-20</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>18-19</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership*</td>
<td>27,455</td>
<td>58,475</td>
<td>90,910</td>
<td>74,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations**</td>
<td>60,467</td>
<td>78,951</td>
<td>77,717</td>
<td>99,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Income</td>
<td>9,185</td>
<td>10,200</td>
<td>19,193</td>
<td>20,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraiser</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>30,430</td>
<td>38,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorships</td>
<td>14,760</td>
<td>25,705</td>
<td>15,480</td>
<td>12,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc Income</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>6,770</td>
<td>2,333</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>115,367</td>
<td>205,101</td>
<td>236,063</td>
<td>247,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expense</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Advertising</td>
<td>1,706</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>3,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Costs</td>
<td>20,748</td>
<td>36,079</td>
<td>46,513</td>
<td>63,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>107,440</td>
<td>127,435</td>
<td>128,769</td>
<td>130,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office/Overhead</td>
<td>31,438</td>
<td>35,587</td>
<td>34,734</td>
<td>44,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>3,573</td>
<td>3,950</td>
<td>6,531</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>164,906</td>
<td>205,101</td>
<td>217,189</td>
<td>247,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Ordinary Income</strong></td>
<td>-49,539</td>
<td></td>
<td>18,874</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Lost $20,000 Potential Renewals Q4
** Lost $20,000 Grant post Covid

## Balance Sheet

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking</td>
<td>35,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
<td>72,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP Loan</td>
<td>-16,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>91,107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Once a month, a small group of members gather for an informal discussion of a global issue. Guests socialize and discuss the issue of the day while enjoying beer, wine, hot food, and a light dessert.
July 2019: "Beyond the Politics, What Exactly is American Nationhood?"
September 2019: "What's the (Most Important) Matter with China?"
October 2019: "Has Sovereignty Run Its Course?"
November 2019: "Saudi Arabia: A New Age of Complexity"
December 2019: "Art Meets World: Perceptions of Iran"


February 2020: "Yea or Nay? The Middle East Isn't Worth it Anymore"

May 2020 (Virtual): "Fractured Globalization and the Future of the International System"
## SUPPORTERS

### DONORS

**Patron ($1,000 - $1,499)**
- William V. Ferdinand
- David Osborn
- Gene Rostov & Heather Knapp

**$10,000 & Above**
- Anonymous

**$2,500 to $5,000**
- Pitney Bowes
- Stamford Health
- Stamford Rotary Trust Fund

**Benefactor ($500-$999)**
- Susan DiMattia

**Anonymous**
- Joanna Gwozdziewski, MD
- Peter Lawrie
- David J. Nelson

### CORPORATE SPONSORS

**Diamond: $5,000**
- General Re Corporation

**Platinum: $3,000**
- First County Bank
- McCarter & English

**Gold: $1,500**
- Alliance Bernstein
- Cummings & Lockwood
- H. Perry Boyle & Lisa R. Boyle
- Foundation
- University of Connecticut, Stamford

**Sponsor ($250-499)**
- Nancy Duffy
- Karine Hills
- Alice Knapp
- David Watkins

**Friend (up to $249)**
- John Alsdorf
- Franco Becchi
- Marvin Berenblum
- Megan Cottrell
- David H. Crandall
- Jay Fountain
- Edward Friedlander
- Harry Geller
- Mary Genco
- Maureen Gorman
- Richard C. Harper
- Gary Larsen
- Bob & Ilene Lion
- James Lisher
- Barbara Mitchell
- Basam Nabulsi
- Frank Parker
- Frederic Putnam
- Alison Rivard
- Don Steckler
- Shira Tarantino
- Michelle Thompson
- Carl Wernicke
- Dudley Williams
- Karmit Zysman

### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

**Global Patron ($1500 & Above)**
- Elizabeth Behnke
- H. Perry Boyle
- Marianne Drost
- William W. Galvin, III
- Joseph Goett
- Mike & Sally Harris
- Derek Harvey
- John Knopf
- Maudie Long
- Scott Nevins
- George Paik
- Gregory Saum
- Sara Tucker
- Damon Vocke

**Friend (up to $249)**
- John A. Alsdorf
- Franco Becchi
- Marvin Berenblum
- Megan Cottrell
- David H. Crandall
- Jay Fountain
- Edward Friedlander
- Harry Geller
- Mary Genco
- Maureen Gorman
- Richard C. Harper
- Gary Larsen
- Bob & Ilene Lion
- James Lisher
- Barbara Mitchell
- Basam Nabulsi
- Frank Parker
- Frederic Putnam
- Alison Rivard
- Don Steckler
- Shira Tarantino
- Michelle Thompson
- Carl Wernicke
- Dudley Williams
- Karmit Zysman

---

*World Affairs Forum supporters help give community members a chance to learn, connect, reflect, and grow. Thank you!*
SPONSORS

Our partners make a difference. We are so grateful for the support of our corporate and neighborhood partners who are committed to connecting our community to our world.

H. Perry Boyle & Lisa R. Boyle Foundation
The World Affairs Forum relies on your donations to create premium programming that helps us better understand our global-to-community role.

This spring our organization was presented with the unprecedented challenges that accompanied COVID-19. Thanks to our adaptability and the creative thinking of our board, we have been able to meet these challenges head on and offer additional new, online programming, increased remote communications, and more.

We would not have been able to do this without your contributions, which create greater awareness for our programs, support access to a wider audience, and reinforce our sustainability.

We are grateful for the support of our membership and the greater community. Please consider making a donation to the World Affairs Forum.

Thank You!
YES! I WOULD LIKE TO HELP CONNECT OUR COMMUNITY TO OUR WORLD!

Online:

https://worldaffairsforum.org/contribute/

Mail your check payable to:
World Affairs Forum
30 Oak Street, Suite 105
Stamford, CT 06905

$50
$100
$250
$500
$1,000

Other__________________

Please see online for membership options:
https://worldaffairsforum.org/membership/

World Affairs Forum is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Thank you for your support!
The World Affairs Forum is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to expand understanding of global affairs and America’s role in the world. The Forum is an affiliate of the World Affairs Councils of America.

WORLD AFFAIRS FORUM
30 Oak Street, Suite 105
Stamford, CT 06905
Phone: (203) 356-0340
info@worldaffairsforum.org

@WAFStamford

www.worldaffairsforum.org