

# World Affairs Council of the Desert

Engaging and Educating Adults and Students in International Affairs



Our Vision



To engage and educate students and adults in world affairs through our speaker series and student programs

## WACD WINTER 2018-2019 NEWSLETTER

### Come Explore Space with our January Speaker - Dr. Jonathan Clark

*January 13th -*

#### Inside This Issue

- [Our Sponsors](#)
- [Winter Speakers](#)
- [President's Letter](#)
- [Board Member  
Spotlight](#)
- [Administrator  
Spotlight](#)
- [2019 Schedule](#)

#### 2018-2019 Corporate Sponsors

**PLATINUM  
SPONSOR**  
**(\$10,000-\$24,000)**



#### **Dr. Jonathan Clark**

can tell you where we have been, where we are now and where we are headed - because he has lived it. From 1997 to 2005, Dr. Clark worked for NASA where he was a six-time Space Shuttle crew surgeon and was chief of the Medical Operations Branch at Johnson Space Center. Flight surgeons are

charged with the care of our astronauts, helping them to be fit, healthy and, ultimately, safe.

Dr. Clark has been witness to spectacular successes and the tragedy of failures that have led to the loss of life in the space program. Dr. Clark served from 2004 to 2007 as a member of the NASA Spacecraft Survival Investigative Team. He has a particular interest in the neurologic effect of extreme environments and crew survival in space. This interest has led him to his current involvement with the Red Bull Stratos team as Medical Director with the aim of establishing new protocols to benefit future aviators and astronauts. The project seeks to determine the outer limits of survivability at extremely high altitudes and freefall

## PALM SPRINGS LIFE

[Palm Springs Life,  
California's Prestige  
Magazine](#)  
(Media Sponsor)



Charles and Priscilla  
Porter  
([WorldQuest](#))

## GOLD SPONSORS (\$5,000-\$9,999)



[Anderson Children's  
Foundation](#)



[California State  
University, San  
Bernardino Palm  
Desert Campus](#)

## SILVER SPONSORS (\$2,500)



[College of the Desert](#)



[Thunderbird Country  
Club](#)

speeds.

Dr. Clark is also associate Professor of Neurology and Space Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and teaches operational space medicine at BCM's Center for Space Medicine.

Prior to working for NASA, Dr. Clark devoted 26 years to active service with the U.S. Navy. During that time, he qualified as a Naval flight officer, Naval flight surgeon, Navy diver and Special Forces freefall parachutist. Dr. Clark has said that the career achievement he is most proud of is flying medical missions in combat with the U.S. Marine Corps during Operation Desert Storm. "Serving my country and saving people at the same time was the highlight of my life..."

## Does China's Economic Policy Pose a Threat to America? Our February Speaker, Michael Pillsbury, Says "Yes"

*February 10th -*

**Michael Pillsbury** lays out his case for the threat that China poses to the United States in his 2015 book

The Hundred Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower. This book has been an international bestseller and was number one on the Washington Post book list as well as a selection of the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command for the Commander's Reading List.



Mr. Pillsbury's hypothesis is that for more than forty years the United States has played an indispensable role helping the Chinese government build a booming economy, develop its scientific and military capabilities, and take its place on the world stage, in the belief that China's rise will bring us cooperation, diplomacy and free trade. He poses the question: "But what if the 'China Dream' is to replace us, just as America replaced the British Empire without firing a shot?" Mr. Pillsbury calls for the United States to implement a new, more competitive strategy toward China and characterizes our relationship with China as the greatest national security challenge of the twenty-first century.

Mr. Pillsbury is a fluent Mandarin speaker who has served in senior national security positions since the Nixon



[UBS Financial Services](#)



[County of Riverside](#)

Richard Jennings

2017 - 2018  
Student Program  
Benefactors



Ms. Jean Carrus

Mr. & Mrs. Brent & Nan  
Shipp Jones

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon &  
Eve Kramer

Drs. John & Sharon-  
Brown Welty

Mr. & Mrs. Mark &  
JoAnn Nickerson



[Join WACD or Renew  
Your Membership](#)

[Visit Our Web Site](#)

[Learn More About  
Worldquest](#)

presidency including with the Department of Defense, Department of State as well as serving as professional staff with the U.S. Senate. Since 2014, he has been Director of the Center on Chinese Strategy with the Hudson Institute, an American think tank based in Washington, D.C. Mr. Pillsbury was educated at Stanford University (B.A. in History with Honors in Social Thought) and Columbia University (M.A., Ph.D.).

President Trump has referred to Mr. Pillsbury as "the leading authority on China" on several occasions. Mr. Pillsbury is a regular contributor to Fox News and the Voice of America. He has also authored other books on China as well as numerous reports, including those supporting testimony before the House and Senate, and professional journal articles.

## President's Letter



We are off to a great start for our 2018-19 Season.

Our first two speakers have been outstanding. Our speakers for the 2019 year will bring us exciting material that will surely stimulate our thinking as you can see from the descriptions of the January and February speakers, above. Our later speakers will be just as interesting and thought

provoking. Again, a special thank you to Jim McFarlin and his program committee for their outstanding work.

Our Academic WorldQuest Competition will be held at 5:30 pm on February 7, 2019, at the Indian Wells Theatre at the CSUSB Palm Desert campus. We look forward to crowning our new Coachella Valley champion team who will travel to Washington, D.C. to represent us. They will follow in the footsteps of last year's Palm Desert High School team which placed second in the nation! Education Chair Yul Roe is working with his committee to plan an outstanding experience for students. Please plan to join us for this exciting evening.

Your WACD Board will be reviewing our draft strategic plan in January and taking action on the plan. I will look forward to sharing the results of our work with you in the coming months. Our future is very bright.

Please see the names of our sponsors which appear in the newsletter. We deeply appreciate their support and the difference they make in our ability to provide you with high quality programs and support for our students

Sincerely,

John Welty

## Board Member Spotlight



**Meegan Villa** has been an active and energetic member of the WACD board for almost five years; she currently serves in the position of Secretary and we have been happy to have her skills and enthusiasm.

Meegan is the President/CEO of Proper Solutions Staffing. A graduate of the University of Illinois, she made her way to the desert and began her career with Proper Solutions in 2005 as Operations Manager. There she made improvement in recruiting methods and in seeking and securing the most qualified applicants for their clients.

Seven years later, Meegan became the Owner/President, handling everything from sales and marketing to recruitment and staffing. With a focus on the area's employment needs, Meegan says that she and her team strive to provide their clients with professional, friendly and personalized service. These skills are demonstrated in her involvement in the community as well.

Meegan's desire to make a difference in people's lives is evident, not just in her career choice, but in her volunteer efforts as well. She served on the board of the Palm Desert Rotary for seven years, and as President in the 2014/2015 year. Meegan also served on the board of the Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce for six years, during which time she served on the Executive Committee, Human Resources Accreditation Committee, and as Mixer chair for three years. She is currently an active board member for the Galilee Center and the Family YMCA of the Desert as well as serving on our board. Additionally, she currently serves as a Commissioner for the City of Indio's Community Services Commission.

Meegan was also involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters for five years and was most recently Co-chair of the Y Be Fit Challenge, Reverse Mini Triathlon, 5K Run/Walk, and 1K Color Run in 2016 and 2017.

Named one of the valley's "40 Under 40" by Palm Springs Life in 2010, Meegan is one of the reasons that WACD has "the most interesting audience in the desert!"

## Holiday Party Accolades for Linda Borses, our Administrator



At the Holiday Party, one of the WACD members-only events during the year, President John Welty profusely thanked our Administrator Linda Borses for the exemplary work she does behind the scenes to make all of the events happen in such seamless fashion.

Linda has served as Administrator of WACD since October of 2017 and she says that she is thrilled to be doing things like editing websites, preparing Excel spreadsheets, designing advertising and greeting the wonderful folks at all of the Dinner/Speaker events at Thunderbird Country Club. She is the one with whom you speak if you have questions or need assistance.

Linda's background prepared her for this position! Growing up in Pittsburgh, Linda Borses always wanted to follow her dad's dream of living in California. (He actually wanted to be a movie producer but Linda just liked the idea of almost year-round sunshine!) After graduation from the University of Pittsburgh with majors in English and Business Education, she did just that...moved to Los Angeles and got her first teaching job at Hollywood High School and a year later moved to Granada Hills High School where she spent almost 20 years.

Fascinated by computers and a self-described "computer-geek," she got one of the very first IBM PCs when they hit the market in 1982. She became proficient and started teaching and mentoring other folks who were buying PCs and not knowing what to do with them.

Married in 1974, Linda and Larry lived in Chatsworth in the San Fernando Valley and then moved out to the desert in 1987 after willingly giving up L.A. traffic and congestion. They've looked around the country and the world, searching for a better place to live but always found that the Coachella Valley is the best! Playing golf for a few years, Linda decided that it's just not her thing and went back to working with computers. She designed a few early websites and taught folks how to use Microsoft Office, Quicken and other programs. Linda went to work for Morgan Stanley/HighTower Advisors, retired from that position in 2014, got bored, had a few temporary assignments, and then came to World Affairs Council of the Desert where she's been serving as Administrator since October, 2017.

The rest of the Borses clan is scattered all around the country with their three children and five grandchildren in Los Angeles, Northern California, Austin, and Kissimmee. "Thank goodness for FaceTime or we'd barely see them at all!" We are happy Linda is here with us!

## WACD Schedule At-A-Glance





## 2019

- January 2 -- Executive Committee Meeting 3pm
- January 13 -- Dinner/Speaker Program: America's Future in Space, Dr. Jonathan Clark 5pm Thunderbird Country Club
- January 16 -- Board Meeting 3pm
- February 10 -- Dinner/Speaker Program: China's Plan for Global Economic Supremacy, Michael Pillsbury 5pm Thunderbird Country Club
- March 6 -- Executive Committee Meeting 3pm
- March 10 -- Dinner/Speaker Program: The Coming Era of Autonomous Vehicles, Gary Silberg 5pm Thunderbird Country Club
- March 13 -- Board Meeting 3pm
- April 14 -- Dinner Lecture Program: Uncertainties and Peril in North Korea, Ken Gause 5pm Thunderbird Country Club
- May 1 -- Executive Committee Meeting 3pm
- May 15 -- Board Meeting 3pm

All Board and Executive Committee meetings are held at the RAP Foundation Building, 41-550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert CA. Dinner/Speaker events are held at Thunderbird Country Club.

Read more about events on our Web Site:  
[www.WorldAffairsDesert.org](http://www.WorldAffairsDesert.org)

### **World Affairs Council of the Desert**

Mailing address: P.O. Box 3031, Palm Desert CA 92261  
Office address: 41-550 Eclectic Street, Palm Desert CA 92260  
Email: [worldaffairs3@msn.com](mailto:worldaffairs3@msn.com)  
Website: [www.worldaffairsdesert.org](http://www.worldaffairsdesert.org)  
Phone: 760.322.7711

Copyright © 2018. All Rights Reserved.

World Affairs Council of the Desert, P.O. Box 3031, Palm Desert, CA 92211

[SafeUnsubscribe™](#) {[recipient's email](#)}

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [worldaffairs3@msn.com](mailto:worldaffairs3@msn.com) in collaboration with



Try it free today