Trust is our society’s greatest asset. It provides the societal glue on which our democracy relies. Without it we cannot solve large problems together. Yet, in 2016, trust in global institutions, our national government and even one another fell to an all-time low. Globalization and the information revolution that helped fuel it had decentralized decision-making and authority. They combined to create and concentrate wealth, lifting millions from poverty in such places as India and China. But, large swaths of our population have experienced a declining standard of living.

For those left behind, the status quo represents a betrayal.

As worrisome as these trends are, pervasive distrust is not inevitable, and need not be a permanent condition. By working with philanthropy and civil society, policymakers can reverse this trend.

World Affairs is here to provide the context within which Americans explore who we are as a nation, what we stand for, and what choices we make together. While we do not take policy positions, our programming assumes an embrace of the values of a pluralistic society and liberal democracy.

In 2016, speakers were selected to shed light on the choices we face. We welcomed distinguished scholars, Pulitzer-prize winning journalists, governmental policymakers and NGO leaders to share their thoughts on such issues as terrorism, climate change, immigration and cyberwarfare – as well as the global economy’s impacts at home and abroad. And our conference, WorldAffairs16, considered the options the incoming president would face on “Day One” in office.

Our Global Philanthropy Forum focused on individuals on the move, including those fleeing weak or failing states in search of safety from war, persecution or poverty, and those moving to cities in their search for economic opportunity. And we focused on the motivation of a third group of restless young men and women who may join extremist groups in their search for meaning.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to our trustees for their steady leadership, to our donors for their powerful support, and to our volunteers and members for all that they do to build and sustain community. We are also indebted to our exceptional staff members, each of whom balances a multitude of tasks to carry out our work seamlessly. It is to each of these inspiring and inspired groups of individuals that we are most grateful.

The story of World Affairs 2016 can be found on the pages that follow. We hope you discover for yourself what we do in the issue areas that matter most to you. At the end of the day, we have done our job if you feel inspired to join the conversation.

Jane Wales, CEO

Peter J. Robertson, Chairman
Remarks by Leon Panetta, Former Secretary of Defense

Former US Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta sat down with Jane Wales for a conversation on a range of international security topics—from terrorism, to state failure, to cyberwarfare. Panetta’s distinguished career in public service, from Congress to the CIA, has spanned decades. As director of the CIA in the Obama administration, he oversaw the operation that brought down terrorist Osama bin Laden. Panetta offered frank, behind-the-scenes accounts of the manhunt for bin Laden, as well as the challenge he faced in cutting the defense budget without compromising the military’s capabilities. His forward-thinking approach to defense and diplomacy highlighted the men and women who work diligently every day to keep the US safe in the face of global dangers.

Partnering for a Peaceful Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Maen Rashid Areikat, ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the US, and Jeremy Ben-Ami, founder and president of J Street, discussed possible pathways to peace with Janine Zacharia, former Jerusalem bureau chief for The Washington Post. Both leaders spoke extensively on the promising potential of a two-state solution, while also acknowledging deep-rooted tensions that continue to exacerbate the conflict.

The Forever War

Mark Danner, former staff writer for The New Yorker and professor at the University of California, Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, spoke about the years-long war on terrorism post-9/11. Danner gave insights per his book “Spiral: Trapped in the Forever War,” and took questions from the audience on how the US found itself on a “permanent war footing” and what that meant for our role in the world.
The Prospects for an End to the War in Syria
The Syrian civil war brought horror to millions of innocent civilians who lost loved ones, lost their homes, and now are displaced. Aside from the humanitarian disaster and the impact on strategic relationships among regional players, how can the war end? Hrair Balian, director of The Carter Center’s Conflict Resolution Program, discussed the challenges of reaching peace while highlighting global efforts to stabilize the country.

South Sudan: Five Years Later
Valentino Achak Deng, a prominent South Sudanese advocate and co-founder of the Valentino Achak Deng Foundation, highlighted the important questions facing South Sudan five years after gaining its independence. For the past three years, deep-seated political, ethnic and regional tensions have plunged the fledging nation into a full-scale civil war, leaving two million internally displaced, and over five million facing famine.

Understanding Islam: Moving Beyond Extremism
With more than 1.5 billion Muslims in the world, we compared and contrasted the core teachings of Islam with the extremist interpretations of Islamists who claim to act in the name of the faith. Our speakers included human rights expert Karima Bennoune, and civil rights expert Farhana Khera, who pointed out that Islam will surpass Christianity as the dominant religion in the next 50 years, reinforcing the need for greater understanding.

Wolf Boys: A Journey into the World of a Drug Cartel
Author Dan Slater shared his extraordinary journey through the criminal underworld of the Mexican drug cartels. Offering insights from his book, “Wolf Boys,” he spoke about the cartels’ increasing use of children as their foot soldiers – for trafficking, kidnapping, even murder.
Programs

Afghanistan: A Transformation or Quagmire

Through the efforts of the US-brokered National Unity Government of President Ashraf Ghani, buttressed by the presence of US forces and advisors, 2016 saw signs of hope that “the transformation decade” would prove successful. However, Afghanistan’s security remains fragile, its economic development fitful, and the Taliban insurgency has not been fully quelled.

Dr. Hamdullah Mohib, Afghan ambassador to the US, shared his thoughts regarding the country’s security, politics and the reform agenda, and discussed the future challenges to peace and development.

ISIS: Understanding its Origins and Rise

Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Joby Warrick and Kori Schake, research fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution, offered a thoughtful reflection on the origins of the most notorious terror group in the world today. Warrick shared insights from his latest book “Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS” regarding the once-obscure jihadist Abu Musab Zarqawi, and his rise to prominence.

Luncheon Series with Diplomats

In 2016, we hosted several luncheons for our members with diplomats who have engaged in off-the-record conversations about the issues facing their countries and their leaders. Among them were the Chilean ambassador to the United States and Bay Area consuls general from Israel, Russia and Turkey.
Globalization and the Next Administration

Jeffrey E. Garten, dean emeritus of the Yale School of Management, sat down with Jane Wales to examine the role of globalization in shaping the choices our country and our citizenry face. Through the riveting stories captured in his new book, “From Silk to Silicon Valley: The Story of Globalization Through Ten Extraordinary Lives,” Garten explored the ways that technology innovation and economic integration have changed world history and shaped our lives. In particular he pointed to the failure of policymakers to address the needs of those whose lives and livelihoods have been disrupted as a result.

India and China: This Century’s Rising Powers

India and China have gained critical relevance in the first decade of the 21st century, a remarkable period of economic growth and increased connectivity for both countries. Anja Manuel, co-founder and principal of RiceHadleyGates, LLC, shared her perspective on how the US should work with both nations as we face the world’s global challenges.

A View from Havana: The New US-Cuba Relationship

We examined US-Cuba relations with former Cuban Ambassador to the EU Carlos Alzugaray Treto. Ambassador Treto spoke about the hopes many Cubans had following President Obama’s historic restoration of diplomatic relations, as well as what the future might bring as a new US president assumes office.
Global Financial Crisis Redux

Rana Foroohar, assistant manager of TIME, and Tim O’Reilly, founder and CEO of O’Reilly Media, spoke on the key lessons learned from the financial crisis of 2008, the biggest market meltdown since the Great Depression. They warned against the continuation or repetition of some of the misguided financial practices and philosophies that sent shocks through the global financial system, and warned that the risk of another cataclysmic meltdown is just too high.

Greece and The Future of the Eurozone

Yanis Varoufakis, former finance minister of Greece and economics professor at the University of Athens, shared his insights on Greece’s recovery following the global economic crisis in 2008, as well as lessons learned about the risks and benefits of an interdependent economic system.

What is Going on in Europe? A View from the Deutsche Bundesbank

Andreas Dombret, executive board member of Deutsche Bundesbank, gave a candid talk on Europe’s changing landscape and economic challenges. In particular, he spoke on the impact of the Brexit vote and the migrant crisis on European economic vibrancy, and both fiscal and monetary policy.
21st Century Development: Lessons from Silicon Valley to End Poverty

International development actors are taking cues from Silicon Valley to improve their ability to better serve the world’s most disadvantaged citizens. Ann Mei Chang, chief innovation officer and executive director of USAID’s US Global Development Lab, and Jacquelline Fuller, director of Google.org, spoke about the contributions that technology firms have made in both financial resources and technical expertise to advance the goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030.

Finding the Next Patient Zero: The Global Virome Project

Over the coming century, global health experts anticipate that we will witness spillover from a pool of more than one million as-yet-unknown viruses from animals into human populations. Jonna Mazet, Dennis Carrol and Nathan Wolfe with the Global Virome Project spoke about their initiative to identify at least 99% of the potential viral threats to human health and food security in the next 10 years.

Fulbright: 70 Years and Counting

We hosted a panel discussion and reception celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of the Fulbright program and its scholars. Distinguished speakers included Nicholas B. Dirks, chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, Stefan Schlüeter, German consul general, Mary Ellen Schmider, executive director of the Fulbright Association, and Suzanne Eloise Siskel, executive vice president and COO of The Asia Foundation.
Day One: The World that Awaits

Held less than two weeks before the election, our annual conference focused on the issues that the incoming president would face on “Day One.” WorldAffairs 2016 attracted seasoned leaders in the public and private sectors, as well as award-winning journalists and outstanding NGO executives. Anne-Marie Slaughter, president and CEO of New America, and Jane Wales, opened the conference with a conversation about the key policy choices that the incoming chief executive would face. Former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson discussed the global economic issues and the US-China relationship with Anja Manuel. And scholars Larry Diamond and Francis Fukuyama debated whether or not democracy – worldwide – is in crisis. Breakout sessions offered insights on the rise of the right in the EU, immigration, cyberwar, US-Russian relations, counterterrorism and China’s rise as a global power. Fred Hochberg, chairman and president of the Export-Import Bank of the United States was in conversation with McKinsey’s James Manyika about protecting America’s competitive advantage. Reza Aslan and Dalia Mogahed spoke about the dangers of Islamophobia with Greg Dobbs, author and former foreign correspondent for ABC News. New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof joined Jane Wales in a moving conversation about the refugee crisis, which he called the greatest issue of our time.

In addition to our members, we were honored to have many military veterans in attendance as part of our Veterans Fellows Program, undertaken in collaboration with Marines’ Memorial Association. The conference included a select group of students from our Education Program who joined us for this rich day of programming. These were conversations that truly matter.
Every year, World Affairs and the Global Philanthropy Forum honor iconic leaders who are making a decided difference in the world in which we live, work and learn. On May 16, 2016, we recognized three outstanding women for their leadership and contributions to the technology sector: **Diane M. Bryant**, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Data Center Group at Intel; **Theresa Gouw**, Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Aspect Ventures; and **Diane Greene**, Senior Vice President at Google. Guests, including members of the private and philanthropic sectors, trustees and students came out to applaud these remarkable honorees.

The Annual Awards Dinner gives us the chance to honor the contributions of outstanding members of our community and – through their stories – to highlight the dynamism of the Northern California economy and culture. Proceeds from the evening help fund our rich offering of programs.
Inspiring and equipping young people to be global citizens is critical to the World Affairs mission. For over 40 years, the Education Program has supported students who are intellectually curious and passionate about the world to become the international leaders of tomorrow. World Affairs’ Education Program focuses on building global awareness and promoting critical thinking, communication, leadership and civic engagement. It offers opportunities to meet with international experts, work with local nonprofits, participate in conversations that go beyond the headlines, explore international careers and to study abroad. By participating in multiple programs, students also have the opportunity to earn a Certificate of Global Citizenship, a formal recognition of their commitment to deepening their understanding of international affairs and serving in their – and your – communities.

Key components of our Education Program:
- Student Ambassador Program
- Summer Institute
- Policy Simulation
- International Career Mentor Night
- Meet the Speaker
- Study Abroad Scholarship
- Certificate of Global Citizenship

“Through this program, I not only became more knowledgeable, but was also able to build an invaluable network with an amazing group of students and experienced individuals!”

Arvind Kannappan
Senior at Dougherty Valley High School
The 2016 Global Philanthropy Forum focused on “People on the Move,” paying special attention to those who are in search of opportunity, in search of safety and in search of meaning. First, we explored the phenomenon of urbanization, and the capacity of localities to absorb the influx, as a new middle class emerges in such high-growth economies as China and India. Second, we considered ways to lessen the tragedy of 60 million migrants, who, having been forced from their homes, are now in search of safety from persecution, deprivation or war. And finally, we sought to better understand those in search of meaning, and of belonging, who are drawn to extremist groups, with devastating and tragic consequences. The conference opened up with a conversation between Jane Wales and Chris Stone, president of the Open Society Foundations. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken gave a special address noting the enormous strain being placed on the international humanitarian system. Governments are working hand in glove with outstanding nonprofit organizations and, increasingly, with the philanthropic sector to try to address the needs of millions of individuals and families who have been displaced – needs that cannot be met by any single government, private and nonprofit entity on its own.

“This global alliance for migration is not just a slogan in a keynote speech. The point is to act and to act boldly to make migration work for the world on a new scale the way it has worked for so many in this room.”

Chris Stone
President of the Open Society Foundations
Brazilian Philanthropy Forum

The Brazilian Philanthropy Forum, convened its annual conference in São Paulo, Brazil. Entitled Individual Initiative and the New Economy, the conference challenged participants to rethink the ways that philanthropy can promote inclusive development and environmentally sustainable paths of growth. Topics discussed included “shared value” strategies for businesses to advance their social, environmental and commercial goals; innovative entrepreneurship; and partnerships between philanthropy and government to advance shared goals. Founded in 2012, the Brazilian Philanthropy Forum is GPF’s flagship affiliate.

African Philanthropy Forum

The African Philanthropy Forum continued to expand its outreach throughout Africa, and hosted its third annual conference in Rabat, Morocco. Entitled Taking Bold Steps and Big Bets, the 2016 conference presented a unique opportunity to reflect on the challenges in education, entrepreneurship and youth employment throughout the Continent. The conference provided African philanthropists and social investors with the opportunity to consider the critical and strategic roles that they can play individually and collectively in this journey of transformation. This fast-growing GPF affiliate is chaired by Tsitsi Masiyiwa.
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AS OF AUGUST 31, 2017
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

Revenue
- Membership and Dues: $128,028
- Contributions: $990,773
- Grants: $1,891,374
- Program Fees: $470,215
- Building and Rental: $582,148
- Investment Income: $541,483
- **Total Revenue: $4,604,021**

Expenses
- Programs: $3,229,848
- Fundraising: $298,460
- Membership and Development: $280,582
- Management and General: $371,713
- **Total Expenses: $4,180,603**

Change in net assets: $423,418
- Net assets, beginning of year: $8,103,294
- Net assets, end of year: $8,526,712