

INFORMATION STATEMENT

Fellows Dinner

February 27 2026

iRicchi, Washington D.C.



M. Shafik Gabr and Gigi Gabr hosted

Front row: Kemp Gouldin (2015), Mariam Al Sherif (2025), Jude Husein (2025), Hunter King (2017), Clara Sherwood (2025), Alphaeus D. Hanson (2025). Back row: Alen Amini (2022), Mohamed Ramzi, Marielle Becker (2022), Stephanie Lord (2014), Kevin DeWar (2016), Mohamed Ismail (2015), Eze Redwood (2015), Crystal Staebell (2025), Dan (Sully) Sullivan (2013), Crawford Horan (2022), Janset Batibay, and Tarek El Tobgui

L/R

INTRODUCTION

On February 27 2026, Chairman M. Shafik Gabr convened a Fellows Dinner at iRicchi restaurant in Washington, D.C. Held under Chatham House Rules, the evening brought together Fellows and guests for a focused discussion on artificial intelligence, democratic governance, immigration enforcement, women's economic leadership, and the Foundation's strategic direction.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Davos 2026 Reflections

Stephanie Lord, 2014 Gabr Fellow, shared two defining themes from the World Economic Forum: the Great Wealth Transfer, with trillions projected to shift into women's hands, and the growing corporate focus on cognitive and brain health as

a financial priority. Both conversations carried a notably non-partisan, collaborative tone at Davos. M. Shafik Gabr added that his engagement with the Mayo Clinic President produced consensus on AI's role in healthcare, identifying it as a rare domain of genuine global agreement.



Stephanie Lord (2014)



Clara Sherwood (2025), Alphaeus D. Hanson (2025), and Crawford Horan (2022)

2. Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Workforce

Alphaeus D. Hanson, 2025 Gabr Fellow, challenged the view that AI will decimate global employment, arguing instead that the real risk lies with governments that passively allow industries to shed workers. His core argument: AI will not replace humans, but reposition them — with value shifting toward orchestration, where humans direct AI agents while differentiating through expertise and judgment. M. Shafik Gabr anchored the discussion around healthcare as the highest-consensus application for AI investment.

- Competitive advantage is shifting from execution to orchestration: humans who understand their domain will direct AI, not be replaced by it.
- Governments must proactively manage workforce transitions, particularly where large numbers of young men are unemployed.

3. Political Polarization and Democratic Resilience

Hunter King, 2017 Gabr Fellow, framed the core paradox: common ground exists in private, but collapses in public, driven by re-election cycles, special interests, and redistricting. Crystal Staebell, 2025 Gabr Fellow, identified structural threats to democracy: court-packing, media consolidation, weaponization of state institutions, attacks on universities, and private sector wealth remain democracy's strongest

defenses. Clara Sherwood, 2025 Gabr Fellow, highlighted social media's role in eroding shared reality and the cultural barriers preventing women from exercising their growing financial power.

M. Shafik Gabr challenged the group: critique without solutions changes nothing. He urged Fellows to move from observation to organized, solution-driven action, drawing on his own 1985-1995 campaign to enact environmental regulation in Egypt as proof that persistence moves institutions.

- Public agreement is constrained by structural incentives, not just ideology; change requires working within and reforming the system.
- Fiction now outpaces fact; distinguishing between the two is one of the defining challenges of this generation.



M. Shafik Gabr, Eze Redwood (2015), Alphaeus D. Hanson (2025), and Clara Sherwood (2025)



Crystal Staebell (2025)

4. Immigration Enforcement and Civil Liberties

Jude Husein, 2025 Gabr Fellow, raised ICE's expanding interior presence, describing enforcement operations in Pennsylvania that locked down five-mile zones and drawing parallels to checkpoint systems in Palestine. Eze Redwood, 2015 Gabr Fellow, framed enforcement as an intimidation engine with electoral implications, highlighting its disproportionate impact on small businesses and the effect on civic participation. The group engaged the panopticon concept, the idea that the possibility of surveillance alone alters behavior, as a framework for understanding the broader suppression of public expression.

- ICE operations are generating economic disruption and civic fear well beyond border communities.
- The threat of surveillance is reshaping behavior across all communities, not only those directly targeted.

5. Women, Wealth, and Leadership

The Great Wealth Transfer anchored a wide-ranging discussion on women's power. The group debated whether a U.S. woman president is achievable within five to ten years, with Marielle Becker, 2022 Gabr Fellow, noting that women driving auction records for artists like Frida Kahlo are seeking representation, not just returns. Mr. Gabr observed that women have historically wielded profound influence through proximity to power, and questioned why growing financial wealth was not translating more directly into structural change.



Jude Husein (2025)



Marielle Becker (2022)

6. Foundation Updates and Forward Planning

M. Shafik Gabr outlined two key institutional priorities: an active search for a senior Foundation leadership candidate, with Fellows invited to support the transition voluntarily; and a potential expansion in Singapore as a new hub for the East–West Dialogue. On the Fellowship Reunion, the group aligned in early October 2026, with a three-day format, an internationally accessible city, and themes of geopolitics and technology, with Fellows tasked to develop a speaker survey. Clara and Crystal proposed a quarterly Gabr Fellowship Speaker Series; Mr. Gabr endorsed the idea and called for a small committee to lead it.

- Leadership search: Fellows to support the transition voluntarily.
- Singapore: Under consideration as a new East–West Dialogue hub.

- Reunion: Early October 2026, three days, accessible city, geopolitics, and technology themes.
- Speaker Series: Quarterly, expert-led, Fellows committee to organize.

CONCLUSION

The Fellows Dinner of 27 February 2026 reaffirmed the Foundation's core purpose: creating the conditions for candid, consequential dialogue among Gabr Fellowship leaders committed to driving global impact. Chairman Gabr's challenge to the Fellows was clear. The Foundation's next chapter depends not on what is said at these dinners, but on what is done after them.



M. Shafik Gabr & Gigi Gabr with fellows



Gigi Gabr, Jude Husein (2025), Hunter King (2017), and Kevin Dewar (2016)



Alen Amini (2022) and Dan (Sully) Sullivan (2013)



Stephanie Lord (2014) and Kemp Gouldin (2015)



Kemp Gouldin (2015), Marielle Becker (2022), Kevin Dewar (2016), Mohamed Ismail (2015), Eze Redwood (2015), Jude Husein (2025), and Hunter King (2017)



M. Shafik Gabr, with Mariam Al Sherif (2025), Jude Husein (2025), Clara Sherwood (2025), and Crystal Staebell (2025)



Clara Sherwood (2025), Alphaeus D. Hanson (2025), and Tarek El Tobgui