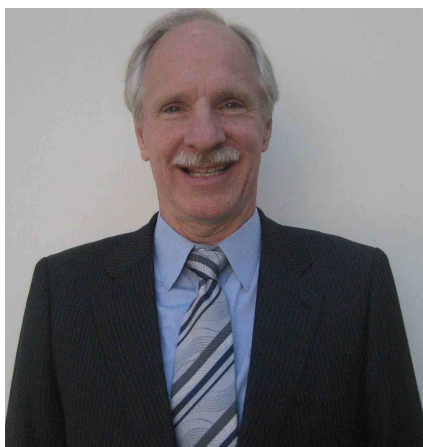


World Affairs Council Inland Southern California with the
University of California Riverside Office of International Affairs
invite you to



Perspectives on Syria and the Middle East

featuring

**George Novinger, Deputy Chief of Mission in
Damascus, 2008-10 (retired)**

Thursday, February 16, 2017

5:30 – 6:15 reception, meet the speaker

6:15 – 7:30 pm talk & discussion

**Alumni Center, University of California
Riverside**

\$30 members \$35 non members \$0 students (talk only)

The calamitous Syrian civil war drags on even since the pull back of Russia and the Assad government's re-conquest of Aleppo. There are talks in which some of the combatants are represented interspersed with breached ceasefires. In this complex scenario, the Syrian government and its military forces are on one side with its allies, with over a dozen discordant rebel factions including ISIS fighting against Assad's military coalition. The rebels also fight among themselves since each group has its own agenda. Some groups and governments supporting particular factions have stepped back, but not completely.

Retired American diplomat, George Novinger who served in Damascus at the beginnings of the disputes will offer his perspectives on the major groups involved and thoughts on what the future might bring to this troubled country and the rest of the Middle East. He will explore aspects of the political, economic, social, and religious environment in Syria that led to the start of what seems an endless conflict in Syria. If peace is possible, the issues of refugees and the ongoing divisions and goals among the major players involved must be addressed. We will examine Syria's possible future scenarios and end with what will likely be a lively Q&A session.

Reservations Required – DEADLINE Tuesday, February 14, 2017 – 10:00 am

Name: (s) _____ Company/School _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email _____ Daytime phone: () _____ Total # registrants _____

Enclosed is a check for _____ reservations for ___ WAC members (\$30) ___ non-members (\$35) ___ student(s) (\$0)
OR

Please charge the total amount of this reservation (\$ _____) to my _____ VISA Card or _____ Mastercard (check one)

Card # _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____

Note: Address and phone number required above in order to use this process of paying with a credit card.

Send completed registration form, and check to WAC Inland SoCal, PO Box 1268, Riverside, CA 92502

Register online with a credit card using Paypal at <http://wacinalandsocal.org>