

ACOR
أخبار أكور

AMERICAN CENTER OF
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المركز الأمريكي
للأبحاث الشرقية

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ACOR@50: Reflections on a Decade

Barbara A. Porter

Ten years ago, when ACOR celebrated its 40th anniversary, my three immediate predecessors —David McCreery, Bert de Vries, and Pierre Bikai—were there and provided a sense of continuity. This was also demonstrated with the Board of Trustees, as well as in the circle of fellows, friends, and staff who congregated. The 40th Anniversary Edition of the *ACOR Newsletter* (Vol. 20.1, Summer 2008)* included many voices and special stories, such as the life of Mohammed Adawi (Abu Ahmed) who retired in spring 2018 after 50 years as ACOR's chef. Here, I primarily reflect on the period since 2008 and show how ACOR has continued its many core activities, such as fellowships, lectures, publications, and cultural heritage initiatives and has recently added important new ones, like the ACOR Photo Archive Project. This personal essay is dedicated to the many individuals who have made a difference to ACOR and to me in this ten-year chapter.



A special 50th Anniversary logo,
created for ACOR by Andrea Attala

*ACOR newsletters will be referenced here by volume number and can be readily found on the ACOR website www.acorjordan.org under Publications.



Visits to sites around Jordan have brought special opportunities as here at Jawa in the northeastern Badia in April 2011 (photo by Jane Taylor; all photos by Barbara A. Porter unless otherwise noted).

ACOR's permanent headquarters, which opened in 1986, remains a wonderful center serving many constituencies (Vol. 23.1, Summer 2011). The ACOR Director has always had the privilege to live on the premises and thus is in many ways integral to the building where so many people pass through.

On April 1, 2006, I officially took over from Pierre Bikai as Director, and Pierre and Patricia Bikai moved soon thereafter to their new home in Aqaba. I had hired Christopher A. Tuttle to be the new Assistant Director, and in March, Pierre took the two of us around to meet as many people as possible from the Director General and staff of the Department of Antiquities (a key partner for ACOR), as well as the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, to the other foreign institutes, The Petra National Trust, the U.S. Embassy in Amman, USAID, and Fulbright—all entities with which ACOR connects on a regular basis. A party in June 2006 at the time of the ACOR Board of Trustees' meeting presided over by H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid and Artemis Joukowsky provided the chance to thank the Bikais in a formal manner and they both received royal medals for their distinguished service to Jordan.

The traditional calendar that guides the Director's schedule in terms of meeting with the Board is every other year the spring trustee meeting takes place in Jordan (with events and tours primarily organized by me) and the alternate year in the United States. So, for example, in 2007 the Board met in Washington D.C., just before the 10th International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ) (Vol. 19.1, Summer 2007), a conference organized by ACOR which will remain a high point in its history. The November board meeting takes place wherever the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Annual Meeting is held, and these gatherings have afforded me the chance to see parts of America I had never visited before (i.e., New Orleans, San Diego, and San Antonio). The first two years set the stage in many ways for what was to follow. Another milestone in my role as Director was ACOR's 40th Anniversary party which took place at ACOR in June 2008 and marks the start of my reflections on the next decade.



Barbara Porter at the podium with Artemis Joukowsky, addressing the guests at the June 2008 celebration for ACOR@40 on the ACOR patio, where many special formal events, as well as casual gatherings, have taken place since the building opened in 1986 (photo by Beata Kowalska)

Traditionally from the outset in 1968, ACOR has been the home in the summer to many excavation teams, usually before and after their field seasons. In my first few years, Martha and Artie Joukowsky would come to Amman before the Brown University

excavations at the Petra Great Temple, and many other projects did the same. That changed when ACOR became virtually full to capacity during the summers of 2006 to 2012 when we hosted the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) program funded by the Department of State for summer Arabic studies in Amman. Over those years more than 300 students participated in this program that also allowed them to get to know Jordan through field trips and other interesting and varied activities. Many people facilitated CLS for ACOR, including Chris Tuttle, Elena Corbett, and Sarah Harpending, with CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Centers) which coordinated the worldwide CLS program at that time. Normally there were around 30 students each summer, but in 2011, ACOR also hosted those who were to have gone to Egypt so there were 56 students under our aegis in Amman (the hostel capacity is 55 so some lived nearby), and we proved that we were up to the challenge. Documenting their activities with photos and having the chance to go on some field trips was a great way to get to know the students. I traditionally hosted them for a July 4th party in my ACOR Director's apartment.



CLS Arabic students in cooking class in 2007 with Elena Corbett (right, the ACOR CLS program director that summer who is now the AMIDEAST Education Abroad Director in Washington, D.C.) and beside her Glenn Corbett (ACOR CAORC pre-doc fellow, who later was an ACOR NEH fellow and served as the ACOR Associate Director from 2014 to 2017 and briefly as ACOR Grants Officer in D.C., before becoming CAORC Program Director in spring 2018) in the company of Sherry Hardin and Janet Lumbang (ACOR staff) and two CLS students.

Some of the CLS students came back as ACOR fellows and others on Fulbright scholarships to Jordan, so the impact of their time in country is demonstrable. Furthermore, in this decade, ACOR has awarded some 250 other fellowships and on average about 10 Americans come to Jordan on ACOR residential fellowships each year to further their graduate studies or conduct post-graduate research. Most of the funding has come from CAORC and the NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities), which provide the main scholarships offered for sustained periods.

By 2011, ACOR no longer had the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which brought scholars from eastern and central Europe to Jordan, nor The Samuel H. Kress Foundation, but they had given the chance to a number of people who conducted important work (Kress 14 and Mellon 16) and also benefited ACOR by the presence of Chris Tuttle, who was a Kress fellow when he was hired to be ACOR's Assistant Director in early spring semester 2006. ACOR's named fellowships also introduce young people to Jordan as summarized by Tom Parker, ACOR's Second Vice President, in Vol. 24.1 (Summer 2012). Each fellow brings their



Chris Tuttle, former Kress fellow, became ACOR Assistant Director in spring 2006; after he received his Ph.D. from Brown University in 2009 he became the Associate Director (until July 2014). Here he is seen during an ACOR Board of Trustees visit to Petra in June 2012 on the North Ridge where trustees Tom Parker and Megan Perry conducted excavations; in the immediate background are the Petra Church with its shelter and the Blue Chapel with its distinctive columns (both ACOR projects) and across the wadi is the Great Temple where Chris had been part of the Brown University team in the Petra city center.

own expertise and interests to the ACOR community and some have become life-long friends thanks to the time shared in Jordan.

ACOR fellows have also been an important part of the public lecture series and constructing the annual program has been an enjoyable aspect of my role as Director. The 50th Anniversary lecture program was inaugurated with my own presentation on ACOR@50 in late February 2018 and now—like many of our public talks—is available on YouTube (and found easily on our website). For that talk, I focused on many of ACOR's accomplishments and looked a bit to the future. It was the first time we created an auxiliary space for people to watch as our downstairs library can no longer hold all who come to attend our lectures. Not all fellows give public lectures, so I also coordinate the more informal in-house presentations at the end of their fellowship periods so they can share what they have learned and exchange ideas. Their research interests are now reflected in blog posts on the ACOR website so all can learn about the variety of topics reflected in their research agendas.



CAORC post-doc fellow Michael Vincente Pérez (University of Washington) and pre-doc fellow Rana Khoury (Northwestern University), giving their respective fellows talks in the ACOR Lower Library in December 2016. The audience included ACOR staff and fellows as well as invited guests from the British and French Institutes and elsewhere.

Independent college groups often stay at ACOR because of ties or introductions through those who know that ACOR is an ideal setting for such programs. A few of the past programs in this last decade were led by professors from Ghent University, DePaul University, Westmont College, Earlham College, Oberlin College, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Champlain College, and Utah Valley University (Vol. 23.2, Winter 2011).



Oberlin Conservatory of Music students during their January 2016 sojourn in Jordan when they played for a variety of schools as organized by the U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs section and their professor Chris Jenkins (seated on right on couch); here they are giving a private concert in the ACOR Director's apartment.

Special programs have also been undertaken from time to time, for example, the CAORC- ACOR-CIC seminar on Understanding Islam and the Modern Middle East in conjunction with the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) in January 2007 and then again in January 2010 (Vol. 22.1, Summer 2010). Such programs afforded ACOR the chance to invite Jordanians to talk to the small group of American professors and also for me to travel around Jordan with them. Pierre Bikai had previously led two such programs, and we hope in the future that ACOR will have the chance to host similar seminars in conjunction with CAORC.



Widad Kavar, who served as an ACOR trustee from 1988 to 2016, is the founder of the museum TIRAZ: Home of Arab Dress; she has generously shared her knowledge and collection with many of the seminar participants over the years as here in January 2010.

Before I moved to Jordan, I had led tours around the Middle East from Algeria to Iran for various museums and companies. That background has added to the pleasure I have in receiving tour groups at ACOR in order to share with them what we do. My tour expertise was also used for a program in October 2013, called Jordan-in-Depth, which brought a small group to ACOR (including several close friends) for more than two weeks with specialized site visits, insightful lectures, and gatherings in the homes of Jordanian friends. It was a memorable experience for all.



The ACOR Conservation Lab is where I often discuss ACOR's projects, including the Petra papyri (seen at right edge). This photo captures me showing Nabataean pottery that was excavated by Patricia Bikai in September 2005 at what she called the Beidha High Place (Vol. 17.2, Winter 2005). This image was taken in January 2012 when a Harvard Alumni group toured ACOR and was shown at a July lecture by Andy Goldman attended by my sister Ellen Porter Honnet. She gasped when she saw it, so the lecturer paused to ask her why and she was able to explain who she was and tell more about ACOR (photo by Susan Goldman).

For me the trips to visit colleagues during their excavation seasons remain special memories, for example, out to Jawa for a tour by Bernd Müller-Neuhof in April 2011 (see cover image), as well as Wisad Pools in the Badia with the team led by Gary Rollefson, where I spent a fun June 10 birthday in 2011. A more holistic view of Neolithic research in Jordan took place in May 2009 with a multi-day conference that included presentations at the Department of Antiquities and two days of site visits, as well as a reception hosted by me in my ACOR apartment (the Director's apartment on the fifth floor).



In May 2009, the Department of Antiquities organized a workshop with many prehistorians who had worked in Jordan and site tours were conducted by the specialists, as here with Maysoon Al Nahar of the University of Jordan explaining the site of Tell Abu Suwwan where she had conducted several excavation seasons as part of a summer field school.

The ACOR Director and Associate Director are often called upon to escort people around Petra, and I had the privilege of taking President Obama's press corps through the site in a short early morning visit in March 2013 (while Chris Tuttle met the President). Several congressional and VIP visits have given me the chance to showcase American projects in Petra while also explaining the importance of Petra and the Nabataeans. There have also been chances to participate in various film projects focused on Petra.



In the Blue Chapel as part of a tour of Petra for Senators McCain and Lieberman (middle front with staffers around them and Petra Park Commissioner Emad Hijazeen on right) in February 2011. The visit also included the Petra Church below the Blue Chapel—excavated and restored by ACOR in the 1990s and early 2000s, respectively (photo courtesy of Barbara A. Porter).

There have also been opportunities to represent ACOR outside of Jordan. CAORC has organized meetings for the overseas directors and others involved in the centers under their aegis (which I traditionally note range from Mexico to Mongolia). Already in 2006, I had the chance to join this group in Cambodia, and there have been subsequent meetings in Senegal (2009), Mongolia (2011), Turkey (2014), and Indonesia (2016), all of which have provided helpful opportunities to discuss the roles of the ORCs (overseas research centers) and garner ideas from colleagues who truly understand what it means to be a director of such institutions.

Thanks to funding given to ASOR by P.E. MacAllister for exchanges for the directors in the region, I was able to visit and give talks at the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem (January 2007), CAARI (Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute) in Nicosia (March 2007), and at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens (October 2009). In turn, ACOR received the directors from CAARI (first Tom Davis and then Andrew McCarthy) and the Albright (first Sy Gitin and later Matt Adams) as part of this valuable exchange.

ICHAJ (the International Conference on the History & Archaeology of Jordan) meetings took me to Paris in 2010 and Berlin in 2013 and at these gatherings there are always chances to connect with those who care about Jordan's past. Due to my position, I have served on the ICHAJ Scientific Committee since 2006, including



My twin sister, Joan Porter MacIver (on right), and I in the company of Raouf Abujaber, who attended the first ICHAJ in Oxford in 1980 and was a faithful participant for almost all subsequent conferences, including here at ICHAJ 11 in Paris in June 2010 (photo courtesy of Barbara A. Porter).

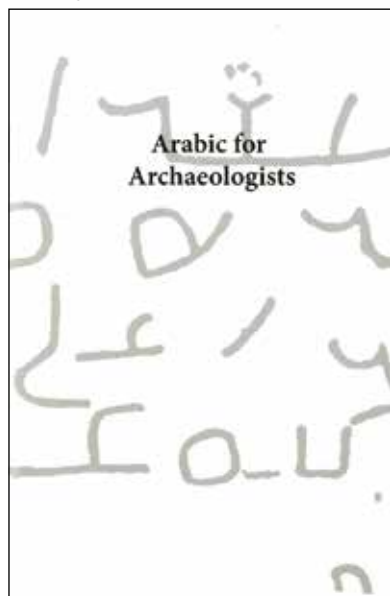
for the Amman meeting in May 2016 and the January 2019 meeting to take place in Florence (see www.ichaj.org).

The normal rhythm of the ACOR year includes the production of the ACOR newsletter in spring and fall, and I took on the responsibility from Patricia Bikai in 2006. Fortunately Isabelle Ruben provided her expertise in layout (also for all books published in this period) and together we have created 24 newsletters since 2006 up to this issue which has been undertaken by Starling Carter, whose main role at ACOR concerns development and outreach. Since the 40th anniversary newsletter, all issues have been produced in color and a long lead article was introduced to provide in-depth information on specific sites, i.e., the Feynan, the Badia, Jerash, Ghawr as-Safi, Pella, Tell Madaba, the Madaba Plains, Humayma, and Umm al-Jimal.

The issue prepared in the spring has since Vol. 24.2 (Winter 2012) featured ACOR's current major project, the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management (TWLCRM) Initiative. For Vol. 23.2, I wrote on ACOR activities at the Petra Church, thus ensuring that our cultural heritage work in Jordan was included on a regular basis as part of ACOR's ongoing print summary, which also includes updates on fellows, lectures, ACOR Board meetings, and memorial notices for individuals who have been part of ACOR's history. In 2009, the ACOR website was invigorated by the efforts of Sarah Harpending as Assistant Director in Amman and it is now a major platform for updates on ACOR, which will be maintained by her successor Akemi Horii. *ACOR Insights* is an electronic newsletter that also goes out twice a year with content from blog posts and newsletters.

In this period, I have overseen the publication of several books ranging from the useful and compact compendium *Megalithic Jordan* (2007) by Gajus Scheltema to the substantial multi-authored, scholarly tomes for the Petra papyri series, volumes II to V (2007–2018). I am also proud of the small but useful *Arabic for Archaeologists* created from the booklet originally published by Paul Lapp (1963) and continued by Nancy Lapp until she gave ACOR the rights to reissue it in 2008 (when she was with us on a CAORC fellowship). This idea was initiated during an ACOR lunch, and Robert Schick, who was also a CAORC fellow at that time, agreed to create an updated new version (2009). This revised

booklet has sold more than 1200 copies and the proceeds support the ACOR Library.



The 2009 version of *Arabic for Archaeologists* can be purchased at ACOR as well as online at acorjordan.org. The cover image depicts an early sixth century pre-Islamic Arabic inscription from Umm al-Jimal.

The Mosaics of Jordan (1993), written by the late Father Michele Piccirillo and edited by Patricia Bikai and Tom Dailey, remains one of our most popular books and is an essential source for understanding Jordan's Byzantine mosaics as recorded up to that time. It was reprinted in 1997, and in 2008, I oversaw the third reprinting at the National Press (where all our books are printed) so it would continue to be available. Some 7500 copies of this magnificent book have been shared in the 25 years since it appeared and it remains a lasting legacy of the work of Michele Piccirillo in Jordan. In the past ten years, I have also written a few scholarly articles related to my Columbia University dissertation on Old Syrian cylinder seals, but finding the time for such pursuits has been challenging.

In terms of protecting Jordan's past, one initiative that has assisted more than 60 projects is the ACOR Conservation Cooperative (ACC). Since 1988, Naif Zaban has been involved with ACOR excavation projects, including the Amman Citadel, the Petra Church, North Ridge Church and Blue Chapel as well as Beidha—both in the field and in the post-excavation process. In 2007, the ACC was established (Vol. 25.2, Winter 2013) and it has allowed ACOR to assist the Department of Antiquities, the Jordan Museum, and many foreign and Jordanian archaeological missions with conservation of objects by Naif Zaban. This has been supported by ACOR's USAID Endowment which as of 2016 became a permanent one called the ACOR Cultural Heritage Fund. A major undertaking on my part was writing the final report (October 2016) for USAID to give the history and explain the impact of the June 1997 to May 2016, twenty-year cooperative agreement that led to a permanent endowment (Vol. 28.1, Summer 2016). That funding also continues to support activities in Petra and scholarships for Jordanians to attend the ASOR Annual Meeting.



Birdseye view from the Director's apartment to the patio off the main floor on a rare outside gathering in February 2018 of the full SCHEP team, whose offices are on the floor below. Clockwise from lower right: Fareed AlShishani, Nizar Al Adarbeh, Zaid Kashour, Jehad Haron, Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb, Balqees AlMohaisen, Raneen Naimi, Shatha Abu Aballi, and Njoud Abu Hweij.

ACOR's flagship project in Petra since 2009 has been at the Temple of the Winged Lions near the Petra Church. The work there led to ACOR signing a cooperative agreement with USAID for the Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP) in November 2014. This major undertaking has defined our efforts these past four years. It has allowed ACOR to branch out throughout the country from Bayt Ras in the north to Aqaba in the south. In the next ACOR newsletter we will feature SCHEP which has been discussed in previous newsletters (and below), but is actually better known through social media as that is the main way for outreach in Jordan.

The SCHEP team has produced many snappy videos that capture the project's activities (including the painted Bayt Ras Tomb). Many talented Jordanians make up the SCHEP team, led by Nizar Al Adarbeh since September 2015. They are now integral to what ACOR is doing in Jordan and thus the number of staff within the building is now more than 30 strong.



The formal signing with Jane Taylor of her Deed of Gift to the ACOR Archive took place in October 2017 in the Director's flat with me signing on behalf of ACOR and Glenn J. Corbett as witness in his role of ACOR Archive Project co-lead (photo by Steve Meyer).

The ACOR Photo Archive Project has become a very exciting initiative and Glenn Corbett is due credit for the successful submission for a Title VI grant in 2016 which led to the four-years of funding that have allowed us to curate collections already in our care (i.e., Rami Khouri, Jane Taylor, George Bass, Linda K. Jacobs, Nancy Lapp etc.). Humi Ayoubi and Jack Green now supervise the endeavor but there have been many wonderful junior archivists and their efforts and those of interns and the library staff are manifest in the success of this project (see www.photoarchive.acorjordan.org).



Nancy Lapp presenting to ACOR in June 2018 slides taken by her and Paul Lapp, thus augmenting considerably her previous gifts included in the ACOR Photo Archive; she is flanked by Humi Ayoubi and Jack Green (project co-leads) on left and Steve Meyer (project archivist) on right.

Nancy Lapp has recently added to the collection and this new (albeit old) material will be integrated into the archive. Nancy joined the ACOR Board of Trustees in 1976 and thus she has seen ACOR through its many long-term directors, starting with Jim Sauer. When I came to Jordan in 2005 as the Director Designate, it was she who showed me around the premises and provided the personal welcome that can make such a difference. She is just one

of many special friends of ACOR who have shown they care in myriad ways (Vol. 29.2, Winter 2017).

In this past decade, we have been honored by the visits of family members of key ACOR people, namely, among others, Jim Sauer's brother Peter and his wife Sylvia, Anne Cabot Ogilvy's daughter Cecily Klingman and her husband Terry, and most recently by John Marks, son of John Marks, ACOR's first President of the Board of Trustees, who came with his wife Belle and daughter Eliza.



Special visit by John Marks and his wife Belle in June 2017 when Mohammed Adawi (Abu Ahmed) lit up with happiness in recalling his parents John and Aminta Marks and their kindness to him and his wife in Jerusalem before the 1967 war. Abu Ahmed has been central to ACOR's 50 years in Jordan and remains highly regarded by those who have stayed here. His retirement in March 2018 marks the passing of an era.

For me, presiding over ACOR in its 50th anniversary year has included many special moments as shown in the article below on our gala events in Amman. In 2017, Miriam Saleh and I had the chance to work with filmmaker Ghassan Salti, thanks to an introduction by Mamdouh Bisharat, and capture on camera interviews with several people involved in ACOR's history, including Board President Randy Old. A version of the film shot by Salti was shown at our January 2018 celebration in the festively decorated Lower Library and a shorter version edited by Muhammad Ali was showcased at the June 2018 gala at the Grand Hyatt and can be seen on ACOR's website. It was a pleasure to talk about ACOR and reflect on its past with all the participants in the film project. Each person was asked to end their segment with "Happy 50 ACOR!" and here I echo that sentiment and thank all who have created ACOR and sustained it over five decades.

The longest serving staff members are now Head Librarian Carmen (Humi) Ayoubi and Facilitator Said Adawi, who both started in 1988, but close in time are Abed Adawi, the Facilities Manager who has taken care of the ACOR building since 1992, and Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh who has overseen financial matters since 1995. Continuity has helped ACOR remain stable but change is also important and this is reflected in the news faces in the following staff photo, such as ACOR Associate Director Jack Green and Assistant Directors, Akemi Horii in Amman and China Shelton in the U.S., as well as Starling Carter for development and outreach and Rabab Samawi as Administrator. The new members of the ACOR family are now also charged with keeping ACOR strong in the years to come, and they fortunately have the backing and encouragement of ACOR's many friends and supporters in Jordan and beyond.

ACOR Staff in June 2018



Seated from left: Akemi Horii, Miriam Saleh, Humi Ayoubi, Barbara Porter, and Sarah Harpending. Standing from left: Steve Meyer, China Shelton, Razan Ahmad, Jack Green, Samya Kafafi, Starling Carter, Rabab Samawi, Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh, Ghassan Adawi, Abed Adawi, and Said Adawi (photo by Summer Wrobel)

ACOR Staff in June 2018

Director	Barbara A. Porter
Deputy Director & CFO	Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh
Associate Director	John D.M. (Jack) Green
Assistant Director (Amman)	Sarah Harpending*
Assistant Director (U.S.)	China P. Shelton
Assistant Director Designate (Amman)	Akemi Horii
Development Officer	Miriam Saleh*
Development Assistant	Starling Carter
Accountant	Danah Al Shanteer**
Administrator	Rabab Samawi
Head Librarian	Carmen (Humi) Ayoubi
Assistant Librarian	Samya Kafafi
Library Archival Assistant	Razan Ahmad
Facilitator	Said Adawi
Building Maintenance Manager	Abed Adwai
Chef	Ghassan Adawi
Conservation Technician	Naif Zaban**
Project Archivist	Steve Meyer
Head Housekeeping	Cesar Octavo
Housekeeping Staff	Norma Costales
Housekeeping Staff	Janet Lumbang

*At the end of June, both Sarah Harpending and Miriam Saleh finished their time at ACOR, after ten years and two and a half years, respectively.

**Missing from photo

USAID SCHEP Staff in June 2018

Chief of Party	Nizar Al Adarbeh
CHR Projects Lead	Jehad Haron
Tourism Development Lead	Hussein Khirfan
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	Zaid Kashour
Capacity Building Lead	Fareed AlShishani
Capacity Building & Research Assistant	Balqees AlMohaisen
Communication Consultant	Sofia Smith
Communication Officer	Shatha Abu Aballi
Awareness & Outreach Intern	Raneen Naimi
Creative Producer & Editor	Njoud Abu Hweij
Communications Assistant & Videographer	Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb
Administrative Assistant	Dina Al Majali



ACOR's dedicated housekeeping staff headed by Cesar Octavo (middle) with Norma Costales (left) and Janet Lumbang (right)

Celebrating ACOR's 50th Anniversary in Amman

Starling Carter

In the first half of 2018, ACOR held two celebratory events in Amman to mark the occasion of our 50th Anniversary with many of our supporters and friends. On January 10, we held an intimate dinner in the ACOR Library, during which we celebrated H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid on the occasion of his retirement from the ACOR Board after more than 30 years. H.R.H. Prince Raad remains a valued friend of ACOR, and over the decades of his patronage he has witnessed our institution grow and change to become what we are today.



H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid gives remarks at the January 10 dinner.

During the dinner, Prince Raad remarked, "I am taking this step after spending well over 40 years of my life in the most exhilarating, thrilling, and unforgettable archaeological involvement with ACOR." ACOR Board President Randy Old also made comments, looking back on his own decades spent with ACOR.

A special video was shown at the event, featuring reflections from some of ACOR's long-standing friends and colleagues, who spoke about their memories of ACOR's accomplishments and evolution over the years. It was a truly special occasion, and presented a rare and valuable opportunity to gather some of the closest members of the ACOR family for celebration and reflection.



Randy Old making remarks at the January anniversary dinner



ACOR Board Treasurer David Nickols with Nancy Eslick of USAID



Fuad Abujaber, Lina Annab (Minister of Tourism and Antiquities), Hazem Malhas, Mona Naffa Nazzal, Muna Haddad, and ACOR Board member Reem Habayeb



Barbara Porter, Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh, and Sarah Harpending in traditional Arab robes (a theme for the evening)

On June 25th, we hosted a larger gathering, bringing together over 250 of our supporters, partners, friends, and family at the Grand Hyatt in Amman. Here we premiered another special film created for the occasion, which is now available on our website (see our 50th Anniversary Gala blog post) and YouTube channel, highlighting some of ACOR's major projects and accomplishments over its first fifty years. Ten photographs of Jordanian landscapes and historical sites by Jane Taylor were displayed and auctioned at the event, raising awareness of our Photo Archive project and giving tribute to the beauty and heritage of our host country.

We also honored Chef Mohammed Adawi, who retired in March 2018 after an amazing 50-year tenure with ACOR. It is thanks to these long-lasting relationships that ACOR has not only stayed afloat for all these years, but also adapted and expanded.



Zaki Ayoubi, Barbara Porter, Anne Dunn, Skip Gnehm, Reem Habayeb, and Adib Habayeb

It was a joy to reunite with so many of those who have joined us on this journey to mark this incredible milestone and set the stage for the next half-century, and beyond. We extend our gratitude to all those who made it, as well as to everyone who sent their congratulations from a distance.



Nancy Habib, whose late husband Farid Aziz Habib was the architect of ACOR's permanent headquarters, with Sally and Bert de Vries

We are not done celebrating yet! Recognizing that many of our colleagues and friends are based in the United States, we will host a joint reception with Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) at the November 2018 ASOR Annual Meeting in Denver, and finally will hold our final 50th Anniversary event in Washington, D.C., in April 2019.



H.E. Abdelalah Al Khatib, First Vice President of the ACOR Board of Trustees, welcoming guests



Mohammed Adawi and his family, including his sons, ACOR Facilitator Said Adawi and Maintenance Manager Abed Adawi, and his nephew, ACOR Chef Ghassan Adawi



Mohammed Adawi cuts the 50th Anniversary cake at the June 25 gala.

**All photos in this article are by Steve Meyer.
See the blog at www.acorjordan.org for more fantastic pictures from these events!**

ACOR Photo Archive Project Gathers Pace

John D.M. Green

ACOR's Library holds a remarkable photographic archive related to its role in preserving, researching, and promoting the heritage of Jordan. A four-year Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education is currently supporting the ACOR Research Library Photographic Archive Project to help digitize and share over 30,000 images from this important resource. The January to June 2018 period saw the public launch of our online database at www.acor.digitalrelab.com, the growth of the project's presence on social media, especially Instagram, and the continued development of our internship and training program.

ACOR is very grateful for the generous donations of photo collections. This includes images donated most recently by Nancy Lapp, of sites in Jordan taken between the late 1950s and early 2000s, including those by her late husband, Paul Lapp. This collection joins existing collections at ACOR donated by Jane Taylor, Rami Khouri, and Linda K. Jacobs. ACOR is grateful for the major contributions of project team members in this period, including Project Archivist intern, Steve Meyer, project co-leads Glenn Corbett and Carmen 'Humi' Ayoubi, and Assistant Librarian Samya Kafafi who is managing the uploads and metadata. New project team members included myself as project co-lead in April, and Razan Ahmad who joined as Library Archival Assistant in February. We are also grateful to interns Meis Shahin, Hala Saqqa, and Ameer Al Khatahtbeh. To find out more about the project, go to www.photoarchive.acorjordan.org.



The ACOR Photo Archive Project celebrates its first anniversary, April 2018; from left: Yousef Abu Ali, Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh, Humi Ayoubi, Glenn Corbett, Corrie Commisso, Samya Kafafi, Steve Meyer, and Jack Green.



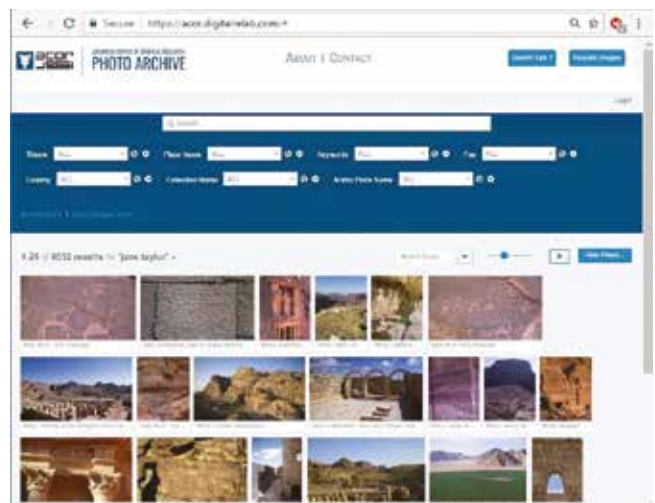
Rami Khouri reviewing his collection with Project Archivist Jessica Holland in August 2017



Neolithic statues being unearthed at Ayn Ghazal in 1983 (Rami Khouri Collection)



The Hellenistic-period palace at Iraq al Amir as documented in 1998 (Jane Taylor Collection)



Screenshot of the Photo Archive's new online home at acor.digitalrelab.com

Public Lectures at ACOR (January–June 2018)

February 28—Barbara A. Porter (ACOR Director) “ACOR@50—Past, Present, and Future”*

March 14—Frances Hasso (Duke University and ACOR CAORC Fellow) “Palestinian Death and Life during the British Mandate”

April 18—John D. M. (Jack) Green (ACOR Associate Director) “Continuity and change in mortuary customs: the Jordan Valley in the second and first millennia B.C.”*

* Available as ACOR Video Lectures on www.acorjordan.org and YouTube



H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid and Mohammed Asfour at Barbara A. Porter's February lecture (photo by Yusuf Ahmed)



Frances Hasso lecturing on reproductive life and death in British Mandate Palestine in March in the ACOR Lower Library



Jack Green, Zeidan Kafafi, and Susanne Kerner after the April lecture

Fellows in Residence (January–June 2018)

CAORC Post-Graduate Fellows

Omar Attum, Biology, Indiana University Southeast; The Biodiversity Value of Cultural and Archaeological Landscapes in Northern Jordan

Frances Hasso, Sociology and History, Duke University; Palestinian Young Child and pre-Natal Death during the British Mandate

CAORC Graduate Fellows

Rawan Arar, Sociology, University of California, San Diego; Shouldering the Refugee Burden: Jordan and the Global Refugee Crisis

Allison Spencer Hartnett, Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford; Land, Property Rights, and Distributive Politics in Jordan



Omar Attum



Frances Hasso



Allison Spencer Hartnett and Rawan Arar

More information about our public lectures and fellowships, including how to apply, can be found at our website,
www.acorjordan.org.

Update for USAID SCHEP

John D.M. Green, Nizar Al Adarbeh, and Jehad Haron

The period of January to June 2018 witnessed major accomplishments for the fourth year of USAID SCHEP (Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project), implemented by ACOR, and this is a brief summary of some of them. In our next newsletter, there will be a fuller summation, including an update of work at Bayt Ras (Vol. 29.2, Winter 2017).

A key outcome of SCHEP is to help preserve cultural heritage sites as well as make them more accessible to tourist visitors and members of local communities. Site pathways were completed and interpretative signage was installed at sites, such as Ghawr as-Safi, the Temple of the Winged Lions at Petra, and Umm al-Jimal. In addition, site preparations and collections documentation were conducted as part of MRAMP, the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project.



Virtual Reconstruction of Islamic Ayla, including the Sea Pier and Sea Gate (courtesy of JREDS)

The Aqaba Marine Heritage Project led by the Jordan Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS), presented recent findings at a conference held in Aqaba in February, including the 2017 survey work in the Aqaba harbor by Sawsan Al-Fakhry and Islam Sleim. The project was able to document the remains of a 'Sea Pier' in close proximity to the 'Sea Gate' of the early Islamic port city of Ayla. The work, conducted in the area of the Mövenpick Hotel beach, emphasized the potential preservation of underwater archaeological features that are normally hidden from view. These features remain vulnerable given how close they are to urban and maritime development projects.

At the Temple of the Winged Lions in Petra, a site visit and marking event with the TWL team and key stakeholders took place in late March to celebrate the end of a major campaign of work at this Nabataean Temple (Vol. 29.2, Winter 2017), including the completion of emergency conservation interventions in the Cella and Southwest Quadrant, installation of graphic signage, completion of paths, and the Experience Petra Program carried out by the SCHEP site stewards. The completion event was followed by the presentation of certificates to all team members. A series of presentations and workshops followed with the intention to evaluate the project and identify key areas for improvement and future focus.

In mid-May in Wadi Rum, CB-RAER, the Community Based Rock Art and Epigraphic Recording Project, celebrated the completion of its Rock Art Rangers program with a series of presentations and recognition of the contributions of team members. Over the



Representatives from TWLCRM, SCHEP, ACOR, PDTRA, and DOA at the new augmented reality sign for the Temple of the Winged Lions placed on the Colonnaded Street in Petra city center, March 2018 (photo courtesy of Steve Meyer)

past two years, project co-directors George Bevan, Kaelin Groom, and Casey Allen have worked closely with staff of the Wadi Rum Protected Area and local community members at Rum village and Disi to document and learn about the rock art and inscriptions at this World Heritage Site using a mobile application that supports "RASI"—the Rock Art Stability Index. Zeyad Al-Salameen (Al Hussein Bin Talal University) and Ibrahim Sadaqah (Independent Scholar), provided training for the local Rock Art Rangers in how to read Thamudic and Nabataean inscriptions, which they will go on to demonstrate to visitors in Wadi Rum. Rock Art Rangers learned about the importance of protecting and preserving rock art and inscriptions through documentation, as well as graffiti removal and vandalism prevention courses.



Interns from the American University in Madaba are given a tour of the Archaeological Park West, Madaba, by Douglas R. Clark, MRAMP co-director.

In addition, a number of training activities for Site Stewards and the Department of Antiquities' staff took place, including surveying techniques, ArcGIS, Archaeological Site Promotion Training with a focus on photography and social media, and museum collections training, much of which is captured on SCHEP social media outlets.

USAID SCHEP online:
www.facebook.com/usaidshcp
www.usaidsclep.org
Instagram @USAID_SCHEP



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ACOR Interns (January–June 2018)

ACOR hosts several interns each season, including undergraduate and graduate students who assist in our day-to-day operations and special events, and others who are hired especially to aid in our photo archive digitization project. Interns are an important part of what we do, and we are grateful to have them here and to play a part in equipping them for promising future careers.

Between January and June 2018, Meaghan Harrington and Summer Wrobel joined us as general ACOR interns, while Steve Meyer served as the Project Archivist for the ACOR Photo Archive. He was joined in the Photo Archive by interns Hala Saqqa and Ameer Al Khatahtbeh. Diana Kruzman helped with the TWLCRM Initiative and wrote a June blog post, “The Temple of the Winged Lions: Preserving and Presenting History,” which can be found on our website, www.acorjordan.org.



Steve Meyer at the June 25, 2018 gala with one of the photo mosaics he created from more than 5,000 Jane Taylor photos



Diana Kruzman with her new ACOR T-shirt, gifted to her at the end of her internship



Meaghan Harrington



Ameer Al Khatahtbeh (photo by Steve Meyer)



Hala Saqqa and Summer Wrobel at the June gala (photo by Steve Meyer)

For more photo mosaic creations from the Jane Taylor Collection, see Steve Meyer’s post on the ACOR Blog, “What Can You Do with a Photo Archive?” (May 10, 2018)

In Memoriam: Fawwaz Ishaqat



Fawwaz Ishaqat in Umm Sayhoun (photo by Jennifer Ramsay)

In late June 2018, Eng. Fawwaz Ishaqat died suddenly in Petra, a place that was dear to his heart and where he had worked as a surveyor for many years. He was born in December 1958 and grew up in Amman. He studied at the Czech Technical University where he received his M.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering specializing in geodesy and cartography in 1986. He taught at Hashemite University from 1996 until his death and was part of the Hashemite University project undertaken with ACOR of a base map of the Petra city center during the period between 1997 and 2006.

In the past few years, he brought his expertise to USAID SCHEP and conducted training courses in archaeological surveying at ACOR and at several sites. A video produced by SCHEP in December 2016 was adapted as a tribute to him in July 2018—both videos can be found on YouTube. These films show him transferring his knowledge to members of the Department of Antiquities and the Petra Archaeological Park. Those who worked with him in the field praised his skills but also always mentioned his congeniality and hospitality. This generous person is missed by his immediate family of his wife and three children and many siblings and nieces and nephews, as well as by former students and academic colleagues, the Bdoul in Umm Sayhoun, and the wider archaeological community extending beyond the borders of Jordan.

ACOR Board Meeting in Amman, June 2018



Seated from left: John P. Oleson, Edward W. Gnehm, Jr., Nancy Lapp, Barbara A. Porter (ex officio), Randolph B. Old, Abdelelah Al Khatib, Mohammed Asfour, and Reem Habayeb. Standing from left: Bethany J. Walker, Jennifer Ramsay, Morag Kersel, Megan Perry, Bert de Vries, S. Thomas Parker, Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh, Jenna Morton, Anne Aarnes, Claus Gielisch, Anne Dunn, David Nickols, and Øystein S. LaBianca; for the full Board of Trustees list, see last page.
(photo by Steve Meyer)

ACOR's Strategic Pillars

In November 2017, the ACOR Board of Trustees determined that it should undertake a strategic planning process. A survey was created in English and Arabic that was sent out to hundreds of stakeholders, providing valuable feedback. A strategic planning committee supported by an external consultant, many ACOR staff members, and others led the development of a Strategic Plan, which was approved by the ACOR Board of Trustees on June 26, 2018. The Pillars (below) serve as the aspirational summary of our Strategic Plan, defining ACOR's focus over the next three to five years.

Pillar I: Advancing Knowledge

ACOR is a center for scholarly excellence in the field of archaeology and in other disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. ACOR serves a diverse set of scholars and students from North America, Jordan and other regional countries and has strong cooperative relationships with North American universities.

Pillar II: Preserving Jordan's Cultural Heritage with Communities in Jordan

Through externally-funded programs, ACOR fosters cultural heritage activities as a significant part of its mission, by assisting the national government and local communities in preservation of significant sites through training and knowledge-sharing with cultural heritage/tourism scholars, and shares Jordan's rich history with global audiences.

Pillar III: Engaging Our Host Nation

ACOR has broad relationships in Jordan as well as deep relationships with key Jordanian national and local governmental agencies and academic institutions. ACOR strategically communicates with these agencies/institutions and more broadly in Jordan to ensure its mission and activities are understood by a diverse set of stakeholders. ACOR reaches out to and engages with many Jordanian academics and universities. Public outreach is focused on ACOR's lecture program. While ACOR communicates primarily in English, ACOR also communicates in Arabic with some local audiences.

Pillar IV: Information Services – Library and Archive

ACOR's library and archive are key resources for visiting scholars and students, Jordanian scholars and students and remote users. ACOR has a solid infrastructure, including high-speed Internet connections; appropriate digital tools; investments in scholarly materials and select staff; concise and up-to-date policies on acquiring and preserving materials; and well-designed research/learning spaces.

Pillar V: Supporting Our Future Needs

ACOR has the necessary financial, human and other resources (including infrastructure) to underpin its programs and needs to allow ACOR to serve its diverse stakeholders in Jordan and elsewhere.

ACOR Annual Appeal Results 2017 and 2018

Funds and Endowments	Fiscal Year 2017	Fiscal Year 2018
Annual Fund	\$ 133,277	\$384,919*
Annual Library Support	\$ 17,580	\$13,672
ACOR General Endowment	\$ 550	\$3,645
ACOR Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship Fund	\$881	\$19,025
Anne C. Ogilvy Memorial Library Endowment	\$1,100	\$1,900
Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship Endowment	\$ 325	\$350
Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship Endowment	\$ 2,925	\$600
Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship Endowment	\$4,744	\$3,623
Harrell Family Fellowship Endowment	–	\$3,215
Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship Endowment	\$ 75	\$50
Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship Endowment	\$ 50	\$450
James A. Sauer Memorial Fellowship Endowment	\$ 1,925	\$2,175
ACOR Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Scholarship Fund (initiated 2016)	\$1,000	\$1,000
Petra Church Conservation Initiative	–	\$775
Temple of the Winged Lions (TWLCRM) Initiative	\$491	\$525
Total*	\$ 164,923	\$435,923

*Including Joy M. Hebert's legacy gift of \$261,917 (see ACOR Newsletter 29.2, p. 10)

Donations to ACOR (January–June 2018)

General Donations to the Annual Fund

Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh; Susan Ackerman; Catherine Alexander; Bjorn Anderson; Jim Barnhart; Sharifa Nofa Bint Nasser; Nancy H. Broeder; James Callahan; Cam Carruthers; Joyce E. Chelberg; Nita Dawson; Jennie Ebeling; Paul Fitzpatrick; Julia Frane and Steven Mansbach; Meryle A. Gaston; Charles and Marie-Henriette Gates; Logan T. Geeslin; Bridget Guarasci and Mani Potnuru; Reem Habayeb; Gemma S. Hall; Timothy P. Harrison; Jo Jagoda; Yacoub and Mary Joury; Donald Keller and Margaret Sablove in honor of ACOR Fellowship Committee and in memory of Henry Christensen; Abdelelah Al Khatib; Carol Kobs; Chris Long; Helen Lovejoy; Margaret O'Hea; Thomas R. Pickering in memory of Alice Pickering; Thomas C. Ragan in memory of James Korrie Brehm; Barbara Reeves; Ron and Patty Rennick in honor of Randy Old; Sarah and David Roberts; Allen Rogge; Daniel Rubinstein; S.A.D. Foundation in honor of Randy Old and Bert de Vries; Miriam Saleh; Aysha and Suha Shoman; Kathleen Slane; Suzanne and Jaroslav Stetkevych; Sally B. Strazdins; Tareq Thalji; Eugene Ulrich; Nicholas and Patricia Veliotis

Annual Fund in honor of Barbara A. Porter

The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust; The Bernard Selz Foundation; Frances Cairncross; Emme and Jonathan Deland; Christine Faltermeier; Gemma S. Hall; Peter and Ann MacIver; Freia Mitarai; Josephine Berger Nadler; Nancy and Rudy Stahl

Annual Fund Donations for Library Support

The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE); Aina E. Boraas in memory of Roger S. Boraas; Reem Habayeb; Valerie Hird; Kimberly Katz; Michael Reimer; Bonnie M. Sampsell; Charles Williams II; Randall Younker

ACOR General Endowment

Spencer Harper III in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Stanley M. and Phemie C. Maxwell; Theresa and Thomas Whetstine

The Anne C. Ogilvy Memorial Library Endowment

Charles Williams II

The Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship Endowment

Rochelle Snee

The Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Barbara Reeves; Peter and Penelope West

The Harrell Family Fellowship Endowment

Brooke B. and Philip J. Harrell in honor of Edgar and Paula Harrell

Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship Fund

Aina E. Boraas in memory of Roger S. Boraas; Reem Habayeb; Nancy Habib in memory of Farid Aziz Habib; The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust; H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid and Princess Majda Raad

The Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Lysbeth A. and Skye Qi Marigold

The James A. Sauer Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Bonnie Lee Crosfield; Seymour Gitin

TWLCRM Initiative

P.J. Parr in memory of Phillip C. Hammond

In-Kind Donations to ACOR

The Joukowsky Family Foundation (through the auspices of Nina J. Köprülü); Jane Taylor; Omar Zumot and Khaled Zumot

Donations to the Annual Fund (July–December 2017) not properly acknowledged in ACOR Newsletter 29.2

Jennifer Ramsay; Francis Randall; Benjamin Rauch and Margaret Scott; Charles Reineke; Suzanne Richard; Anne Robinson in honor of Barbara A. Porter

Donations to the ACOR Library (January–June 2018)

Faiha Abdulhadi; Ashraf Al Daba'in; Dhiaa Jafar Alhassan; Amany Aldabouki; Mohammed Al Zuhair; Leila Bader; Zainab Bahrani; Kim Benzel; Sandro Caranzano; Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (through auspices of Claudia Bührig); James Fraser; Meryle Gaston; Krystyna Gawlikowska; Edward W. Gnehm, Jr.; David F. Graf; Jack Green; Basema Hamarneh; Hani Hayajneh; Zeidan Kafafi; Heather Keane and Jim Wright; Al Leonard; Romolo Loreto; Burton MacDonald; Randolph B. Old; Barbara A. Porter; Abdullah Qader; Jennifer Ramsay; Isabelle Ruben; Miriam Saleh and Sam McNeil; Robert Schick; Studium Biblicum Franciscanum; Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University; Periodicals Department, University College London; Guido Vanini; Matthew Vincent; Daniel Waugh; H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid; Ahmad S. Zoubi

ACOR Special Announcements



Miriam Saleh (left) and Starling Carter (right)

ACOR Development Officer Miriam Saleh oversaw the ACOR 50th anniversary celebrations in January and June in Amman. She moved to China in July and ACOR wishes her well and thanks her for her efforts for the past two and a half years. Starling Carter has taken on the position of Development Assistant and joined ACOR in May 2018 so she was able to overlap with Miriam and was very involved in the preparations for the 50th anniversary gala in June. Starling has her M.A. in Middle East Studies from The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, and was able to get to know ACOR through our public lecture series during the past academic year, which she spent in Amman on an Arabic language fellowship. She will also be very involved in expanded communication efforts, including social media. She grew up in Tennessee and attended Bard College at Simon's Rock in Massachusetts.

ACOR's US office has moved!
Please note our new address:

3682 King Street, P.O. Box 16072
Alexandria, VA 22302-9998
+1 703-461-1762

ACOR e-mail address in Amman:
acor@acorjordan.org

Your support keeps ACOR going.
To donate to ACOR, use the Annual Appeal
Form to mail a check to our Alexandria office,
or donate via credit card on our website,
www.acorjordan.org.
Donate by December 31, 2018 to be
acknowledged on a special plaque honoring our
major donors over the past 50 years!

June 2018 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees' annual spring meeting took place at ACOR on June 26 as presided over by Board President Randolph B. Old and newly appointed First Vice President Abdelelah Al Khatib. The evening before ACOR's 50th Anniversary Gala took place at the Grand Hyatt Hotel and was attended by ACOR trustees, friends, and staff. It served as the retirement party for Mohammed Adawi who was ACOR's chef for 50 years. The main focus of the Board meeting was the Strategic Planning process. Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh and Betty Anderson were nominated to the Board. The members of the Class of 2018 were reelected as the Class of 2021. Emeritus status was conferred on H.R.H. Prince Raad Bin Zeid and James Wiseman. New committee chairs were appointed and governance issues were addressed. The Recording Secretary was China P. Shelton, ACOR Assistant Director in the U.S.

ACOR Trustees

Class of 2019: Dr. Bert de Vries; Mrs. Jane F. Geniesse; Mrs. Reem Atalla Habayeb; Dr. Morag Kersel; H.E. Mr. Abdelelah Al Khatib (First Vice President); Mrs. Nina J. Köprülü; Dr. Jennifer Ramsay
Class of 2020: Mrs. Anne H. Aarnes (Secretary); Mr. Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh; Mrs. Anne M. Dunn; H.E. Mr. Claus Gielisch; H. E. Mr. Edward W. Gnehm, Jr.; Dr. Mary Ellen Lane; Mrs. Jenna de Vries Morton; Mr. David Nickols (Treasurer); Mr. Randolph B. Old (President); Dr. S. Thomas Parker (Second Vice President)
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Ex officio: Dr. Barbara A. Porter

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