



British-American Business Association Washington, D.C.

Fostering valuable UK-US trans-Atlantic business relationships for more than 30 years

Newsletter

January 2025

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Gala Christmas Luncheon

Our Platinum Members



Gala Christmas Luncheon “Lights” up the Holiday Season

With Christmas pudding lighting up the stage at BABA’s 28th Gala Christmas Luncheon, members and guests enjoyed the company of almost 300 attendees at the beautiful Fairmont, Georgetown. This year, the **Minister-Counsellor, Global Issues, Mungo Woodifield**, was our guest of honor.

A special thank you to our event sponsors for supporting this gala luncheon: Premier Raffle Sponsor: **British Airways**; Diamond Sponsor: **Lockheed Martin**; Platinum Sponsors: **Diageo, Rolls-Royce North America** and **Womble Bond Dickinson**; Gold Sponsors: **Arnold & Porter, AstraZeneca, Indigo DNA** and **National Grid**; and Silver Sponsors: **Airbus** and **Westinghouse**.

For more details and photos from the event, turn to pages 5-6.



From left to right: Mungo Woodifield, Minister-Counsellor, British Embassy; Mark Huntley, General Manager, Fairmont; and Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel, Chair, BABA.



Chef Claus lights up the Christmas pudding

From the President



Dear Members & Colleagues,

I hope that you, as well as your family and friends, had a very happy and relaxing holiday season. It really is a special time of the year, during which we can all take pause, have fun with family and friends, recharge, and look forward to the many opportunities and challenges of the upcoming year.

Remaining on a festive theme, it was wonderful to see so many members and their guests at the BABA Christmas Luncheon. Many thanks to all who could attend, and in particular, to **Mungo Woodifield, Minister-Counsellor at the British Embassy**, who stepped in at the last minute for the Deputy Head of Mission who was ill. Mungo delivered a pitch-perfect presentation. This was the first time that many of our members had the opportunity to meet Mungo. As our Ex-Officio on the BABA Board, we are delighted to be working closely with him and our other Embassy colleagues in 2025.

I would be remiss if I didn't note the contribution of our company sponsors who are listed on the front page of this Newsletter. Their generous support made our gala holiday event possible. Thank you all for your participation and involvement in BABA. A portion of the event proceeds will be donated, once again, to **Horton's Kids**.

Looking ahead to the coming year, with no shortage of pressing topics to discuss, our committees are hard at work seeking high-level speakers and organizing timely programs in our main focus areas: DATS (Defense, Aerospace, Transportation, Security), Energy & Environment; Financial Services; Health & Life Sciences; Innovators & Entrepreneurs; Trade & Policy; and Technology, Media, Telecom. Members with expertise in these areas who would like to participate on a committee are encouraged to contact our Executive Director, LeeAnn Petersen at lpetersen@babawashington.org.

With new UK and US Administrations, an interesting and eventful year lies ahead for BABA and our members. We look forward to navigating new opportunities and challenges together – as well to connecting and generating impact through a diverse array of programs and events.

Chris Fetzer

President@babawashington.org

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Embassy News

In 2024, the British Embassy in Washington (BEW) navigated the complex political and economic landscape of the United States while continuing to demonstrate the importance of the Special Relationship with the United Kingdom. At the end of 2024, the Embassy welcomed senior U.K. officials, navigated the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election, engaged with the incoming Trump administration on key issues, all while promoting the U.K.'s pro-growth policies and strengthening ties between U.K. and U.S. companies.

One of the main focuses for BEW at the end of 2024 was engaging stakeholders and managing relationships on both sides of the political spectrum ahead of the 2024 presidential election. The British Embassy focused on maintaining strong working relations with both parties and hit the ground running with the new Trump Administration, building relationships with key stakeholders and finding areas of mutual interest for collaboration. With the historic nature of this election, the Embassy worked to



British Embassy Washington

ensure the UK remained America's closest ally irrespective of who the American people chose as their next president.

BEW engaged in extensive political outreach, meeting with members of Congress, campaign staff, and think tanks to stay at pace with shifts in U.S. policy. Key parts of this outreach included discussions on U.S.-U.K. relations, global security, trade, and shared international values.

International Women in Leadership Forum

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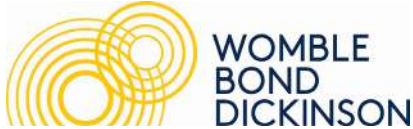
In the Fall, BABA hosted an International Women in Leadership Forum in partnership with the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce and the French American Chamber of Commerce. The event held at the **Airbus Experience Center** in downtown D.C. attracted 80 women working in international business, trade and government affairs. BABA Chairwoman **Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel** of **Lockheed Martin** sat on an industry panel alongside representatives from Airbus and Erickson as the speakers shared their career journey with moderator **Diana Marrero** of **Foreign Policy Magazine**. The government panel featured **Lucy Ferguson** from the **British Embassy** alongside **Lena Bartholdson** of the **Swedish Embassy** and was moderated by **Alexa Chopivsky** from **Women's Foreign Policy Group**. Throughout the summit the audience received tips and tools from two executive leadership coaches. The event culminated in a networking lunch that encouraged collaboration and new friendships.



Corporate Sustainability and Investing

Organized by
BABA's Financial Services Committee

Sponsored by



On October 22nd BABA's Financial Services Committee organized an engaging discussion on corporate sustainability and investing, followed by a networking reception. The esteemed panel explored trans-atlantic trends, challenges, and opportunities which provided valuable insights for organizations, investors, and others. Some of the questions explored were:



(l to r) Kate Goodall, Dr. Julie Anderson, Sarah Yang, Oladipo Okusaga, Courtney Oldham, Financial Services Committee Co-Chair; and Host, Elizabeth Lee, Womble Bond Dickinson

- Is "ESG" dead in the U.S.? If not, what will it take to move forward?
- How pivotal are the November election results to the trajectory in the U.S.?
- What are the implications of differing viewpoints and regimes across the Atlantic?
- What's the generational power dynamic at play?
- What is impact investing, and how is one an entrepreneur in this space?
- What is transition finance, and how are brown companies evolving?

The panel consisted of: **Dr. Julie Anderson**, Kogod School of Business; **Kate Goodall**, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Halcyon Venture Partners; and **Sarah Yang**, Sustainable Investing Strategist, Brown Advisory. The discussion was moderated by **Oladipo Okusaga**, Head of Energy and Climate, British Embassy.



Lockheed Martin to Modernize Air Force F-22 Raptor With Advanced Infrared Threat-Detection Sensors

Platinum Member, Lockheed Martin has received a \$270 million contract from the U.S. Air Force to integrate a system of next-generation infrared defensive sensors on the F-22 Raptor.



The F-22 will soon feature a newly developed, distributed set of embedded TacIRST sensors developed by Lockheed Martin to enhance aircraft survivability and lethality, known as the Infrared Defensive System (IRDS). In addition to managing integration of IRDS on the F-22, the company will also support integration on other platforms.

"We understand the need for advanced and versatile infrared systems like IRDS that will make pilots' missions more survivable and lethal against current and future adversaries," said Hank Tucker, vice president of Missions Systems at Lockheed Martin. "We're committed to supporting the Air Force through continuous innovation of capabilities to deter and defeat evolving threats."

Justin Taylor, vice president, F-22 program at Lockheed Martin added: "Lockheed Martin is proud to continue partnering with the Air Force on essential modernization efforts for the Raptor, leveraging our expertise in 5th Generation aircraft and air dominance systems to integrate capabilities that ensure uninterrupted U.S. air superiority today and into the future."



28th Annual Gala Christmas Luncheon

December 13, 2024
Fairmont, Washington, D.C., Georgetown



Chrissy Morgan and Emcee Bob Heck join the Christmas Elf, Maureen Degnan



Guests from the Fairmont pause for a photo



Claire Rui-En Wong from the British International School of Washington performed on her Euphonium



David Hudson, Aluta Strategies is the lucky winner of the Rolls-Royce holiday wine & gift basket



Mrs. Claus stops for a photo with member, Martha Clark



(l to r) Jeff Merrell, Nathan Bennett, George Kampstra, Hilary Chin and Tim Gowan



Guests enjoy the pre-luncheon cocktail reception



The Christmas cracker opening



(left to right) Mer Woldermarian, George Wilkinson, The Washington Tattoo and BABA Past President, Eamonn Cooney



Mrs. Claus, Sally-Anne Andrew Proprietor of LeFay Cottage at Little Washington and Derrick Surratt, British Airways, celebrate with grand prize winner, Kathryn Brede who won two business class tickets to the UK



Hilary Fordwich (l) and Margarita Nagle Jones (r) join Santa for a photo



(l to r) Alan Enslin, Kristina Moore and Julius Bodie all with Womble Bond Dickinson



Rolls-Royce Signs Landmark Unity Contract with UK Ministry of Defence

Platinum Member, Rolls-Royce has signed the biggest UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) contract in its history. The Unity contract stretches over eight years and brings together all elements of research and technology, design, manufacture and in-service support of the nuclear reactors that power the Royal Navy's fleet of submarines. This contract between Rolls-Royce Submarines Ltd and the UK MoD, forms a single, harmonious capability portfolio.



UK government and industry, providing thousands of highly skilled jobs across the country and an enduring commitment for the decades ahead. This is truly a national endeavour.

Rolls-Royce designs, builds and maintains all of the nuclear reactors that power the Royal Navy's fleet of submarines. This eight-year Unity contract is worth circa £9 billion and will provide full support of the in-service UK Royal Navy submarine fleet throughout the period. It also includes continued support of the build and commission of Dreadnought Class submarines and the beginning of the previously announced SSN-AUKUS contracts.

Unity will enable improved focus on simplification and efficiency and better outcomes for the UK Royal Navy. It represents a significant undertaking and investment by the

[To read the complete article click here](#)

US and UK Elections: The Future of This Bi-lateral Partnership

Organized by
BABA's Trade & Policy Committee

Hosted by



Interest in the issues and policies that may come about in the new Administrations, drew a lively audience to a breakfast meeting on December 3rd hosted by BMW Group. The impressive panel included **Marjorie Chorlins**, Senior Vice President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; **Philip Reeker**, Chair, Wilson Center's Global Europe Program; **Brendan Reilly**, Managing Director, Barclays; and Moderator, **Chris Fetzer**, Partner, Dentons. The panelists focused on post-election business and trade priorities, policy, market outlook, and key geopolitical issues.



(l to r) Courtney Oldham, Astrid Ruggeri, Chris Fetzer, Philip Reeker, Marjorie Chorlins, Brendan Reilly, and Breon Wells



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The IA is the trade body for the UK's investment management industry. IA members have \$1trn of US clients' assets under management from the UK.

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