



British-American Business Association Washington, D.C.

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

Newsletter

February 2024

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Gala Christmas Luncheon – A Sell-out Event!

BABA members and guests rang in holiday cheer at this year's 27th Gala Christmas luncheon. With over 320 guests and a sell-out of tables, guests enjoyed excellent food and drink, entertainment, a raffle of 15 generously donated prizes and, most important of all, the attendance by HM Ambassador to the United States, Dame Karen Pierce.

A special thanks to all our sponsors: Premier Raffle Sponsor **British Airways**; our Diamond Sponsor **Lockheed Martin**; Platinum Sponsors **Diageo, Robinhood, Rolls-Royce North America** and **Womble Bond Dickinson**; Gold Sponsors **Arnold & Porter, Indigo DNA Inc.**, and **National Grid**; and Silver Sponsors **Airbus, The Daniel Initiative, HSBC** and **Westinghouse**. Thanks and appreciation to **The British International School of Washington** for the outstanding performance by the Senior Trio accompanied by **Alison Bates, Director of Performing Arts**.

More photos on pages 5-6.



From left to right: Mark Huntley, General Manager, Fairmont; Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel, BABA Chair; Ambassador Pierce; and Chris Fetzer, BABA President.

President's Letter



Dear Members & Colleagues:

I hope you and your loved ones had the opportunity to relax and recharge during the holiday season, and further, that your new year is off to the same productive start that BABA is enjoying.

Thanks to generous support and eager participation from many of you, BABA hosted one of our most successful and well-attended Annual Gala Christmas Luncheons in the history of our organization. A special thanks to Pat Karhuse and LeeAnn Peterson of the BABA team, as well as BABA board member Mark Huntley and his team at the Fairmont, for ensuring that we launched our 320 Gala Luncheon revelers—including our guest of honor, His Majesty's Ambassador to the United States, Dame Karen Pierce—into the holiday season on a high note.

I am proud to report that we are off to a fast and successful start in 2024, maintaining the momentum created by the Gala Luncheon. On January 26, with credit again to our very own LeeAnn Peterson, as well as BABA board member Courtney Oldham, for their lead roles in organizing the event, BABA co-hosted our second annual Burns Nicht at and in partnership with the US Chamber of Commerce, alongside fellow co-host The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC. The event was a smashing success. Perhaps aided by the great spirits served at the event, our over 300 attendees were in great spirits throughout the outstanding evening program led by BABA member Gavin McNicoll, with wonderful comedic interventions by the renowned Tim FitzHigham.

Also in January, in partnership with BritishAmerican Business (New York), yours truly and multiple BABA board members participated in a private dinner roundtable discussion with Lord Dominic Johnson, UK Minister of State for Investment and Regulatory Reform.

As we continue our fast-paced start to the year, February will include a BABA leadership retreat—during which BABA Executive Committee members, staff, and board members will review the organization's mission, vision, and value proposition with the purpose of invigorating and modernizing BABA's brand and profile in the market—as well as a convening of BABA committee chairs and their Embassy counterparts to foster increased collaboration during what we will be a year ahead of robust BABA programming.

After a comprehensive, multi-month review process in 2023, we are excited to launch into 2024 with new committee leadership structures purpose-built to create energy and excitement across our numerous committees, as well as to identify and execute on more committee program and event opportunities in 2024. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact LeeAnn Petersen at lpetersen@babawashington.org.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest board member, Karin Rodgers of Northrop Grumman. We are thrilled to have her join the BABA ranks.

As always, we welcome member feedback; after all, it is YOUR association. Please feel free to contact me at president@babawashington.org. I look forward to hearing from you—and I hope to see you at many of the outstanding events and programs we have in store for 2024!

Chris Fetzer
President@babawashington.org

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Embassy News

2024 has begun with the UK and US as close allies as ever, standing shoulder to shoulder in the face of global crises. These past few months have proven a testament to our shared values, as we remain in lockstep with the US and our allies to respond to the current situation in Israel and Gaza.

Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron, visited Washington in December of 2023 in his first visit in this role as we look ahead to continuing the UK's long-standing commitment to Ukraine.

Over the last year, 76 UK ministers have travelled coast to coast across the United States, cementing our deep ties at the federal, state and local level across all manner of industries, communities and sectors.

2024 begins with our robust economic and trade relationship continuing to flourish with over \$1 trillion invested in one another's countries, 2.7 million jobs created and trade worth \$350 billion a year. Lord Johnson, the UK's Minister for Investment in the Department of Business and Trade visited DC, Miami and New York in January of 2024 and engaged with BABA members at dinner to further strengthen the close UK-US business partnership.

In November, the Prime Minister hosted the first ever global AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park, bringing together key countries, technology organisations, academia and civil society to convene on the safe development of frontier AI technology. Vice President Harris and Commerce Secretary Raimondo attended from the US side. 28 attending countries signed the historic Bletchley Agreement, a world first agreement on the need for international collaboration on frontier AI safety.

In November, Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost trade and investment between the UK and Florida. Florida has a GDP of nearly \$1.5 trillion– the fourth biggest of any US state and roughly the same size as Spain. This marks the seventh MoU the UK has signed with

an individual US state—including– Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, and Florida – with a combined GDP of \$4.1tn. The UK is also actively engaging with further states including Texas, California, Colorado, and Illinois.

UK Secretary of State for Transport joined Virgin Atlantic CEO Shai Weiss and Founder Sir Richard Branson on the world's first 100% sustainable aviation fuel

transatlantic flight by a commercial airline, made possible by £1 million of UK government funding. This flight flew from London Heathrow to New York's JFK airport—marking a crucial step in the UK's journey to jet zero aviation by 2050.

In November, the Prime Minister convened world leading investors and CEOs

for the Global Investment Summit to unveil \$36.8 billion of private sector investment across tech, energy, manufacturing and life sciences.

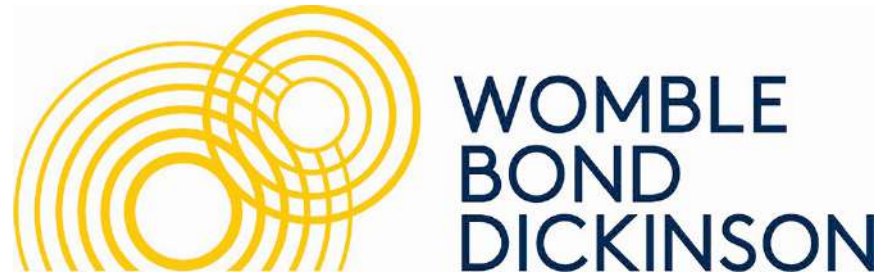
As part of the Prime Minister's Global Investment Summit, Microsoft committed \$3.2 billion as an investment in the UK's critical AI infrastructure. In January of 2024, Google announced a \$1 billion investment in the UK in a new UK data centre, marking a vote of confidence in the UK's world leading tech sector.

In the DC community in December, British Ambassador to the US Dame Karen Pierce joined Mayor Muriel Bowser to read Paddington Bear to a group of kindergarten through second grade students at Dorothy Height Elementary School. To celebrate Paddington's 65th anniversary in 2023, the Embassy gifted 2,500 Paddington books to Title One DC Public Schools as part of our collaboration with DC Public Schools and HarperCollins to promote early childhood literacy and Paddington's much beloved themes of kindness across different cultures.

The Embassy looks ahead to another year of UK-US economic innovation through our collaboration with BABA to foster business growth and partnership on both sides of the Atlantic.



British Embassy Washington



Womble Bond Dickinson Attorneys Quoted In Legaltech News Regarding 2023 Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Milestones

Womble Bond Dickinson attorneys Ted Claypoole and Tara Cho were quoted in Legaltech News discussing the biggest developments in data privacy and cybersecurity during 2023.

Ted Claypoole commented that “2023 saw a return to simple fraud and brazen extortion from cybercriminals as instances of man-in-the-middle attacks and false invoice presentation exploded and one ransomware group actually filed a complaint with the SEC to force its victim to pay. The Black Cat/ALPHV ransomware group filed an SEC complaint under new reporting rules alleging that one of their victims failed to disclose a cyberattack to the SEC within the required four days. This was likely not what the SEC anticipated by requiring public companies to report cyberattacks.”

To read the article click [here](#)

Lockheed Martin Awarded Contract For 18 Space Development Agency Tranche 2 Satellites

The Space Development Agency (SDA) has awarded Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) a contract to build 18 space vehicles as part of its Tranche 2 Tracking Layer constellation.



Lockheed Martin will provide 16 wide field of view missile warning/missile tracking space vehicles with infrared sensors and two space vehicles with missile defense infrared sensors that can generate fire control-quality tracks to provide preliminary missile defense mission capabilities. This firm-fixed price, other transaction agreement has a total potential value of \$890 million.

The T2 Tracking Layer will accelerate the capability to provide global, persistent indications, detection, warning, tracking, and identification of conventional and advanced missile threats, including hypersonic missile systems. It will also deliver preliminary missile defense capability by incorporating fire control quality sensors in the constellation.

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

27th Annual Gala Christmas Luncheon

With Diamond Sponsor



Thank you to the participants of the Luncheon: **Sally-Anne Andrew**, Proprietor of LeFay Cottage at Little Washington as Ms. Claus; **Maureen Degnan**, our Christmas Elf; **David DeBoy**, Master of Ceremonies; **Keith E. Harvey**, Photographer; **Tom Cangelosi**, Bagpiper; and to all our wonderful volunteers for their time and hard work.

A contribution will be made to "Horton's Kids" with proceeds from the Luncheon.



Volunteers, Randy Reade, Maureen Degnan and Chrissy Morgan corral the helium balloons for the tables.



(l to r): Wiley and Margarita Jones with their guests, Cindi and Douglas Ingram.



(l to r): Patricia Carre, Margot Lebow and Jesse Bonfeld pose with Santa.



Ambassador Pierce poses with the Senior Trio from The British International School of Washington.



The Ambassador and Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel share a funny moment at the head table.



Fairmont Executive Pastry Chef Claus Olsen lights up the magnificent Christmas pudding.



Aaron Taylor is the lucky prize winner of the Lockheed holiday wine & gift basket.



Anna Woolf (c) is the grand prize winner of two Business Class Tickets to the UK courtesy of Premier Sponsor, British Airways. Posing with her are Derrick Surratt of British Airways and Sally-Anne Andrew, Ms. Claus.



Fairmont Chef Olsen, Mark Huntley and Nancy Ziuzin Schlegel present the Ambassador with a Boston Tea Party "Tea Crate" in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the protest on Dec 16, 1773.



A sell-out crowd at the 27th Gala Christmas Luncheon.

Scottish Christmas Drinks Evening – A Treat for All!



In early December, just as the weather turned cold in D.C., BABA member, **Dr. Geoffrey Carroll** hosted a Scottish Christmas drinks party at his beautiful home on Embassy row. BABA members and their guests were treated to holiday cocktails, Scottish salmon and other delicacies in a festive setting near a roaring fire, and a 25-foot Christmas tree. Outside on the terrace was a scotch and cigar bar featuring top shelf single malts and

Dominican and Honduran cigars. The hot mulled wine was a big hit with its cinnamon stir stick, raisins and nuts. The downstairs salon featured a dessert station complete with hot chocolate bar that included Bailey's, peppermint schnapps and chocolate spoons for stirring. The star of the show was the shortbread cookies donated by BABA small business member **Caroline Johnston** of **GreenIsland Bakery** in D.C.

The BABA Financial Services Presents an Informal Discussion on Cryptocurrency



In Mid-November, BABA's Financial Services committee produced the event "Crypto: Where do we go from here?" Hosted by **Platinum Member Womble, Bond, Dickenson**, the panel tackled questions including how are the regulators dealing with crypto? What are the potential responses from industry and what about the investors? The guest speakers included **Ron Hammond** of the **Blockchain Association**, **Dan Taylor** of **HSBC North America**, **Britt Biles** and **Michael Lewis**, both Partners at **Womble**, and former business journalist **Ian Katz** of **Capital Alpha Partners** as moderator. Special thanks to Co-Chair **Courtney Oldham** of **Capital Alpha Partners** for coordinating the event. Following the program, guests enjoyed a networking reception.

Calling All Interested Parties for Committee Membership!



BABA just finished reorganizing its committees to bring members more substantive programming in various industry sectors. We are actively recruiting for committee members so now is your chance to join! BABA committees

are organized by sector, and you can find descriptions of each below. Participation in a committee includes attending committee activities such as bimonthly industry check in calls and quarterly programs on timely topics.



NOTE: Did you know if you are a business member of BABA there is no limit to the number of people in your company who can participate in our activities? Feel free to let us know if you have co-workers that would like to be added to our list serve and participate in a committee.

BABA COMMITTEES:



Technology, Media, and Telecommunications:

Focuses on timely topics in the technology sector including but not limited to Artificial Intelligence, social media, 5G/broadband/spectrum, big data, net neutrality, FCC regulation and more. The committee will host regular calls or zooms for members to touch base on emerging issues and host thought leadership events on big picture ideas and concepts in the tech space.

Defense, Aerospace, Transportation & Security (DATS) Committee: Promotes the understanding and discussion of key political, economic, and industrial issues impacting its four business sectors.

Energy & Environment Committee: Leverages the strong position of the UK and the US on environmental issues for the benefit of member businesses. Provides a forum for discussing timely topics on all aspects of energy and environment including sustainability, carbon reduction, grid performance and supply, fuel for fleets, alternative energy sources, renewables, and more.

Financial Services Committee: Provides a forum to identify, discuss, and understand key financial services issues affecting UK and US interests. Some topics discussed include financial products and instruments, the stock market, banking, crypto currency, FINRA, Sarbanes Oxley, the SEC and more.

Health & Life Sciences Committee: Addresses policy issues and industry concerns and opportunities

around the provision of health care, insurance, pharmaceuticals, biosciences, research and development, science and innovation, patients' rights and experiences, etc.

Program Committee: The Program Committee organizes a wide range of business events not covered by the sector-oriented Committees. These include the Executive Speaker Series, the annual Gala Christmas Luncheon, cultural events at the British Embassy and sporting events like polo, soccer, golf, rugby and the Gold Cup Steeplechase.

Trade & Policy Committee: Provides a forum for discussing the future of the UK-US economic partnership, trade with Europe, and policy issues critical to businesses on both sides of the Atlantic. Works closely with the British Embassy on programs that address timely and important issues around the bilateral relationship.

Young Professionals' Group: Works to make sure BABA is inclusive of professionals at every stage of their careers by providing social and educational programs, networking opportunities and matchmaking with mentors.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Group (Formerly Small Business Group): Aims to give small business members more resources and opportunities to collaborate and grow. Creates a forum for discussion on workplace issues across all sectors. Provides information on government and commercial teaming. Facilitates requests for assistance for companies looking to start or relocate businesses in the DMV or the UK.

New Platinum Member



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BSI Group

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HSBC Bank USA, NA

MBDA Missile Systems

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PricewaterhouseCoopers

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WETA

New Members

SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS

ED OWEN CONSULTING

Government Affairs

Website: www.ed-owen.com

Providing strategic communications expertise to business and NFP clients seeking to increase influence and impact in the US and UK.

EXPORT COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS

Consulting Services

Website: <https://www.exportcompliancesolutions.com>

Assist U.S. and non U.S. companies with navigating U.S. trade/export regulations for the ITAR and the EAR.

GOODCONVERSION MARKETING

Marketing

Website: <https://goodconversion.marketing/>

GoodConversion Marketing is a leading service-disabled veteran-owned

small business (SDVOSB) integrated digital marketing agency based in Washington DC. With a commitment to excellence and a passion for helping businesses thrive in the digital world, we specialize in a wide range of services including social media marketing, web development, search engine optimization (SEO), data analytics, email and SMS marketing, and more.

THE SALTIRE FOUNDATION USA

Charity

Website: www.entrepreneurialscotland.com/usa

Intern Program

WILNER, KARI WITH TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Real Estate

Website: WWW.kariwilner.ttrsir.com/eng/profile

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Fangzhou Chen

Breanna Deutsch

Jamie Dillon

Daniel Gostin

Jasha Lilaj

Holly Miller

Ashley Sparkman

Jackson Thein

Kristen Zicarelli



The advertisement features the Womble Bond Dickinson logo on the left, which consists of three overlapping circles in shades of orange and yellow. To the right of the logo is the text "WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON". Below the logo, the text reads "The transatlantic law firm close to home" in a mix of blue and orange colors. At the bottom left, the website "womblebonddickinson.com" is listed, and at the bottom center, the copyright notice "©2020 Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP" is displayed. On the right side of the advertisement, there is a stylized graphic of the American and British flags waving together.