



Mosaic Foundation

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LEGENDS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT

A Mosaic Foundation Lecture Series

An Evening with Former First Lady of Egypt Mrs. Anwar Sadat

This evening Mrs. Anwar Sadat will discuss her life and work as part of Mosaic Foundation's "Legends in Their Own Right" Lecture Series – a program that examines the lives of internationally known and admired women of the Arab World who, having married men of great political power, went beyond traditionally assumed roles to make significant contributions to their societies.

BIOGRAPHY: Mrs. Jehan Sadat, a pioneer for women's rights in Egypt, is the wife of former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. She began her social justice activities by launching Talla Society, a cooperative that made it possible for village women to learn a skill that would enable them to earn their own money, become more self-sufficient, and contribute to the financial welfare of their families. She began the project with a small group of women who worked at 25 sewing machines in an abandoned building.

Jehan Sadat organized the movement to advance Egypt's civil rights laws, which reformed victimizing divorce laws; initiated SOS Children's Villages to help orphans in Egypt lead normal lives; and developed the Wafa' Wal Amal (Faith and Hope) Society, an Egyptian rehabilitation complex for war veterans and civilians with physical disabilities.

She represented the Arab African nations at the U.N. International Women's Conferences in Mexico City and Copenhagen, and addressed the United Nations. She founded the African-Arab Women's League and has hosted and participated in countless conferences and seminars concerning women's issues, children's welfare, literacy, and peace.

Mrs. Sadat received her masters degree, with honors and her doctorate degree in Comparative Literature from Cairo University in 1980 and 1986, respectively. Currently, Mrs. Sadat is Associate Resident Scholar at the University of Maryland where The Anwar Sadat Chair for Development and Peace was established and fully endowed in 1997, as a result of her devotion and untiring efforts.

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Arab Women's League and has hosted and participated in countless conferences and seminars concerning women's issues, children's welfare, literacy, and peace.

Because Sadat believes that the most precious capital any country can have is an educated citizenry, she promotes education, particularly for women, as the major way for any nation to achieve lasting economic, social, and political equality.

Mrs. Sadat's best-selling autobiography, *A Woman of Egypt*, was published in 1987.

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Walter L. Cutler
President of the Meridian International Center

Walter Cutler is the current president of the Meridian International Center, a Washington-based non-profit educational and cultural institution dedicated to promoting global understanding through the exchange of people, ideas and the arts. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Ambassador Cutler holds an M.A. from The Fletcher School of International Law and Diplomacy. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a director of The Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, The American Academy of Diplomacy and The American Committees on Foreign Relations.

Before assuming his position at Meridian, Ambassador Cutler was a career diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service. He was twice ambassador to Saudi Arabia, ambassador to Tunisia and Zaire, and was ambassador-designate to Khomeni's Iran before diplomatic relations were broken. Other postings included Cameroon, Algeria, Korea, and Vietnam. He was also Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, and Staff Assistant to the Secretary of State.

Ambassador Cutler speaks widely on Middle East and other international issues, and has been an frequent commentator on major radio and television networks, including CNN, Fox News, CNBC, NPR and The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

**For more information about Mosaic Foundation and our cultural programming please visit www.mosaicfound.org or email info@mosaicfound.org.
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