



Naples Council on World Affairs

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2012/2013

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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS NEWS & VIEWS

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President's Message

Over the year the NCWA brings important global issues to the attention of our members through the lectures and the Great Decisions program.



This past May, the NATO conference brought the attention of the world to Chicago, to my very doorstep. The energy in the streets was exciting. The voices on the sidewalks and on public transportation were much more diverse than usual. I heard many languages in addition to English. Conversations moved from local issues to international topics, indicating that knowledge of world affairs is widespread and stimulating to many. There were numerous public protest groups, some more organized than others. The local authorities had learned from similar recent episodes in other cities and shepherded the protesters to areas in the city center where they could rally and speak. I was proud that the city of Chicago was able to allow the protesters to exercise their right to speak in an appropriate manner that avoided disruption.

The large response to the membership renewal letters is testament that the Council is fulfilling its mission to "educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues." If you have not yet responded, please do so very soon. In a few weeks we will begin filling any openings from our Associate Member waiting list.

Even though so many of us are not in Naples during the summer, the NCWA work continues. World events are providing us with a multitude of issues to consider in the coming year. The lectures next season will cover significant issues in the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Through your support, your Outreach Committee is sending students for foreign study and to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and is working with the local schools for the upcoming year. By the end of August, the Model United Nations schools will be assigned their countries and topics for the 2013 Conference.

Wherever you are, I hope you are enjoying the summer while following how the world progresses.

Judith Lipnick, *President*

Thanks to our photographer Bradlee White!

Pre-Departure Meetings for Summer Programs



On June 8th, Geoff Hunt of EIL hdqs. in Brattleboro, Vt., conducted a two hour meeting for nine scholars traveling abroad this summer for the Experiment in International Living program at the Collier County Public Schools Administration building. The students parents were also in attendance. It was a very comprehensive session of hints and information including packing, money, safety/security, host family, communication in emergencies and much more. The parents left with a high comfort level.

Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent of Collier County Public Schools, stopped in to congratulate the students and addressed each of them about their respective trips to Japan, Mongolia, Spain, Turkey, Mexico, Tanzania, Morocco, Italy and Costa Rica. She told them how fortunate they were for a life changing experience and praised the NCWA for their generosity and good works.

In late May, a pre-departure meeting was held for the seven scholars attending a two week seminar at Georgetown University. Six chose International Relations and one selected the National Security program. They had an opportunity to get acquainted with others attending and were advised of their obligations upon return.

Chuck Stuart, *Chair*

THE ADJACENT EDITORIAL BY THE STAFF OF THE NAPLES DAILY NEWS IS A WELL DESERVED TRIBUTE TO YOU, THE MEMBERS OF THE NCWA, FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUTREACH PROGRAMS.



Great Decisions Program

In this year's Great Decisions discussion sessions we enjoyed an increased number of participants. Almost 600 members and associate members of the NCWA participated in our 21 discussion groups, which means an average of almost 28 per group.



All 2012 participants were offered the opportunity to pre-register for 2013 into the group of their choice. We extended the pre-registration period in order to make sure that all 2012 members were able, if they preferred, to register again into the same group they attended this year. Since May 15, 2012, registration is open for all NCWA members and associate members on a first come first serve basis. This year the maximum number of participants per group will be limited to 30.

The Foreign Policy Association (FPA) chooses the discussion topics and publishes a briefing book that contains articles with policy questions about each topic. During this year's end-of-season evaluation meeting with the discussion group leaders we had the pleasure of welcoming Ms. Karen Rohan, the Editor in Chief of the FPA. This provided a unique opportunity to discuss every aspect of the program, including the topics, briefing book, policy questions at the end of each article, opinion ballots, etc. Suggestions for next year's topics were also exchanged.

Besides reading the articles in the briefing book and related materials, members of our discussion groups are encouraged to visit our web site that features a special Great Decisions Participant Area. In this area members can view topic videos that present discussions among experts on the various topics. Here members can also complete the opinion ballots online, and participate in the Great Decisions Participant Forum, where comments can be posted on every aspect of the program.

The 2013 Great Decisions program will begin the week of January 21 and continue for eight consecutive weeks until the week of March 11, 2013. Distribution of the briefing books will be on January 12 between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., at the five locations where the group meetings will be held. We look forward to an interesting season. NCWA members and associate members who are interested in participating next year can register online on our web site at www.ncwa-fl.org or call (239) 649-3942.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*

SWFL Model United Nations Program

Dr. Richard Coughlin, PhD., is an Associate Professor in the Political Science Department at Florida Gulf Coast University. He is an important leader in the Model UN program, representing FGCU in the NCWA/FGCU partnership. He sent the following information about the Model UN program:

“Recently there was an article on high school Model UN clubs in southwest Florida on the website www.bestdelegate.com. This site tracks MUN conference awards and ranks delegations nationally. It turns out that we have two nationally ranked teams in the region. Port Charlotte is #5 and Gulf Coast High School is #20. Southwest Florida power house MUN teams Cape Coral and Canterbury round out the list which, nationally, is out of proportion to the size of our region.

What is it about Southwest Florida that generates so many strong MUN teams? One reason, cited in the article, is the SWFL Model UN and the scholarships it offers. These have served to create a focus of MUN competition and excellence in our region, which is now getting national recognition. The article contains a number of interviews with area MUNers. NCWA members might like to read the entire article. It is available at <http://bestdelegate.com/southwest-florida-model-un-powerhouse/>.

As the newly appointed NCWA Chairman of the Model UN Steering Committee, I say “thank you” to our members who make this excellent program possible.

Earl Anderson, *Chair*

Program Committee

The Program Committee has chosen the daunting title: “Striving for Global Harmony” as the theme for the 2012-2013 Lecture Series. As the season unfolds you will surely note the challenge that the title suggests. We are close to completion and believe that our roster, to date, is outstanding, and we feel confident that you will agree.

Wishing all of you a pleasant summer. We welcome you on October 29th for our first lecture: “The Egyptian Uprising: Rebellion or Revolution”.

Mimi Gregory, *Director of Programs*



“Striving For Global Harmony”

October 29th: Steven Cook, “The Egyptian Uprising: Rebellion or Revolution?” Focusing on the turbulent developments in Egypt since Hosni Mubarak’s fall in February, 2011, Egypt is struggling with her identity. What kind of a society do the Egyptians want? Dr. Cook is the Hasib J. Sabbagh Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

November 12th: *To Be Announced*

December 10th: Dr. Shibley Telhami, “Understanding Muslim Societies”

This program is part of a grant awarded to the World Affairs Councils of America by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, as part of the US Six Top Issues for US National Security; Engage America Series. Dr. Telhami is the Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland.

January 7th: *To Be Announced*

January 21st: Sandra Postel, “Can We Live Harmoniously in a Water Short World?” As we enter an unprecedented period of water stress globally, how will we, as a society, respond to the implications for food security, the health of the aquatic environment and social and political stability? Sandra Postel is founder and director of the Global Water Policy Project.

February 4th: General Barry McCaffrey, “Challenges to American’s Security__After Afghanistan and Iraq”. What are the principal security challenges we will face as the Armed Forces complete their final withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014? General McCaffrey will also examine the future potential security threats in domestic and international communities. Will a diminished Defense Budget make us vulnerable?

February 18th: David Ensor, “American Public Diplomacy and Communications: From a War Zone to the Global Airwaves”. How can we improve our communications with publics around the world, using the revolution in human communications currently underway? What is the role of the Voice of America, a source of balanced journalism, doing to reach foreign audiences? David Ensor is Director of the Voice of America.

March 4th: Daniel Markey, “Natural Partners? U.S.-India Relations and the Rise of Asia”. How does our relationship with India fit into the wider context of a rising China and a faltering Pakistan. What are Washington’s challenges as it attempts to forge closer relations with New Delhi? Dr. Daniel Markey is Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations for India, Pakistan and South Asia.

March 18th: Barbara Slavin, “Syria: the Weakest Link in the Shiite Crescent”. Syria’s civil war has made her a liability rather than an asset to Iran, Hezbollah and militant Palestinian groups. Syria is now the “weakest link” in a Shiite-Muslim dominated crescent that runs from Iran through Iraq and Syria and into Lebanon. Barbara Slavin is a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council’s South Asia Center and Washington Correspondent for Al-Monitor.com.

April 1st: Cynthia Watson, “Western Hemisphere Relations: Tectonic Shifts”. The traditional assumption that U.S.-Latin American relations will overcome minor tensions to create an increasingly stronger relationship is under considerable stress. Outsiders such as the Chinese, the Iranians, and the Russians continue to deepen their involvement in the region. Dr. Watson will discuss these trends and extrapolate what the effects will be for the future of the relationship and U.S. ties in the region. She is Professor of Strategy at the National War College.

Village Assistance Program

The Village Assistance Program (VAP) provides modest financial assistance for specific projects in poor communities abroad. Preference is given to educational projects, such as building schools and other learning facilities, as well as related projects. Whenever possible we try to establish a communication between the beneficiaries of our grants and their counterparts, i.e., students in Naples who thus get an opportunity to learn about conditions in the recipient countries. An example is the lively exchange of letters between students of the Pine Ridge Middle School and orphaned students in the Kagera region of Tanzania, who received VAP donated bicycles enabling them to attend a secondary school, and solar lamps so that they can do their homework at night.



In every project a Council member is directly involved. The Program has so far completed 12 projects in 9 countries: Mexico, Jamaica, Ghana, Haiti, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Tanzania, South Africa and India. The three most recent projects are the establishment of a sewing center in Haiti, the building of a school in Guatemala, and the construction of a training center for healthcare workers in a poor region of India. Interested Council members can find information and pictures about all these projects on the VAP page of the NCWA web site, www.ncwa-fl.org.

VAP only considers projects that are proposed by Council members. This year's deadline for proposing projects and submitting applications for funding is February 16, 2013. Full details about the criteria for the selection of projects and the requirements for application can also be found on our website at "VAP Application".

Maas van den Top, *Chair*

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCILS OF AMERICA 2012 National Conference

"U.S. National Security: Six Top Issues for the President in 2013"

November 7-9, 2012

MAYFLOWER HOTEL
1127 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington D.C., 20036

NCWA members are welcome and may register at www.worldaffairscouncils.org

Hospitality Committee

We are grateful that so many members of the NCWA donate additional funds to support the many programs of the Council. In recognition of their commitment, we invite approximately 20 members of the President's Club (donations of \$250.00 and above) to attend an informal luncheon with our guest speaker prior to the lecture. We invite you to join the President's Club to become eligible to attend a few of these luncheons.



Judy Rubinstein, *Chair*

Membership Committee

Renewals: At the end of the 2011/2012 season, the NCWA had approximately 2200 members, our maximum. As of June 12, 1680 have renewed, approximately the same number as last year at this time. Second notices went out last week. If you have not renewed and wish to do so, please renew now. After July 15, unfilled spots will be offered to Associate Members. Please do not be left out.



Friendly New Policies...

Absent Family Members: Up until now there has been no way to substitute for an absent family member. Since membership cards are nontransferable, a policy will be instituted in the fall of 2012 to allow substitution for an absent family member by paying a \$20 per person fee. The substitute will be registered by calling Phase V at (239)649-3942.

Guest Policy: Up until now, there has been no way to bring a guest to a lecture. There is no reason this should not be permitted when seats are available at non-peak times. At the same time, we want to ensure that no Member or Associate Member is displaced by a guest. Therefore, a policy will be instituted in the fall of 2012 to allow Members and Associate Members to bring a guest for a \$20 fee under the following conditions:

- Guests can be registered no more than one week prior to the event;
- The same guest is limited to three times in one season; and
- The number of spaces available for guests at any lecture will be limited at the discretion of the Membership Chair.

The guest will be registered by calling Phase V at (239)649-3942.

Jim Fleck, *Chair*



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LECTURE BROADCASTS

Our Lecture Series is aired on
Thursday nights at 8:00 pm
10 days after our Monday lectures

Thanks to our partnership with WGCU-FM, Public Media

The lectures can be heard on
WGCU: 90.1 FM, Naples and
WMKO: 91.7 FM, Marco Island

Trixie E. Dorsett, Newsletter Editor