



Naples Council on World Affairs

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2013/2014

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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS NEWS & VIEWS

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June 2013

President's Message

I hope all of you are enjoying a great summer. Although our activities tend to occur between October and April, many World Affairs Councils have active summer programs. If you are interested, you can look at the National website, <http://www.worldaffairscouncils.org>, and click on "About Us" for a list and contact information. You can also find information there about attending the national meeting in November 2013.

This summer newsletter is the first to be produced only on the website. It allows us to include more information and pictures than our regular printed editions. The other three seasonal newsletters will be mailed as usual and posted on the website. But we are interested in your comments about placing future summer newsletters on-line only. Please email your opinion to me at ncwa@judithlipnick.com.

According to our mission, bringing "critical global issues" to your attention is a goal of the Program Committee. Last year's lecture series set a very high standard. But as you can see from the Program Committee's preliminary report inside, next season's lecture program is again shaping up as exceptional. The completed lecture series will be published in the autumn edition of the newsletter.

Recently I attended a World Affairs Council Leadership meeting here in Chicago attended by about 40 Councils from around the country. It became apparent to me that we provide more lectures and special events on global issues, more student outreach programs and scholarships than many of the other Councils. The credit for this accomplishment belongs to the many volunteers from our membership. Thank you. Because of you we are one of the very few Councils that are able to operate without a paid staff. If you have not yet participated in one of our programs, I urge you to do so. I think you will find it a rewarding experience.

Even though our regular membership is limited to about 2200 by the seating capacity of the lecture hall, we are the fifth largest Council on World Affairs in the country, and likely the only one with a wait list for membership. A reminder to members: if you have not renewed your membership, please let us hear from you soon so we know how many associate members we can offer regular membership.

At the end of June, we will begin offering openings for regular membership to associate members according to their place on the wait list. An associate member whose name comes up on the wait list must accept this opportunity in order to continue to participate in our programs.

On November 4th, we will start our 2013 lecture season. I am looking forward to seeing all of you then.

Judith Lipnick, *President*



Thanks to our photographers Bradlee White and Debbie Doyle!

Program Committee

The Program Committee is pleased to report that we are at 80% completion for our 2013-2014 lecture season. As always, our topics are generated by the issues that define our global concerns and guide us in choosing speakers who can best address them. The two remaining lecture topics to be addressed are Iran, and a retrospective of the past 12 years in Iraq and Afghanistan. Invitations are out for those topics, so please keep checking our website for updates on our progress. We are certain that the list below will generate significant interest in the coming season!



- November 4th: Ambassador Steven Pifer, Brookings Institution, “The Opportunity: Next Steps in Reducing Nuclear Arms.”
- November 18th: Dr. Steven Cook, Council on Foreign Relations, “Back to the Future: Turkey and the New Ottoman Era.”
- December 2nd: Dr. Stephen Bosworth, Dean, Fletcher School of Diplomacy, “North Korea: The World’s Wild Card.”
- January 6th: Ambassador Dennis Ross, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and P.J.Crowley, George Washington University, “A Conversation about the Middle East.”
- January 20th: Dr. Clifford Gaddy, Brookings Institution, “Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin.”
- February 3rd: TBA
- February 17th: Professor Geoffrey Dabelko: Woodrow Wilson Center, “Climate Change: Our Greatest National Security Threat.”
- March 10th: Michael O’Hanlon, Brookings Institution, “Re-Balancing Our Relationship with China.”
- March 24th: Shuja Nawaz, The Atlantic Council: “Pakistan: Our Greatest Challenge in Conflict Resolution”
- April 7th: TBA

Mimi Gregory, *Director of Programs*

CSA News

Mark your calendars to save these dates! Your Committee for Special Activities has already organized two events for next season that you will not want to miss.

December 9th, 2013: Stephen Kinzer returns to our dais to speak about his new book: *The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World War*. He provides an intriguing exploration of how the two controversial brothers, one the Secretary of State, the other Director of the CIA, fit and shaped their times and set the geopolitical framework for ours as well.

February 28th, 2014: Once again, the ever-popular and always informative *National War College Seminar* returns to the NCWA agenda. Be ready; it’s usually a sell-out.

Mimi Gregory, *Director of Programs*

Great Decisions Program

The Great Decisions program enjoys great popularity. In addition to attending the series of lectures, it provides an opportunity to NCWA members and associate members to learn more about international issues by joining one of our discussion groups. Each group has a leader who facilitates the discussion and is dedicated to providing a nonpartisan forum for discussion in which each member can participate. The membership of each group is limited to 30.



In 2014, two new groups will be added: one at the Moorings Presbyterian Church and another one at the Covenant Church of Naples. There will then be 22 groups at 8 different locations in Naples, Bonita Springs and on Marco Island. All groups, their leaders, and their leaders' profiles, are listed on NCWA's web site (www.ncwa-fl.org). Each group will meet once a week for eight consecutive weeks at the same location and at the same time. The sessions begin in the week of January 20-24, 2014, and continue through the week of March 10-14, 2014. Each session lasts two hours; refreshments are provided during a break.

The topics for discussion are selected by the Foreign Policy Association. They deal with a variety of international issues, usually related to US foreign policy. Experts on the topics are invited to write articles that are included in a briefing book. Video presentations of discussions about the topics will be posted on the NCWA web site. Reading the information provided in the briefing book and watching the videos (if possible) is recommended as basic preparation for each session.

Great Decisions is a program for NCWA members. Associate members are given an opportunity to participate while they wait for an opening to become full members. NCWA associate members are therefore reminded that, when such an opening occurs, they have to become full NCWA members if they wish to continue participating in Great Decisions. Participants must be or become a 2014 member or associate member of the Naples Council on World Affairs.

This year's participation in the Great Decisions program surpassed all previous levels. More than 600 NCWA members and associate members, representing about a quarter of our total membership, registered in the program. Members who participated in this year's program have already been given an opportunity to pre-register for 2014. All other members will receive an invitation during this summer and fall to register for next year's program. The registration fee is \$35 per person and each participant is required to have access to a briefing book, which costs \$15.

If you are interested in joining us, you may register either online on NCWA's web site www.ncwa-fl.org (go to Great Decisions - Registration, and locate your desired discussion group) or you can call NCWA Great Decisions at 239-649-3942 (the call center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). The invitations that are sent out will also provide instructions on how to register.

I encourage you to join us and look forward to welcoming you as a 2014 Great Decisions participant.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*

SWFL Model United Nations Program

“Thank you”: two of the greatest words in any language. The following letter of appreciation was received from one of the Model UN Scholarship winners for this past season. I thought you might enjoy sharing this testimony to the way our MUN program contributes to advancing the educational aspirations of some very talented and accomplished young people in Southwest Florida.



Dear Naples Council on World Affairs:

I would like to formally thank you for the Iqbal and Shelby Mamdani Scholarship I received March 8, 2013. I greatly appreciate the scholarship for contributing towards the many costs of college tuition and miscellaneous expenses in my near future.

I plan on attending George Washington University's Elliot School for International Affairs, which is extremely costly. George Washington University has one of the top schools of International Affairs, and it is an extreme honor that I attend the School in the upcoming fall. I am eager to receive an opportunity to contribute to their mission for global research and service. I also plan to further my studies in international affairs through a Graduate degree in Area Studies. I look forward to delving deeply into Study Abroad Programs, community-based internships and Foreign Service Internships through the collegiate programs, such as George Washington's Women's Leadership in International Politics.

I endeavor to become a woman of consequence at both the collegiate level and in my future real-world endeavors. Whether my future career path results in my becoming an international lawyer or developer of a non-governmental organization that works directly in developing areas---receiving scholarships such as these will allow me to receive a college education that will buttress my success in all of my ambitions.

Sincerely,

[Name Withheld]

Earl H. Anderson, *Chair*



Outreach Committee

The Community School of Naples team that won our NCWA High School Academic World Quest competition was provided with the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to compete against 50 other World Affairs Council teams. They did an outstanding job placing second nationally and missing the top spot by only one point.

For 2013, we were budgeted to award eight scholarships to EIL (Experiment in International Living), but thanks to the additional generosity of seven of our members who donated \$1,000 each, this year we were able to award ten scholarships. Each EIL participant will spend four-to-five weeks in their designated country. Two participants will travel to Tanzania, two more to Thailand, and one each to Japan, Botswana, China, South Africa, Germany/Czech Republic, and Chile. These can be life-changing experiences. Of course, your generosity makes all this happen, for which we and the scholars are most appreciative.

Four deserving EIL applicants who couldn't be offered EIL scholarships were awarded scholarships to The Governor's Institute two-week program in Brattleboro, Vt.

Eight Scholarships were awarded to attend a program at Georgetown University where each scholar is offered the choice of studying International Affairs or National Security.

For the first time, four Collier County High School Teachers were awarded trips to Washington D.C. to attend a Teacher's Summer Institute on teaching International Affairs. They will be given classroom resources to share with other teachers at their respective schools. We will be assessing the value of this program for future teacher awards.

At the annual NCWA dinner, the Louis H. Kuhn Teacher of the Year award was presented to Megan Joyce, a teacher at Barron Collier High School. Megan was given a \$500 honorarium and a plaque for her outstanding support of our programs.

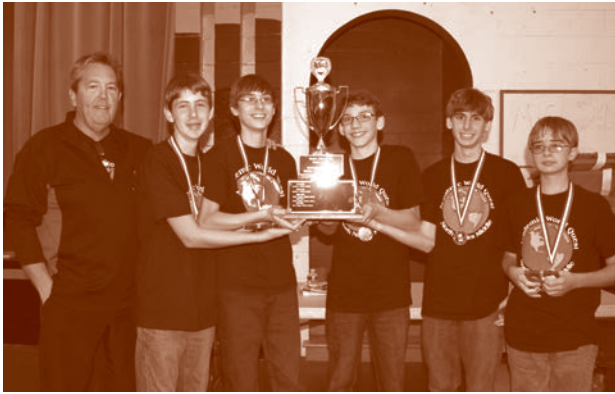
This will be my final newsletter report as Outreach Chair. After three years in the position, I will pass the baton to the very capable Dan Bumstead. Dan has been active with the NCWA for more than a decade, having served on most all of the Council's committees, and also as its President.

It has been my privilege to serve as Outreach Chair. It's been a most rewarding experience. I will continue my tenure on the Board of the Council and remain as a member of the Outreach committee. There are no words sufficient to express my gratitude for your generous support of the Outreach programs and the outstanding dedication and hard work of the Outreach volunteers.

Chuck Stuart, *Chair*



The Community School the HS Academic World Quest Winner (L-R Ruth Wahl (coach), Kara Bressler, Patrick Moran, Mark McElwaine, Max Bressler, Judith Lipnick)



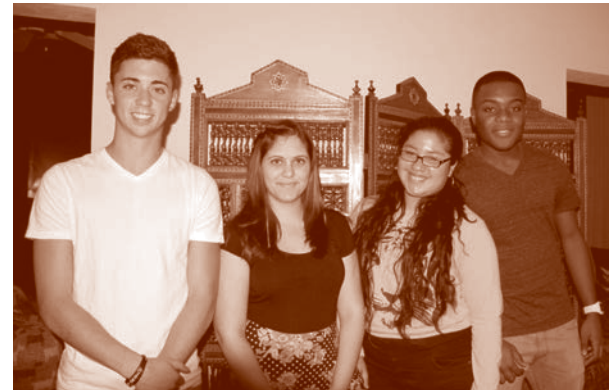
North Naples Middle School MS Academic World Quest Winner (L-R Brad Preston (Coach), Robert Beatty, Jake Fecher, Dillon Lewis, Will McCann, Jared Kelly)



Gulf Coast High HS Academic World Quest 2nd Place (L - R Susan Soulard (Coach), Nick Parraro, Mark Torres, Daniel Levy, Sarp Ergun)



Pine Ridge Middle School MS Academic World Quest 2nd Place (L-R Kim Gonder, (Coach) Alex Stanco, Victor Tuparov, Roarke Zimmer, Kyle Theberge. Lisa Carraher (Coach))



The Four Governors Institue Scholars (L - R Jose Castillo, Ana Milo, Carol Morales, Roca Fritzgi Dessources)



The Eight Georgetown Scholars (L -R Vincente Martinez, William Rasmussen, Wyatt Navarro, Kaitlyn Holzer, Guerds Jean, Julie Kuper, Janna Donofrio, and Arletys Gomez)



The Ten Experiment in International Living Scholars (L- R Santiago Laverdi, Lauren Barr, Nathan Brown, Autumn Finger, Eric DeShields, Sarah Davenport, MacKenzie Fowell, Melissa Gomez, G. Lanza, S. Tamm)

Village Assistance Program

Besides the series of lectures, the Great Decisions program and special activities for its members, the Naples Council on World Affairs (NCWA) undertakes various other activities that are not specifically organized for members. One of these is the Village Assistance Program (others are the School Outreach and Model United Nations programs).



The Village Assistance Program (VAP) was started in 2005 with the aim of providing modest financial assistance for small projects that would have a quick, positive effect on the lives of people in poor communities abroad, such as the building of a school or the digging of a well. The criteria for project selection have gradually evolved.

It has always been a requirement that only projects proposed by NCWA members would be considered. Originally it was intended that VAP grants should be used only for stand-alone NCWA projects.



Recognizing the practical advantages of a reliable funding channel and on-site monitoring, subsequently VAP contributions to other organizations' programs in which NCWA members are involved were allowed, but only for specific, clearly identifiable components of these programs. Based on the belief that education deserves a high priority when it comes to helping poor people in developing countries, preference was given to educational projects such as building schools and other learning facilities, as well as related projects. Examples are VAP grants for new classrooms for a school in Guatemala and the establishment of a sewing center in Haiti.

More recently it has been agreed that to ensure compatibility with NCWA's mission, a VAP application is only eligible for funding if the project not only serves an educational purpose in the recipient community, but also in our Naples community. An example of this kind of project is a VAP grant for the purchase of bicycles that enabled orphans in northwestern Tanzania to attend a secondary school. Subsequently a connection was established between the school in Tanzania and the Pine Ridge Middle School in Naples.



Students in Tanzania and in Naples are exchanging letters and are thus benefitting from learning about each others' daily lives and cultures. After an initial grant from VAP, students in Naples are now raising money for the purchase of solar lamps that allow these children in Tanzania to do their homework at night. The most recent grant is for the building of two classrooms in the village of Karagwe, Tanzania. This new school will communicate with the Parkside Elementary School in Naples.



In the eight years since its inception VAP has financed 12 projects for a total amount of \$54,000. The average expenditure per year has been \$6,750 and the average amount per project \$4,500. A complete list of all VAP funded projects can be found on the NCWA web site. In all these projects NCWA members have been involved. Through them VAP has received photos of completed projects and thank you letters from recipients. Many of these have been put on display on our website. They leave no doubt about the positive impact that these relatively small amounts of VAP assistance have made. The VAP program (as well as our School Outreach and Model UN programs) is fully funded by our membership. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. They will allow us to continue providing modest financial assistance to educational projects in needy communities abroad, thereby at the same time benefitting our local community.



If you are interested in proposing a project, I invite you to visit the VAP section of the NCWA web site (www.ncwa-fl.org). There you will find full details about the criteria for selection of projects, as well as a form that lists all the information needed for a grant application.

It has been a pleasure for me to chair the VAP program for the last few years. It is now time for a successor to take over. I am happy to announce that the new chairperson will be my colleague and member of the NCWA Board of Directors, Stan Chauvin. All communications, including VAP grant applications, should from now on be sent to his address: 58 North Collier Blvd # 704, Marco Island, FL 34145. His e-mail address is callenchauvin@yahoo.com and his phone number 239-394-6303.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*

NCWA 2013 Annual Dinner Honorees

Due to limitations of space, most of our NCWA members cannot attend the season-ending annual dinner, and are therefore likely unaware of those who are honored there. This year, three deserving individuals were recognized for their contributions to the work and success of the NCWA, and we'd like to be sure we bring them to the attention of our full membership.



Connie van den Top was the recipient the NCWA President's Award. It was given in recognition of Connie's long and committed service to the leadership and work of the Model United Nations program, the programs of the Outreach Committee, and the leadership of the Great Decisions program. Those of us who have worked with her applaud her choice for this well-deserved recognition.

Chuck Stuart was recognized for his leadership and tireless commitment to strengthening and expanding the programs of the Outreach Committee. As Chuck steps down from leadership of the student outreach programs, he leaves some big shoes to fill.



Megan Joyce was named the Louis H. Kuhn Teacher of the Year, an annual NCWA award recognizing outstanding teaching and support for NCWA student outreach programs. Megan is a teacher at Barron Collier High School.

A Summer Essay



And Ryan Crocker said*...

“Diplomacy is an art among which words are the greatest tools.”

The Council was so fortunate to hear an address by Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker on April 8th, when his humorous opening suggested that he would cover four decades of his diplomatic career in the “allotted” 25 minutes; after which his audience could draw the necessary conclusions! Clearly he not only has great faith in our foreign policy capabilities, but he added that Council membership connects Americans with the international arena, and thus his “Lessons from a Long War” began.

The War on Terror began in 2001 and Afghanistan is now engaged in year twelve. Eight years after our entry into Iraq, the unrest is ongoing. April 18th, 1983, Hezbollah blew up the American Embassy in Beirut while Ambassador Crocker was present there. He was badly wounded, and 17 U.S. Diplomats died. Today Nasrallah has declared that Hezbollah will defend Syria to the end...what end? This, then, is the long war from which most Americans are “insulated”, but from which our destiny is shaped.

In 1798, while en route to India, Napoleon Bonaparte was seized with a desire to see the Pyramids. And so began the first Western intervention in North Africa. From that date forward, one or more Western military has been present in the Middle East, North Africa, the Levant and the Arabian Peninsula, only Yemen was spared. Thus did we learn the first lesson from the Middle East. (Ambassador Crocker claims one per each two decades!)

Lesson one: After we think we have won the war, our adversaries show that they haven’t even begun! They re-fit, re-group, and show us that while we have the watches, they have the time. Our adversaries have learned that we are short on patience... and they count on that! We must learn their history and culture as they see it, not as we do. Learning their language is a must; we are a historically monolingual society. We fight on their soil under their ground rules which we need to know and understand. We must be willing to absorb the risk of the unknown in order to gain what we seek to achieve and avoid what we fear.

Lesson two: Be equally careful disengaging; strategic patience is a must. In 2007, Ambassador Crocker was in Iraq, facing the worst of times. Could the surge succeed? Or, would we lose Iraq to those who hate America and would give Al Qaeda a base on Arab soil? It will take years, no... decades to play out. So, where are we today?

We are witness to the most tumultuous times since the 1950's and the overthrow of the monarchies; now we are witness to the overthrow of the republics. While the kingdoms of the Arabian Peninsula still thrive, there are rumblings.

The governance strategy of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is based on staying in power, not "sailing into the democratic twilight of the Middle East." Watch for Zawahari's return.

Syria has been preparing for this moment for 40 years. It is all about survival and they are well provisioned by the Russians, Iran and Hezbollah. Assad's possible departure "opens the stage for a play that makes Richard III look like a comedy".

Afghanistan depends upon the Coalition to honor the commitments we made for a long term strategic alliance until 2014. Reaffirmed by Secretary of State John Kerry, we must avoid the consequences of allowing another 9/11.

Pakistan is our biggest concern, holding a huge nuclear arsenal, a land of Islamic terrorists. They are, Ambassador Crocker believes, the greatest threat to world peace since the Second World War. They hedge their bets with the Taliban so that they are not alone. We must become engaged AND we must have patience.

Why has America been so disinterested in these struggles? Ambassador Crocker believes we should have declared war in these conflicts, thus allowing the public to become engaged with the sacrifice being made for our national security. How painful for our military to return to a country that didn't even know we were at war. The Ambassador also spoke to the sacrifice faced by the Gold Star Families whose losses were barely acknowledged.

Do we know our diplomats? With six thousand diplomats serving our United States, they are outnumbered by the members of our U.S. military bands. They swear the same oath as our military, to support and defend our country against all enemies domestic and foreign. They are a family of Foreign Service officers whose courage allows them to "move, live and die together." Surely they deserve our consummate recognition and infinite thanks.

*[*All quoted language from Ambassador Crocker.]*

Mimi C. Gregory, Director of Programs





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LECTURE BROADCASTS

Our Lecture Series is aired on
Sunday nights at 8:00 pm
after the 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