



Naples Council on World Affairs

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www.ncwa-fl.org

NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. 3

October 2012

President's Message

As I prepared for the new season of the Naples Council on World Affairs, I reflected on change. Is the world now a better place than it was when we were last together in April? What, if any, problems have been solved? Are U.S. policies, both domestic and international, effective? It seems to me that not much has changed and that the mission of the NCWA is every bit as appropriate and important today as when it was written:

*To educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs
and the critical global issues.*



This year our Lecture Series is titled, "Striving for Global Harmony" and will cover timely issues ranging from Asia and the Middle East to Europe and the Western Hemisphere. We will discuss the implications of a global water shortage and education for world prosperity. For example, our first lecture by Steven Cook, "The Egyptian Uprising: Rebellion or Revolution?", will focus on the turbulent developments in Egypt since Hosni Mubarak's fall in February, 2011. Please turn to the Program Committee Report in this Newsletter for details. Also, the Membership section of this Newsletter details our new lecture guest policy which has been changed in response to member requests.

The Great Decisions program is one of our most popular programs, offering small group discussions of current issues to both members and Associate members. There are still some openings in groups that meet at various times across the Naples area. Registration may be completed on our website.

The Council is entirely a volunteer organization. I have often commented on the amazing members who contribute their efforts to make the NCWA such an outstanding part of the Naples community. Our Model United Nations and School Outreach programs are examples of projects that would not be possible without your support. Please read about all the programs in this Newsletter and consider becoming a more active member. If you are interested you may contact me or any of the Committee Chairs.

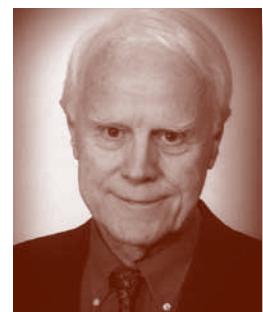
I encourage you to visit our website (www.ncwa-fl.org). Although it looks a little different, it is easier to navigate and provides all the information and opportunities needed to get the most out of your membership. Use your email address and old password to log in. Please be sure your profile is correct. The website contains a link to the World Affairs Council of America with information about the annual national meeting in Washington, D.C., in addition to travel opportunities for members.

I look forward to sharing the upcoming year with all of you.

Judith Lipnick, President

Great Decisions Program

The final general registration period for the 2013 Great Decisions Program has now begun. All NCWA members and Associate members who are interested in participating and have not yet registered, are invited to do so now. Several discussion groups still have spaces left. If you have not yet renewed your NCWA membership for 2013, please do so when you register for Great Decisions. Registration can be done online on our new website www.ncwa-fl.org or by calling (239) 649-3942.



The topics for discussion are selected by the Foreign Policy Association. In 2013 they will be the following: (1) Future of the euro; (2) Egypt; (3) NATO; (4) Myanmar and Southeast Asia; (5) Intervention; (6) Iran; (7) China in Africa; and (8) Threat assessment (the final titles and order of the topics may change). Experts on these topics are invited to write articles that are included in a briefing book. Reading the information provided in the briefing book and viewing the topic videos on our website form basic preparation for each session. Participants are also encouraged to bring pertinent information from other resource material, as well as their personal experience, to aid in lively, balanced discussions.

Each group will meet once a week for eight consecutive weeks at the same location and at the same time. The sessions begin the week of January 21-25, 2013, and continue through March 11-15, 2013. Each session lasts two hours. Refreshments are provided during a break. On our website all 21 discussion groups are listed with information about their location, meeting days and hours. Distribution of the briefing books will take place on January 12, 2013, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., at the five locations where the group meetings will be held.

I look forward to welcoming you next year.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*

Program Committee

As our 2012-2013 season opens, we welcome Dr. Steven Cook who will speak to "The Egyptian Uprising: Revolution or Rebellion?". Not only is this a timely a topic as we could hope to showcase, but the events of September 14-17 emphasize the word "Rebellion" and invoke our query as to which "R" word is really behind the demonstrations we continue to see in Egypt. Your Program Committee has managed to address all the topics that seem to be erupting around us: military security, education, euro crisis. The season should be fulfilling!



We look forward to seeing you on October 29th.

Mimi Gregory, *Director of Programs*

2012 - 2013 LECTURE SERIES

"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: Dr. Thomas Wright, "The Geopolitical Implications of the Eurocrisis" The Eurozone crisis is in its third year and poses a direct threat to the global economy and the European Union itself. How did we get to this point? What would a breakup of the Euro mean for the United States and the rest of the world? Can Europe's leaders take the steps necessary to create a closer political and fiscal union to avoid a break-up? Dr. Wright is a Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

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: Dr. Frederick M. Hess, "More Than the Same Thing Over and Over" Dr. Hess will explain how America's system of schooling is ill-suited to challenges of the 21st century and what it will take to be more competitive in a new global climate. As Resident Scholar and Director of Education Policy at the American Enterprise Institute, his talk should be right on target following the teachers' strike this September.

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.

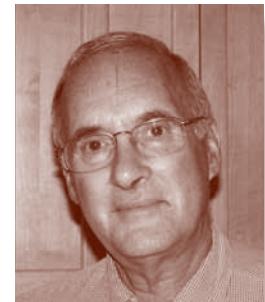
March 18th: Barbara Slavin, "Syria: the Weakest Link in the Shiite Crescent" Syria's civil war has made her a liability rather than an asset to Iran, Hezbollah and militant Palestinian groups. Syria is now the "weakest link" in a Shiite-Muslim dominated crescent that runs from Iran through Iraq and Syria 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.

Website

In previous Newsletters I mentioned that we were updating the website. This activity is now complete with the new website installed as of September 17th.

The primary objectives of the redesign were to:



1. Highlight Council activities, especially important dates:

The Home Page now contains a section entitled Upcoming Events/Activities, which identifies key activities and dates without the need to search the calendar or other pages on the website.

2. Simplify navigation:

Major activities of the Council are described on the Home Page for new visitors, with links to pages giving more detail.

For members already familiar with Council activities a toolbar across the top of the page provides access to major activities plus a pull down list of related functions. Each item of this toolbar can be clicked providing a description of that activity or the secondary functions accessed directly. For example, Great Decision member's access to videos is accomplished by moving the cursor to Great Decisions and clicking Topics/Videos on the pull down list.

In the last year the website has been particularly helpful to members in renewing memberships and viewing Great Decision videos. This year the goal is to increase use of the site as a bulletin board for members to keep abreast of Council activities, and a place for members to share ideas, beginning with the Great Decisions blog.

I hope that all members realize the benefits described above and if not, send your questions or suggestions for improvement to me at erbstein@embarqmail.com.

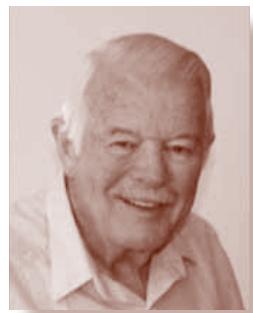
Bob Erbstein, *Webmaster*

Membership Committee

Thank you all for renewing your NCWA membership. We are entering the 2012-2013 season with a full complement of 1276 memberships (2213 seats)! In addition, we have 266 Associate Members (445 seats) in waiting.

A reminder of our friendly new policies.....

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



Guest Policy: Until now there has been no way to bring a guest. 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 has been instituted to allow Members and Associate Members to bring a guest for a \$20 fee under the following conditions:

- (1) Guests can be registered no more than one week prior to the event;
- (2) The same guest is limited to three times in one season; and
- (3) 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.

How You Can Help: Help us get our letters, newsletters, etc. to you! Please check your member profile on our website www.ncwa-fl.org. If you go away for part of the year, make sure the dates you intend to be at your alternative address are updated, including the year.

Jim Fleck, *Chair*

Hospitality Committee

We usually have a small luncheon for the speaker prior to their lecture. Several members of the President's Club (Council Donors of \$250.00 and above), and members of the Board of Directors are eligible to attend on a rotating basis. These luncheons provide an excellent opportunity for Questions and Answers in an intimate setting.

If you are a member of the President's Club, please let me know if you would like to attend a particular luncheon. We will do our utmost to accommodate all requests. If you would like to join the President's Club, please contact Phase V at (239)649-3942.



Judy Rubinstein, *Chair*

SWFL Model United Nations Program

Imagine! You are a junior or senior in one of the local high schools and are a member of the delegation that will represent your school at the Model United Nations Conference on March 7 and 8, 2013. You want to be eligible for one of the scholarships that are awarded to the highest-scoring delegates. To be eligible you must write a position paper.

Your options for a topic will be determined by the Model UN Administrators. They will also determine which country you will represent. Your position paper must be written from the perspective of that country.

Your paper must include a clear statement of the topic, the reasons that the topic is of concern to your country, and your country's proposed solution. You are limited to one page; margins and print size are specified; your writing must be succinct, concise and clear.

Past topics and countries have included: China – "Responding to Iran's Nuclear Program"; Lebanon – "Ban on Cluster Munitions", etc.

Approximately 125 papers will be submitted. They are reviewed by NCWA members who will select the top 15 to 20 papers. These will then be passed on to the Position Paper Review Committee. This Committee consists of 5 to 10 reviewers who rank them from "best" to "not so good". In both steps of the review process none of the reviewers know the name of the school nor the identity of the writer. At the end of the review process the scores are submitted to the Committee Chairperson, who tallies the scores and announces the winners. The delegate with the top score also receives a scholarship.

That, dear readers, is just one part of preparing for the Model United Nations Conference! If you would like more information about the program or would like to volunteer, please contact me at (239) 417-3536.

Earl Anderson, *Chair*

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Model UN Club of Florida Gulf Coast University is sponsoring a two-day United Nations Security Council Simulation (for adults) November 16 and 17, 2012. Participants will choose a country and a topic and will serve on the Security Council. During the afternoon of the second day, participants will be asked for feedback about their UN experience. How would they improve it? Is the UN a waste of time that can never be salvaged? The cost of participation in the Simulation program is \$75.00 until October 15th and \$100 thereafter. For more information please contact: mun@eagle.fgcu.edu.



Outreach Committee

With the return of the nine scholars from our Experiment in International Living (EIL) program, our 2012 season was concluded. Once again, your support and generosity engaged these scholars in life changing experiences. Connie van den Top, Chair of the EIL program, hosted a pizza party upon their return at which the scholars related their experiences and expressed their gratitude to our members for an experience of a lifetime.

For more than a decade, the NCWA has been trying to develop a closer relationship with the Office of the Superintendent of Collier County Schools. Dr. Kamela Patton, who has just completed her first year as Superintendent, recently gave me the opportunity to review all our programs with her and her staff. Their positive reaction to our mission and programs has paved the way to collaborative work for many of the Council's programs, a major breakthrough for the NCWA.



The high-spirited Middle School Academic World Quest will take place on February 2nd at Community School of Naples. The highly competitive High School Academic World Quest is scheduled for March 2nd, 2013, also at Community School. You are welcome to attend these and take the test with the students, or just enjoy the competition. You won't be disappointed!

Last April, the NCWA Board approved a program for four teachers to attend the Summer Institute on International Affairs for high school educators next summer in Washington, D.C. The intensive week long seminar will include site visits and classroom teaching resources. The focus will be on current global issues.

As we prepare for another productive 2012-2013 season, we are reminded that your support and generosity make it all possible, for which the schools, students, teachers, administrators and 15 Outreach Committee members are most appreciative.

Chuck Stuart, 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



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Change in broadcast night!

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

Trixie E. Dorsett, *Newsletter Editor*