



Naples Council on World Affairs

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2014/2015

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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS NEWS & VIEWS

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President's Message

Are you ready to start a new season with the Naples Council on World Affairs? We, your Board of Directors, have been hard at work all summer, and everything is ready for you. Our list of speakers is extraordinary. The Great Decisions groups are set up. Model United Nations assignments have been made. The Committee of Special Activities event has already held one event, and the Outreach Committee is working on its upcoming projects.



And, as usual, the rest of the world has provided a fresh supply of critical issues for us to discuss.

Your membership dues support the Lecture Series and the administration necessary to operate the Council as a volunteer organization. Our Great Decisions, Committee of Special Activities and Annual Dinner are essentially self-sustaining. Thankfully many of our members have made additional contributions to the Council along with their membership dues. These are the funds, along with hard-working committee members that permit us to run our School Outreach, and Village Assistance Programs. In November you will receive a letter asking you to consider supporting the Model United Nations program which brings over 300 students and over 60 volunteers to FGCU for the two day competition which results in scholarships for several high school seniors. Your contribution will provide the additional support to subsidize expenses not covered by fees paid by the schools and individual students, and for scholarships.

Another benefit you receive with your membership is entrée to the World Affairs Travel Program. The information is available as a link on our website. Just recently my husband and I returned from a trip that included Slovenia, Croatia and Montenegro. Once again, I was reminded how important it is for US citizens to travel abroad. I had thought I was fairly knowledgeable about the history of the area and accepted the idea that residents of the old Yugoslavia would be enjoying freedom from Communist life in beautiful surroundings. We were lucky to have access to several people who were very candid about life there today. They miss the life under Tito – the full employment, easy health care, money to travel – and it seems an easier life. Privatization means more responsibility, harder work, fewer jobs, and more responsibility for everyday needs. In general, there is no dancing in the streets. “Just like us” doesn’t work everywhere or is a lot harder to achieve. Travel is a marvelous educational tool – take a look at <http://www.wacphila.org/travel/>.

I am looking forward to see all of you on November 3rd or at the first lecture you attend.

Judith Lipnick, *President*

Program Committee

As we begin the 2014-2015 lecture series, I cannot remember another time when the news each day has brought greater concerns and the subjects we have chosen are so prominent in those newscasts that. We might well feel that we are viewing a daily screening on one of the major or foreign network presentations as we attend the lectures.

Thus, as you read through our program schedule, I believe you will agree that we are bringing our membership the world “of the minute”, and doing so with the wish that the report will bear good tidings of resolution in the end. We look forward to seeing you on November 3rd!



The Transformation of Our Strategic Foreign Policy Alliances

November 3rd: **Andrew J. Tabler**, Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Mr. Tabler focuses on Syria and U.S. Policy in the Levant. He resided in the Middle East for fourteen years and is a fluent Arab speaker. He will address our issues with Syria, our crisis management with Russian, Iranian and Hezbollah’s patronage of that country, and what, if any, are possible solutions.

November 17th: **John Donovan**, correspondent at the White House, foreign reporter, ABC Nightline contributor, John has covered the globe and in so doing has seen the perils of journalism increasing daily. We have asked him to return to Naples and speak to the atmosphere surrounding today’s reporters as they bring us the news.

December 8th: **Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan**, former Mexican Ambassador to the United States and a Latin-American specialist, will discuss U.S. relations with the countries of Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela as well as his country of Mexico. What are the vestiges of the Bolivarian Revolution? Can Venezuela survive with Maduro at the helm?

January 5th: **Professor Andrew Nathan**, a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, is Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. His research and teaching focuses on Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy, and we have asked him to address the current Chinese leadership and recent “clashes” in the south and east China Sea as well as other acts of aggression.

January 19th: **Professor Angela Stent**, is the Director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies and Professor of Government and Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Her Russian expertise will be put to the test as we endeavor to understand President Putin’s “foreign policy planning”.

February 2nd: We will be welcoming **Ian Brzezinski**, Resident Senior Fellow at the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security and also a member of the Atlantic Council’s Strategic Advisors Group. He will cover Ukraine, Poland, the Baltics and Central Europe, with an eye towards Putin’s “empire building”. And yes, the name recognition is correct!

February 16th: **Admiral James Stavridis**, Former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and Commander, United States European Command, he is now Dean of the Fletcher School of Diplomacy. A native of South Florida, he will speak to us about NATO today and honoring our treaties in defense of our Allies as the global temperatures heat up and challenge our defense and diplomatic capabilities.

Program Committee *Continued*

- March 9th:** **Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns**, Professor of the Practice of International Relations at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Following 27 years as a career Foreign Service Officer, he remains deeply involved in international affairs at Harvard, the Aspen Institute and the Cohen Group. We have asked him to address the transformation of our strategic foreign policy alliances; which is also our lecture series title for this next season.
- March 23rd:** **Robin Wright and Barbara Slavin**, These two dynamic experts will help us re-draw the map of the Middle East to include the many trouble spots that we are finding as the main focus of our news each day. Robin Wright is a USIP Senior Fellow-Wilson Center Distinguished Scholar. Barbara Slavin is a correspondent for *AI Monitor* and Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. We look forward to welcoming them back to Naples.
- April 6th:** **Dr. Victor Cha**, Director of Asian Studies and the D.S. Song Chair in the Department of Government and School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, will once again address the current issues in the Korean peninsula as well as the thorny issues arising in the South China Sea between Japan and China. As Senior Adviser and the inaugural holder of the new Korea Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, we look forward to his perspective.

Mimi Gregory, *Vice President - Programs*

Committee for Special Activities

The Committee on Special Activities is pleased to present an early Fall program with Bruce Donahue, Deputy Chief of Mission at our Embassy in Kiev, Ukraine. He will advise us of the changes in the last 6 months since his briefing last Spring. The program will be held at St. John's on Monday, October 13th, at 10 am. Reservations are a must, at 649-3942.

The committee is pleased to partner with Google on two important programs, both to take place on November 13th. We will offer a morning program with the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, entitled, "Freedom and Power in the Digital Age" to our combined membership. Google will also offer a seminar with our Council, to the Collier County public and independent schools, showcasing the many ways that Google can enhance the classroom and profit our students to encompass a global world.



Mimi C. Gregory, *Vice President—Programs*

Membership Report

As in previous years, membership for the Naples Council on World Affairs is sold out. In addition contributions by members were among the highest, reflecting tremendous support for programs provided by the council.

This being the first newsletter of our 2014–2015 season, I thought it useful to include a review of member benefits.



Members of the Naples Council on World Affairs are entitled to:

- Attend the ten feature presentations during the November to April season.
- Sign up for Great Decisions (weekly small group discussions mid-January to mid-March).
- Receive invitations to additional lectures and special events.
- View videos of lectures on the website.
- Substitute for an absent family member or bring a guest for \$20 each person.

Associate members have the opportunity to attend feature presentations for a \$20 fee on a space-available basis and are eligible for all other NCWA programs.

To maximize available seating for Associate Members and Guests a “walk-in” program for lectures has been instituted. If you want to attend a lecture that has been “closed” you can still come to the lecture and see if there are seats. **To date we have been able to seat everyone trying the “walk in” program, so we will continue this policy.** Unfortunately we are unable to accept credit cards in this program so cash payment is required.

The Guest Policy, described below, is designed to ensure no Member or Associate Member is displaced by a guest:

1. Guests can be registered no more than one week prior to the event;
2. The same guest is limited to three registrations 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.

Guests may be registered by calling Phase V at (239) 649-3942.

I hope and expect this season will be as successful as previous ones. Welcome back!

Bob Erbstein, *Chair*

Great Decisions Program

NCWA members and associate members can still register for the 2015 Great Decisions program. With four new discussion groups the total number of groups will be 26. Some groups have already reached their maximum number of 30 participants. Several groups, however, have spaces left. This is in particular the case with the new group at the Norris Center (Wednesdays 2-4 pm), the two groups at the Moorings Presbyterian Church (Tuesdays 2-4 pm and Thursdays 2-4 pm) and the group at the Covenant Church of Naples (Thursdays 2-4 pm). A list of all groups and their leaders can be found on our web site (www.ncwa-fl.org) under the heading Great Decisions. The earlier you register, the better is your chance to secure a place in the group you prefer. The registration fee is \$35 per person.



Each group will meet for two hours once a week for eight consecutive weeks, starting during the week of 19-23 January 2015 and ending during the week of 9-13 March 2015. The eight topics for discussion are selected by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA). Experts on the topics are invited to write articles that are included in a briefing book. The cost of the book is \$15.

The articles provide historical perspective and current information on eight global issues, alternative policy options and questions to stimulate group discussion. In addition, video presentations of discussions about the topics provided by FPA are posted on the NCWA web site and are free of charge for registered members of the program. Basic preparation for each session includes reading the information provided in the briefing book and watching the videos. Each group has a leader who facilitates the discussion. All leaders are NCWA members dedicated to providing a nonpartisan forum and endeavor to include each member in the discussion.

The topics for 2015 cover many issues that are currently in the news. They are: 1) Russia and the Near Abroad; 2) Privacy in the Digital Age; 3) Sectarianism in the Middle East; 4) India Changes Course; 5) U.S. Policy toward Africa; 6) Syria's Refugee Crisis; 7) Human Trafficking in the 21st Century; and 8) Brazil's Metamorphosis. I am sure they will generate interesting and enlightening discussions.

I invite you to join our ever increasing Great Decisions family. You can register online on our web site (www.ncwa-fl.org) or by calling (239) 649-3942.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*

SWFL Model United Nations Program

I have a **two-part** report to share in this edition of the newsletter. One addresses the extraordinary work involved in student preparation, the other the enriching experience of our volunteer judges.

The first part addresses **what happens at the local school level** at the beginning of each new year as the members of the Model UN Clubs prepare for the SWFL session in March of the following year. **The following report was submitted by the Model UN Club of the Cape Coral High School:**



“Each year, students at Cape Coral High School eagerly join the Model United Nations program to research and discuss global issues, and to participate in community initiatives and events.

“In order to help introduce the complexities of Model UN to new members, the club has a **two-month training period**, during which students **research causes and solutions for a topic of global importance, practice creating speeches and writing position papers, and finally participate in an in-house debate.** During the in-house, new members and returning members alike take part in a formal debate session.

“Following the debate, members are selected to be invited to traveling conferences. In order to maintain a fair atmosphere, a specified number of new members are always selected to go on the first traveling trip to St. Augustine, FL.

“Throughout the first two months of the year, returning members are an integral part of the training process. From writing background guides to leading discussion groups known as round tables, their willingness to provide guidance and set examples whenever necessary helps make newer members of the team feel confident and prepared.

“Advisors Michael Cook and Harriet Mottaz assist the students by providing them with guidance and the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Their emphasis on learning about the topic and focusing on research helps create strong-minded delegates who want to continue studying these issues in their lives.

“Recently, the club has made strides to help eradicate global issues first-hand by taking trips to local organizations such as the ECHO Farm in North Ft. Myers, which aims to teach farmers simple methods to grow crops in difficult climates. The club also organizes appearances from guest speakers, who relate their overseas travels to a Southwest FL classroom. In these ways, Model UN hopes to promote service and cultural awareness in addition to research and speaking skills.”

In the second part, we shift our focus from the local school level to read about the experience of **serving as a Model UN Judge. Hear what one of our more experienced judges has to say about the experience:**

“**Model UN can use your help and you can reap benefits, too.** Each year, in March, the NCWA sponsors a Model UN Program at FGCU. Those of us who have volunteered to act as “judges” have found the experience enriching and extremely rewarding.” (Mo Winograd, multiple years)

It is only a two-day commitment of your time. And more strong endorsements of what you will experience is provided by some of last year’s judges:

SWFL Model United Nations Program *Continued*

“I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I was immensely impressed with the maturity, poise, intelligence and performance of these young adults. Their preparation, knowledge of procedural rules and negotiating skills were impressive. If you want to be encouraged about our future, then you must see these young leaders in action.” (Dennis Parass, 2014)

“Other than personal and family events, my experience as a judge of the Model UN at FGCU this past Spring was **the most meaningful single experience that I can recall.** Watching the young people who participated, and knowing how hard they worked outside of the classroom in order to prepare was nothing short of inspirational. Their efforts during the Committee meetings that I observed were uniformly outstanding and gives one hope as to the next generation of American youth.” (Jan Guben, 2014)

Anyone willing to give this fun project a try on March 5 and 6, 2015, please contact Bob McGinn at (973) 626-0799 or email Bob at mcginnbarbara@hotmail.com.

Earl Anderson, *Chair*

Outreach Committee

Over the past few months we have been getting the results of this past year’s scholarship choices for our student-abroad programs - the Experiment in International Living and its virtual clone, the Student Diplomacy Corps - for our program at the Governor’s Institute in Vermont, and for our week-long study program at Georgetown University.



The results are in the form of essays the grantees are required to write upon their return. They are phenomenal, a delight to read. We are in the process of putting them on our website.

The NCWA membership will have the opportunity to hear from these students directly, when they give abbreviated accounts of their experiences at our lecture meetings.

Now the Outreach Committee begins the hard work of organizing the Academic World Quests at both the middle and high school levels and scheduling the complicated system of applications and interviews for next summer’s scholarships.

None of us on the Outreach Committee complain about the workload. The greater it is, the greater impact we feel we are having in the school population of Collier County.

Daniel Bumstead, *Chair*



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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

Gregory E. Hudson, *Newsletter Editor*