



Donna L. Suddeth
President

President's Message

Having been founded in 1981, the Naples Council on World Affairs is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. From a small group of dedicated volunteers interested in foreign affairs, the Council has grown to over 2,200 members. Our links to our world, be they virtual or real-time travel, have increased so much since 1981 that it would have been difficult to imagine

our world as it exists today. However, what has not changed is our interest in foreign affairs. And, because we often have real-time access to following events in the world, our interest has only intensified.

The Naples Council has flourished because the leaders in years past have "gone with the times" as the times have dictated to stay current and relevant and yet stayed true to our purpose and mission at the same time. Our mission has been and continues to be "to educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues."

Involving our community starts with communication. Think back to 1981, and, although difficult to imagine now, cell

phones, emails and web sites were not yet part of our lives. Now emails and our web site allow us to communicate with almost all of our 2,200+ members and Associate members. We are constantly working to make our communication systems as effective as possible as we understand the need to "stay in touch." At the same time, we also understand the need for the "personal touch," which is what makes the speaker lectures such an integral part of the success of our Council. Yes, it is possible to watch the video of a speaker's talk because of technology, but, seeing and hearing the person and being able to ask questions following the talk creates an experience that is not only relevant but also personal in nature.

So much as has changed since 1981. We travel the world making our airline, hotel and train reservations on the Internet, we pay our bills electronically, and, we communicate with family and friends via emails, and for those "really in the know" via texts, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Yet we need to remember that staying true to our mission is foremost in maintaining our relevancy, using the latest tools available to us, i.e., technology, as a means of reaching out to and involving our members, thereby enriching our organization.

Donna L. Suddeth, President

OUR MISSION:

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

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Program Committee Report

“What Is the Future of U.S. Foreign Policy on the World’s Stage”?

To date the Program Committee has confirmed 5 speakers for our 2016-2017 season. Titles and “blurbs” will come your way later in the summer, but we are pleased to have a good start and to bring you the latest and best assessments of the subjects covered. We will be welcoming:

Jeremy Haft, Georgetown University, on China

Steven Cook, Council on Foreign Relations, on Turkey and the Kurds

Cynthia Watson, The National War College, on Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and Cuba

David Rohde, Thomson-Reuters, on Saudi Arabia

Michael Levi, Council on Foreign Relations, on the Paris Climate Talks



Mimi C. Gregory
Vice President for Programs

Committee on Special Activities

As you all know, we “seize the moment” when we hear of someone passing through Naples, or a new book is about to be published, and that is how we add to our speakers for the season in a smaller format. Happily, we will be welcoming Stephen Kinzer back to Naples this winter when his new book “True Flag” hits the book stands. Please enjoy the wonderful caricatures on the cover of “True Flag” until its author tells us all about it.

Mimi Gregory

Mimi Gregory

GREAT DECISIONS

Pre-registration for the 2017 Great Decisions Program has ended and General Registration ends May 31st. As of May 17th, 671 NCWA members have signed-up. This is 97% of the total who signed-up for this past season’s program. If you have not registered as yet, please do so soon by calling (239)649-3942. Many groups have already filled-up.

For 2017, there will be 27 groups at 8 locations in Naples, Bonita Springs, Lely and Marco Island. Each group is limited to 30 participants. The eight discussion sessions begin the week of

January 16 and end the week of March 6. Each group meets once a week for two hours and has a leader who facilitates the discussion.

The discussion topics are selected by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) and will be announced in late summer. The FPA briefing book will be available in January.

We encourage you to visit the NCWA website www.ncwa-fl.org and the FPA website www.fpa.org for additional information on the Great Decisions Program.

Bob McGinn

A New Contest Added to the SWFLMUN Competition

The 2016 SWFLMUN included a new contest available to all the Model UN participating high schools. Students were asked to imagine that had been hired by the United Nations to devise a project that would cost no more than \$1 million dollars and would provide relief to Syrian Refugees. The only stipulation was that it could not duplicate what was being done already. It could be an entirely new project, or it could take a pre-existing program and modify it in a new direction.

The top prize of \$500 payable to the Model UN Club of the winning school's project was provided by NCWA members Howard and Nancy Cohen. Second prize of \$350 was provided by NCWA members Mickey and Mo Winograd and the third prize of \$150 was provided by the Naples Council on World Affairs.

Three schools participated, out of the fourteen that were eligible. First prize was won by the Model UN Club of Cape Coral High School pictured here with their coach, Michael Cook, and with Howard and Nancy Cohen, who provided the prize money.

The novel idea that they presented was to provide bikes, similar to those available in major US cities for rent, to children of school age in Syrian refugee camps located in the desert. It was their recognition that expecting children to make long treks in the heat of the desert could cause many children to skip school. With the understanding that education will play such a significant role in the development of these children, the goal was to keep the children in school by facilitating their getting there quickly by bicycle. Their proposal even included a well thought out system of tracking who was using which bike.

NCWA was thrilled to be informed by Michael Cook, their coach, that one of the Cape Coral students who worked on the design of this program has decided to take the project a step further. She is raising funds locally to try and buy bikes while trying to locate an NGO to partner with so the funds she raises can be used for this specific purpose. Hats off to this idea!!!



Cape Coral Students with their coach Mike Cook on the far left and NCWA members, Howard and Nancy Cohen who donated their prize money on the left

School Outreach Committee

The School Outreach Committee completed a most successful season and looks forward to an even better 2016-17 season. One of our goals for next season is to reach out to more Collier County students to make them aware of the number of scholarships that NCWA awards for summer study and travel programs through the Experiment in International Living, Governor's Institute and Georgetown University. In that regard, we will be working not only with the Social Studies department at the Collier County Public School System but also the Guidance Counselors. And, in anticipation of more applicants, the Committee has been able to recruit a number of new members who will be working with the current members to review the applications and interview the applicants.

Bob Haffa, one of our members and a Board member, who chaired the High School Academic World Quest this season will continue in that capacity and will also assume the role of chair of the Middle School Academic World Quest, having learned the ropes from our leader, Donna Suddeth. Again, we will be working with the Collier County School System in an effort to increase the number of school competing in both challenges. For next season, the High School Academic World Quest will be held on Saturday February 25, 2017 and the Middle School Academic World Quest will be held on Saturday March 25, 2017. Both events will be held at The Community School.

At the NCWA Annual Dinner, held earlier in April at the Hilton Hotel, we were pleased to present to Mrs. Susan Soulard, the chair of the Social Studies Department at Gulf Coast High School, the

Teacher of the Year Award. This was the second time that she has won the award and reflects her commitment to her students not only in the classroom but also as coach of the Gulf Coast High School Model United Nations team and as coach of the multiple Gulf Coast High School Academic World Quest teams.



Jan K. Guben
Chair

Finally, we look forward to the continuing growth of our Alumni Association which really developed this year under the leadership of Sarah Davenport and the new President of the Association, Hannah Seitz. At a luncheon meeting a number of current members were joined by those scholarship winners from 2015 as well as those who were just named scholarship recipients in 2016.

Have a wonderful Summer, and we look forward to seeing y'all next season.



Maureen O'Gorman awarding the scholarship she donated in memory of her husband, Thomas J. O'Gorman to Eitan Cassell from Gulf Coast High School representing the United Kingdom

NCWA Membership Report

As of May 2nd membership for the 2016-17 NCWA season is closed. Thanks to all for making this a successful process. Instead of wasting time and money in handling memberships which came in throughout the summer and chasing persons who wanted to join Great Decisions but hadn't renewed, this effort will be put into programs which help our programs.

This schedule of beginning renewals on February 1st will be continued next year. Most importantly it allows reminders to be given at lectures which has a large impact on renewals. It's interesting to see the spike in renewals which occur after each lecture announcement.

As always we are interested in feedback from members to improve our processes so if you have any suggestions on how Membership Renewal or Associated Members Invitations can be improved please email me at erbsteinb@embarqmail.com.

Use of NCWA Website

Among the biggest problems people face with the website is not having the proper password. Regardless of how this occurred,

fixing the problem is easily done. Sign into the website by entering the Email used to register for the NCWA, in the upper right hand corner of the home page. Click on "forgot password" and a display will come up asking you to "Reset Password". Follow the instructions and you will create a new password which solves your problem.



Bob Erbstein

Having the correct password now allows you to view lecture videos on the website. The website contains videos of all lectures for the last three seasons, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. To view the video's click on Lectures, this brings up a number of choices including lecture videos. Click on lecture videos than select the video of interest using your cursor. Hope you enjoy the videos, many of which are as relevant today as when they were presented.

Save the Date!

The World Affairs Councils of America is pleased to announce that its **2016 National Conference** will take place on **November 16-18**, at The Capital Hilton.

This distinguished hotel is located in the heart of Washington, DC - just two blocks from the White House. Convenient to three Metro stations and Ronald Reagan National Airport, the hotel is within walking distance of museums and memorials, theaters and art galleries, shopping, dining, nightlife, and more.

Further announcements on National Conference speakers, hotel reservations, and other program details will be made available later in the year.



Mimi Gregory, NCWA Vice President for Programs (left), Donna Suddeth, NCWA President, with former U.S. Senator George Mitchell.

Good Luck Madison!

The Council has been fortunate to have a helping hand from Madison Cilk, graduating Senior at Seacrest Country Day School, who interned with us during our 2015-2016 Lecture Season. While her presence has been noted by many of our members at the entrance to our lectures, Madison has also contributed to our partnership with Seacrest and ShelterBox on our special refugee

mission. She has energized her colleagues to raise funds for that mission and her interest in Foreign Policy has been evident in her attendance and note taking at our lectures, [as you will see below]. Madison will begin her studies at the University of Vermont, Honors College, in Environmental Law and Policy this Autumn; we wish her every good fortune for the future.

My Experience with the Naples Council on World Affairs

This year I had the pleasure of interning with the Naples Council on World Affairs. The NCWA has deepened my passion for international affairs by affording me the opportunity to hear distinguished scholars speak about global issues and strategic alliances. In today's world, technological innovations coupled with global conflicts have created a culture in which each citizen must be educated and engaged with international affairs. I am privileged to have had the opportunity to gain such education through the lectures and by being surrounded by an immensely knowledgeable community of NCWA members.

Each night following a lecture, I leave the church enlightened. I never fail to feel optimistic about the future of foreign affairs because I know that there are many citizens dedicated to solving the root of most global issues: lack of education. The Naples Council on World Affairs inspires me to take action and use my knowledge to create and to promote positive change in the world.

In addition to gaining knowledge about international affairs, I also acquired social and communication skills by working with large groups of people. Prior to the lecture by Khalid Koser regarding Europe's refugee crisis, I was able to speak in front of hundreds of attendees about ShelterBox. In my speech, I described how the international charity was raising funds to provide crucial supplies to those impacted by conflicts in the Middle East. After giving the speech, I began collaborating with students

and faculty from my school to raise funds for ShelterBox. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the presentation on ShelterBox had encouraged many members of the NCWA to make donations as well. In total, my school raised about \$1,000 to add to the \$16,000 raised by the NCWA. I am grateful that I had the chance to provide supplies for those who do not know what tomorrow will bring.



This autumn, I will have made my transition from sunny Naples, FL to Burlington, VT, where I will be attending the University of Vermont. I plan to major in Environmental Law and Policy. I will also continue my passion of international affairs through having involvement with the Vermont Council on World Affairs, which is conveniently located a mile away from my campus.

I would like to express my gratitude for all of the opportunities that the Naples Council on World Affairs has provided me, and I wish everyone the best for the next lecture season!

Sincerely,
Madison Cilk
Senior at Seacrest Country Day School

GIMME SHELTER

by Mimi C. Gregory
Vice-President, Programs
Naples Council on World Affairs

Hardly would those words, reminiscent of the famous hit by the *Rolling Stones*, evoke the images of countless refugees under ordinary circumstances; but these are surely not ordinary times.

Shelter: so elusive for so many of these refugees, so makeshift, so fragile, so absent, and for most who have left their shelter, their homes behind... what will become their shelter in the times ahead?



L TO R: MIMI GREGORY, BOB ERBSTEIN, EARL ANDERSON AND LAURA KERCKHOFF

The Naples Council on World Affairs, the third largest Council in the national network of World Affairs Councils, was founded here in 1981. To this day it continues the mandate of educating, inspiring and engaging Americans in international affairs, and the critical global issues of our times.

Of the ten annual lectures the Council offers its members, we chose "Migration" and the plight of these 11.5 million displaced, as one of our topics for this year's lecture series. Watching these throngs of mankind, burdened with the few remaining belongings they could carry, crossing borders on foot, risking their lives at sea, we searched for a small difference that we could make in this humanitarian crisis: and it arrived in the form of "Shelter Box."

Think of a larger, green, recycle bin: it weighs 120 pounds, and inside it lives shelter for up to 10 people: a tent that can withstand winds of 100 mph, the tools to erect it, a ground cloth, solar lighting, a stove to heat or use in cooking, thermal blankets, a water filtration system, mosquito nets and even children's activity packets.

The Council decided to include one of our schools in this project; believing that our efforts should be shared with a younger generation bearing

witness to the tragedy of this migration. Partnering with Seacrest Country Day School, we discovered that the students were anxious to join us in our efforts to increase awareness of how to provide shelter! We were fortunate to participate in a webinar from Cornwall, England, with site coordinator for Shelter Box distribution, Sam Hewitt. The entire



THE PRESIDENT, KERRI MURRAY, IS FEATURED WITH AN ACTUAL SHELTER BOX AND SURROUNDED BY THE KIDS AT MODEL UNITED NATIONS.

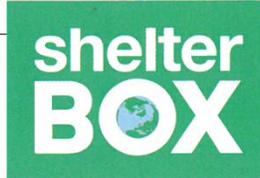
Upper School at Seacrest, along with Board members of the Council, learned how the process of response to crises is managed on the ground, and served as further inspiration to all attending, that every human being deserves the basics of food and shelter.

Choosing the day of our lecture on the refugee crisis, we set up a Shelter Box tent on the grounds outside our lecture hall at St. John The Evangelist, and several of the students from Seacrest along with their Headmaster, Dr. John Watson, and Upper School Head, Mrs. Erin Duffy, spoke to our audience of 1500 members endorsing their support of our joint project. Further, we raised another Shelter Box tent at our Model United Nations competition on March 12th on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University, and welcomed Kerri Murray, Shelter Box President, to address the assembled students.

We are proud of the Naples Council's contribution to sheltering even a small number of refugees, and we celebrate the energy behind the recent "Sadie Hawkins Day" dance at Seacrest which raised enough for the students to buy a Shelter Box as well.

Remembering that a "rolling stone" [analogy intended] gathers no moss, we are proud of the shelter that we, the Naples Council and Seacrest Country Day School, have provided for some number of needy refugees. Perhaps now those "rolling stones" may begin to gather moss, and we will continue to support our program of "Gimme Shelter."

LEARN MORE



Want to know more about Shelter Box?

Call Laura Kerckhoff,

Shelter Box Ambassador in Naples

239.597.7218



www.ncwa-fl.org

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Lectures on the Website

The NCWA lectures are also recorded and available on our web site.

Sign into the web site, click on **LECTURES** and then **FEATURED PRESENTATIONS** to select the lecture you would like to watch.