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**NCWA Announces Distinguished Speaker Series, 2023-24 Season**

NAPLES, FL. – The Naples Council on World Affairs (NCWA) has announced its 2023-24 Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series, “The Treacherous Road Ahead,” bringing to the greater Naples area a variety of expert speakers on crucial world affairs topics.

“As the leading source of international affairs programs in the Greater Naples community, the Naples Council on World Affairs is offering another robust season of lectures to help our members understand America’s role in the world and the importance of global affairs in our lives,” said Mark Schwab, president of NCWA.

Combining lectures with non-partisan small discussion groups and a variety of programs supporting local schools and students, NCWA has been for more than 40 years the pre-eminent source in the area of the most current information about international affairs and its impact on our lives.

“In naming our 2023-24 lecture series ‘The Treacherous Road Ahead,’ we did so in recognition of the challenges America faces, be it as an ally or protector or peacekeeper for some in need. As we pick up the baton to lead the charge on this perfidious route, we are tasked to address the global implications of an unstable world, and thus we ask our experts to lead us where this road might take us,” said Mimi C. Gregory, vice president of programs.

Lecture topics range from a broad view of the Middle East situation, China threatening economic and military actions, to the Russia-Ukraine war, to the ebb and flow of shifting alliances among countries perceived as threats to the U.S., to the impact of climate change and famine on the world order. The 10-lecture schedule includes:

**Monday, November 6:** ”Securing the Black Sea Region,” Iulia-Sabina Joja, Ph.D., Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS);

**Monday, November 20**: “The New Germany,” Hope Harrison, Ph.D. Professor, The Cold War Group, Elliott School, George Washington University

**Tuesday, December 19**: “500+ Days of Battle with Volodymyr and Vladimir,” speaker to be announced.

**Wednesday, January 10**: “Climate Extremes, Risks & Adaptation,” Professor Radley Horton, Columbia University, principal investigator and climate scientist.

**Monday, January 22**: “All Eyes on China,” Robert Daly, Director, Kissinger Institute, Wilson Center, leading authority on Sino-U.S. relations, former U.S. diplomat in Beijing; fluent Chinese speaker and interpreter for Chinese and U.S. leaders.

**Monday, February 5:** “South Korea at the Crossroads,” Scott A. Snyder, Senior Fellow, Korea Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, South Korea’s role as a middle power in East Asia; and global implications of North Korean instability.

**Tuesday, February 20:** “The Rise of Irregular Warfare: The Threat to the U.S. Homeland from China, Russia, and Iran,” Seth G. Jones, Senior Vice President, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) International Security Program. He will focus on defense strategy, military operations, force posture, and irregular warfare.

**Monday, March 4**: “Afghanistan Today,” Ambassador James B. Cunningham, [U.S. ret], Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council, Career Minister, former ambassador to Afghanistan.

**Monday, March 18**: “Game Changer in the Middle East: New Friends: Saudi Arabia and Israel and Breakthrough with Iran?” Brian Katulis, Vice President and Senior Fellow, Middle East Institute

**Monday, April 1**: “Starvation as an Instrument of Genocide and War.” Speaker to be confirmed, expert on humanitarian crises and response, famine as an ancient tool of war appearing again on the world stage.

The lectures are exclusively available to members. NCWA membership is open for the November 2023 to May 2024 season. Membership benefits include:

* Attend world-class foreign affairs lectures in person or via livestream
* Participate in nonpartisan Great Decisions groups that delve into foreign affairs issues
* Engage with local high school students, our leaders for tomorrow, in NCWA’s Model United Nations, Academic WorldQuest quiz competition, and scholarship programs
* Explore the ideas of the best thinkers in foreign affairs through the NCWA book club
* Build stimulating relationships with like-minded people in the NCWA membership

For more information about NCWA membership, go to [www.ncwa-fl.org](http://www.ncwa-fl.org) and click on Membership or send us a note at [NCWAMembership@gmail.com](mailto:NCWAMembership@gmail.com).

**About NCWA**

NCWA is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization whose mission is to educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues.

NCWA has 1,500+ members from Collier and Lee counties as well as membership in the World Affairs Council of America, which has 93 chapters in the US, 40 states and 90,000+ members.