



Naples Council on World Affairs

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2011/2012

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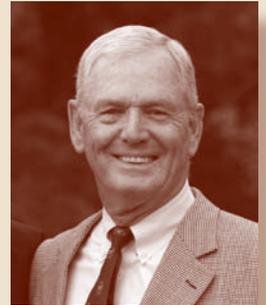
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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS NEWS & VIEWS

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President's Message



Our season is well underway. In January the pace really picks up, with two main lectures (January 9th and 23rd), a special Taiwan report (January 17th), Academic Worldquest for middle schoolers (January 21st), and then the start of Great Decisions (January 23rd).

Amidst all of this activity I find myself reflecting on why we are doing this. Is it just for our own education and entertainment? Or should we seek to have a wider impact particularly in an election year? It's a sad fact that few Americans bring an interest or concern about world affairs into the voting booth.

The World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), of which NCWA is a member, has taken a strong position on these questions. The local Councils can help voters understand the important issues affecting our national security and insist that candidates for national office address these issues in a meaningful way.

To focus this effort, WACA conducted research among opinion leaders across the country and found a consensus on six top issues affecting national security that should be addressed by candidates and considered by voters in the 2012 election. Here are the six issues, followed by questions one might expect any candidate to answer:

1. **US Education(K-12):** What is needed so US can compete globally?
2. **Afghanistan/Pakistan:** Is there an endgame? What does it look like?
3. **Economic Competitiveness:** How best to sustain and improve?
4. **Energy Policy:** What's the goal, and how do we get there?
5. **The Middle East:** How should US react to the "Arab Spring"?
6. **China:** How best to respond to China's growth and influence?

In his November speech to the WACA conference, former Director of National Security Stephen Hadley endorsed the focus on the six issues. He cited examples from past campaigns where candidates dealt with national security issues only superficially. He urged all of us to insist that candidates do better. "Don't accept just their stump speeches," he said. "Press them until they provide meaningful answers on these six issues."

Our lectures and discussions over the next months should help inform your own positions. Regardless of where each of us stands on political questions, we are all interested in world affairs. Let's do what we can to increase the attention given to foreign policy, particularly as it affects national security. The six issues can help.

I look forward to seeing you in 2012 and discovering together what the New Year will bring.

Wally Stimpson, *President*

Thanks to our photographer Bradlee White!

Congratulations to Mimi Gregory!

On October 12th, 2011, Mimi Gregory was awarded the rank of Commander in the French National Order of Merit by decree of President Nicolas Sarkozy of France. The award was presented by Consul General of France, Gael de Maisonneuve, at an event in Naples on December 7th.

In a congratulatory letter from the Ambassador of France, Francois Delattre, it was noted that “this is an exceptional honor, whose bestowal illustrates France’s profound gratitude as expressed by President Sarkozy, and it acknowledges your exceptional career and exemplary personal commitment to French-American relations.”

Mimi Gregory has been involved with the Alliance Francaise network in the United States for many years. She was elected President of the Minneapolis chapter, served as President of the Boston chapter, was a founder of the Bonita Springs chapter, which she leads today, and is also President of the Federation of Alliances Francaises USA, which includes 114 chapters nationwide. The sustained mission of the Alliances Francaises is dedicated to the support of French language and French culture as it is practiced around the globe, and fostering French-American friendship. The nationwide network boasts 45,000 students of French in addition to many fancophile and francophone members who gather to enjoy francophone literature, art and history, support a speaker network, and of course enjoy French cuisine!

On behalf of the NCWA membership we extend heartfelt congratulations to Mimi.



Mimi Gregory receiving the “Commander in the French National Order of Merit” award from Consul General of France Gael de Maisonneuve.

2012 Annual Dinner - Save the Date !!!

The ever popular and well attended NCWA Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2012, at the Port Royal Club in Naples.

Please mark your calendar and look for further details coming soon.

For information contact HerbertEvert07@comcast.net.

Outreach Committee

To those members who attended the first lectures on October 31st, our heartfelt thanks for the very warm reception you gave the seven "Experiment in International Living" scholars. We are also grateful for the dozens of compliments received about the EIL program, the scholars' essays, and the one minute presentations of thanks. For those of you who could not attend on October 31st, we videoed their presentations and they will be shown on our new giant screens prior to the January 23rd lecture. A set of their essays will also be distributed at that time.



Sixteen Middle Schools with 38 teams are registered for the Academic World Quest to be held January 21st at the Community School of Naples from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The High School AWQ will be held February 25th also at the Community School of Naples.

All systems are GO for our 2012 EIL and Georgetown programs. Applications are due February 20th and interviews will begin March 5th.

Our new program, International Career Development, is in its final organizational stages of implementation.

Please visit the Outreach section of our website at www.ncwa-fl.org to learn about any changes or updates. Your continued support is gratefully appreciated!

Chuck Stuart, *Chair*

Radio interviews with our upcoming Speakers may be heard on

"Sound Off with Sasha"

aired locally by WGCU Public Media on Fridays at noon.

Program Committee

The Wow Factor! Our screens are surely a great success and the object of many calls to extol their virtues, all 4 of them! Of course there are additional enhancements with the improved audio visual presentation capability, and we are awaiting our first speaker with either a power point or video presentation to further prove the value of the new system.

Meanwhile, our season began with a very comprehensive discussion on Iran by Dr. Abbas Milani of Stanford University. Understanding the pressures that the Arab Spring has added to the powers in Iran was part of Dr. Milani's address, as were points on their nuclear ambitions and the future of the Ahmadinejad Presidency.

Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President of the Atlantic Council, spoke to the future of NATO and the upcoming Atlantic Summit in Chicago next May. NATO'S success in Libya was discussed with the caveat that the United States cannot take the lead nor absorb the costs of a like venture, example Syria, should the pressure to do so arrive. The future of Atlanticism will be a key point at the May summit.

Can you imagine that Hugo Chavez has done some good in his country of Venezuela? Dr. Jennifer McCoy, a Latin American scholar, spoke to his accomplishments as well as his unusual leadership. Key in Venezuela's future will be Chavez' recovery from his unspecified cancer and who might lead the country if he succumbs to the disease. Dr. McCoy also spoke to his relationship with Cuba which is mutually beneficial to the two countries.

Coming up on January 9th, Neil MacFarquhar of the NY Times will speak about Egypt and Syria where he has been spending all his reporting time, most recently since October 15th, and his reports from Damascus are available on the NYT website.

Mimi Gregory, *Director of Programs*



CSA Committee

The Committee on Special Activities hosted its first program in the new season with Board Member Donna Suddeth's presentation on her visit to Azerbaijan this past summer.

Donna joined a World Affairs Council Leadership Mission with other Council members from across the country for her visit to this oil rich nation which is so strategically positioned between Russia and Iran. All of us who attended came away with a better understanding of the issues Azerbaijan faces in a post conflict state: economic growth, defense, re-population and defeating poverty. With a very high literacy rate and deep oil pockets, their chances for a strong recovery are certainly promising.

Coming up.....

President Wally Stimpson will present a review of his trip to Taiwan at
10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17th at Kiney Hall

National War College All-Day Seminar
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2nd, at the Hilton Hotel, Naples

Mimi Gregory, *Chairman*

2011-2012 LECTURE SERIES:

CHANGE AND TURMOIL IN THE 21ST CENTURY

January 9th: Neil MacFarquhar, “Longtime Instability in the Arab Nations”. NY Times Bureau Chief at the United Nations, Mr. MacFarquhar, a fluent Arabic speaker and former Cairo Bureau Chief, will take a look at the challenge of forming new governments in the wake of the tumult of 2011 in Middle Eastern countries.

January 23rd: Steven Burg, “Maximizing Power: Russia and her Neighbors in the 21st Century”. Adlai Stevenson is Professor of International Politics at Brandeis University. He will return to bring us up to date on Russia. At the end of communism, Russia finds herself becoming a “normal” state, seeking to maximize its power relative to other major powers.

February 6th: Farah Pandith, “Muslim Engagement in the 21st Century” Special Representative to Muslim Communities, US Department of State. Ms. Pandith’s office is responsible for executing Secretary Clinton’s vision for engagement with Muslims around the world. She reports directly to Secretary Clinton.

February 20th: Bruce Riedel, “Pakistan, the Most Dangerous Country in the World”. Mr. Riedel is an expert on terrorism and conflict resolution at the Brookings Institution. He will examine the United States’ roller-coaster relationship with this nuclear country, following the capture and death of Bin Laden, and the rupture of earlier collaborations.

March 12th: Mike Mochizuki, “Japan’s Uncertain Future: 3-11 and Beyond”. Associate Dean of Academic Studies at George Washington University’s Elliot School of International Affairs, he will examine the political, economic, social and foreign policy implications of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

March 26th: Jamie Horsley, “China’s Rise Amidst Rising Challenges: Implications for U.S.-China Relations”. Deputy Director of Yale University’s China Law Center, Ms. Horsley will address the prospects for political reform as a new leadership comes to power in the midst of a worldwide economic crisis.

April 9th: Anne Korin, Co-Director of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, “Turning Oil into Salt Energy Independence through Fuel Choice and Energy Security Challenges for the 21st Century”. As co-author of these two titles, Ms. Korin will discuss what we can do to reduce the strategic importance of oil.

All Lectures are held at Kiney Hall, St. John the Evangelist Church

625 111th Avenue, Naples

3:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

(Bring color coded membership card for admittance at time notes on card.)

SWFL Model United Nations Program

The high schools that will be attending the two-day March 2012 Model United Nations Conference at FGCU are signed up and have their Committee assignments. We are expecting over 320 students from 17 high schools, along with more than 75 volunteers, sponsors and coaches. Once again, FGCU has given us the use of their classroom and auditorium facilities.

The MUN program is the largest single Outreach project of the Naples Council on World Affairs. It is supported through the minimal school registration fees and our members' generosity. That is why we send out a letter each October asking for your support. If you have not considered making a contribution or sponsoring a scholarship, please visit our website at <http://ncwa-fl.org/modelunitednations.html> and learn about the program and how to donate to its efforts.

This year the Conference will be held on March 8th and 9th, 2012, at FGCU. Shortly after the New Year, we will begin asking for volunteers to read and judge position papers, act as Conference judges in the Committee rooms and as administrative help at the beginning and during the Conference. Position Paper work is done during February. Judges are needed on both days of the Conference. Administrative volunteers can be there one or both days. If you wish to volunteer, the contacts are:

Judges	Bob McGinn	mcginn_barbara@hotmail.com
Positon Papers	Dieter Hausmann	rkdh41@comcast.net
Administration	Earl Anderson	ehowea@gmavt.net

If you have questions about the Conference, please contact me at Judith@judithlipnick.com.

Judith Lipnick, *Chair*

Hospitality Committee

We welcome all the snowbirds back to Naples and invite you all to a full schedule of NCWA activities.

When a Council speaker comes to town, the Hospitality Committee invites some donors of the President's Club to join members of the Board of Directors at a luncheon prior to the lecture. To date three luncheons have been held in a private room at Shula's restaurant in the Hilton Hotel, Naples. These small gatherings provide members with an excellent opportunity to interact with our speaker in an intimate setting. It also allows the speaker to become acquainted with our membership and understand our concerns about world events.

We encourage you to join the President's Club and join us at these luncheons!

Judy Rubinstein, *Chair*

Great Decisions Program

Since the 2011 season, two Great Decisions groups have been canceled: one group at St. John the Evangelist Church and one group on Marco Island. However, for the next season four new groups were established and new leaders recruited: one at St. John's, one at the Naples Chamber of Commerce, and two at the Commons Club at The Brooks. The result is that for the 2012 season we will have 21 discussion groups, meeting at five different locations: 10 groups at St. John's; 5 at the Norris Center; 3 at the Chamber of Commerce; 2 at The Brooks; and 1 on Marco Island.



We try to limit the number of registrants per group to 30. There are always some people who have registered but don't show up. Taking also into account the unavoidable number of absentees, the average attendance per group last year was between 20 and 25. A majority of participants considered this to be about the right number. So far the total number of registrants is about 570. There are still some groups that can accommodate additional members. If you are interested you may register online on our website www.ncwa-fl.org or call (239) 649-3942. Registration is open for regular NCWA members, as well as for associate members.

Approximately 10% of all registrants are now associate members. The intent of the associate membership program is that associate members become full members when there is space available in the main lecture hall, which is usually within one year of becoming an associate member. In order to continue participating in Great Decisions groups associate members are expected to become full members when full membership becomes available.

The topics for discussion in the 2012 Great Decisions season have been announced. They are: Middle East realignment; Promoting democracy; Mexico; Cyber security; Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq; State of the oceans; Indonesia; and Energy geopolitics. The 2012 program will begin the week of January 23rd and continue for eight consecutive weeks until the week of March 12th. Distribution of the briefing books will be on January 14th between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., at the five locations where the group meetings will be held. We look forward to an interesting season.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*

Website

The format of the website has been changed to make it easier to view, plus efforts are underway to make it current and add informative features. Areas of particular note are the calendar, which is being extended to include all NCWA activities, and the Great Decisions area which includes a blog, videos which support workbook topics, and a directory of Great Decision members.



The website has successfully been used to renew memberships and make donations. Aside from these activities, the number of visits to the site are relatively low. The goal over the next year is to make the website a more important part of the NCWA dialogue and educational experience. If you have thoughts on improving the site, please contact me at erbstein@embarqmail.com.

Bob Erbstein, *Webmaster*



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LECTURE BROADCASTS

Our Lecture Series is aired on
Thursday nights at 8:00 pm
10 days after our 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