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NAPLES CHAPTER, AFA WORLD AFFAIRS
NEWSLETTER

Hello, Club Members

President's Message – February 7, 2022

JOHN GRIER

For anyone interested in international affairs and (starting with 2022) in an incredibly rich, if substantial overreaching, year.

Around the globe – in Russia, Bosnia, Turkey, Hungary, Belarus, India, China, Myanmar, Nicaragua, and elsewhere – authoritarian leaders are challenging, or actively undermining, democratic institutions and processes. Even in Second World War Ukraine, a quadrilateral tussle (and technological contest) among Russia, the Ukraine, the United States, and China is underway. In a recent definition of human rights, TS MOTLI said, "Kashmir, Putin's troops invade Ukraine, Myanmar, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Tibet, Taiwan." Kashmir

Naples, Florida 34109-2006

If you want your donation to support a financial award, versus helping to cover general expenses, please so indicate in the donation comment area on the website or on the bottom of your check.

All donations are, of course, tax deductible to the full extent provided by law and will be appropriately recognized in NCWA publications.

Keeping Track of a Model UN Superstar

Daniela Barata, center, enjoyed a recent catch-up lunch with Model UN donors Nancy and Howard Cohen of Estero and Mo Winograd, NCWA Model UN co-vice chair (not pictured).

By MO WINOGRAD
Model UN Co-Vice Chair

Assume that the United Nations has $1 million to spend to provide some relief to children in Syrian refugee camps. How would you spend it?

Five years ago, the Model UN team from Cape Coral High School led by Daniela Barata tackled that question. They won the top prize funded by Howard and Nancy Cohen of Estero for their innovative plan.

Daniela's team came up with the idea – presented via PowerPoint – that they would spend the hypothetical $1 million to set up bicycles at one end of the camp for school-age children to ride to school on the other side of the camp and then back home again. The system they designed was similar to that of Citi Bike, a bicycle share system in New York City. The Syrian refugee camp they selected was in the desert, where it was too hot to expect the children to walk far. The bikes were a simple solution.

A few months after the Model UN competition, Daniela organized a bike-a-thon at Cape Coral High School and, with a little help from NCWA with advertising, was able to raise approximately $3,500. With that money, she founded a non-profit company in Chicago that refurbished donated used bikes. Before one could blink, she had shipped 600 bikes to orphans in Africa. At the time, the NCWA newsletter ran pictures of the bikes being received by smiling children in Africa.

Often when Howard and Nancy were in Baltimore, where Daniela was attending Johns Hopkins University, they would look her up. While Daniela was at Johns Hopkins she volunteered her time, being the public-spirited young woman that she is, at Centro Sol, a Latin outreach clinic where she worked on public health outreach for Covid vaccines and studied vaccine hesitancy in Latinos. She also volunteered for Strong City Baltimore, a free adult learning center where she tutored a student on English as a second language.

Fast forward to now.

Daniela graduated in December from Johns Hopkins with a degree in molecular and cellular biology and is working at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) studying pharmacological interventions in the process of aging as well as the role of nutrition in chronic illness, such as diabetes and Alzheimers. She's doing all this while applying to medical schools. She was one of our Model UN superstars and is still shining brightly.

MUN Legacy in Memory of Former NCWA Board Member

Ron Gymer

NCWA President Jim Schmotter and the Board of Directors express appreciation to Marianne Gymer, widow of former NCWA Board member Ron Gymer, for her decision to annually fund a scholarship in the Model UN program in his memory. Ron, who passed away in August, was a longtime active member of the School Outreach Committee, a Model UN judge and a participant in Great Decisions.

Ron had always been dedicated to helping students that have the ability to also have the opportunity to enhance their education," Marianne said. Hence the scholarship which this year is in the amount of $2,500. He participated in the MUN, representing Israel, when he was 17 years old and always credited that experience with his desire to learn as much as possible about the world outside of the one in which he lived. It also instilled in him the lifelong love of learning the history of all nations.

Village Assistance Program

Joyce Fletcher

By JOYCE FLETCHER
Secretary, NCWA Board of Directors
And Village Assistance Program Chair

Applications for New VAP Programs Due by February 12

The Village Assistance Program (VAP) was initiated several years ago by NCWA to provide modest financial assistance to small communities or groups in economically distressed areas in foreign countries. VAP will consider assisting only projects in which NCWA members are directly involved.

The deadline for submission of applications by members for programs is February 12, 2022. The application is available on the website www.ncwa-fl.org under the VAP tab.

The project's need must be well established. The application should be for a one-time grant, preferably for an education purpose, an educational building or facility. It must also provide an opportunity to educate some Collier County students about the country of the project. For more information, contact Joyce Fletcher at jfletcher669@gmail.com.

One grant is in effect for 2021-2022. This grant, for a water holding tank in the Uganda Bush for Imani Mbele Children Inc./ Lugazi School and Orphanage, was submitted by NCWA member Patricia Gullo. A pen pal program with The Village School of Naples with the Uganda students is being organized.

REMINDER TO NCWA MEMBERS

Please keep your profile information, including your email and snail mail addresses, up to date so that we can keep you informed! To edit your profile, sign on to www.ncwa-fl.org and go to Members, then View My Profile. Or, call 239-649-3942 and give us the information over the phone.

Cleaning Out Locker Yields 40-Plus-Year-Old Treasure

Naples Council on World Affairs

This man is looking for a fight, or at the least, a good discussion on world affairs

This man is looking for a fight

An intrepid team of five members of NCWA's Board of Directors didn't dream when they decided to clean out our storage locker that they would find historical treasure.

Among the expected debris in the neglected locker was a surprise – a loose-leaf notebook containing an article in the October 30, 1981 issue of the Naples Star, the local newspaper at the time, reporting on the founding of NCWA in 1980. Attached was a list of first-year members, showing dues of $20 for individuals and $25 for families, plus a charge of $3.50 for each meeting.

The headline was provocative: "This man is looking for a fight, or at the least, a good discussion on world affairs." It featured an interview with president and founder Melvin LaFrenz, who had worked with American-Arabian Oil Company in Saudi Arabia for 30 years before retiring and moving to Naples. Four years after retiring, he founded NCWA and began bringing in ambassadors and other experts in international affairs for speaking engagements.

Stimulating, often heated discussion is inevitable, he said. "You will either agree or disagree with a speaker's particular point of view. I can promise, no one will go home bored."

The locker cleaning team – Bob Erbstein, Robert Rousset, Mark Schwab, Mark Walchak and Gunther Winkler – can certainly agree, 40+ years later: There's nothing boring about NCWA!

What in the World Quiz

The *What in the World Quiz*, a weekly test about current global events, is taken by 200-250 people each week. A link to the WWQ is emailed every Monday along with a list of those who received a perfect score the previous week. Please join in the fun!

NCWA Book Club

Bill Korstad

By BILL KORSTAD
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And Book Club Chair

NCWA Book Club Meets Monthly

The Book Club meets via Zoom from 12:00 to 1:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. To get on the mailing list, contact Bill Korstad at bkorstad@mac.com. Members and Associate Members are invited.

On January 4, we discussed *Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India* by Shashi Tharoor. Kishor Kulkarni gave an excellent summary of Indian history of nearly two centuries of domination by the British, ending in 1947. Some members drew parallels with more recent "colonial" adventures, including our own.

On February 1, *Russia Resurrected: Its Power and Purpose in a New Global Order* by Kathryn Stoner, a Russia expert, was discussed. Too often, we are told that Russia plays a weak hand well. Yet 25 years removed from its mid-1990s nadir following the collapse of the USSR, Russia has become a supremely disruptive force in world politics. The author assessed the resurrection of Russia and argued that we should look beyond traditional means of power to assess its strength in global affairs.

For the March 1 meeting, book club participants will discuss ***World Safe for Democracy: Liberal Internationalism and the Crisis of Global Order*** **by John Ikenberry.** For two hundred years, the grand project of liberal internationalism has been to build a world order that is open, loosely rules-based, and oriented toward progressive ideas. Today this project is in crisis, threatened from the outside by illiberal challengers and from the inside by nationalist-populist movements. This timely book offers the first full account of liberal internationalism's long journey from its 19th Century roots to today's fractured political moment.

NCWA Officers and Directors for 2021-2022:

(March 29, 2021- March 31, 2022)

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Jim Schmotter, President
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Gunther Winkler, Vice President of Operations
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School Outreach Program:	Mark Walchak
Village Assistance Program:	Joyce Fletcher
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Website:	Gunther Winkler
Hospitality:	Jim Fleck and Mark Schwab
Newsletter:	Carol H. Green
Nominating Committee:	Gunther Winkler

Want a spouse or friend to receive the NCWA Newsletter?

Currently the newsletter is emailed to one address per member household. This electronic publication provides news and updates on the Council's activities three times a year. We want to provide access to it for all interested stakeholders. If you have a family membership and would like the newsletter sent to the other member on your membership, please send your request to carolgreen2@mac.com. If you would like a copy sent to someone who is not currently a member, please send your request to judithlipnick@gmail.com.

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