

President's Message

Newsletter

December 4, 2022

The opening of our season greeted us with challenges abroad and at home.

The horrors of Russia's invasion of Ukraine continued while Xi Jinping consolidated power in China in a fashion not seen since the days of Mao Tse Tung. Western Europe girded itself for winter fuel shortages and economic upheaval, much of the developing world faced famine, and authoritarian leaders from Iran to North Korea to Saudi Arabia made the world a more dangerous place.

Here at home in Southwest Florida, we are recovering from a storm that has affected—and in some cases destroyed—the lives and homes of family, friends, and neighbors. And the continuing development of new Covid variants still bears close attention.

The Naples Council on World Affairs stands ready, as it has for forty years, to help you better understand and confront these challenges. This year's lecture series will present a highly relevant lineup of speakers. For instance: New Yorker editor David S. Rhode on "The Weaponization of Social Media in Foreign Policy" and national security analyst Joseph Cirincione on "Miscalculation and Nuclear Risks in the Ukraine War." The topics of readings supplied by the Foreign Policy Association for Great Decision groups' discussions are timely and compelling. And, as always, NCWA's partnerships with the region's educators promise great benefit to local middle and high school students through Academic World Quest competitions, Model United Nations conference, summer scholarships and the Daniel Bumstead Global Scholars Program.

Our venue at Moss Hall in Moorings Presbyterian Church will be new to some members, and some will choose to engage with the Council through livestreaming. But the strength and relevance of the programming that our team of over a hundred volunteers provides will remain. We look forward to your joining us in exploring and confronting the global challenges of today—and of tomorrow!

Warm Regards,
Jim Schmotter, President