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Fall 2018

Editor: Jim Schmotter

President's Message

We thought the coast was clear. We expected reconstruction work at St. John's and Kiney Hall would by now be done. We expected that a newly renovated home at Kiney Hall would be welcoming us back for our 2018-2019 Lecture Series. But, no—not yet. Since Hurricane Irma, nothing about venues has been easy.

As we approached the summer season, Mimi sat down with St. John's business manager to agree on the dates we would be using Kiney Hall for the coming season, only to be saddened by the news that still more reconstruction was now necessary and Kiney Hall would not be available until January 2019.

The need for alternate venues had not ended with the April 2018 lecture. And Mimi just continued right into the summer, considering our next steps. She proposed we seek just one alternate venue for the entire season, if that could be arranged. We agreed, and arrange it she did.

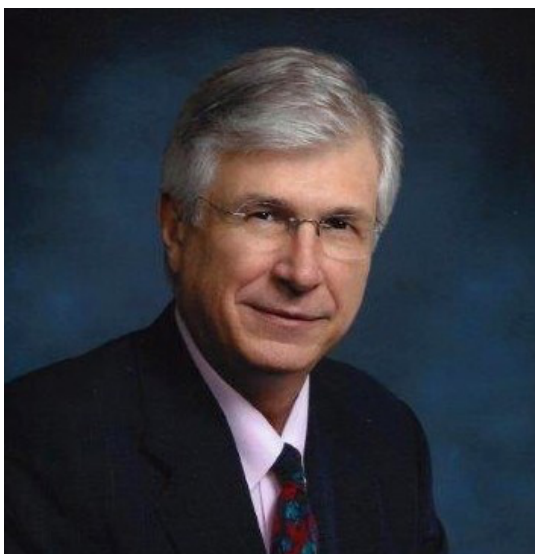
We are pleased to inform you that Moorings Presbyterian Church will make available to us their ample sanctuary hall for all of the 2018-2019 lecture series.

It served us well at the end of last season; it will doubtless do so again this season.

We again register our gratitude for Mimi's tireless and successful work on our behalf, and for the welcoming folks at Moorings Presbyterian Church who will host us for all of the 2018-2019 lecture season. And I cannot fail to note that, with all else, Mimi and the Program Committee have again organized a lecture series offering the most timely and important topics, and exceptional, consensus experts to address them.

The Lecture Series is our NCWA centerpiece, the foundation of our identity, mission, and funding. But our other program offerings complement the lectures well, and they are preparing for what we expect will be one of their strongest years. Great Decisions, our second largest program, now has 28 discussion groups and a record 830 or more member-participants. Gerry Melnick, our Great Decisions chair, has done an outstanding job of organizing these groups and their leaders, and securing venues to accommodate them.

Ed Leland, chair of the Model UN Committee, and his team will welcome an expanding number of high schools and students to this season's two-day competition. And Bob Haffa, chair of the Student Outreach Committee, and his team will also be reaching out to attract more schools and students to this year's Academic World Quest competitions for middle school and high school students. If you are looking for a meaningful volunteer experience, then do give Ed Leland and/or Bob Haffa a call.



Gregory E. Hudson

President

OUR MISSION:

To educate, inspire and engage our community in

international affairs and critical global issues

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Vice President for Programs - Mimi Gregory
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Program Committee

"The Challenges of Change"

Have you spent the summer anticipating our lecture destination for this season? Please believe me when I tell you that I spent a good part of my summer anticipating the very same thing! But...here is the good news: we have a welcome "home" at Moorings Presbyterian Church for the Lecture Series and we could not be more pleased.

More challenging than our destination has been the choice of topics for this season. We have more pressing issues, more challenges, more changes, more threats and a bevy of professionals prepared to educate and inform us. There are "old friends" and some new experts whose knowledge of their topics will bring us up to speed with those more recent threats on our horizon.

Our first lecture will be on October 29th and will address the "Defense of Our Nation", a good place to start from the standpoint of the assaults that global affairs have brought us of late. Can diplomacy succeed? Will "peacebuilding" bring us national security? What is in store for us with Russia and China? What about those tariffs? Isis redux? Is the EU still breathing? Is social media a "warrior's tool"? And, what about Iran?

I suspect we have captured your interest! With the hope that you have all enjoyed a good summer, we look forward to welcoming you back to Naples and the beginning of our 2018-2019 Lecture Season.

Good luck to Diana!

Diana Almazan, our intern from Seacrest Country Day School, is headed to Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Diana was a welcoming face at our lectures this past year, and we appreciated her help during a “peripatetic” season. We wish her all the best in her studies at Trinity.



Mimi C. Gregory
Vice President for Programs

Model United Nations

I am privileged to be Chairman of the Model United Nations Committee for this season. Fortunately, Mo Winograd and most of the other talented people who made Southwest Florida Model UN 2018 such a huge success remain in place. That is very good news for both me and the NCWA.

Once again in 2019, the event will be conducted in partnership with the Political Science Department and Model United Nations Club at Florida Gulf Coast University. The dates are the 7th and 8th of March. The twelve very timely committee topics include Combating Human Trafficking and the Smuggling of Migrants, The Ethics of Data Mining and Artificial Intelligence, The Prominence of Sexual Violence in War Torn Areas, and Preventing the Spread of Antimicrobial Resistance. Excitement is building, preparations have begun, and it promises, yet again, to be a fulfilling, multifaceted learning experience.

One of our goals for this season is to increase at least modestly the number of MUN delegates. Last year’s participation experienced a small decline, due in large measure to Hurricane Irma’s impact on high school schedules. Since our costs do not increase greatly as a function of participation, the more students who can realize the program’s benefits the better.

Finally, included below is a photo of the skilled and experienced judges who were so critical to the learning that occurred last spring. It is widely believed that the quality of the NCWA judges and the college scholarships provided by our members are the two factors that differentiate our MUN competition from all others.



Model UN Program Judges

The experience of Daniela Barata

The experience of Daniela Barata, pictured here with NWCA members and supporters Howard and Nancy Cohen, demonstrates the impact that the Council's programs have on students in the region.

Two years ago, Daniela led a team from Cape Coral High School in a special Model UN competition soliciting ideas for how the UN might spend \$1 million to ameliorate conditions in Syrian refugee camps. Daniela's team won first prize, with the idea of providing bicycles to facilitate transportation within the sprawling camps. This success included a \$500 prize supplied by the Cohens. While conditions in Syria made implementation of idea there impossible, the team, undeterred, continued raising money.

They eventually accumulated \$3000 to purchase 500 bicycles from a Chicago non-profit. The bicycles were sent to orphans in Africa. Daniela, now a sophomore studying molecular and cell biology at Johns Hopkins, credits her work on this and other Model UN programs with developing the confidence to pursue any dream. Her current goal is to attend medical school and become a surgeon. Those who know her would not bet against her.



Daniela Barata with the Cohens



School Outreach Committee

As we do each year, the School Outreach Committee sponsored summer scholarships for Collier County high school students to three programs enhancing those students' knowledge of world affairs.

The Governor's Institute of Vermont for Current Issues and Youth Activism brings together more than 100 young global citizens from around the US and abroad to cultivate the critical leadership skills necessary to get involved and make a difference in the participants' home communities. This year's winners were:

Morgan Jones (Marco Island Academy)
Lauren DeHooghe (Marco Island Academy)
Lisandra Mesa (Golden Gate)

We also awarded scholarships to eight Collier County students for a summer program abroad sponsored by *World Learning Experiment in International Living Program and the Student Diplomacy Corps*. This year:

Maria Castellar (Barron Collier) went to Morocco
Joseph Fausey (Palmetto Ridge) studied in New Zealand
Madison Hopkins (Lely) and Torie Schellenberger traveled to Thailand
Angel Tseng (Golden Gate) and James Ussery (Lely) spent part of their
summer in Japan
Leeandre Alexandre (Golden Gate) made new friends in Albania
Kiley Hartman (Lely) travelled to the Republic of South Korea

Finally, the Outreach Committee offered scholarships to a one-week program in

either *International Relations* or *National Security* at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. This year the following Collier County rising seniors attended:

Dylan Castillo (Barron Collier)
Anna Bartoux (Community School)
Noah Balamut (Community School)
Ryan Cialone (Barron Collier)
Nick Lamb (Naples)
Teagan Havemeier (Marco Island Academy)
Mickey Poling (Lely)
John Neuman (Community School)

In addition to congratulating each of these winners, we encourage Collier County students entering their Junior year this Fall to learn more about these programs from our website, talk to those who have just returned, and apply by the first of the new year to be considered for School Outreach Committee summer scholarships in 2019.



Bob Haffa

Chair, School Outreach Committee

Great Decisions

Great Decisions, an eight-week world affairs discussion program, will begin mid- January and end in mid-March. This year there are 837 participants registered in 28 groups meeting for two hours once a week in various venues.

Our sites are located at Kensington Golf & Country Club, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, Norris Center, the Commons at the Brooks, Moorings

Presbyterian Church, United Church of Marco Island, Lely Library and Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church.

Due to the popularity of Great Decisions, one new group was added for 2019 and because of increased interest in Great Decisions, we anticipate that one additional group will be formed in 2020. The average group size is set at 30 and each has an experienced leader. Group members volunteer to facilitate each discussion, recognize speakers and manage the course of the session.

Topics for the discussions are selected by the Foreign Policy Association, which engages statesmen, diplomats, scholars, educators and other professionals, all of whom have expertise in the specific field of the designated topics, to write articles which become the basis for each weekly discussion. The articles, approximately ten pages in length, are then compiled in a briefing book which every participant reads weekly to prepare for the discussion.

Discussions are kept on track by the facilitator who ensures that everyone has an opportunity to express their viewpoint. Participants are urged to maintain an open mind and are free to put forth divergent viewpoints to enhance robust discussion of the issues. This has led to the growth of Great Decisions and the need to be responsive by adding new groups to meet the demand. Invariably the same participants annually register for the next year's program.

Guests are permitted to attend a session upon request. Anyone considering joining the new group being formed in 2020 please contact the GD Chair at gerrymelnick@comcast.net for more information.



Gerry Melnick
Chair, Great Decisions

Membership Information

The summer has been a busy time, with the Council's leadership team working to make the upcoming season a successful and rewarding experience for you.

If you know someone who would like to join the NCWA, encourage them to call 239 649-3942 to become an Associate Member. Until they become a full member, they will be able to view lectures on the NCWA website, be eligible to participate in Great Decisions groups, receive invitations to special lectures, and register for the Annual Dinner following full membership registration.

Membership cards were mailed first-class to the address we have on your profile in our records. Thank you for taking note of the emails sent in August and checking to be sure the information was correct. If for some reason, your cards were not deliverable, they will be returned to us and available at the lectures for you. One of our Directors will be available at each lecture if you have any problems - Jim Schmotter (schmotterj@wcsu.edu) in the afternoon and Henk Touw (henk@touwmail.com) in the evening. And if you are interested in volunteering to help at the door, I know they would love to hear from you.

Please note: Membership cards are non-transferable and may be used only for the designated lecture. We are unable to accommodate session change requests, guests, member substitutes, walk-ins or Associate Member at the feature presentations.

We will be mailing you the 2018-2019 NCWA Handbook the first of November. It will contain all the information found in the front of our past directories and a schedule of lectures on the back cover. Going forward, the roster of our full and associate members will be on the website under the "Member" tab and will be updated on a regular basis as needed.

With the exception of the Annual Meeting Notice and distribution of Membership Cards, all of our communication with you will be by email. Please be sure to update your information if your email address changes.

If you have any questions you can call our office at 239 649-3942 or contact me at judithlipnick@gmail.com.

Judith Lipnick

Vice President, Operations



Support the NCWA

Members and friends of NCWA are encouraged to make donations to NCWA to help us support and expand our important outreach activities, such as the Model UN, Academic World Quest and School Outreach Programs mentioned in this newsletter. Students receive scholarships made possible by your donations. Donations may be made online at www.ncwa-fl.org/Donations or checks may be mailed to Naples Council on World Affairs, 2316 Pine Ridge Road, Box 361, Naples, Florida 34109-2006. Membership in the President's Club is given to NCWA members who have donated \$250 or more to NCWA within the current calendar year or provide endowments annually equal to or exceeding \$250.00. Membership in the President's Club provides an opportunity to attend luncheons hosted for featured speakers.

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