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Winter 2019

Editor: Jim Schmotter

President's Message

The December holidays have passed. Our visiting relatives and friends have returned home, or we have returned to our winter retreats here in Naples. For most of us, it means a return to Naples normal. But for Naples Council on World Affairs and our many members, it also means reviewing and considering our schedule of NCWA programs and events from January through April. So, get ready; there's a lot to get on your calendar. And it's all good NCWA work; it's what we do.

Beginning January 7th and continuing every two weeks through April 8th, we have the continuation of our **peerless lecture series** and our outstanding, expert speakers. If this year's theme, "The Challenge of Change", and the first three lectures already presented have got you thinking, wait until you hear the remaining seven lectures coming our way!

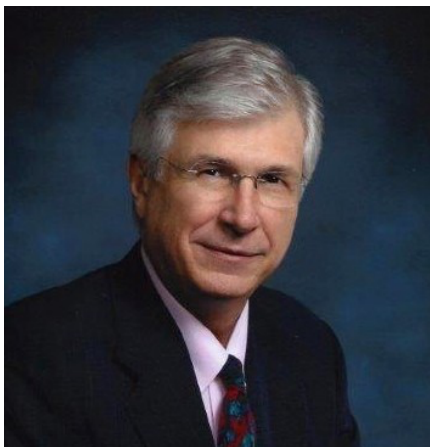
Also beginning in January are our ever-popular **Great Decisions discussion**

groups—now 28 groups involving over 830 member-participants. As usual, the topics this year and the related briefing book readings are timely and compelling. Don't miss a week.

But there are other events calling for your attention and inviting your attendance. The Student Outreach Committee will again be presenting their high-school and middle-school **Academic World Quest competitions** on March 2nd and March 23rd, respectively, at the Community School.

And then there is our two-day Southwest **Florida Model United Nations competition** held March 7-8 at FGCU. Our Model UN Committee and its many volunteers are again putting together another outstanding program involving high schools from all around Southwest Florida. The competition and the students are impressive. The afternoon awards ceremony on the last day is not to be missed. Exciting, affirming, celebratory. And the teams and winners do celebrate!

Then, what better way to do a little celebrating of our own—and reflecting on another great year of programs, learning and camaraderie—than with our **annual dinner** at the Hilton. April 5th. See you there!



Gregory E. Hudson

President

OUR MISSION:
To educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues

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Expanded Great Decisions Leadership

The Great Decisions 2019 program began January 14th with over 837 active participants in 28 discussion groups, one of which was added due to increased enrollment. As interest in enrollment grows, we continue to expand the number of groups and seek new venues. As the 2018 program ended, group leadership mobility has resulted in the need to seek four exceedingly qualified individuals to assume responsibility, three for existing groups and a fourth for the newly formed group. We were very successful in interviewing and engaging the following four highly qualified individuals:

Carol H. Green: Earned B.S. in journalism and history from Louisiana Tech University, Master of Studies in Law from Yale Law School and J.D. from University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Former newspaper executive at *Newsday* in Long Island, as well as senior vice president, attorney and reporter at *The Denver Post*, from which she retired. Lectured on First Amendment for U.S. Information Agency in Egypt and India. World Affairs Council/Great Decisions member for four years. Traveled extensively, Circumnavigators Club of Naples. Currently a literary agent in Naples.

George Purvis: Holds a B.A., B.S., and M.B.A. from Penn State. He has worked on Global Health and hospital projects internationally for 25 years and worked in 30 countries on projects for The World Bank, European Commission, USAID, German Aid, British Aid, the Aga Khan Foundation, the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation and others. He has participated in Great Decisions for three

years.

Stu Schweitzer: Graduate of City College of New York and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota. Following time in academia and at the Federal Reserve, Stu had a long career on Wall Street as a global economist and markets strategist. He is a docent at the Holocaust Museum and Education Center of Southwest Florida, and has been a member of Great Decisions since 2015.

William Todd: Holds B.S. from Cornell School of Hotel Administration, M.P.A. from Cornell Graduate School of Business and Public Administration, and J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Law School. He worked as a trial attorney in Southern New Jersey for approximately 15 years. He served as a Superior Court Judge for the State of New Jersey for 20 years, with assignments to Family, Civil and General Equity divisions. Retired in 2013. A Great Decisions participant beginning in 2018.

The four new group leaders are pictured below. Left to Right: William Todd, Carol Green, George Purvis, Stu Schweitzer



PLEASE REMEMBER!

Whether you are a full member or associate member, please be sure your email address in your profile on ncwa-fl.org is correct. We will be sending out renewal notices on February 1, 2019 with reminders on February 15, 2019 and March 1, 2019. On March 5, 2019, we will begin offering full memberships to associate members according to the date they signed up. We will fill seats for the lectures as available and until each seat is taken. Each year we hear from members who claim they do not receive renewal notices - for the most part we can see that the email for delivered to their service, but an astonishing number of members do not open the email.

At the first two lectures, several members came with guests. As stated on page 12 of the Handbook, we are unable to accommodate guests, member substitutes, walk-ins or Associate Members at the feature presentations. Please do not ask our greeters to make exceptions.

Handbooks were mailed earlier this year. If you did not receive one, limited

copies will be available at the lectures. Several members have asked why their names were not included. The full member roster is available on the website under the “Member” Tab.

We are pleased our new venue for this year at the Moorings Presbyterian Church, as pictured during the recent lecture of Ambassador William Taylor.



Scholarship Alumni Luncheon

The NCWA School Outreach Committee hosted a lunch for its 2018

Scholarship winners on December 9th at the Seasons 52 restaurant in Naples.

The purpose of the gathering was to acknowledge the accomplishments of these local high school seniors and to encourage them to recruit new applicants from their schools to compete for scholarships in 2019. The Outreach Committee awards scholarships for summer study at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., to the Vermont Governor's Institute, and for overseas travel through the Experiment in International Living and the Student Diplomacy Corps. Recounting their travels to Washington, Vermont, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and South Korea were (left to right):

Pictured Below: Arlette Perez (Alumni Secretary), Lisandra Mesa (Golden Gate), Joe Fausey (Palmetto Ridge), Angel Tseng (Golden Gate), John Neumann (Community School), Mickey Poling (Lely), Cooper Ussery (Lely), Hannah Pereira (Alumni President, kneeling), Maddie Hopkins (Lely), and Valentina Castellar (Barron Collier).



Did You Know?

The Educational Reach of the Naples Council on World Affairs:

While our lecture series and Great Decisions sessions remain the heart of NCWA activities, all members may not be aware of the broad impact our educational programs have had on the middle and high school students of our region. Since 1992, the Council has organized and administered the South Florida Model United Nations program, today in coordination with Florida Gulf Coast University. Over the years, thousands of students have learned about international affairs and developed personal skills through Model UN participation.

For sixteen years, the NCWA has sponsored and conducted the Academic World Quest competition for local high school students and more recently developed a similar competition for middle school students. Here again, hundreds and hundreds of students have benefited from this challenging, yet fun, educational experience.

In addition, the Council has over the years sponsored a significant number of students in summer study experiences. Every year, we hear how the perspectives of students have been broadened by study at sites across the globe with Experiment in International Living, at the Governor's Institute in Vermont, or during a week of savoring the college experience in our nation's capital at Georgetown University's high school international relations course.

NCWA lecturers also visit local schools to present their ideas to students. These visits are educational and enjoyable, and, as the photo below of Ambassador William Taylor's recent visit to Seacrest Country Day School shows, sometimes colorful as well. And they can change lives, as the following story of the experiences of one Collier County student demonstrates.

The reach of the Council's programs for students have long been recognized as an important element of the educational landscape of our region. It is the dedicated labor of volunteers and the generous support of donors that has, over the years, made this possible.



How the Council Changes the Lives of Collier County Students: Madison Cilk

Madison Cilk, a Seacrest Country Day School graduate now studying political science at the University of Vermont, recently had the opportunity of join six members of the Naples Council on World Affairs board of directors at the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) convention in Washington, D.C. Her account of this experience and her earlier participation in NCWA programs illustrates how we change the lives of many Southwest Florida high school students. She writes:

“When I first learned of the Naples Council on World Affairs, I was a senior in high school interested in gaining knowledge about international relations. Mimi Gregory and the NCWA warmly accepted me as an intern, and I was able to lend a hand during their lectures. It was at these lectures that my interest in the

world flourished. The expert speakers that the NCWA was able to host inspired my decision to major in political science at the University of Vermont. There I eagerly reached out to the Vermont Council on World Affairs and helped as an intern. It was fascinating to experience the different dynamics of the two Councils. It provided insight into how much two Councils can differ in programs and staff size, but still achieve the same goal of educating their local communities about global issues.

At the WACA 2018 National Conference, I was able to learn about how councils function and attract guests to their programs, hear expert analyses on relevant world issues, and connect with fellow students from throughout the country. As someone who is interested in working with nonprofits in the future, I gained a lot from the Leadership Professional Workshops. The discussions about educational partnerships with The Smithsonian Institution and stories from the executive directors of different councils on fundraising strategies demonstrated the opportunities and challenges that nonprofits encounter.

The expert analyses of foreign affairs professionals were another highlight of the Conference. While I was familiar with some topics, there were other issues such as digital resilience and space policy of which I had no former knowledge. Learning about these issues was highly informative for me. The media tend to paint the current administration's policies as irreversibly damaging, most notably in the environmental realm. The speakers, however, were quick to remark that American policies are deeply intertwined with market forces and international policies and thus are not static. The U.S.-China trade war and space policy discussions were examples of this notion, and it was refreshing to hear experts discuss the realities and their hopes for the United States' role in the new world order.

Lastly, I benefited immensely from meeting fellow students. What struck me most about my peers is that they are seeking ways to make all of WACA's opportunities accessible to those less fortunate. During our discussion, students brought up the fact that many children across the country struggle with barriers such as language and lack of access to education. One student asked, 'How can we ask a student to care about foreign affairs when he or she doesn't

fully grasp the English language?’ Following this question, solutions were proposed such as creating tutoring programs to help people learn these basic skills and subsequently enable them to explore the realm of international relations. While approaches varied, the desire of my peers to make learning about world affairs more accessible inspired me to be a changemaker in my own community. I am incredibly grateful to WACA and the NCWA for providing me and my fellow students the opportunity to attend the 2018 National Conference and learn both about the world and how young leaders are creating positive change within their local communities.”

Recognition of Late Donors

We sincerely thank our contributors and want to acknowledge them for their greatly appreciated generosity. However, sometime the contributions are made after the publication of the 2018-2019 *Handbook* and are so not included. In recognition of our gratitude, we list them here.

Major Contributor:

Howard & Nancy Cohen
Herbert & Jeanette Evert

President’s Club:

Joseph & Lynda Bianco
Emery Koenig
Nizar Mamdami
Gunther Winkler

Other Support:

James Grady
Bruce & Roberta Hobbs
Edwin Wilcox

Model United Nations

We wish to acknowledge the following contributions and apologize for not including them in the 2018-2019 *Handbook*.

Ministers to the UN:

Robert & Barbara McGinn

Attache to the UN:

Louise Orkin

We also hope that William Pope will pardon us for listing him as William Hope.

President's Club Reminder

All members of NCWA have the opportunity to join the President's Club, which makes them eligible to attend luncheons at the Hilton on the day of the lectures. The speaker of the day gives a short summary of his or her talk followed by questions from guests at the luncheon. The sessions are invariably engaging and enjoyable. Participants not only hear from the speaker, but also get to know fellow Council members better.

The contribution to the NCWA required to become a member of the President's Club is a minimum of \$250, and the cost of the luncheon is \$25 per member. President's Club support contributes to the NCWA general fund. Members of the PC request luncheons which interest them and can expect to receive at least one invitation to a luncheon.

Please consider joining the more than a hundred and twenty other President's Club members to take advantage of this unique opportunity to spend personal time with renowned shapers of and commentators on international affairs today.

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