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February 2021

Editor: Carol Green

President's Message - February 1, 2021



In 1971, the great soul music songwriter and guitarist Curtis Mayfield released a song called “Keep on Keeping On.” It’s an anthem of dogged persistence and faith that, no matter how difficult the present, the future always holds promise. Its message seems especially appropriate for the work of the Naples

Council of World Affairs over the last weeks and months.

The pandemic has brought changes to NCWA, just as it has to all organizations. In the interests of our members' health and safety, we have moved, or will move, all programming to a virtual mode. This has required flexibility and technological training at all levels, and we thank the many volunteers who have stepped up to meet the challenge. We're especially grateful to Carol Green and Stuart Schweitzer, who have spent literally countless hours familiarizing Great Decisions group leaders and participants with the intricacies of Zoom.

Our programs for students are continuing apace as well. Diligent efforts by our Model UN team have added new schools to the competition, and financial support from generous NCWA members provides optimism about the prospects for our first virtual Model UN.

The School Outreach Committee is planning virtual Academic World Quest competitions in the spring and has been connecting with other world affairs councils around the country to develop best practices. Recruiting is also underway for students to participate in what this year will be virtual experiences with Georgetown University and the Experiment in International Living.

As we proceed into the core of this season's flagship Lecture Series, we continue to monitor and seek improvements. We understand that this year's program is different from what we have for decades offered. We all miss the social interactions that live lectures afford. While our virtual format has provided some benefits (for example, remote access to Anne Applebaum for an outstanding presentation from her home in Poland), our sincerest hope is that the 2021-2022 season will feature live lectures. Given continuing public health uncertainties, we cannot firmly promise that result yet, but our fingers, and toes, are crossed. We will, of course, communicate fully with members as events unfold in the weeks and months ahead.

In the meantime, continue to tune in, support our programs, and let us know what you think. We are in this together, and if we "keep on keeping on" we'll

make it through.

Warmest wishes for 2021,
Jim Schmotter
President

OUR MISSION:

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

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PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN! At <https://www.ncwa-fl.org> you can get the latest information about NCWA events, lectures and news and sign up for programs, such as Great Decisions and more! It's updated frequently.

NCWA Volunteers of the Year for 2020



On one of their many planning calls for the Zoom training program are, from left, top row, Gerry Melnick, NCWA Board member and Great Decisions chair; Stu Schweitzer, Great Decisions group leader and volunteer trainer; second row, Carol Green, NCWA Board member, Great Decisions group leader and volunteer trainer; Bill Korstad, NCWA Board member; third row, Gunther Winkler, NCWA Board Member and VP of Operations, and Larry Israelite, Great Decisions member and group host.

The Naples Council on World Affairs is a volunteer organization with a Capital V! Nearly all of the many things we accomplish each year result from the efforts of the more than a hundred individuals who step up with their service. And for most, it is a labor of love. But even in this environment, occasionally the work of certain individuals stands out.

That is the case this year with the contributions that Carol Green and Stu Schweitzer have made to our Great Decisions program. It is no exaggeration to say that Great Decisions would not have begun as successfully as it did this January—or perhaps at all—if not for the training and instruction they provided since July. The Great Decisions team and the Board of Directors are sincerely grateful.

Thus, I'm happy to announce that Carol and Stu are hereby recognized as NCWA Volunteers of the Year for 2020. This is an honor that is not granted every year--and that is reserved for particularly distinguished service.

Thank you again, Carol and Stu, for what you have done. You are an inspiration to us all!

Jim Schmotter
President, Board of Directors

Program News



By MIMI GREGORY
Vice President for Programs

As a new month begins, America is seeing the “changing of the guard” as the Biden administration has stepped into the presidential role. Returning to familiar landmarks, President Joe Biden is emphasizing bipartisanship, which has been a key focus of his campaign.

The challenges are many for our country, and we were fortunate to have welcomed two dynamic speakers as the new year began: Michael O’Hanlon, who spoke to “The Art of War in an Age of Peace,” and Joe Cirincione, who addressed “A New Nuclear Reality in Our Future.”

What does that say to all of us? Yes, we have escaped an outright war, but are we, in fact, safe? Certainly, their presentations offer much content to be

absorbed, and you are left to reach your own conclusions. We promise more important lectures to come before our season ends.

Let us think positively that our leaders will find common ground as the White House opens its doors to a new “team,” which, being a “canine-ophile,” I am delighted to say, includes two dogs who will add to the more informal family atmosphere in the White House.

The Naples Council is proud to have hosted Dr. Kathleen Hicks, as our "season opener" in 2018-19. Nominated by President Joe Biden for the position of Deputy Secretary of Defense, Dr. Hicks' career has been in the steadfast defense of our nation, beginning in 1993. She is a senior advisor for the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Donald Marron Scholar at the Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She has an extensive national security background, including as a Senate-confirmed leader on policy matters in the Pentagon and an appointed member of two national commissions on defense and security matters. We wish her continued success in her new position.

**“THE CHALLENGE OF FREEDOM”
THE NCWA LECTURE SEASON**

Lecture times and video links will be issued by email prior to the dates.

February 8:

“Isolationism: A History of America’s Efforts to Shield Itself from the World,”
Charles A. Kupchan, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

February 22:

“The Global Economy in a Post Covid-19 World”
Daniel Alpert, Founding and Managing Partner, Westwood Capital

March 8:

“Global Geopolitical Power Shifts and 5G, Quantum and AI”

Richard B. Andres, Professor, U.S. National War College

March 22:

“Turkey, Egypt, and the Battle for the Middle East”

Steven A. Cook, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations, and
Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, Dean, American University of Cairo

April 5:

“Global Health in the Time of Covid-19”

Dr. J. Stephen Morrison, Director, Global Health Center, Center for Strategic and International Studies

April 19: - *bonus lecture for NCWA full members only*

“Ukraine: The Clear and Present Danger Living as Russia’s Neighbor”

Ambassador William B. Taylor, United States Institute of Peace

PAST LECTURES

If you missed any of these lectures, they are archived on video.

See our website to catch up!

October 12: - *bonus lecture for NCWA full members only*

“Lincoln on the Verge: 13 Days to Washington”

Ted Widmer, Ph.D., Macaulay Honors College

November 2:

“Twilight of Democracy; The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism”

Anne Applebaum, American Historian, Journalist, “The Atlantic”

November 16:

“The Battle for Pakistan, The Bitter U.S. Friendship and a Tough Neighborhood”

Shuja Nawaz: Distinguished Fellow, South Asia Center, The Atlantic Council

December 7:

“China’s Western Horizon: Beijing and the New Geopolitics of Eurasia”

Daniel S. Markey, Professor, Johns Hopkins University, SAIS

January 11:

“The Art of War in an Age of Peace: A New U.S. Grand Strategy of Resolute Restraint”

Michael E. O'Hanlon, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

January 25:

"Is There A New Nuclear Reality in Our Future?"

Joseph Cirincione, Author of "Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons"

Great Decisions



By **GERRY MELNICK**

NCWA Board Member & Great Decisions Chair

As the Great Decision season begins, we are fortunate to have two talented individuals who have succeeded longstanding group leaders who retired. Coming from diverse backgrounds, they bring a wealth of experience to their new positions. They both were members of the groups they now lead, which facilitates a seamless transition.

William Pope has had a long and distinguished career in government service as a member of the U.S. State Department. His academic credentials include the University of Virginia, Georgetown University, the National War College and DOD's Capstone Course. Further, he was a Russian linguist in the U.S. Army Security Agency.

Bill's career with the State Department encompassed over 40 years of service, including seven overseas tours and senior positions in Washington, including as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism. He was posted for many years at the U.S. Mission to the UN and subsequently taught graduate courses at George Washington University.

He is the president of the Naples-based Center for Critical Thinking and volunteers at the Avow Hospice. He is a member of the NCWA Program Committee and has participated in Great Decisions since 2016.

David Brown is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University with BSME and partial MBA from John Hopkins University and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He has spent 30 years in marketing and international management positions for Swedish and U.S. industrial manufacturing businesses.

His experience included bi-weekly visits to Western Europe, restructuring a French business, managing a licensee in Japan, purchasing a business in Germany and building a factory in India. Over the last 18 years he started and built an online custom furniture business. He has been a Great Decisions participant since 2017 and will assume a leadership role in 2021.

Both join 26 other group leaders in continuing the Great Decisions program this year utilizing the Zoom platform. Our ability to conduct the program is directly attributable to two other group leaders without whom the program could not have functioned this season. Carol Green and Stuart Schweitzer volunteered to train all group leaders as well as participants on the operation of Zoom.

They developed training modules and began the process of working first with group leaders and then with participants beginning last July, and training for both groups has continued unabated to the present. Hundreds of hours have been devoted to this training. Someone once said that "A pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees the opportunity in every

difficulty.” Great Decisions was fortunate to have two optimists who have employed their expertise and patience to make the 2021 program operational.

Membership



By JUDITH LIPNICK
NCWA Board Member & Membership Chair

Starting February 1, Full Members will receive the first of three emails encouraging them to renew their membership for the 2021-2022 lecture season. The renewal period will close on March 15.

After March 15, we will determine how many seats are available at each session and offer those seats to Associate Members on the wait list according to their original sign-up date. We will assign every available seat. It is unlikely that we would be able to reinstate a lapsed membership after the process is completed.

While we are anticipating a return to St. John’s Roman Catholic Church facilities and are keeping in contact, we can’t make a firm commitment at this time. Lectures follow the same pattern every year, occurring at 3:45 pm and

7:30 pm on Mondays.

Members should consider their other commitments before selecting the time of a lecture session. To assure that seats are available, we abide by our policy of allowing members to attend only the lecture time designated on their membership card.

Lecture videos will continue to be available on the website to accommodate members' schedules.

School Outreach Committee



By ROBERT HAFFA
NCWA Board Member & School Outreach Committee Chair

NCWA Educator of the Year Award for 2020



Bob Topping of Palmetto Ridge High School, center, receives the NCWA Educator of the Year Award from Jim Schmotter, NCWA president, left, and Bob Haffa, School Outreach Committee chair.

NCWA has presented its Louis H. Kuhn Educator of the Year Award for 2020 to Bob Topping of Palmetto Ridge High School. He has been teaching AP U.S. history at the school for almost 20 years.

In addition to his support of NCWA programs, including coaching a High School Academic World Quest team and recommending students for NCWA-sponsored scholarships, he has led many U.S. history workshops across the Southern region. He also has been a reader for the AP U.S. history exam since 2003 and piloted a field test for exam redesign, developed new syllabi requirements and served as a member of the Florida AP Advocates Program. He was 2013-14 Collier County Social Studies Teacher of the Year and helped write the curriculum maps and pacing guidelines for U.S. history in Collier County.

In response to receiving the NCWA award, he wrote: “The commitment your

organization demonstrates year after year to the students of Collier County helps them realize their potential and recognize their role in the world. This opens up opportunities and ideas that will help shape their lives, the nation and the world we live in. Your efforts to continue these programs during the pandemic and y our work to overcome the obstacles to give the students the opportunity to participate in these programs is amazing.”

The Outreach Committee gives the Louis H. Kuhn Award annually to an educator who has contributed significantly to the Council’s mission of “educate, inspire and engage” at the middle and high school levels of the community. The award is named in honor of the late Mr. Kuhn, a long-time member and volunteer on the Council and the Outreach Committee.

High School Academic World Quest Winning Team



Jason Gore, right, coach of the winning Naples High School team in the High School Academic World Quest competition, receives the trophy from Bob Haffa, NCWA School Outreach Committee chair.

A team from Naples High School composed of senior students who have since graduated won the annual High School Academic World Quest competition last year.

It was delayed last year because of the closing of Collier County public schools during the pandemic. Members of the team – James Biasoni, San Rachumalla, Hisam Setyawan and Logan Szitai – received a photo of the trophy they had won from coach Jason Gore, who will lead a new team to defend his title in February.

Last year's competition saw nearly 80 students on 19 teams from Barron Collier, Lely, Gulf Coast, Naples, Palmetto Ridge, Community School of Naples, and Seacrest Country Day School battle it out for prizes and bragging rights in answering a set of tough questions supplied by the World Affairs Councils of America. Topics included "US-Russia Relations," "South Korea," and "Brexit and the EU." Teams from Gulf Coast coached by Sue Soulard finished second and third.

Traditionally, the Council sponsors the winning team to contend in the National Academic World Quest Competition in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, owing to the coronavirus pandemic, that competition was cancelled.

The Middle School Academic World Quest competition was canceled because of the closing of the schools. Competitions this year are planned for the high schools in late February and the middle schools in March.

International Scholarship Programs for 2021

The Experiment in International Living and Student Diplomacy Corps programs have canceled their in-person overseas summer programs for 2021 and instead are offering Virtual International Exchange Programs.

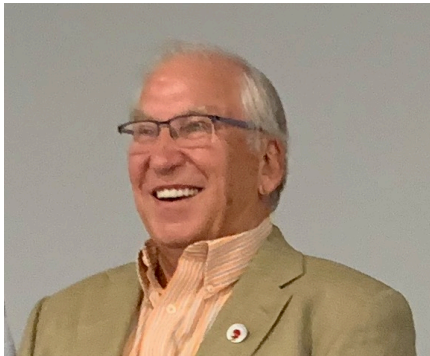
Students may apply by February 26. The Experiment in International Living offers an eight-week program of online discussion of world affairs with peers in the Middle East and North Africa. The Student Diplomacy Corps creates opportunities for underserved high school students to access summer programs that build college readiness through cross-cultural educational programs at home and abroad.

More information is available on the NCWA website at the School Outreach/International Scholarships tab.

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.

Weekly Quiz: A New Benefit for NCWA Members



By MARK WALCHAK
NCWA Board Member



Mark Walchak's Scrabble game and kitchen table created the backdrop for a great promotional image for launching the What in the World Quiz by NCWA.

A weekly “What in the World” Quiz started as a new benefit for NCWA members on January 4. Every Monday afternoon the quiz will be posted on the NCWA website under the “Additional Benefits” tab.

The quiz will test your knowledge of international events that happened in the previous week.

Test your knowledge. Here's an example of one of the ten questions in a recent quiz:

*Russians took to the streets in over 90 cities on January 23, braving temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero, in protest of the jailing of an opposition leader. Over 3,500 were arrested. All of these statements about the protests are true **EXCEPT**.*

- *The Kremlin announced there were only a “few” protesters.*

- *Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was released from a Moscow prison*
- *Poland called for more EU sanctions on Russia*
- *Putin's spokesman charged the U.S. Embassy in Moscow with provoking demonstrations.*

280 members took the quiz the first week. Fourteen members got a perfect score of 10 correct answers. The second week, 255 members took the quiz, and 32 had perfect scores. Reaction has been very positive. Comments included “fun, interesting, challenging, brilliant idea, excellent, good questions”

Again, a new quiz will be posted each Monday. Good luck!

Village Assistance Program



By JOYCE FLECHER

NCWA Board Secretary and Village Assistance Program Chair

Applications for consideration of grants for the 2021 Village Assistance Program are being accepted through February 12.

Information and the application can be found by NCWA members on the website under the VAP tab. This is an opportunity for a member to sponsor and

monitor a project of an international organization that serves a local population and that could use a small grant, typically \$3,000-\$5,000. For information, contact Joyce Fletcher (see application).

Selected in 2020, the most recent recipient is the Eldorado Textile Project in Sao Paulo, Brazil, operated by ACER Brasil.

Twenty-five women who make decorator objects by sewing by hand will be trained to use new lock and interlock stitch and industrial sewing machines. They will sell their work in their local markets and abroad. In addition, there is a new parallel program for seven teenage girls to learn designing and sewing clothing, which also will be for sale.

ACER Brasil decided the project needed a new workshop space specially adapted for its needs, so, using funding provided by NCWA, it knocked out a wall between two classrooms to create one open, better ventilated and lighted space. Also, the Collier County Public Schools Career and Tech Ed Department's entrepreneurship classes and the Eldorado participants will be working on ways to share information and ideas this semester by virtual contact. The sponsor for this project was Judith Gates.

The VAP was initiated a few 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.



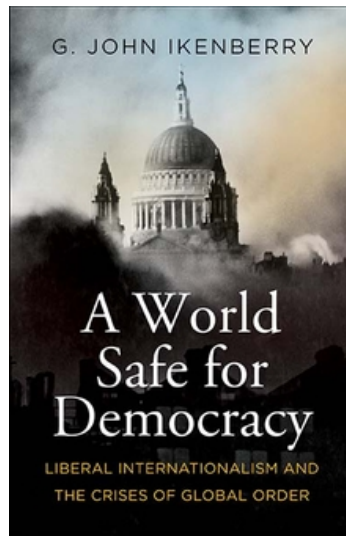
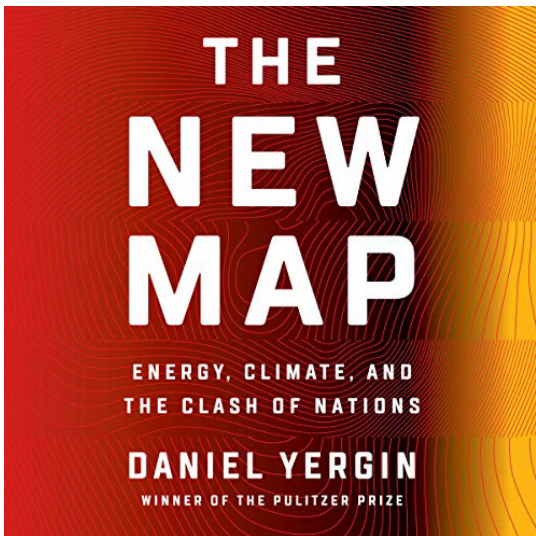
Funding provided by NCWA's Village Assistance Program assisted the Eldorado Textile Project in Sao

Paulo, Brazil, in remodeling a work space for women sewing decorator objects and clothing for sale.

NCWA Book Club



By **BILL KORSTAD**
NCWA Board Member & Book Club Chair



Check out the NCWA Book Club! It meets the first Tuesday of each month to read current significant works relevant to foreign affairs and important global

trends.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 2, from 12:00 noon to 1:15 pm via Zoom. The group will discuss *The New Map: Energy, Climate and the Clash of Nations*, by Daniel Yergin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and global energy expert offering a revelatory new account of how energy revolutions, climate battles and geopolitics are shaping our future.

On March 2, they will explore the question of whether the liberal world order is over after reading *A World Safe for Democracy: Liberal Internationalism and the Crises of Global Order* by G. John Ikenberry, Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University, who argues in favor of moving again towards liberal democracy to address today's problems, and other selected material that argues the opposite.

To join the Book Club list and get a Zoom link, email Bill at bkorstad@mac.com. Members and Associate Members are invited.

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 myriad activities three times a year. We want to provide access to it for all interested stakeholders. If you would like us to send the Newsletter to another member of your family or a friend, just send the email address to schmotterj@wcsu.edu.

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