

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

[View this email in your browser](#)



Editor: Carol Green

President's Message – December 9, 2021



Jim Schmotter

The mission of the Naples Council on World Affairs is to “*educate, inspire and engage our community in international affairs and critical global issues.*” In the challenging and unprecedented environment of last year, we pursued this

mission with the adoption of new technologies and careful attention to our members' health and safety.

We will, through a combination of live and virtual programming in the coming year, continue to *educate* our stakeholders: NCWA members, partner educators, high school and middle school students, and the broader Southwest Florida community. Our lecture series theme this year, "The Gathering Storms," is especially notable for its timeliness.

Distinguished visiting lecturers will address not only perennial global issues such as U.S.-China competition and NATO's future, but also recent developments that demand our attention across the globe--in the Caribbean, in Turkey, in Afghanistan and in Iran.

We will also, in partnership with the talented and committed educators of Southwest Florida, continue to provide *educational experiences* for students. These include our highly regarded Model UN conference, high school and middle school Academic World Quest quiz competitions, and summer experiences developed by the NCWA School Outreach Committee. All are designed to make our region's youth more informed global citizens and so to increase their readiness to face the imposing social, political, economic and environmental challenges that lie ahead of them.

For many NCWA volunteers, interaction with these young people provides *inspiration* and hope for the future. Especially notable in this regard is our Global Scholars Program, where selected high school students follow a multi-year program featuring participation in NCWA lectures and Great Decisions sessions that complement coursework at their home schools. Our Village Assistance Program team brings similarly *inspiring* projects to local students' attention. And many members find the dialogue in weekly Great Decisions sessions not only *educational* and *engaging*, but often *inspiring*.

As was the case last year, the Council's leadership has developed various means to *engage* members as the COVID pandemic lingers on. We believe that, with the proper precautions, our gathering to *engage* together will be

possible—and safe. We know many members look forward to that. But we will also include livestreaming and video to augment live programs for those members with those preferences.

Educate, Inspire, Engage.

The Naples Council has been advancing this mission across four decades. Thanks to your patience, support and understanding, we've demonstrated our resiliency in the year just past. I look forward to the one ahead. See you soon!

Jim Schmotter
President

NCWA Officers and Directors for 2021-2022: **(Year beginning March 29, 2021)**

Officers:

Jim Schmotter, President
Mimi Gregory, Vice President for Programs
Gunther Winkler, Vice President of Operations
Joyce Fletcher, Secretary
Bob Erbsstein, Treasurer

Directors:

Jim Fleck	Gerry Melnick
Jean Foster	Robert Roussel
Carol Green	Mark Schwab
Bill Korstad	Stu Schweitzer
Edwin S. Leland	Alan Van Egmond
Judith Lipnick	Mark Walchak

Committee Chairs:

Finance:	Bob Erbstein, Chair; Robert Roussel, Vice Chair
Programs:	Mimi C. Gregory
Special Activities:	Mimi C. Gregory
Model United Nations:	Edwin S. Leland
Great Decisions:	Gerry Melnick
School Outreach Program:	Mark Walchak
Village Assistance Program:	Joyce Fletcher
Membership:	Judith Lipnick
Website:	Gunther Winkler
Hospitality:	Jim Fleck and Mark Schwab
Newsletter:	Carol Green
Nominating Committee:	Gunther Winkler

OUR MISSION:

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

**“Gathering Storms” in International Relations
Featured by NCWA Lectures for 2021-22 Season**



Mimi Gregory

By MIMI GREGORY
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And Vice President for Programs

Our opening lecture by Ömer Taspınar was the first of our “Gathering Storms” Series for 2021-22, featuring the growing discontent between Turkey and the Western Nations.

Ryan Berg of CSIS, who addressed the “storms” in Haiti and Cuba on November 15, showed that our choice of title is, unfortunately, prescient! And the storms continued with a great discussion on cyber threats with Christopher Painter, president of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, on December 6.

We also want to remind you that in addition to attending our lectures in person, you may access them via livestreaming, and they are always posted on video several days following the live event.

Happy holiday season from your Program Committee!

“The Gathering Storms”

November 1: **Ömer Taspinar**, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

“Turkey, Islam and the West: A Growing Disconnect”

November 15: **Ryan Berg**, Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“Turbulence in the Caribbean: Uprisings in Cuba and Assassination in Haiti”

December 6: **Christopher Painter**, President of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise.

“Responding to Nation-State, Criminal and other Threats in Cyberspace: Can We Build a More Secure Future?”

January 10: **Ryan Hass**, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, Chair in Taiwan Studies.

“Is the United States Destined For War in the Taiwan Strait?”

January 24: **Andrew Tabler**, Martin J. Gross Fellow on Arab Studies, Syria and the Levant, and **Anna Borshchevskaya**, Senior Fellow on Russian Policy in the Middle East, Washington Institute.

“Syria and the Advent of Russian Triangular Diplomacy in the Middle East”

February 7: **Ambassador Ryan Crocker**, [USA ret.] Career Ambassador, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan. Diplomat in Residence, Princeton University.

“Leaving Afghanistan”

February 22 (Please Note: This lecture is on Tuesday): **Suzanne DiMaggio**, Chairman, Quincy Institute. Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

“Talking with the Enemy: The Cases of North Korea and Iran”

March 7: **General Paolo Ruggiero**, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander,

Transformation. ***“NATO: Maintaining the Transatlantic Bonds Between North America and Europe”***

March 21: **Ambassador Frank G. Wisner**, [USA ret.] Egypt, India, Philippines and Zambia. International Affairs Advisor ,
Squire Patton Boggs (US), American Academy of Diplomacy.
“Reflections On Our Pivot to Asia”

April 4: **Katherine Zimmerman**, Fellow, American Enterprise Institute (AEI).
Adviser to AEI’s Critical Threats Project.
“After Afghanistan: Countering al Qaeda and the Islamic State”

Our Thanks to Tom James for Bringing Video to You!



The guy behind the camera at our lectures, Tom James of Pelican Media, makes it all happen! Beginning with the live event, Tom manages the lecture, the questions, the images, the sound, the recording for our website and archives and the radio replay for WGCU! Thank you, Tom!

As we began our new season, we looked back at the trying circumstances that all of us faced in 2020 and the adaptations that were made utilizing Zoom to bring our amazing world-renowned speakers into all your living rooms. Looking ahead, Tom has added another dimension, livestreaming, to this year's presentations along with our return to live lectures and, once again, our videos on the website.

Next year by drone, Tom?

But Pelican Media has done much more than manage our lecture series. Here

are some of the community events that Tom has produced in spite of COVID-19 restrictions and winning some awards for them as well:

- “Kayaking in Lee County,” several promotional videos for the Sanibel-based “Ocean Tribe Paddlers,” one of which won a Silver Telly Award for video excellence.
- Tom is most proud of the Gold Telly Award for a short documentary on the marine debris clean-up on the artificial reefs in Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.
- And...a Silver Telly Award for a promotion featuring Tom’s upcoming documentary, “The Lure of Lover’s Key,” premiering this fall on WGCU PBS. The 30-minute documentary looks at the history of the barrier islands and how they became one of the most visited state parks in Florida.

Tom is a Florida Master Naturalist and a talented watercolor artist, and we are very proud to have him as “our guy” behind the camera.

You can see most of these videos on the Pelican Media Website:

www.pelicanmedia.tv

Three Global Scholars Submit Essays

By MIMI GREGORY
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And Global Scholars Program Chair

We are pleased to include critical essays from three of our Global Scholars in this issue of the newsletter. All three are based on the lectures presented during our last season, which the scholars attended. They are enrolled in the

Daniel D. Bumstead Global Scholar Program.

The scholars are Alexander J.G.R. Wilson of Seacrest Country Day School, Win Thant Hlaing of Gulf Coast High School, and Alexia Espinosa Vlad of Barron Collier High School. Alexia joined the program as a sophomore in September 2020, while Alex and Win joined as sophomores and are now seniors.

The Global Scholar Program, which began with the admission of Alexander and Win, provides certification after the students complete course work during sophomore, junior and senior years suitable for an understanding of global history and geography that may encourage them to pursue a career in international relations and foreign policy. Proficiency in a second language is essential, and students must maintain at least a 3.0 grade average.

They also attend and write essays about NCWA lectures, participate in Great Decisions groups and attend a one-week program on international relations or national security at Georgetown University in Washington DC. The winning scholar is given a \$5,000 award.

Here is one of three essays summarizing a NCWA lecture from last season written by each student.

Isolationism: A History of America's Efforts to Shield Itself from the World
Lecture by Dr. Charles Kupchan



Essay by Alexia Espinoza Vlad
Barron Collier High School

Isolationist policies have been part of foreign affairs for much of history. Even as early as in ancient China and Japan, countries have often adopted isolationism when they feel as if they were being threatened.

As Kupchan explains, America itself has taken on this policy in the past. Since the founding of the country in 1784, U.S. policy was to engage with other countries for trade purposes only and not for any other purposes. However, this practice ended in 1941, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This came during World War II and marked America's entrance into the war, which ended up coinciding with the end of its isolationism.

The speaker, after detailing this timeline, went on to say that he believes a new, third era of American policy is underway. This began with the Trump administration, which sensed the dissatisfaction of the American people with the globalist perspective at the current time. The administration then began a series of reforms that only served to overcorrect the perceived issues with the global involvement the U.S. was engaging in.

Kupchan used this to bring up the idea of judicious retrenchment and finding a healthy equilibrium between the isolationism of the past and the globalism of the present. Striking a balance between these two concepts is essential to the

security and prosperity in our country. Unfortunately, this process may very well be hindered by the American exceptionalism that has long been pervasive in politics. Dating back to the original founding fathers, Americans have believed that the U.S. is the best country in the world and its unique features of freedom and liberty are facets that must be protected. This thought process, though patriotic, poses a very big danger to our nation. The hubris responsible for this viewpoint creates a sentiment that the U.S. does not need to be connected to other countries, which leads down the dangerous path of isolationism.

Another issue that could be an issue for the country is the ever-growing presence of China on the global stage. In his lecture, Kupchan argues that the Biden administration should continue Trump's slowdown of free trade in an attempt to combat China's actions. However, while their theft of intellectual property and blatant disregard of generally accepted trade rules is impermissible, it should not dictate a decrease in free trade for America. Free trade promotes increased economic growth for countries and allows for transfers of technology, culture, and information among different nations. Although it may have its downfalls, America should not move away from it completely.

Instead, we should be ramping up utilization of existing systems to regulate China's actions, such as the World Trade Organization. The solution to China's actions does not lie in restricting free trade.

Despite this disagreement with the speaker, the rest of Kupchan's lecture rang true. Pure isolationism has no place in current American society, but neither does pure globalism. Instead, in this period of political instability following the Trump administration, using a blend of the two will have the most benefits for US foreign policy.

China's Western Horizon: Beijing and the New Geopolitics of Eurasia
Lecture by Dr. Daniel Markey



Essay by Win Thant Hlaing
Gulf Coast High School

As the geopolitical landscape of the world continually shifts in response to the influence of a multitude of nations, one cannot deny that China is on the rise in terms of technological capability and economic strength. As Beijing seeks to dominate high-tech industries in efforts to emerge as a leading superpower in terms of technological capability -- most prominently that of AI technology -- and as China expands its control of waterways and the surrounding South China Sea, the threat of diminishing U.S. influence only continues to grow.

Markey's insights into American policies regarding China provide the notion that our views may be biased -- rather than China constantly seeking to expand and improve to the point where they force their plans upon others, it seems as if other countries actively seek to incorporate China in their own plans.

Despite the potential bias posed by the origin of this story as it was relayed by a Chinese diplomat to Mr. Markey, it does raise several concerns in regards to the overall situation. For instance, the fact that the United States' foreign relationships are deteriorating and shrinking in the face of growing Chinese expansion. With U.S. foreign policy constantly shifting in the installation of new presidents, it comes as no surprise that many local powers -- some of which have a poor relationship with the U.S., such as Pakistan -- look towards the eastern nation for support. On the other hand, it was extremely interesting to

see the various interactions between China and Pakistan, as Markey references the “push and pull” relationship between Chinese and Pakistani interests.

As both sides continually seek to benefit themselves in the best way possible, it is important to note that China does gain quite a few benefits -- namely increased influence on a global stage. In order to remedy the deteriorating U.S. situation and improving Chinese situation, it is essential that the United States focus on development and enhancing its own research. According to Markey, Washington is constantly on the lookout for what China is doing, or what Beijing is doing. However, rather than acting in response to each action by China, it would likely be in the best interest of the U.S. to continue to pave the way forward. Consolidating U.S. control and improving their relationships abroad in addition to improving research and technology domestically will ensure that China will not become the leading power in a technological age, as their rapid growth would indicate.

Regardless, the growth of China and their expanded international relations are a point of both concern and motivation for the United States to remain at the forefront of the world.

**The Art of War in an Age of Peace:
A New U.S. Grand Strategy of Resolute Restraint
*Lecture by Dr. Michael O’Hanlon***



Essay by Alexander Wilson
Seacrest Country Day School

The strategies outlined in this lecture will come to define the 21st Century. Since World War I, warfare, as we know, has multiplied exponentially in terms of the magnitude of destruction it causes. After World War II, wars between the global powers became untenable because the destruction that it would cause was simply too great to justify any direct conflict. These reasons among many others have brought about what Mr. O'Hanlon describes as an age of peace.

However, as Mr. O'Hanlon further states, this age of peace doesn't mean that the world has entered a mindset of neutrality; on the contrary, we see a world of fear.

We see a world that in a lot of ways calls back to the historical mindset of the empires of old. In the United States, we see a fear of decline, and we see a large part of the population believing that the global order that the United States founded is beginning to crumble. This has given rise to a new wave of populist leaders whose "America First" mindset aims to flex the muscles of the United States and lead through power and strong-arm politics.

In the East, we see a fear of one's self. China through all its might and projected perfection is at its heart unstable. Over the past few years, the

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has had a chronic fear of its population. This fear influences every action the CCP takes. One good example is how Chinese ambassadors conduct themselves abroad. They are harsh and undiplomatic, with the Chinese ambassador to Belgium describing his host country as “dogs,” and the Chinese delegation to the UK walking out of talks. This alludes to the image the Chinese are trying to project back home.

Historically one of the biggest unifying forces was nationalism. We saw Otto Von Bismarck use this idea to great effect in the Franco-Prussian War; he was able to unify the German people against a common enemy and show them how effective they could be when united against a singular enemy.

So, too, is the CCP trying to use harsh negotiation tactics to stoke the fires of nationalism back home. The CCP sees nationalism as an effective tool of control over its people and a mechanism to keep criticism away from their ambitious expansionist policies. As Arthur Schopenhauer once wrote, “Every miserable fool who has nothing at all of which he can be proud adopts as a last resource pride in the nation to which he belongs; he is ready and happy to defend all its faults and follies tooth and nail, thus reimbursing himself for his inferiority.”

Nationalism, however, is a double-edged sword. On one hand, is a great unifying force; but once the fire starts roaring, options become limited. The CCP nationalist policies force the government to act strongly against most threats and constantly portray a certain image. Weakness becomes the enemy of the state, which now plays the role of a media company.

With this context, Mr. O’Hanlon’s global strategy gains more merit. Resolute restraint as Mr. O’Hanlon defined it was the strategy of demonstrating that there are hard boundaries your opponent cannot cross, while also declining to be provoked. This strategy can effectively undermine China’s goals of expansion. By setting up hard boundaries in which the CCP knows a response will occur, the United States can set itself on the moral high ground. In addition, if China declines to cross these boundaries the United States also wins. The global order now has proof that its institutions are holding strong -- proof that can help

to quell domestic sentiment.

Finally, by declining to respond to all incursions made by China, the United States underplays the importance of the CCP's incursions further turning Chinese nationalism and the need for strength back on the party itself.

We live in a time historians will come to know as the Long Peace. With the exponential discovery of new technology, conventional militaries are becoming actors rather than fighters. Power projection in the modern age is a blunt way of signaling your intention to the other side. As we have seen in the past few years, the real battles are taking place in the economic and cyber realm. Governments are starting to harness the untapped power of the internet and use it to further their interests. As we progress through the 21st Century we will see troop redeployments become the main way great powers engage through conventional means. The real war won't be one of bullets and missiles, but numbers and bits.

The NCWA Global Scholars Program is named in honor of Daniel D. Bumstead, a former president of NCWA who also was the longest serving Great Decisions leader (24 years), chair of the School Outreach Program, an unwavering champion of student programs to encourage careers in foreign service. He passed away in 2019.

To learn more about donating to support scholarships and international study programs for our Global Scholars, please [Click This Link](#).

Great Decisions



Gerry Melnick

By GERRY MELNICK
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And Great Decisions Chair

Sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association, Great Decisions is nationally America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Founded in 1918, it is based on the premise that it is important for citizens to understand the world they live in and be aware of the issues that confront their nation and the world.

As a former Secretary of State once said:

"We can't have an intelligent foreign policy unless we have an intelligent public, because we're a democracy."

~ Zbigniew Brzezinski

The Naples Council on World Affairs' Great Decisions program provides an opportunity for participants to engage in discussions of global issues that confront the nation today. There are 27 groups meeting in nine different venues in Naples and Estero. They meet on different days and times. The forthcoming season will begin with six new group leaders who are replacing long-time leaders who have chosen to retire. Registration currently remains open for members of Naples Council to participate, subject to space availability. The eight-week program begins January 17, 2022 and concludes on March 10, 2022. To facilitate discussion, groups are limited to 30 participants.

The framework for discussions is based on a series of articles written on global issues by specialists in their respective fields. The articles provide the platform for the eight weekly discussions, each two hours in duration.

The topics selected by the Foreign Policy Association for 2022 are listed below. Since nine articles are provided for discussion, one will be considered a bonus and may be discussed outside the regular schedule or, at the discretion of the group and/or group leader, be selected for omission from the schedule.

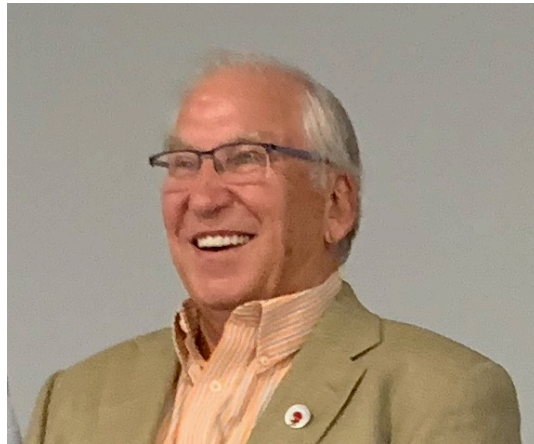
- Outer Space

- Climate Change
- Russia and the U.S.
- Myanmar and ASEAN
- The Quad Alliance
- Drug Policy in Latin America
- Industrial Policy
- Biden's Agenda
- Changing Demographics

Anyone interested in participating in the 2022 Great Decisions program should visit the Naples Council on World Affairs website at www.ncwa-fl.org for registration information.

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.

School Outreach



Mark Walchak

By MARK WALCHAK
Member of NCWA Board of Directors
And School Outreach Chair

Scholarship Application Deadline Is December 30

The Naples Council of World Affairs (NCWA) is offering summer 2022 scholarships to high school juniors who have a strong interest in international relations and live in Lee or Collier Counties. Lee County students have been added this year, since a sizable percentage of NCWA members are from Lee County. Applicants must have a strong background in world affairs, such as emphasis in social studies, world history, or world geography courses.

We are offering the following overseas programs:

- Experiment in International Living (EIL) in South Korea or Germany
- A Putney program at Oxford University in England focusing on international relations with a worldwide perspective
- A Tufts University program that includes visits to a number of European countries and focuses on international relations with the European Union (two years of French required)

We also offer two programs in Washington DC:

- Georgetown University
 - International Relations
 - Homeland Security
- American University: (high school juniors and seniors are eligible)
 - Worlds Apart: Conflict, Culture and Cooperation
 - Diplomacy and Dictators: US Foreign policy

The deadline for submitting applications to the NCWA is December 30.

Selected students will be interviewed in early January for a limited number of available spots.

More information can be found at the NCWA website -- www.NCWA-fl.org -- under the School Outreach tab.

NCWA Congratulates Collier Schools Superintendent

Kamala Patton

August 6, 2021

Dr. Kamela Patton

Superintendent, Collier County Public Schools

5775 Osceola Trail

Naples, FL 34109

Dear Dr. Patton:

The Naples Council on World Affairs joins the Collier County community in congratulating you upon being selected as “Outstanding Citizen of the Year” by the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce and Naples Daily News.

For the past decade, you have excelled in the challenging role of Superintendent of Collier County Public Schools, elevating our institutions’ positions in state rankings, improving our high school graduation rates, and making friends for public education throughout the community. This success was but prelude to the impact of your leadership during the once-in-a-lifetime challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of great uncertainties, you maintained a focus, as Shawna Devlin of the Daily News noted, on creating “an environment in which children can thrive.”

Through our student outreach and speakers’ programs, Academic World Quest competitions and annual Model United Nations conference, the Naples Council on World Affairs benefits from our partnership with the Collier County Public Schools. Your personal engagement and assistance in aiding us educate, inspire, and engage middle and high school students on critical global issues have been invaluable. We are most grateful, and we look forward to many future opportunities to advance this learning with you.

*Again, congratulations on this important award. It is more than well deserved!
With warmest wishes,*

James W. Schmotter

President, Naples Council on World Affairs

Dr. Patton Replied:

James,
 Thank you for your lovely
 note regarding my award.
 That was certainly nice of
 you to take the time all the way
 in NY!
 Thanks too for you and the
 Naples Council World Affairs
 support! Kam Patton

Update:

Since this exchange between NCWA and Dr. Patton, she was named 2022 Florida Superintendent of Year by two statewide organizations, the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. She will be recognized for her education work and represent all of Florida in February at the National Education Conference in Nashville.

Dr. Patton is the first Collier leader to receive the honor since its inception in 1988 and the ninth woman to receive the recognition. She oversees school operations for about 48,000 students, including charters, and more than 3,100 teachers in the country's 115th largest school district.

"It is a privilege to be chosen among a class of outstanding and dedicated superintendents in this state who are fiercely committed to ensuring access to academic excellence and opportunities for all students," Patton said in a statement. "This recognition is truly an honor personally, but more so, it reflects the outstanding achievements and tireless work of everyone who makes up Collier County Public Schools."

Congratulations, again, Dr. Patton!

Model United Nations



Ed Leland

Model UN Needs Your Financial Support

By ED LELAND

Member of NCWA Board of Directors

And Model UN Chair

As many of you know very well, Model United Nations (MUN) is a highly impactful Naples Council on World Affairs (NCWA) educational outreach program. The 2022 event will take place at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) on March 7 and 8.

Those of us responsible for managing the endeavor are deeply excited with the prospect of having delegates, judges, and committee chairs all together in person in the same space. While this will be NCWA's 29th MUN, and the 23rd done in conjunction with FGCU, given all of the COVID-19 craziness, it seems like a new birth. The 2021 virtual competition was a critically important bridge, but in person will be markedly better.

Twelve global topics will be debated by delegates representing 34 countries. To give you a sense of relevance and complexity, topics include Cybersecurity, The Future of Afghanistan, Arctic Geopolitics, Police Violence, and Global Taxation.

Over a period of several months, student delegates will research topics, plus the country they represent, craft policies to bring about positive change, write position papers, and hone debating skills. Approximately 200 Southwest Florida high school students will greatly benefit from the experience.

The noteworthy generosity of NCWA members made possible the highly successful virtual event conducted last spring, and member financial support is very much needed this season.

Please do help if you can. The giving categories are exactly the same as in the last few years:

Major Donor	\$1000 +
Ambassador	\$250 - \$999
Minister	\$150 - \$249
Consul	\$100 - \$149
Attache	\$50 - \$99

You can contribute by credit card at the MUN section of the NCWA website at <https://www.ncwa-fl.org/Make-a-Donation-to-MUN> or by mailing a check to the address given below. If you send a check, please write MUN at the bottom.

Naples Council on World Affairs
2316 Pine Ridge Road #361
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. Also, please email me at eleland@me.com if we have not previously discussed your intent to support an award.

All donations are, of course, tax deductible to the full extent provided by law and will be appropriately recognized in NCWA publications. We realize there are many very worthy organizations seeking donations this time of year. We really do need your help!

Readers Needed to Evaluate Student Papers for Model UN

The Model UN program is designed to impart important skills and knowledge to students, including negotiating, bargaining and communication skills; representing a foreign perspective in a disciplined forum; enhancing awareness and informing students about critical global issues, and acquainting students with the workings of the United Nations. A number of students have moved on to careers in influential international or government arenas based on interests and knowledge developed in this innovative program.

A very significant contribution to the program is made by the “readers,” or volunteers who evaluate students’ position papers, which are one-page papers on various international topics. Here is information about the role that readers play in the program.

READERS NEEDED FOR 2002 MODEL UN!

NCWA's Southwest Florida Model UN program is growing. Position papers submitted by students are playing an increasingly important role in the competition. A reader (position paper evaluator) reviews and ranks approximately 20 one-page papers on a variety of international topics.

Each delegate to the Model UN is encouraged to submit a position paper on the topic that their Model UN Committee will be discussing from the point of view of the country they represent. A student must submit a position paper to be considered for

a financial award or individual committee award.

We expect to receive 200-300 papers in 2022, so we need a large team of readers, each willing to rank 20 randomly selected papers in the first round of review. Each paper is limited to one page in a prescribed format with a second page for citations permitted. While a delegation representing a country is from one school, readers receive a variety of papers by students from multiple schools on different committees writing on different topics, so there is plenty of variety.

Readers are not expected to be experts on any of these topics but need to have good writing skills and the ability to fairly judge high school papers. They will receive suggested guidelines for ranking the papers they receive but are free to create their own process. No comments, notes or ranking justifications are required -- only a ranked ordering of the 20 papers reviewed.

If this sounds like a fun way for you to contribute next year, Paula Himowitz at phimowitz@gmail.com can provide more information.

Thank you, Model UN!

The gracious letter below was written by Jonah Katz of Port Charlotte High School, recipient of the \$2,500 Mimi Gregory Award in last season's competition:



PORT CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL

18200 Cochran Boulevard
Port Charlotte, Florida 33948
Phone (941) 255-7485 Fax (941) 255-7493

Dear Mr. James Shmutter and those NCWA members who so generously donated to myself and my fellow scholarship recipients,

I write to you all with the greatest degree of gratitude for your generous contribution in supporting my future education. Nothing can put into words how much this means to me, and what it will be able to do for myself and my family.

Thank you all very much for such an incredible opportunity and for giving me the chance to compete, learn, and grow in such a unique environment for the last four years at the Naples Council on World Affairs' Model United Nations conference. The immersive environment that has become so routine at SWFLMUN is next to none. In my four years doing Model United Nations, I have never attended a conference that is so personal and so unique. Having a conference that is an hour away is what makes SWFLMUN so personal to me. Knowing each year I will see the same familiar faces of my peers, chairs, and the members of the Naples Council on World Affairs was always a feeling I looked forward to when spring came around!

I would like to further extend my gratitude to all members of the Naples Council on World Affairs for being such major proponents of an activity that nurtures the professional side of students throughout Southwest Florida, including myself. Nothing means more to me than the ability to participate in an activity I genuinely enjoy and believe has shaped me into the person I am today and the person I will be later.

With your generous scholarship, I will be able to cover many costs and fees for tuition, housing, and beyond at the University of Florida where I am lucky to attend in the fall. Go Gators!

Thank you very much again for the priceless memories, knowledge, and real world skills that I will need to succeed throughout college and my professional career. Thank you for rewarding my hard work the last four years with your incredible scholarship. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Jonah Katz

"Where teaching creates learning"

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.

Village Assistance Program



Joyce Fletcher

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

Applications for New VAP Programs Due by February 11

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.

Members wishing to submit applications for programs may find information on the NCWA website. Applications for the 2022-2023 year will be accepted until February 11, 2022.

Brazil Sewing Project Succeeds Despite COVID-19

NCWA is proud that its teen vocational sewing program, the Brazil ACER Eldorado Textile Project, proposed by NCWA member Dr. Judith Gates, has persevered to reach its successful conclusion, despite the many obstacles raised by COVID-19. It is one of 15 projects funded by the NCWA Village Assistance Program (VAP).

VAP granted a total of \$6,480 for upgrading a facility used by adult women for sewing to make it safe under COVID-19 protocols and to buy commercial sewing machines and supplies, including fabric. Teens were added to the program. The instructor for both the women and teens was funded by another organization. The Naples Council established a relationship between the project and Entrepreneurship Department students of Collier County Public Schools, fulfilling the objective to offer a small grant for a project in a poor community abroad and that could have a relationship with local school students.

The Brazil students sewed while the Florida students developed marketing and sales plans for an item the students developed to meet a need they had identified. The objective was to coordinate their plans online, helping the Brazil students to sell their work in their local markets and abroad. The teenagers were also learning to design and sew clothing, which also will be for sale.

Jonathan Hanay, onsite project manager, in a final project report in July, outlined the problems encountered and accomplishments of the teachers and students. As the program ended in August 2021, its successes included:

- Six active vocational class student participants were enrolled in the course under the supervision of a sewing instructor.
- Twenty-eight classes had been completed, and one field trip to Bras, the Sao Paulo garment district, and one online exchange with entrepreneurship students from Collier County School District had been accomplished.

- Entrepreneurship teaching materials in Portuguese had been received from the Collier County Schools and were being evaluated for inclusion in the program.
- While students have not yet started making clothing to sell, they had mended clothing for their families and had mended, up-cycled and repurposed clothing for themselves.
- Five of the teenagers and the adult group participated in making masks and earned some income.
- Three students, who are now 18, had begun the process of opening their own micro enterprise companies.
- Two skills groups, the teenagers and adult embroiderers, assisted by the well-equipped sewing room provided by the VAP grant, established a partnership with a skills training organization offering courses to the community, such as how to make shorts, tie-dying clothes, and making skirts, and more people from the community are generating income for themselves.

It hadn't been easy because of the pandemic, Hanay reported.

“Due to the COVID epidemic, we have had to be constantly adapting to the local rules and laws and the individual situations of our teacher and pupils dealing with shielding of family members. We started the project in August 2020 doing building work to create a new, improved working space with good lighting and ventilation that could house all of the new machines we were acquiring with NCWA funds whilst respecting the need for participants to socially distance.

“We finished all of this and recruited a group of seven young women to be able to start the course in October 2020 when we were finally allowed to reopen our community centre by the local authorities. Over the next six months, two of the young ladies left and we gained a young man, so we now have six active participants in the course. We closed for two weeks over Christmas (2020) and

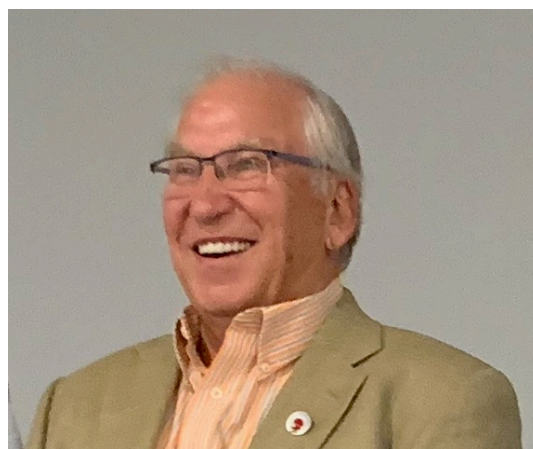
then for another five weeks during a second lockdown between March and April 2021, during which time the young people continued their learning from home with tasks that had been set at the beginning of the lockdown and with their teacher's supervision, using WhatsApp.

“The (one) exchange (with Collier entrepreneurship students) was very successful and much enjoyed by both groups of teenagers. However, unfortunately, we were unable to schedule a second meeting between the groups.

“We would like to thank the NCWA for having the confidence in investing in our project in the midst of very uncertain and challenging times for all and hope that the results that are emerging are equal to your expectations.”

The NCWA Board of Directors approved a new grant for 2021-2022. This grant, for a water holding tank in the Uganda Bush for Imani Milele 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.

What in the World Quiz



Mark Walchak

By MARK WALCHAK

Member of NCWA Board of Directors And What in the World Quiz Chair



The “What in the World Quiz” is a weekly test about current global events. A link to the WWQ is emailed every Monday along with a list of those who received a perfect score the previous week. Between 200-300 members have been taking the quiz each week. Feedback on the quiz is that it is always challenging and that individuals are staying more current on world affairs. Please join in the fun!

NCWA Book Club



Bill Korstad
NCWA Board Member
Book Club Chair

NCWA Book Club, Our Best-Kept Secret, Meets Monthly

The best-kept secret at the NCWA is that we have a book club for members to read and discuss interesting books on important world affairs issues. So join us at your leisure. At the very least, get on the mailing list to see what books we're reading.

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 **December 7**, the Book Club discussed Rush Doshi's recent book, *The Long Game: China's Grand Strategy to Displace American Order*. Doshi draws from a rich base of Chinese primary sources, including decades worth of party documents, leaked materials, memoirs by party leaders, and a careful analysis of China's conduct to provide a history of China's grand strategy since the end of the Cold War. Taking readers behind the party's closed doors, he uncovers Beijing's long, methodical game to displace America from its hegemonic position in both the East Asia regional and global orders through three sequential "strategies of displacement." Many, including Michael O'Hanlon,

highly acclaim this book. If, as many believe, China is our foremost geopolitical adversary, it's a "must-read."

On **January 4**, we'll discuss *Inglorious Empire*, by Shashi Tharoor. It covers nearly two centuries of British domination of India, ending in 1947. While arguably, it's technically more history than foreign affairs, it provides perspectives from both sides of colonialism, which is really just a fancy word for subjugation. It can teach valuable lessons as the world drifts towards a new period of Great Power rivalry.

For February 1, we may chose to discuss a book about Russia. Here are two candidates and a third is to be published soon. The first is Fiona Hill's new book, *There Is Nothing for You Here: Finding Opportunity in the Twenty-First Century*. An alternative is Kathern Stoner's new book entitled *Russia Resurrected: Its Power and Purpose in a New Global Order*. Ms. Stoner is also an expert on Russia. I'm sure our book club attendees will come up with several other candidates.

Russia will be a timely subject for early February. On January 24, Andrew Tabler, a frequent NCWA speaker, and Anna Borshchevskaya will speak to our NCWA audiences on *Syria and the Advent of Russian Triangular Diplomacy in the Middle East*. In addition, our discussion falls near the week that Great Decisions discusses Russia. It's a period too rich in Russia not to include a book on the subject.

On October 6, the Book Club discussed Patrick Kingsley's book, *The New Odyssey: The Story of Europe's Refugee Crisis*, focusing primarily on Europe, but also covering recent migration and immigration issues worldwide. The book evokes sympathy from the reader for the individuals portrayed while presenting the broader issues of immigration not easily reconciled. Developed countries like the U.S. with labor shortages are natural magnets for people from counties with too few jobs. However, it's not only the lack of employment that spurs people to leave their homelands, but crime, corruption, and poor governance play their part, too.

In our November 2 meeting, we discussed Ömer Taspinar's new book, *What the West is Getting Wrong about the Middle East: Why Islam Is Not the Problem*. The author was our NCWA featured speaker on November 1. Listening to the speaker and reading the speaker's book adds greater enjoyment and understanding to both.

In Memoriam: Former NCWA Board Members

Stan Chauvin Jr.

Leonard Stanley Chauvin Jr., a member of the NCWA Board of Directors for six years and chair of the Village Assistance Program Committee, died in Louisville, KY on May 12, 2021. He was 86.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville School of Law, he was admitted to practice in 11 states and the District of Columbia and argued cases at all levels of the state and federal court systems, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He was president of several law societies, including the American Bar Association, and ran the presidential campaigns in Kentucky of Democratic Senators Robert F. and Edward M. Kennedy. Known for his sartorial elegance, grace and humor, Stan once answered his flip phone during a NCWA Board meeting with the quip: "I told you not to call me, Hillary, until after 5:00 pm!" He and his wife were judges for Model UN and major donors to NCWA programs. He also served on the Committee for Special Activities.

He is survived by his wife, Cecilia Allen (C'Allen) McKay Chauvin, three children, and seven grandchildren.

Ron Gymer

Ron Gymer, an active participant in NCWA's school programs and former member of the Board of Directors from 2020 to 2021, died in Naples on August 23, 2021.

A Cleveland native, Ron earned a B.A. from Western Reserve University with a double major in English and history and a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Beginning his career as an estate planning, probate and tax attorney for Ameritrust, a major multi-state bank holding company with offices in the Midwest and Florida, he rose to become the senior executive responsible for the company's wealth management division. He later founded and served as president of McDonald Trust Company, which, like Ameritrust, was later acquired by KeyBank. He conducted international business in London during these assignments and, after retiring, served as an expert witness and consultant. He served on the boards of Ronald McDonald House and Beechbrook home for abused children in Cleveland.

Ron credited his Model UN participation in high school as a formative life experience. He served NCWA as a Model UN competition judge, position paper reader, and scholarship sponsor and was also a member of the School Outreach Committee and a Great Decision discussion group. He is survived by his wife, Marianne, who also participated in NCWA school programs and Great Decisions discussions.

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 judithylipnick@gmail.com.

Copyright © 2021 Naples Council on World Affairs, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

