

Naples Council on World Affairs



www.ncwa-fl.org

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION: August 26, 2022

Important News About NCWA's Upcoming Season



*Jim Schmutter
NCWA Board President*

below about:

- Our lecture dates and speakers,
- Our decision after an exhaustive search to use Moss Hall as our venue for lectures after investing financially in sound quality enhancements there, and
- Our gift to you for your patience with both the pandemic difficulties of the pandemic and the sound issues in the sanctuary of Moorings Presbyterian Church.

Dear Friends,

This special issue of our Naples Council on World Affairs Newsletter will bring you up to speed on our plans for the 2022-2023 lecture season and inform you of an exciting new enhancement to your membership.

Briefly, you will find details

Please review the information below in detail and let our Board of Directors at ncwafla@gmail.com know if you have any questions.

We are very excited about the upcoming season and look forward to seeing you in person at Moss Hall or online!

Jim Schmutter
NCWA President

Lectures for 2022-2023 Season are Announced



Mimi Gregory

2022-23 Lecture Series Dates And Speakers Announced

An exciting program of ten lectures for the 2022-2023 season have been announced by Mimi Gregory, Vice President for Programs. Two lectures are still in progress and will be announced soon.

"SOWING CHAOS: A HARVEST OF DISCONTENT"

Dates and speakers are:

- Monday, October 31 -- **Ian J. Brzezinski**, Member of the Strategic Advisors Group at the Atlantic Council; Senior Fellow in the Council's Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security: **"U.S. Security Policy and Strategy: What is at Stake?"**
- Monday, November 14 -- **David S. Rohde**, American author and

- and Africa Studies, Council on Foreign Relations: **"Putin's Willing Partners in the Middle East"**
- Wednesday, January 11-- TBD: **"Finland and the Baltics"**
- Monday, January 23 -- **Constanze Steizenmueller**, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Center on the United States and Europe, Fritz Stern Chair, Germany and Trans-Atlantic Relations, Brookings Institute: **"Germany's Role in NATO and Moscow's Challenge to European Security"**
- Monday, February 6 -- **Dr. Cynthia Watson**, Professor Emerita, National War College, and **Dr. Bernard D. Cole**, USN (Ret.): **"China's Challenges Inside and Out"**
- Tuesday, February 21 -- **Dr. Duncan Wood**, Vice President for Strategy and New Initiatives and Senior Advisor to the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute: **"North American Politics: Mexico and U.S.-Mexican Ties"**
- Monday, March 6 -- **Caitlin Welsh**, Director, Global Food Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies: **"Food Security Impact in the Wake of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine"**
- Monday, March 20 -- **Sheila A. Smith**, Ph.D., John E. Merrow Senior Fellow for Asia-Pacific Studies, Council on Foreign Relations: **"The Quad in the Indo-**

investigative
journalist, Executive
Editor of *new*
yorker.com: "**The
Weaponization of
Social Media in
Foreign Policy**"

- Monday, December 5 --
Steven A. Cook, Eni
Enrico Mattei Senior
Fellow for Middle East

Pacific"

- Monday, April 3 -- TBD:
**"Forging a New World
Order"**

Why Did We Choose Moss Hall as Our Venue?

The decision to use Moss Hall was complex. Here is how we ultimately made the choice and decided on upgrades to give you the best experience possible.

Executive Summary: Moss Hall (not the church sanctuary) at Moorings Presbyterian Church has the most suitable capacity and availability; NCWA is investing in further improvement to sound (including wifi transmission for hearing devices and headphones), and livestreaming and recorded lectures will continue to be available. ***Please see detail below.***

Capacity: After months of exploring more than a dozen possible venues in the Naples area, the NCWA board determined that Moss Hall at Moorings Presbyterian Church will best meet our needs. Other venues had mixed date availability and were prohibitively expensive or were deficient in important areas like parking.

Unfortunately, we remain unable to return to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Moss Hall, for those of you who have not attended programs there, is thickly carpeted to absorb background sound and echoes.

Our survey last month indicated that 30% of members preferred livestreaming or recorded lectures. These preferences suggest that we will need between 450 and 500 seats for most lectures. Based on our history, fewer will be needed at other times. Moss Hall is smaller than the sanctuary at the church, but we will be able provide overflow viewing opportunities in the church building as described below. Seating may still be tight at some lectures, and we ask in advance for your understanding. Moorings Presbyterian, as you will recall, also has ample parking available. And, of course, livestreaming and delayed video viewing will be available for all lectures.

Sound: We understand, and again apologize for the frustrating audio deficiencies that we experienced last year during lectures in the sanctuary. Moorings Presbyterian's leadership recognizes the importance of sound quality and is exploring alternatives to rectify the situation. If they are successful, we plan to return to the more spacious venue of the sanctuary in 2023/24. These improvements will not likely be in place for the beginning of the upcoming season, so we are working with Harmon A/V, one of Southwest Florida's most respected audio firms, to make three important financial investments to ensure an effective audio experience in Moss Hall. These include:

1. A significant enhancement in the audio infrastructure of Moss Hall to provide even sound throughout the hall. At lectures held there last year, we heard from some members that sound quality was excellent. This enhancement will improve this quality even further.
2. The purchase of a large, portable TV screen and sound system to provide overflow capability in the church narthex.
3. The installation of the ListenEVERYWHERE wi-fi connectivity app to provide transmission of lectures directly to audience members using hearing aids, personal earbuds (such as Air Pods) or headphones. Those of you who have visited art galleries, museums, and large lecture events are familiar with this type of device, with which you can receive wi-fi transmissions through your own personal listening devices. Directions on how to download and use this free app will be provided to you.

We believe that these investments will ensure a comfortable and acceptable venue for this year's lecture series as well as a foundation for years to come. While we know that some members may be skeptical based on recent experience, please remember that this is a different meeting room, with a more intimate setting than the sanctuary. We are confident that you will see significant improvement.

Of course, we will also continue to monitor the public health environment and be ready to respond appropriately to challenges that may arise because of any new COVID variants.

Jim Schmotter
President, Naples Council on World Affairs

A Gift for You!



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