



Upcoming Seminars and Lectures

Wednesday, March 3 ★ 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM

An Ambassador's Life and Perspectives on the Middle East

Ambassador Leidel's presentation will cover how ambassadors are appointed, highlights of his assignment to Bahrain and Arab culture. He will also discuss what has been right and what has been wrong with US policy in the Middle East and South Asia.

**Ambassador
Donald Leidel**

Wednesday, March 10 ★ 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM

The Rise and Fall of the American Empire

This seminar will focus on how it is the Pentagon, not the State Department, that has dominated American Foreign policy since World War II. In addition to Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, the US has been involved in more than 20 military operations in this period, many of which appear questionable in historical perspective. The most authentic history of the Vietnam War was not called "The Foggy Bottom Papers" but the "Pentagon Papers". There will also be discussion on the Military-Industrial Complex.

James McCartney,
*Former politics and
national security
columnist,
Knight-Ridder
Newspapers*

Wednesday, March 17 ★ 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM

Afghanistan and Terrorism

Col. Pheneger will provide an assessment of US policy in Afghanistan, with special emphasis on CIA and Special Forces activities to combat terrorism. He will also deal with the legal and ethical issues arising from operations to combat terrorism. He will present his views on terrorist trials, and the resolution of the issues arising from the closure of Guantanamo Bay prison.

**Colonel
Michael Pheneger,**
*Board Member,
ACLU.
Director of Intelligence,
US Special Operations
Command, ret.*

Wednesday, March 24 ★ 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM

The Financial Challenge of US Balance of Payments Deficits

This interactive seminar will look at the foreign trade of the United States and the decades old deficits in the US Balance of Payments. There will be discussion on the net international debtor position of the US and its implications for the future standard of living of Americans. Another area of focus will be the value of the Dollar and its role in the International Monetary System. We will answer the question: Is a strong Dollar good for America?

Dr. Ayse Somersan,
*Emeritus Professor
and Dean,
University of Wisconsin*

**All lectures will be held at Sarasota County Democratic headquarters,
7358 S. Tamiami Trail in Coral Cove Mall.**

**Please register to attend. Call 330-9400 or email headquarters@sarasotadems.org
Suggested donation: \$10**