

Comments Summaries

Barbara Stephenson

Strengthening America's Voice in a Changing World

Venice 01/10/23

Attendance: 123

evaluations received: 31 (24.8%)

including comments: 12

Potential Areas for Improvement re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Washington Bubble
- How about a talk on what our young people think about global affairs
- Wish she had more time to dive deeper in the subject matter. I understand she will dive deeper in a session in Sarasota, just wish that session was held in Venice
- Speaker spoke a little too fast. Hard to understand each word

Lee Schneider

Beyond Cryptocurrencies

Sarasota 01/24/23

Attendance: 125

evaluations received: 55 (44%)

with comments: 5

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- The speaker was excellent. I know very little about cryptocurrency & came away from the lecture with a much better understanding of how the cryptocurrency world works.

Potential Areas for Improvement re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- too difficult for me to understand
- hard to understand
- this topic requires visuals for audience understanding.
- could use visuals aids.
- speaker should stay on the stage, too hard to see him

Susan Glickman
Climate Change: Implications for a Warming Planet
Sarasota 1/31/23

Attendance: 130

evaluations received: 78 (60%)

with comments: 32

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Outstanding!
- Excellent speaker
- Very loaded content; pertinent but delivery was too chatty. She needs visuals with numbers.
- Generic presentation
- loved her energy and local color on the issue. Very informative ad
- Inspiring.
- A lot to take in & understand. But inspirational. Will return tomorrow.
- Commend the speaker for her passion and commitment. Her advocacy is greatly appreciated.
- Very good presenter and knowledgeable about her agenda but too one sided and idealistic.
- The subject was timely and pertinent but her presentation was scattered and disorganized.

Potential Areas for Improvement re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Spoke too fast (5)
- Could have been more organized. Sentences run together.
- Questions from audience - not speeches
- Very important subject. Unfortunately, not well presented.
- Speaker did not translate her superior knowledge of the subject to enable the general audience to understand it.
- A remarkably unbalanced presentation of a relevant subject
- Glickman's presentation was not coherent.
- Presentation needs slides showing CO2 levels, other energy sources, more science and less politics.
- First questioner went on too long and was a rebuttal rather than a question.
- Comments a bit hard to follow.
- Speaker needed to give more on the big picture rather than the details and the side issues.
- Too alarmist, no reasonable solutions. Only told one side of the story.
- A lot of important info. A simple visual/visuals would be helpful.
- Role of deforestation? Using drones to replace forests.
- Cost of mining lithium? \$\$ and environmentally
- Speaker failed to link her passionate attack on public utilities with effective policies and practices
- Very disjointed lecture with no unifying theme. Critique of FPL and DUKE very one-sided and simplistic.
- Too much topic jumping. Too much historical, not enough future correction comments.

Comments regarding SILL: technology, logistics, sound, lighting, etc

- Acoustics very difficult for me
- Poor sound quality complicated my efforts to follow the flow of the presentation. (3)
- The sound system was not very kind to the speaker.
- The acoustics (again) were an issue. The speaker was faded out too often leaving audio voids. (3)
- The questioner 's mic didn't function at first. (2)
- She might have been better without a mic.

Other

- The emcee must emphasize that audience members should ask only one question and be gone. No pontification!
- The speaker should briefly repeat the questioner's question.

** One person added to her 5 on her evaluation sheet at question # 2 that the subject should be addressed next year but not by this speaker.

Yasmin Sayed

The Refugees in SW Florida -The Human Story

Sarasota 2/8/23

Attendance: 86

evaluations received: 44 (51%)

with comments: 15

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Personal experiences were worthwhile but the topic was misrepresented as Florida refugee situation. The topic was more about FLS (Florida Lutheran Services)
- The second speaker, the Afghan refugee, was much easier to understand.

Potential Areas for Improvement re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Print on slides was impossible to read
- Accent difficult (3-4x)
- People left mid-lecture
- The speaker's accent made it extremely difficult to understand anything she said
- Sub-titled system on the screen was awful
- Speaker should have been told to speak closer to the mike
- Too small print on slides. Speaking too fast
- Not clear: slides were overloaded
- Both are very hard to understand. Closed captioning helps a lot.

Comments regarding SILL: technology, logistics, sound, lighting, etc.

- Most importantly, I was unable to understand the speaker---The echo in the auditorium was terrible. I tried to follow the words on the screen with difficulty (x3)
- The talk was more like a sales pitch instead of an educational talk
- The speaker, in my opinion, presented as though this was for fundraising for their cause rather than informational.
- The intro sounded like an advertisement for the Lutheran Services and this recurred later in the talk as well.

Manjari Chatterjee Miller**India and the World: Its Rise, Power, and Influence****Lakewood Ranch 03/02/23**

Attendance: 174

evaluations received: 92 (52%)

with comments: 0

(Likely due to people having little time to get out of the church.)

Charles Shapiro**Paying the Price For Ignoring Latin America****Venice 3/14/23**

Attendance: 118

evaluations received: 59 (50%)

with comments: 7

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Speaker should be invited back to speak
- Best speaker this year
- No misrepresentation
- No Political Bias
- Very good

Potential Area of Improvement:

- Eliminate initial questions (Take too much time) (2)
- We need to know about specific developments or projects
- Speaker should be invited back to speak in more detail about one or two countries e.g., Mexico or Brazil
- The talk was too simplistic. You can be certain the audience knows a little about Latin America, that's why they are here.
- Much more time should have been spent on solutions
- A little disorganized

Kori Schake
The Future of the Liberal International Order
Sarasota 3/21/23

Attendance: 139
evaluations received: 49 (36%)
with comments: 3

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Very Informative
- Very Interesting, filled holes in knowledge

Potential areas of Improvement

- Speaker could have been enhanced with visuals
- Clearer, simpler explanations
- Hard to follow at times

Asli Aydintasbas
Understanding Turkey – And Its Rise in the Great Power Game
Venice 3/24/23

Attendance: 184
evaluations received: 80 (44%)
with comments: 15

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- Ms Aydintasbas is an excellent speaker with a broad knowledge of Turkey and its
- Background both past and present. One of the best speakers on this topic SILL has had.
- Loved the subject
- Very engaging
- She was Exceptional
- Excellent speaker on topic
- Very interesting
- Very effective

Potential areas of Improvement

- A map on the screen would be helpful (3 comments)
- Introduce the names of important people on the screen. Give us a cast of characters
- A little hard to understand (2 people mentioned)

- Never addressed religious influences
- A post Turkish election talk next year may be important
- More substance would be good
- I miss Soner Cagaptay (previous speaker on Turkey return please)
- Not too serious on issue

Charles Kupchan
Is the West Back?
Venice 3/30/23

Attendance: 190

evaluations received: 86 (45%)

with comments: 9

Positive Comments re: Speaker Performance and Materials

- One of the most informative and pragmatic speakers.
- Excellent! (4)
- Very articulate, organized speaker.
- One of the best this year
- Best this year!!

Potential areas of Improvement

- One fourth of the topic was based on his Democratic philosophy not NATO or Ukraine rather than some of the salient facts of the designated topic of the West and Ukraine.
- Smart speaker, but could not keep himself lapsing into politic U.S. philosophy.