

Library conducts global discussions

January 22, 2015

The Great Decisions discussion series from the Tulsa City/County Library System explores how global challenges are increasingly impacting communities.

A kick off is planned for Jan. 25, 2:30-4:30 p.m., in Hardesty Regional Library's Frossard Auditorium, 1000 E. 93rd St.

The featured speaker is Janet Levit, University of Tulsa College of Law Dean.

At the event, participants can join a discussion group focusing on any of this year's featured topics. An optional \$22 briefing booklet presents articles on these featured topics.

Russia and the Near Abroad

As calls for closer ties with the European Union failed to be met, Ukrainians took to the streets in November 2013. As the movement later known as the Euromaidan, or "Euro Square," spread across western Ukraine closer to its European neighbors, another powerful force threatened the country's eastern half: Russia.

Privacy in the Digital Age

The idea of "privacy" has undergone significant changes in the digital age, as has the privacy "harm." Fearful of British spying, influence and intervention, the founding citizens significant protections in the Constitution. Now, the tables have turned: Countries that some see as a U.S. "dragnet" and unwarranted privacy intrusions have compelled countries to revamp their own privacy protections

Sectarianism in the Middle East

Many of the current conflicts in the Middle East have been attributed to sectarianism and politicization of ethnic and religious identity. From the crisis in Iraq and Syria to the tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the struggle between Sunni and Shi'i groups for dominance is tearing apart the region and shows no signs of abating.

India Changes Course

Fed up with corruption, dynastic policies and ineffective public services, Indian voters elected Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party to power in the country's 2014 elections. Modi embodied real change and an India that wasn't stumbling, but running, to great effect. In the United States, change in India brings its own set of unknowns, heralding an age of uncertainty. Modi, prime minister new to national office and other policymakers who have been out of power for a decade.

U.S. Policy Toward Africa

Africa is in the midst of an unprecedented transformation. The continent is home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world, and it's become a draw for foreign investment from across the globe. After the "Obamamania" of 2008 died down, though, the realization that the continent was going to overturn, or even prioritize, U.S. Africa policy kicked in.

Syria's Refugee Crisis

Syrians have for a century welcomed over a million refugees from Armenia, Palesti

other countries around the region. Now, thanks to a multiyear civil war, they are on the verge of becoming the source of the world's largest refugee population in a matter of months. Lebanon, Turkey and other neighbors strive to accommodate the millions of Syrian refugees, but are allowing Syrians to become dependent on emergency aid and forming a "lost generation."

Human Trafficking in the 21st Century

Human trafficking represents multibillions of dollars in international trade per annum and is expected to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries. While undeniably a global phenomenon, the United States, as one of the world's leading human trafficking importers, bears a responsibility to combat this practice.

Brazil's Metamorphosis

Brazil — it's the "B" in the acronym BRICS, five emerging economies once seen as potential superpowers. After economic troubles in the 1990s, Brazil has risen to new global prominence, it's drawing in more investment, working on global issues ranging from climate change to peacekeeping, and even hosting the 2016 Olympics. But some of Brazil's trickiest problems are deep divisions over how to tackle serious income inequality, weak civic institutions and lack of regional leadership — have held it back.

For more information on Great Decisions, call 918-549-7408, or visit the Friends of the Library webpage, www.tulsalibrary.org/friends.

News | News Briefs

« [Tulsa city sales tax collections rise slightly late last year - Tulsa Tech is biggest in Oklahoma](#)