



**Citizens for
Global Solutions, Minnesota**
Promoting global unity since 1947

September, 2016

Visit our website: <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org>

OUR VISION: We envision a future in which countries work together to abolish war, protect universal human rights and freedoms, foster sustainable development, and solve related problems facing humanity that no country can solve alone. This vision requires the involvement of informed world citizens to create and maintain effective democratic global institutions that will supplant the law of force with the rule of law while respecting the diversity and autonomy of national and local communities.

OUR MISSION: We are a membership organization working to build political will, promoting global citizenship and a new spirit of sharing, and devising initiatives to promote our vision. We undertake our mission by organizing educational events, communicating global concerns to public officials, collaborating with globally engaged organizations, and disseminating proposals to reform and strengthen the United Nations and other international institutions, including the creation of new agencies when necessary.

A PEACE-FILLED GATHERING OF FRIENDS IN FAIRMONT MINNESOTA

By Nancy Dunlavy



Several *Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota* Board members traveled to Fairmont, Minnesota on Thursday, July 14th to join the monthly gathering of the Fairmont Peace Club, founded in the early 1960s and currently chaired by Judi Poulson. Each participant – five from the Twin Cities and eight from the Fairmont group - enjoyed lunch together, and then shared their passions and activities for peace and justice. We were all very energized by the exchange, and plan to stay in touch regularly.

CGS-MN has numerous members throughout the state of Minnesota who are not able to attend our Forums but who receive our newsletters and support our chapter through annual membership renewals. We are in the process of upgrading our chapter web site and researching other social media options so that we can reach out to and engage these members.

NOTE: For those on internet, here is an interesting 2007 article which may help explain Judi's interest in CGS-MN. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=9083208>

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUMS

Free and open to the public

Plymouth Congregational Church (Jackman room, lower level), 1900 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis. Abundant free parking in lot on Franklin Ave. adjacent to Church; enter building from lot on LaSalle Ave side. For more information, please phone Gail at (612) 237-9819, or go to our website at www.globalsolutionsmn.org.



SEPTEMBER FORUM

**“Genocide in Darfur and Institutional Responses:
a Case and Comparative Perspectives”**

Thursday, September 15, 2016, 6:45-8:45 p.m.

Presenter: Joachim Savelsberg, U of MN

How effective are our global institutions at preventing and responding to genocide? In his presentation about the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, Dr. Savelsberg will discuss the International Criminal Court intervention, its consequences, and competing responses. Comparative notes will be included and may be a focus of the subsequent discussion. Joachim Savelsberg is a Professor of Sociology and Law and the Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair at the University of Minnesota. Educated in his native Germany, he specializes in the sociology of law and criminology.

OCTOBER FORUM



“Green Card Youth Voices”

Thursday, October 20, 2016, 6:45 – 8:45 p.m.

**Presenters: Tea Rozman-Clark, Green Card Voices
& Several Immigrant Youth**

Tea Rozman-Clark, a 2015 Archibald Bush Fellow and founder of Green Card Voices, will bring several young immigrants (ages 18-21) who hold Green Cards to participate in this presentation. The youth will be from diverse regions (Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East), and they will be among those whose experiences are included in the recently published book, "Green Card Youth Voices". Tea will describe the Green Card Voices program (both the general and youth programs), and each of the three youth will give a brief summary of their 'story'.

NOVEMBER FORUM



“Freeing the Dove”

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 6:45 – 8:45pm

Presenter: Walid Issa, Palestinian Peace Activist

In his presentation, 27-year-old Mr. Walid Issa will share his story and discuss the projects he has created to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Raised in the Dehesha refugee camp in Bethlehem, Walid is the founder of the American Palestinian Hope Project and the co-founder of the Shades Program on Negotiation. He has received a Welter Global Citizen Award from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and a Student Leadership award from St. Cloud State University, where he received his degree in Economics. Don't miss a chance to share ideas with this inspiring young peace entrepreneur!

THE LESSON OF BREXIT: THEY NEED TO FIXIT!

Gail Hughes, President, Citizens for Global Solutions, MN

The vote in Britain to 'Brexit' - to leave the European Union (EU) - came as a shock to people around the world, and as a disappointment to internationalists, including World Federalists, who see the advantages of global and regional organizations. Although majorities in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland voted to "Bremain," the final tally should give us pause to consider why the English (and the majority overall) voted to leave.

Why vote for Brexit? Three reasons come to mind:

1) Reaction against Immigration: The recent wave of immigrants from 'failed states' such as Syria was mentioned most frequently by 'pundits'. Fear of uncontrolled immigration within the EU may have influenced Conservatives, 57% of whom voted for Brexit.

2) Perceived lack of democratic process: Only about 1/3 of the British public voted in the election for their MEP (Member of the European Parliament). The British representative to the European Commission is not well-known by the public; and most EU officials are political appointees. The loss of local control may have influenced Green Party members and Liberal Democrats.

3) Fear of Financial Instability: Although Britain has kept the Pound Sterling and thus, control of its currency, Brits on both the Right and the Left may find it unnerving to see some members who adopted the Euro— notably Greece — suffer a financial meltdown.

In theory, being part of a Union should benefit its members as a whole, in that a larger group is stronger than small, individual countries: stronger in terms of trade, job opportunities, defense — you name it! However, not all Unions are created equal; and for some, any union isn't necessarily better than no union. Quoting from the Preamble, the U.S. Constitution was written "to form a more perfect union." In his book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*, Joe Schwartzberg describes ways to improve the UN. The vote to "Brexit" should serve as a warning that the EU, too, needs major reform, if not transformation, to fulfill its potential.

What do YOU think about Brexit?

Email me at: hughe038@umn.edu. * EDITOR NOTE: Despite her 'farewell message' in the May Newsletter, Gail is continuing as President this year.

Our Board: Dr. Gail Hughes, President; Dick Bernard, Vice-President; Nancy Dunlavy, Secretary; Dennis Dillon, Treasurer; Roxanne Abbas, N. John Borgen, Margaret Esslinger, Walid Issa, Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, Dr. Bharat Parekh, Dr. Joseph Schwartzberg, Maryam Yusefzedah

Join us: Suggested donations: \$10 students, \$30 individuals, \$40 couples.

Checks to "Citizens for Global Solutions" mailed to Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St #414, Minneapolis 55403.

Contact: Dick Bernard, dick_bernard@msn.com or 6905 Romeo Road, Woodbury MN 55125-2421, 651-334-5744

IN MEMORIAM:

Two exceptional advocates of World Citizenship died in recent months: Lynn Elling (94) on February 14, and Wendell R. Anderson (83) on July 17. Then Minnesota Governor, and later U.S. Senator, Wendell Anderson teamed with Lynn Elling and others in 1971 to declare Minnesota a World Citizenship state, and flew the UN flag along with the U.S. and Minnesota flags at the State Capitol. More about the Minnesota Declaration of World Citizenship and Wendell Andersons Memorial event on August 15 can be read at <http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/2016/08/15/> (August 15, 2016 at OutsideTheWalls.org/blog).

REMINDER:

Every Citizen is Politics. Participate, Vote, Tuesday November 8, 2016

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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All issues archived at

<http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/>

(re Gov. Wendell Anderson, page 3)

One of the eulogists at Gov. Anderson's memorial said about his governing style: **"people disagreed and worked together anyway"**. Another Minnesota political leader in Anderson's time in office said of the Governor's willingness to take political risks: **"I am reminded of all the things Governor Anderson did that were under the radar but significant"**.

A CONFERENCE ON U.N. REFORM, AND AN EXCITING NEW PROJECT

Joe Schwartzberg

Director, The Workable World Trust

The Workable World Trust sponsored a "UN Security Council Reform" half-day conference across the street from UN Headquarters in New York on June 15th. Details of the conference, including my presentation on weighted regional representation, can be found at <http://www.wfm-igp.org/blog/seminar-un-security-council-reform-unsc-2020-2050>.

As most readers of this Newsletter are aware, my book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*, has been, or is being, translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish and will soon be co-published by the Institute for Global Policy and The Workable World Trust in inexpensive e-editions. The idea is to facilitate global dialogue among a worldwide cohort of political activists and potential activists as particular global problems gain salience and as the human family becomes increasingly aware of the need to seriously address changing our woefully inadequate system of global governance.

Thinking about that need, it occurred to me that it would be helpful to produce a *Study and Discussion Guide*, the units of which would be matched to each of the fifteen chapters of the book. The guide would not be a simplified digest of the work, but would, rather, focus on questions to be asked as readers ponder the relative merits – or shortcomings – of the scores of reform recommendations put forward in the work. Each unit, written in layman's language, would include a few easily digestible suggestions for further reading and relevant web-based resources. Nancy Dunlavy and I have already produced drafts for the first two units and sent them to our reliable friends, Ron Glossop and Michael Andregg, for editorial scrutiny.

Our goal is to complete the work before the end of the year and to get it translated into each of the seven languages noted in our opening paragraph during the coming year, hopefully using the same competent translators who translated my book.