



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

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

May 2016

## 2016 Annual Dinner

**Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota AND The Workable World Trust**

# “Working Minnesota’s Global”

*How can we best use our heritage of global-mindedness and activism to maximize our impact in our community, state, nation and planet?*

## Mark Ritchie

President & CEO, EXPO 2023



### Thursday, June 9, 2016

- ❖ 6:00pm: Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar
- ❖ 6:30pm: Dinner Served
- ❖ 7:15pm: Business Meeting
- ❖ 7:30 – 9:00pm: Keynote Speaker

### The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis

410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis 55403

**DINNER COST: \$30** per person; \$15 for students and those with limited income

Reservations must be received no later than May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Reservations may be paid for at the event if they are submitted by May 23<sup>rd</sup> to Dennis Dillon, [dennis.dillon@msn.com](mailto:dennis.dillon@msn.com), (612)333-0723 or

Gail Hughes, [hughe038@umn.edu](mailto:hughe038@umn.edu), (612)237-9819.

*Mark Ritchie is President & CEO of EXPO2023 (<http://expo2023.info/>), the citizen’s committee working to bring a world’s fair to Minnesota. He served as Minnesota’s elected Secretary of State from 2006 until his retirement in 2015. From 1988 to 2006, he was President of the Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy. He holds the endowed Chair in Sustainable Food Systems at the University of Minnesota.*

### CGS-MN Annual Dinner 2016 Reservation Form

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for (indicate names of those who will attend):

\_\_\_\_\_ My check for \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

**Choose Meal Option** (if more than one person, indicate number for each meal type)

\_\_\_\_\_ 6 oz. Grilled Chicken Breast with Tarragon Cream Sauce

\_\_\_\_\_ Polenta Galette Milanese with Julienne Spring Vegetables & Saffron Cream Sauce (vegetarian)

Please send check, payable to “Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota,” to  
Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St., Apt. 414, Minneapolis, MN 55403

## WHY CGS?

By Maryam Yusefzadeh, CGS MN Board

I was born in Iran during the Shah's monarchy. A fully westernized Iranian in my lifestyle, political and social mindset with a young person's assumptions that with all the good Iran was doing, helping Israel during the seven day war and more, managing to increasing the value of Oil from the middle east to a respectable dollar, establishing great economic and cultural relations across all nations around the world, and reestablishing Iran to its essence of being a country for all religions and people, that was how we were perceived.

This was not so true when I moved to the US. And within a few years, due to the hostage crisis I had to lie about where I was from.

I have been seeking a group of people who consider a worldwide view. One, where they see human rights, hunger, animal rights, global warming and environmental issues, Nuclear bombs, war and other world issues from a global perspective and produce more inclusive solutions to the world without the focus on immediate returns and gain of power over others.

Citizens for Global Solutions and its Federalist affiliation in Minnesota was introduced to me a couple of years ago. Attending their 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday educational presentations allowed me to experience the value they bring in informing and educating the local community about world issues from all perspectives, which is missing from most media offerings. I was intrigued by their commitment to solving issues with the Earth and all its occupants in mind. So I joined the board to support CGS MN.

## ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 1915-23

By Dick Bernard, VP CGS MN

Until early in April, I have to admit that I was only vaguely aware that there was a place called Armenia, or that 101 years ago, April 24, 1915, in Armenia, the first event happened which later marked the beginning of a horrific 20<sup>th</sup> century genocide which ultimately killed 1.5 million people 1915-23. (Uncertain yourself about where Armenia is? It is generally what is now eastern Turkey.) Two recent talks helped me expand my own knowledge of the tragedy.

Dr. Lou Ann Matossian expanded my knowledge at a talk on April 3 <http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/2016/04/03/>. Then, on April 14, Pulitzer Prize winning author Dr. Peter Balakian expanded my knowledge further at a well attended talk at the University of Minnesota. The first genocide in modern times, Balakian said, was Armenia, primarily in the tragic year of 1915-16. He seemed to leave as a separate category the earlier indiscriminate killing accompanying territorial expansion, as the extinction of the Native Americans. I disagree with that point.

The website of the St. Sahag Armenian Ch. in St. Paul gives some basics of the genocide. <http://www.saintsahag.org/>.

This newsletter does not have the space to provide details. Polish Jewish lawyer Raphael Lemkin in *Totally Unofficial* defined the word genocide based on what happened in Christian Armenia, then part of the Ottoman Empire. Hitler used societies tendency to historical amnesia about the Armenian genocide to at least partially justify what he felt was the political low risk of eliminating the Jews: "after all, who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians."

Balakian divided genocide into two general categories: "Barbarism" is the killing of people; "Vandalism" is the destruction of an entire culture, things like differing religious beliefs, churches, art and the like.

Wherever there are people, there are opportunities for genocide in the hands of evil. Rwanda and Darfur are but two examples in recent history. But we need look no further than some of the present political rhetoric of U.S. Presidential politics where deliberate ginning up of hatred for others who are somehow different is effective. We have to be constantly vigilant and outspoken within our own circles in American society. The spectre of evil is always there.

A good local starting point to learn more about genocide and like atrocities is at the website of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the U of Minnesota. <http://chgs.umn.edu/>

## NEWS FROM THE WORKABLE WORLD TRUST

Joe Schwartzberg is pleased to report continuing progress on the translations of his book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*. These will be published by the Institute for Global Policy and the Workable World Trust as inexpensive e-editions. The Arabic, Russian and Spanish translations are already completed; Chinese and French are in the home stretch; German and Japanese bring up the rear. Joe hopes that, once all seven translations are available, it will be possible, through the outreach capability of the World Federalist Movement, to have simultaneous world-wide discussions of some of the seminal ideas in his book.

While all the e-editions will have similar covers, Joe thinks the one in Arabic looks particularly attractive. See below.

Apart from the translations, the Trust is involved in planning several conferences (to be held this year and next) related to changes in our system of global governance. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Church Center across the street from the United Nations, there will be an important conference on Security Council Reform, at which Joe will be the principal speaker. The audience for this conference will be composed largely of members of the diplomatic corps, who could conceivably change the reform dialogue. Immediately following the Church Center conference, Joe will be attending the annual meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS). There he will be one of several speakers at a panel session titled "UN Security Council Reform: Bottlenecks, Blunders, and (potential) Breakthroughs."



## A FOND FAREWELL FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Gail Hughes

My three-year term as President is drawing to a close. How time flies!

Fortunately, I didn't have to do it alone: our exceptionally strong and active Board members enabled us to make it a true team effort. It is unusual when every single member of a Board makes important contributions, such as ours. I feel good about what we were able to accomplish as a result!

Previous Board member June Parrott, VP Dick Bernard, and I worked with student interns at the William Mitchell Law School to obtain 501(c)(3) status, so that contributions to our nonprofit charitable organization are now tax-deductible. Thanks, June, for spotting this opportunity!

Due to Joe Schwartzberg's support, we have a close collaborative relationship with his newly-formed Workable World Trust (<http://www.workableworld.org/>) to promote democratic transformation in the United Nations. We organized a book club to discuss Joe's "Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World", and participated in his "Creating a Workable World" Conference, held last October. Watch for a Global Town Hall Meeting next year!

Membership Expansion Committee members have begun a process that will enable us to reach new potential members, especially young people, by using social media. Thanks to Maryam Yusefzedah, Olivia Von Gharath, and Nancy Dunlavy, we now have a CGS-MN Facebook page and an improved website. Thanks also to Claude Buettner, who has served as our volunteer webmaster since his days as a previous CGS President.

Of course, the 'core' of CGS-MN activities has always been our Third Thursday Global Issues Forums. We have offered an impressive array of Forums over this three-year period, with speakers who have attracted increased numbers and some new faces in our audience. We are grateful to Board member Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, who has recruited a number of Humphrey Fellows from the U of MN Law School to participate in several of our Forums. Everyone on the Board has either given a Forum presentation (Bharat Parekh), helped to identify speakers, publicize Forums, and/or video-tape Forum speakers.

"Hearing the Voices of Others" was the theme of this year's Forums, as well as of several of my Newsletter columns. The purpose of this theme was to foster a better understanding of diverse global perspectives, especially of Global South voices that we rarely hear in our 'mainstream' media. I will remain on the Board, and hope to bring ongoing attention to diverse voices that challenge our thinking.

Special thanks to our Secretary, Nancy Dunlavy, and to our VP, Dick Bernard, who have the toughest, most time-intensive jobs of taking Minutes and preparing the Newsletter, respectively. Both have gone 'Above and Beyond' those responsibilities to Pinch Hit when needed. Special thanks also to our Treasurer, Dennis Dillon, who in addition to contending with the onerous task of keeping our accounts, has served as our liaison with the sites for our Forums: first Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, and now Plymouth Congregational.

I'm saving the most special thanks of all for Joe Schwartzberg, who has been the cornerstone of our organization for decades. He has recruited many Board members (including me) and Forum speakers; and he's served as the guide and inspiration for us all. His agenda has been no less than to create a 'workable world'; and he's taken concrete steps to do it. We love and admire you SO MUCH, Joe! What a legacy you will leave!

**2015-2016 CGS Mn Board:** Dr. Gail Hughes, President; Dick Bernard, Vice-President; Nancy Dunlavy, Secretary; Dennis Dillon, Treasurer; N. John Borgen, Margaret Esslinger, Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, Dr. Bharat Parekh, Dr. Joseph Schwartzberg, Olivia Von Gharath, 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](mailto:dick_bernard@msn.com) or 6905 Romeo Road, Woodbury MN 55125-2421, 651-334-5744

## 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.



### MAY FORUM:

## “A Great Leap Backward? Fascism with Chinese Characteristics”

Thursday, May 19, 2016, 6:45 – 8:45pm

Presenter: Ted Farmer, U of MN

Three years of the leadership of Xi Jinping have brought about a sea Change in China. Harsh repression of all dissent, strengthening of Police agencies, concentration of power, and a cult of personality contribute to a growing sense of unease in a rapidly developing Chinese society.

Ted Farmer is Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of history emeritus from the University of Minnesota. He received a Ph.D. in History and Far Eastern Languages from Harvard, and was a Fulbright Fellow in Taiwan. He has taught modern Chinese history and global history.

## ABOUT MARK RITCHIE, CGS MN'S ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER

By Dick Bernard

We are honored that Mark Ritchie will join us at our annual dinner on June 9 (see page one). You are urged to join us for this very special opportunity. Let others know. (Please note: **May 23 is deadline for reservations.**)

Minnesotans, particularly those familiar with the mission of CGS MN through this newsletter or past programs, know Mark Ritchie was Minnesota's Secretary of State (2007-15), and before that was founder and long-time Director of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (<http://www.iatp.org/>), “a non-profit organization working with businesses, churches, farm organizations and civic groups to foster long-term sustainability for Minnesota's rural communities. Among other issues, it looked into how global trade rules impact family farmers and rural communities.” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark\\_Ritchie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Ritchie)).

His is a long record of activism and interest in international policy issues, including the United Nations. He has previously been a speaker at CGS/World Federalist activities, and his talks are always stimulating.

Now, with his planning of the internationally focused Expo 2023 (<http://expo2023.info/>), Mr. Ritchie is again bringing Minnesota into the international spotlight. We hope to see you on June 9.

**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.

**Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota**

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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All issues archived at

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

**“We are the World”**

Lionel Ritchie, Michael Jackson, arr Michael Omartian (1985)

**Join CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, MINNESOTA**

If you believe in the goals of our chapter, please consider becoming a member by making an annual tax deductible donation. This is your opportunity to invest in strengthening a Minnesota organization that is truly international in impact, bringing effective solutions to problems that affect every one of us.

**Suggested donations: \$10 for students, \$30 for individuals, \$40 for couples**

*Contributions in any amount will be welcome: more if you can, less if you are short of funds.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Our newsletter is available on-line at our website or U.S. mail. Circle which you prefer.**

*Please make checks payable to “Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota” and mail to  
Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St., #414, Minneapolis, MN 55403*

**Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota is a 501c3 non-profit organization;  
all contributions are tax deductible**