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March 2016

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.

LYNN ELLING: “A WARRIOR FOR WORLD PEACE”

By Dick Bernard, VP CGS MN, and editor

Lynn Elling died on Valentine’s Day 2016, four days short of his 95th birthday. This “Warrior for World Peace” (as described by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* obituary headline Feb. 25, 2016) was an unceasing advocate for Peace, from his days as a young Naval officer after seeing the aftermath of Tarawa early in 1944, then seeing Hiroshima in 1954.

His resume of advocating for peace and world law is pages long, including time as president of MN World Federalists (predecessor of Citizens for Global Solutions MN); the flying of the UN Flag at Hennepin County (Minneapolis) Plaza for 44 years (1968-2012) and a 1972 film, “Man’s Next Giant Leap” featuring singer John Denver. This film can be viewed at YouTube.com, enter the name of the film and “Lynn Elling” in the search box.

The concept of “Peace Site” came to the Twin Cities through Lynn’s efforts; he founded World Citizen in 1972 (www.peacesites.org/sites/about); in 1996 he co-founded the very successful Nobel Peace Prize Festival at Augsburg College.

The celebration of his life will be **World Law Day***, May 1, 2016, 3 p.m., at First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Avenue South, Minneapolis. There are two obituaries for Lynn at www.startribune.com, Feb 21 and 25, 2016, and I did a blogpost about Lynn at www.outsidethewalls.org/blog for Feb. 14, 2016. In the Star Tribune I called Lynn “no wallflower...relentless for the cause.” Indeed he was, and his resolve showed results. His presence will be missed.

Condolences can be sent to the Elling family c/o Sandy Curry, 17124 Stodola Road, Minnetonka MN 55345, and attendance at the celebration of Lynn’s life on May 1 is encouraged.

***World Law Day** was a creation of Lynn and others about 1964. It was an adaptation of **Law Day**, proclaimed by President Eisenhower in 1957, and enacted into U.S. Law in 1961, which was the U.S. “cold war” response to the martial tradition of May 1, **May Day**, in the Soviet Union bloc. Large annual dinners on **World Law Day** went on for many years in Minnesota and perhaps other places. The tradition was revived on May 1, 2013, as the *Lynn and Donna Elling Symposium on World Peace through Law* at the Gandhi Mahal Restaurant in Minneapolis. The 4th Annual dinner is tentatively scheduled at Gandhi Mahal ((3009 27th Ave. S in Minneapolis)) for late afternoon /early evening May 1. An additional program featuring the new film about Garry Davis, World Citizen #1, “The World is my Country” may be shown in Minneapolis in the evening of May 1 at a place and time to be announced. Details will be announced at the **GlobalSolutionsMN.org** website.

WHY IS THE U.S. VIEWED AS A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE? FOR ANSWERS, LET'S LISTEN TO VOICES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

By Gail Hughes, President, CGS-MN

In response to the question, "Which country do you think is the greatest threat to peace in the world today?" 24% of respondents in a December 2013 international WIN/Gallup Poll mentioned the U.S.* The next most frequently named country was Pakistan, named by only 8%.

What!?! Not Iran or Syria or Russia or North Korea?! The results should give us pause. Cognitive dissonance is useful to get us to re-think our assumptions and try to understand the voices of others.

'Global South' countries (sometimes known as 'developing' countries) share a common history of having been ruled by colonizing powers from the 'Global North'. Although these countries are now politically independent, suspicions remain that Big Powers (most prominently the U.S.) are still attempting to control them indirectly, through unfair terms of trade, funding favored political groups, or even military 'regime change'. In my view, the Global North vs. Global South polarization is the most important - certainly the most inadequately appreciated - difference that we need to understand if we are to achieve world peace.

This year, our Forums have been supplemented by a number of Humphrey Fellows from Global South countries who are spending a year at the University of Minnesota. In January, we heard speakers from the Maldives, Lebanon, and Nigeria on the impact of global warming in their countries; last month, Ikram ben Said from Tunisia described her project to promote dialogue among secular and Islamist women - a success story from the 'Arab Spring'. And in April, Fellows from Yemen and Pakistan will tell us what it's like to live in countries where drones have been buzzing overhead. Please join us in these opportunities to hear the voices of others around the world!

*Results from more than 66,000 people in 65 countries, Worldwide Independent Network/Gallup, December 2013, published in 2014.

"WELL DONE IS BETTER THAN WELL SAID". THE GLOBAL QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE LIFE

By Jim Nelson

I have used the winter doldrums to perform a much needed cleaning of the attic, old folders, albums and computer files. I am finally organizing some of my treasures. Among these are the many mementoes of my small part of the United Nations movement over nearly five decades. Although the UN is far away and the global agenda is nominally the work of diplomats, I found that I could make a small difference in the world affairs in my home, in my profession, in my hobbies, my church and even my own family life. In the daily news about world affairs, there is much chatter but seemingly little sustained effort to make a real difference.

This year the United Nations introduced formal goals to the world, a 17 point agenda to end poverty, combat climate change, and fight injustice. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs> The agenda is challenging, and the most basic challenge is to convince people to work together with a sense of a common future. Many early UN movement leaders were truly inspiring. The folksy saying "well done is far better than well said" was an often used adage of York Langton, the founder and leader of Minnesota's first United Nations organization. York encouraged me to act on my convictions. He also cautioned me to have balance in my personal life and to make "sustainability" part of the discussion on global problems.

Working alone, perhaps little could have been accomplished. Working together with like-minded people has been enjoyable and modestly fruitful. Did you know that "environment" is not mentioned in the UN Charter? Environmental concerns have been my passion from the beginning. Environmental controls have been my professional career. As a weekend farmer, many of my activities address global challenges from poverty to climate change. Is it possible to work on United Nations goals without leaving home. I invite you to look at my United Nations journey in words and pictures on our family web site: nelsonfamilyfarm.org within the tab, learning circle.

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.

MARCH FORUM:

“Recent Events in West Africa, and Factors Contributing to the Rise of Boko Haram”

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

Presenter: **Dr. Thomas O’Toole**



Although not given as much attention in the news as the ‘Middle East’, much has happened in West Africa in recent years, including coups, civil wars, and the rise of ‘Boko Haram.’ Please join us to hear Tom O’Toole’s insights about these events!

Tom O’Toole is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at St. Cloud State University. He has since taught African History at Metro State U, and is a popular speaker with Great Decisions and OLLI courses at the University of Minnesota. He was a Fulbright Scholar in the Central African Republic and in Guinea, where he served earlier as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Tom has written extensively on African and global topics.

APRIL FORUM:

“Drone Warfare & US War Culture: Facing Who, Why and What We’ve Become and Exploring How to Build a Culture of Peace”

Thursday, April 21, 2016 6:45-8:45 p.m.

Presenters: **Professor Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer**

With personal experiences shared by Humphrey Fellows

Ms. Fadia Thabet (Yemen) and Mr. Ijaz Ahmad (Pakistan)

We are living in a permanent warfare state. Permanent war takes root in a cultural context that glorifies militarism and military violence. In a war culture failure is either mythologized as victory or it becomes the occasion to plan or tweak violence mechanisms with promises of victory. Drone warfare is the latest US response to failed wars and disastrous interventions. It tells us a great deal about our war culture, about who and what we have become as a people and nation, and about the challenges we face in building a peace culture.

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer is Associate Professor of Justice and Peace Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Jack is an activist academic whose life and work are focused on addressing the political, economic, faith, and foreign policy dimensions of hunger and poverty. He is the author of thirteen books including *Authentic Hope: It’s the End of the World as We Know It but Soft Landings Are Possible*.



Thursday, May 19, 6:45-8:45pm: “China,” presented by **Ted Farmer**, Emeritus Professor, U of MN History Department

June Annual Dinner, exact date & location TBD: **“Minnesota Global,”** presented by **Mark Ritchie**, President, Minnesota World’s Fair Bid Committee (Expo 2023)

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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All issues archived at

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

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will."

Frederick Douglas, a former American slave and civil rights leader.

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: _____

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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**

Our 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 Vongharath, Maryam Yusefzadeh.

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