



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

This newsletter and more at our website: <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org>

September, 2015

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.

**2015, the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations
A Year to Affirm Global Community**

WORKABLE WORLD TRUST NEWS

By Joe Schwartzberg

(see also insert, and <http://www.workableworld.org/>)

The Workable World Trust was established by Joe Schwartzberg in December 2014. Its principal purpose is to promote and disseminate proposals for better global governance mainly through rational and equitable **transformation** (not merely reform) of the UN system. Its Honorary Director is Mark Ritchie, Minnesota's just past Secretary of State. All members of the Trust's Advisory Board -- Michael Andregg, Dick Bernard, Nancy Dunlavy, Gail Hughes, Ron Glossop and Louise Pardee -- are also members of CGS.

The Trust has been active on a number of fronts. Particularly exciting is our upcoming conference on "Creating a Workable World," to be hosted by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota on October 9-10. It will have a truly stellar international group of presenters coming from as far away as Germany and Trinidad. I can think of no other public conference in the past decade that has assembled a comparably exciting group of thinker-activists. The program will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have not yet registered, please do so.

Another exciting area of Trust activity is its sponsorship of translations of Joe's book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World* (Tokyo and New York: United Nations University Press, 2013) into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, with a view to making the work accessible worldwide via inexpensive e-editions. The Spanish text is expected to be finished by this October and all seven translations within the next two years.

Finally, we are pleased to note the establishment of two Workable World Trust Fellowships, to be awarded annually, at the University of Minnesota, one in the Humphrey School, the other for students in the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change in the College of Liberal Arts. The first Humphrey award should be announced this September; the CLA awards will commence a year hence.

The Trust has also made some small grants for projects compatible with its own goals. Perhaps you have a project that you feel would be appropriate. If so, please contact our Administrative Advisor, Nancy Dunlavy, at nancy2@dunlavy.net.

A CALL FOR GLOBAL STATESMANSHIP

by Gail Hughes, President

I've long wondered: Why is it that, when faced with technical problems, humans are a genius species – we can solve most anything we put our minds to; but when it comes to social problems, as a species, we seem to be hopeless!?

An idea came to me when I was thinking about the structure of the United Nations. Since a technological problem is physical and concrete, it's easy to focus on the problem. However, since social problems are intangible and invisible, we can lose sight of them. It isn't that humans are incapable of solving social problems; it's that we aren't actually focusing on them, but on other things. We don't 'put our minds to' social problems in the way we 'put our minds to' technological problems.

For example, although many would say that the mission of the UN is to solve global problems, when Ambassadors to the UN gather in the General Assembly, I suspect that most of them do not focus on given global problems, at least not as their first priority. That isn't even their job in the current UN structure! Rather, their assignment is to represent, and hopefully win advantages for, their home country. Most probably they also spend a good deal of time and effort advancing their own careers. They may not even *want* a solution to a global problem, if that solution would put their country at a comparative disadvantage with others. Solutions to climate change or nuclear weapons or – more obviously – war in the Middle East – involve winners and losers in political and social realms, even if all parties would benefit in various ways.

If my analysis is correct, in order to solve global problems, we need to find ways for people to actually focus on our very real, though amorphous, global problems, rather than on other things that distract and undermine effective solutions.

Fortunately, there are exceptional leaders who do focus squarely on the problems, and who give priority to the Greater Good. We call such people "statesmen," rather than mere politicians. Global statesmen are among the most admired people in the world: people such as the late Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Mary Robinson, Jimmy Carter, and others. A dozen of these global statespersons who are known as "The Elders" can serve as role models for others. We can heed the sage advice from these experienced, competent leaders who have a demonstrated commitment to serve humanity as a whole in an egalitarian manner, rather than to promote personal or partisan interests. So one strategy might be to give attention to The Elders, and encourage citizens and politicians alike to take their advice seriously.

Another strategy might be to encourage implementation of Joe Schwartzberg's proposals to reform the UN.* Structure is important in part because structures either encourage or discourage statesmanship. For example, in a World Parliamentary Assembly (WPA), delegates ultimately would be elected on the basis of population, across national boundaries. Eliminating the responsibility for delegates to represent their home country would make it easier for them to represent their home planet.

We also can foster the development of global statesmanship by creating a critical mass of global citizens around the world who publicize the advice of The Elders; who advocate for the selection of global statesmen as delegates; who encourage current delegates to act as global statespersons; and who promote structural changes that would reward, rather than discourage, global statesmanship. We can do these things as individuals, through social networks, and in our organizations such as CGS.

As hinted in the paragraph above, global statespersons can't thrive – and some may not even survive – without the support of global citizens around the world. Thus, developing our skills and widening our knowledge and perspectives as global citizens is another way of expanding the potential for global statespersons. Global citizenship will be the topic of my next column.

*You can learn about these proposals in Joe's book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*. Also, please see information elsewhere in this Newsletter about the October 9 and 10 conference on "Creating a Workable World".

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public

All programs 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

Plymouth Congregational Church (Jackman room, lower level), 1900 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis. Abundant free parking in lot on Franklin Avenue adjacent to Church, enter building from lot on LaSalle Ave side.

More detailed bios of all speakers can be seen at <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/>

Thursday, September 17: Main Divisions between Countries in the Global Debate about Climate Change.

Climate change is a complex issue. This presentation will show how newspapers in 18 countries "frame" climate change and mitigation in remarkably different ways and will discuss the implications of these differences for reaching international agreements. Using a power point, it will provide substantial detail on four polar cases and analyze them within a global field.

Presenter: Jeffrey Broadbent, Associate Professor of Sociology and Global Studies, University of Minnesota. Jeff received his Ph.D. at Harvard University and has subsequently done significant work in political and comparative sociology and in environmental sociology. He has done extensive field work in Japan. Among his six books is the award-winning *Environmental Politics in Japan: Networks of Power and Protest* (Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Upcoming:

Thursday, October 15: Ms. Mnar Muhawesh, editor of Mint Press News. Mnar conveys voices of Muslims and others, and will also tell us about a news source (Mint Press) for us to find such perspectives on an ongoing basis. Mnar is a Palestinian American who lived in Palestine for three years when she was a child. Her experiences, which were in contradiction to what she read in the U.S. news, inspired her to become a journalist.

Thursday, November 17: Dr. August Nimtz will give his views about recent developments in Cuba and the perspectives of Cubans regarding the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the U.S. Nimtz is a Professor of Political Science, African American Studies, and African Studies at the University of Minnesota. He is also a member of the U's Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

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 Von Gharath, Maryam Yusefzedah

Your financial support is needed: Suggested donations: \$10 students, \$30 individuals, \$40 couples. Write checks to "Global Solutions MN" and mail to Treas. Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St #414, Minneapolis 55403.

HAPPENINGS: Citizens for Global Solutions Minnesota

Our chapter is a very active one, both as a chapter and through activities of our Board members and others. Here are just a few of the activities.

1. Our Annual Meeting in June featured **Rosalyn Park**, Director of the Women's Human Rights Program at the Advocates for Human Rights (theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/) Ms. Park's excellent presentation about the international problem of domestic violence can be viewed at youtube.com/, enter **CGS-MN Annual Dinner** in the Search Box.
2. Former local President **Jim Nelson** is very active in the Climate Change issue, and is participating in many ways, including working with others internationally to positively impact the international debate.
3. Board member **Dr. Bharat Parekh** is seeing the fruit of many years engagement in work on one of the UNs Millennium Development Goals, Childhood Malnutrition. A major project has now taken root in his native India.
4. Our chapter was a co-sponsor of an August 24 discussion in Minneapolis of the recently negotiated Iran

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(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion. Thomas Paine.

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Nuclear issue. The entire two hour program can be viewed on YouTube, search “**The Iran Nuclear Deal: Pros and Cons, a Round Table Discussion**” This program should be first on the list of possible options, and is 1:54 minutes in length. Prime mover for the event was the United Nations Association of Minnesota.

5. On June 26-27, **Ehtasham Anwar**, from Pakistan, and a 2013-14 Fulbright/Humphrey Fellow through the Human Rights Center of the University of Minnesota Law School, came to Minneapolis as a guest of CGS-MN to give two presentations of his film of interviews with 10 Twin Cities peacemakers, and to discuss his own views of United States as perceived in other parts of the world. His film and opinion piece will at some point be on-line and readers of this newsletter will be advised when they are accessible.

6. At the upcoming Workable World Conference (elsewhere in this newsletter, and also part of the CGS-MN program), the new film about World Citizen #1, Garry Davis, will be shown. CGS-MN was one of the earliest and most active, including financially, supporters of this important new film. The trailer can be accessed at the Workable World Trust website at <http://www.workableworld.org/conference-schedule.html>. Scroll down to the 7:30 Friday evening entry for web address.

7. Since early 2013, CGS-MN has been on record regarding the unfortunate and unnecessary removal of the United Nations flag from the Hennepin County Plaza. The flag had flown there for 44 years, from 1968-2012, with bipartisan support. On August 12, 2015, the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (www.mapm.org) again went on record with the county to re-fly the flag. The file cabinet about this issue can be found at <http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/> (at the entry for March 27, 2013)

8. For a copy of the activities of CGS-MN for 2014-15, visit CGS MN website or send a note to President Gail Hughes or V.P. Dick Bernard (contact information on the return address panel of this newsletter.)

9. **Joe Schwartzberg** continues to write about U.N. System reform. His latest two essays can be found at <http://www.workableworld.org/>, click on Resources Tab.

10. **Dick Bernard** writes frequently on international issues at <http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/>. The 2015 comments are all linked at January 1, 2015.