



Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

Promoting global unity since 1947

January 2017

IT'S HERE!

CGS-MINNESOTA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

By Nancy Dunlavy, CGS-MN board secretary and website co-manager

With the start of a new year – auspiciously, the 70th anniversary of our chapter! – we are pleased to officially announce the launch of our new *Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota* website (globalsolutionsmn.org).

The website has been designed with a focus on aesthetics, simplifying our content, and increasing the visibility of our programs. We hope that the new design will provide our visitors an easier way to learn about and engage with *emerging global challenges* and perspectives on *possible solutions*.

New content highlights include:

- An “Introduction to Citizens for Global Solutions” video
- Photos and biographical sketches of current CGS-MN Board members
- All the details that you need about events being held during the first half of 2017 – monthly Third Thursday Global Issues Forums, a May 1st “World Law Day” celebration, and our June Annual Dinner (*see also page 3 of this newsletter*). Save these dates on your calendar!
- Links to video-recordings of recent Third Thursday Global Issues Forum and Annual Dinner speakers – currently available recordings include:
 - NOVEMBER 2016: Walid Issa: *Freeing the Dove (promoting Palestinian/Israeli peace)*
 - OCTOBER 2016: Tom Hanson: *Global Policy in an Election Year*
 - OCTOBER 2016: Tea Rozman-Clark and others: *Green Card Youth Voices*
 - OCTOBER 2015: Mnar Muhawesh: *War, Media, Propaganda: Muslims As “The Other”*
 - AUGUST 2015: *The Iran Nuclear Deal: Pros and Cons, A Round Table Discussion*
 - MARCH 2015: David Paxson: *Overpopulation is Solvable*
 - JUNE 2014: Dr. Bharat Parekh: *Ending Childhood Malnutrition*
- Blog posts with vital information needed for informed global citizenship. Current blog topics include:
 - *Top ten developments in international law in 2016*
 - *UN votes to outlaw nuclear weapons in 2017*
 - *UN's 2016 Year in Review: Challenges and milestones for the international community*
 - *How climate change transformed the Earth in 2016*
- Those who wish to contribute financially to our activities may soon do so online via PayPal. CGS-MN is an all-volunteer organization with no overhead costs; the web site clarifies how your contributions are valuably spent. (*CGS-MN is a 501(c)(3) educational (non-political), non-profit organization; donations are tax-deductible, as allowed by law.*)

We will be constantly updating our website content with blog posts, event announcements, links to informative websites, and information resources. Each of our future Forums and other events will be video-recorded and loaded onto our website shortly thereafter. Check back often. And if you're not already on our e-mail list for newsletters and event announcements, be sure to see the Home Page to “Subscribe.”

If you have any feedback, suggestions or questions, please send a message to website co-managers Nancy Dunlavy (nancy2@dunlavy.net) or Maryam Yusefzadeh (maryam@mymusicproduction.com).

ARE YOU READY TO GIVE UP? OR IS IT TIME TO STEP UP?

By Roxanne Abbas, CGS-MN Board member, and State Coordinator of Minnesota Peace Project

So, you'd like to see a more peaceful world. A world where military intervention is replaced by peaceful prevention of deadly conflict by diplomacy, cooperation and development aid. And you'd like global institutions to supplant the law of force with the rule of law.

Margaret Mead once said that we should never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. You can be one of those thoughtful, committed citizens, so it's time to take the next step.

There's a small group of committed citizens right here in Minnesota that is making a difference by influencing our 10 Congressional members to speak out, vote and work behind the scenes to help build a more peaceful world. Senator Klobuchar told the Minnesota Peace Project that she now opposes the use of cluster munitions because of the information we brought to her. Senator Franken led the effort to block sales of arms to Saudi Arabia at our request. Just two of many success stories.

We could accomplish much more with your assistance. Visit us at <http://minnesotapeaceproject.org/> to learn more and join with us.

WE NEED A DEPARTMENT OF PEACE.

Judi Poulson, CGS-MN member, Fairmont MN

Currently there is a bill, (HR 1111), sponsored by Rep. John Conyers of Michigan and co-sponsored by 39 other U.S. representatives to establish a Department of Peacebuilding. This would be a cabinet level position to consult with the President on ways to prevent and deal with violence funded at 2% of the Defense Budget. It would use research and develop sophisticated approaches to conflict resolution. There would be a counterpoint to West Point: a Peace Academy that would train armies of mediators. It would provide non-violent problem solving options for domestic and international conflict. It would look at the roots of violence.

Violence is learned behavior. It can be unlearned. Peace is a strategy, just like war. It takes a lot of hard work and skillful people who have been trained. Peace is patriotic. We need it now.

EDITOR: More about the Department of Peace idea, most recently advanced by then Rep. Dennis Kucinich and then-Senator Mark Dayton, can be found here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Peace.

U.N. UNDER THREAT!

...an important message from Jay Shahidi, President, United Nations Association, Harold E. Stassen Division in Minnesota. *"We are in a seriously critical moment in the history of the United Nations. The funding of its essential programs and, indeed, its existence is under imminent threat. We must unite and multiply our advocacy efforts to save this vital organization and its operations."* Read the entire letter, as well as an accompanying letter from UNA-USA Executive Director Chris Whatley, at <http://tinyurl.com/jkjssw>.

CGS-MN 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.

CGS-MN 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.

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUMS

Free and open to the public

6:45 – 8:45pm (*unless otherwise noted*)

Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, Longfellow Room,
511 Groveland Ave., Minneapolis 55403.

Abundant free parking in the lot adjacent to the Church. For more information, please phone Gail at (612) 237-9819, or go to our website at globalsolutionsmn.org.



**U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES:
*Why Isn't the U.S. Leading?***

Thursday, January 19

(Left) **Kristi Rudelius-Palmer**, Executive Director, Human Rights Resource Center & Human Rights Education Ambassador, Youthrive

(Right) **Amanda Lyons**, Executive Director, University of Minnesota, Human Rights Center

United Nations human rights treaties are important tools for building world-wide understanding and cooperation. They can be used to pressure governments to uphold the rights of all - including indigenous peoples, immigrants, women, children, the LGBT communities, individuals discriminated on the basis of their racial or religious identities, and persons with disabilities. What is the history of human rights treaty ratification by the U.S.? How has this changed over time, and why? Which of the treaties deemed most important for world-wide cooperation have yet to be ratified by the Senate? Who is opposing their ratification, and who is working for ratification? What actions can we take to advance human rights by advocating for ratification and implementation of these treaties?



Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Thursday, February 16

Kaela Berg

Director, MN Fair Trade Coalition

And Save these Dates!

- Thursday, March 16: Dr. Karen I. Shragg, “A Call to Solve Overpopulation”
- Thursday, April 20: Catherine Guisan, “Brexit”
- Monday, May 1, in honor of World Law Day (Gandhi Mahal, Minneapolis, late afternoon/early evening): Shawn Otto will speak about “The War on Science and the Rise of Authoritarianism.” Shawn’s website is <http://sciencedebate.org/>.
- Thursday, May 18: Speaker TBD, “Global Refugee Crisis”
- Thursday, June 15, Annual Dinner (Location/Time TBD): Nick Hayes, “U.S./Russia Relations”

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Every one of us can make a contribution. And quite often we are looking for the big things and forget that, wherever we are, we can make a contribution. Sometimes I tell myself, I may only be planting a tree here, but just imagine what's happening if there are billions of people out there doing something. Just imagine the power of what we can do."

-- Wangari Maathai, Kenyan Environmental & Political Activist, Winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize

ED. NOTE: I'm honored to be one of those who receive Dr. Schwartzberg's annual Holiday Greetings. The 2016 Greeting included one of his Doodles. Part of his explanation follows, presented with his permission. DB

"...for many years I was an avid doodler...[which] may have taken as little as a minute or two, or as many as six hours...to complete. As a general rule, I had no idea when I began as to where the doodle would take me; but the journey was often surreal and typically whimsical. [This doodle], however, is an exception. It depicts a cornucopia, known in mythology as a horn of plenty. But most depictions of cornucopias show them as overflowing with good things, whereas this one is empty. I had no such thoughts when I made it, probably in the 1970s, but the emptiness now strikes me as symbolically appropriate. I've already savored far more than enough of the gifts life has to offer. I cannot count my many blessings...There is nothing more that I would wish for, personally. Some of you are fortunate enough to say the same. But most of humankind cannot. Remember them in the difficult years ahead."

