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OUR VISION:

We envision a future in which countries work together to abolish war, protect our rights and freedoms, and solve the problems facing humanity that no country can solve alone. This vision requires effective democratic global institutions that will apply 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 in the United States to achieve our vision. We do this by educating Americans about our global interdependence, communicating global concerns to public officials, and developing proposals to create, reform and strengthen international institutions such as the United Nations.

**THE ROLE OF GLOBALSOLUTIONSMN.ORG
AS REFLECTED BY THIRD THURSDAY TOPICS**

Gail Hughes, President

Dear GlobalSolutionsMN.Org Friends,

In my introductory column published in September, I described the "identity crisis" of GlobalSolutions.Org that I perceive at the national level, and its impact on our state chapter. I invited readers to let me know what they see - or would like to see - as our purpose, priorities, and 'niche'. I received only one response from a reader not on our Board, advocating that we retain the focus of the organization when it was founded - to promote "world federalism". Board members focused on what I would call 'organizational goals' (e.g. increase participation by younger people; improve our internet communication through our website and a Facebook site; provide organizational support for those who share our values). Responses did not suggest much to resolve the question of organizational mission - of what we are trying to accomplish.

Thus, I decided to try a different approach - to review the topics that have been addressed by Third Thursday Forums in recent years. If we consider the themes that arise from those topics, we can get an idea of the interests and implicit priorities of the Board members who organize the Forums and of the attendees.

The following is, by no means, comprehensive. Rather, it is an overview of the kinds of topics I personally remember or have found mentioned in the Minutes I have at hand. The topics are categorized by themes that seemed to emerge. Please send additions and corrections. I will make note of needed revisions and of the feedback I receive in the column I write for the March Newsletter.

Global Problems: Several presentations related to climate change. Others have been on a historical overview of wars; international trade (the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership); international finance; global migration; global waste; global food and hunger.

Conflicts in Other Countries: We recruited speakers to analyze events in countries such as Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, and Egypt.

The United Nations and the 'World Federalist Movement': At this month's Forum ("Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World", January 16), Joe Schwartzberg will discuss, among other ideas from his recently published book, how to make the UN more representative and credible through weighted voting. A year ago, our Chapter organized a screening of a pilot documentary about Garry Davis, the first to proclaim himself a "World Citizen" and to create and use a "Planetary Passport." Other forums with global themes related to progress on the UN Millennium Goals; the perspectives of developing countries; and the new doctrine of the 'Responsibility to Protect'. The Board has voted to do what we can to promote Joe's book and the establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA); and, by the way, we have donated \$1,000 to campaign for the establishment of such a body.

U.S. Domestic Issues with Global Implications: A number of our forums examined issues arising in the U.S. that have global import: threats to American democracy, NSA spying, election fraud, censorship in U.S. news, and the U.S. use of military drones. All of these sessions gave specific attention to global context and implications.

Global Solutions: Forum speakers are encouraged to include a discussion of proposed solutions to problems raised, as reflected by the "Solutions" part of our name. At least half an hour is reserved to solicit comments and questions from the audience.

What Can we Learn from These Themes and Topics?

The foregoing overview tells us that our members have diverse interests, and that our forums have been quite balanced in addressing these interests. Recent concern that the GlobalSolutions.Org national office has been ignoring the purpose of the original organization, to promote 'world federalism', does not seem to be an issue for our Minnesota Chapter. It may be that the UN/WFM theme was more prominent in the early days of our Chapter - 'Old-timers', is that the case? - but in any case, it's a theme that seems well represented in our recent activities.

We may conclude that our participants are interested in World Federalism; but they're interested in other topics as well. Perhaps that's because the issues are interrelated, rather than at odds with one another. After all, why would we want a democratic UN or World Parliament? Wouldn't it be to achieve world peace and justice, to prevent war and address the sorts of global problems that are reflected by the other themes? If so, then it makes sense that those interested in World Federalism would also be interested in the global problems it would be designed to solve. Looking at the matter in reverse, those concerned about global problems and issues are also likely to be concerned about how these problems can be solved - thus the attention to "global solutions". World Federalist ideas are proposed to facilitate more democratic decision-making to solve global problems.

I should note that my analysis does not incorporate input by those who have not been attending our forums. Another project would be needed to accomplish that!

Do you think we have the right 'mix' of topics? Would you like to see more attention to some themes, or less to others? Please send me your ideas, additions, corrections, and other feedback! My email address is: hughe038@umn.edu; and my phone number is: (612) 379-7419.

ED RAWSON, February 1914 – December 2013: IN MEMORIAM

Editor's Note: The following is condensed from a beautiful eulogy written by Ed's good friend, Ira Straus.

Born to a family that goes back to the Mayflower, Edward Rawson made his entry into the world in the fateful year of 1914 -- together with the first of the series of global wars and conflicts that were to rock the world for the better part of the next century, until 1989. He bore a propitious ancestry for this difficult era: an earlier Edward Rawson, 1615-1693, had been Colonial Secretary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The political experience of his youth was a tormenting one -- world war, failed peace, trade wars, currency wars, great depression, rising totalitarianisms of Left and Right, a helpless slide toward a new world war... The experience of the generation was summed up for him, and for many others, in a book, *Union Now*, by the New York Times correspondent at the League of Nations. It proposed a federation of the world's leading democracies as a solution both to these urgent specific problems and to the general problem of how to form a nucleus for a governed world, one that would naturally tend to evolve into a full-fledged, yet free and democratic, world government. He read the book when it came out in 1939, and immediately joined the movement it inspired -- the Inter-Democracy Federalist Unionists (a name simplified in 1940 to Federal Union, in 1984 changed to Association to Unite the Democracies, AUD). It was the beginning of the central public commitment of his life

In 1947 Ed made the hard trek, through rough weather and roads to the Asheville, NC conference where UWF, the United World Federalists, was founded (a name later simplified to WFA, World Federalist Association, changed in 2003 to CGS, Citizens for Global Solutions). So did other Federal Union members of the same generation, among them Neal Potter, an active Democrat, Ed a solid Republican. Ed sometimes complained that Neal was too much a partisan Democrat, nod probably had a point there, but neither of them was doctrinaire ideologically, so they could get on well apart from party matters.

Neal and Ed were the two cornerstones of the arch of world federalism in the nation's capital. Neal passed away at age 93 in 2008. Now Ed. Others giants from the arch have also passed: Cleo Michelsen. John Holden, Bob Heppe. We are left with a remnant, we like to think a saving remnant, in this area.

World federalism was central to Ed's identity. So central that he put it into the one name he truly chose for himself -- his email address: WorldFedEd (he later changed it to WorldGovernance, avoiding any conflict with WFA's name change. to 1997. He remained [politically] active to the end on December 30, 2013, 74 years later. *(Continued on p.4)*

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public.

Note: Our January 16 forum, as indicated below, will not be at our usual venue in Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. But we shall return to HAUMC for our program on February 20.

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When: January 16, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Where: Social Hall, Saint Joan of Arc Church, 4537 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis

**TRANSFORMING THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM:
DESIGNS FOR A WORKABLE WORLD**

Joseph E. Schwartzberg
Distinguished International Emeritus Professor, University of Minnesota

Although there is wide agreement that the United Nations system in its present form is incapable of dealing adequately with a wide array of current problems – climate change, failed states, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, the North-South economic gap, etc. – there is remarkable paucity of detailed and practical plans for rectifying the system’s deficiencies. Here, at last, is a highly acclaimed blueprint for doing so. Based on decades of research and thinking, Professor Schwartzberg’s recommendations have been endorsed by many eminent diplomats and scholars .A small sampling of opinion follows:

“This contribution of Professor Schwartzberg will be an essential reference work for all those who are concerned with the future of a new United Nations.” **Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 6th Secretary-General of the United Nations**

"Joseph Schwartzberg's important book aims at guiding the United Nations system into more productive and more workable patterns. His clear exposition and creative thinking will greatly stimulate and encourage those who tackle these formidable tasks." **Sir Brian Urquhart, former Undersecretary -General, United Nations.**

“It is a joy and a privilege to read a manuscript by Joseph Schwartzberg, replete with common sense approaches and pragmatic solutions. Anyone who reads him understands how obstacles can be overcome – one by one. United Nations reform is inescapable – not utopian. Indeed, world peace requires reform of global institutions and strengthening of the rule of law, nationally and internationally.” **Alfred M. de Zayas, U.N. Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order**

This volume lucidly and intelligently presents a sweeping series of new, innovative ideas designed to reform the United Nations’ structure and performance. From weighted voting to the constructive use of regional representation, from new institutions to more effective use of existing ones, readers will find a rich mother lode to change and challenge current thinking. This book is a rare compendium of forward looking ideas to structure closer world cooperation. **Thomas Pickering, former US Ambassador to the UN; former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs**

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When: February 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Where: Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Ave., Minneapolis

CONDITIONS AND CAUSES OF GENOCIDE

Existing literature on the causes of genocide examines the violence as a single event. However, this approach does not lead to an understanding of what drives the violence. To understand how genocides unfold at micro levels, Hollie has analyzed community-level variation in genocidal killing during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, where over a million people were killed in several months. Her research is based on extensive fieldwork, supplemented by theories from criminology, the study of political and ethnic violence. This is part of a broader dissertation project that examines regional and temporal variation in genocidal violence in Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Sudan. A hoped-for outcome of her research is the development of early-warning systems that would help nip genocide in the bud. *(Continued on p. 4)*

Speaker: Hollie Nyseth Brehm is a Sociology Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Minnesota. She studies genocide, international crime, human rights, and representations of atrocities. She has conducted fieldwork in Rwanda and Bosnia, and she is currently working with the Rwandan Government to analyze the outcomes of the *gacaca* trials in local-level courts that were created in response to the genocide. She is chairperson of the board of directors of Heritage Academy of Science and Technology, a quantitative mentor for the Center for Victims of Torture, and a board member of GlobalSolutionsMN.org.

(Continued from p. 2; editor's note: We here skip a paragraph about Ed's government career, most of which was related to working in the field of foreign aid, in Yugoslavia, Korea, the Philippines, as well as in Washington.)

Ed's final initiative, to which he devoted considerable effort in his last several years, ... was for a UN civil intervention and civil administration force, to come in and run countries that have become unable to maintain the basics of governmental control over violence and corruption. It sounds grandiose, but a very similar plan is to be found within the new book of Prof. Joe Schwartzberg, in a form that does not sound impractical after all. Ed thought big on it, to be sure, as a plan for achieving something close to a governed world.

Ed leaves a positive legacy strewn around the world ... [and here at home. He leaves to us, us rather too few people, the joys and burdens of being the heirs of his aspirations. He counted on us to sustain and carry forward his most cherished dream: a world that is governed, and that is free and democratic, and peaceful and prosperous.

Ed was always straightforward. Always trying out things, without using the elaboration and argumentation for them as something to hide behind. Committing for making a try not for making a dogma, ready to change plans when the results came in. A realist yet an optimist, always cheerful, always encouraging people to try. It was part of his investment style, too, realistically evaluating stocks, and then enjoying to take his risks, scaled to be sure within a portfolio that could afford them, when he saw a decent chance of good profits. I feel he would want us to be saying, with good cheer even on this occasion, that we are ready to continue, and will keep trying for as long as it takes.

It always seems impossible until it is done. **Nelson Mandela**
problems from all angles. **Nelson Mandela**

I like friends who have independent minds because they tend to make you see

GlobalSolutionsmn.org

(Formerly the World Federalist Association)

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If you can't make it to Joe's talk, but would like to order a copy of his book, you may do so on-line from either Amazon or Barnes & Noble; or you may contact the Brookings Institution Press, c/o HFS, PO Box 50370, Baltimore, MD 21211-4370; phone 1-800-537-5487 or 410-516-6998; E-mail: hfcustserv@press.jhu.edu. **J.E.S.**

I hope my presidency will address what has become a universal clamor... for the democratization of the United Nations. **Fr. Miguel Brockmann, ,
President of UN General Assembly, 2008-09.**