

www.globalsolutionsmn.org

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.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT AND REFLECTIONS ON OUR MISSION

Gail Hughes

Dear GlobalSolutionsMN.Org Friends,

Greetings, and a warm welcome to the 2013-2014 year! I am honored to serve as your new President, and eager to see you during this year's activities. I am assuming this position at a time of change and reflection by both the national organization and our Minnesota Chapter as to our mission and the direction we should take to maintain our strength and relevance for a new generation.

Organizational 'Identity Crisis'

Changes implemented by our national office since 2004, of *name* (first, from "WFA" to "Citizens for Global Solutions"; then last year, from "Citizens for Global Solutions" to "GlobalSolutions.Org"); *focus* (from World Federalism to Global Issues), and *policies* (from a national organization with dues-paying members and affiliated state and local chapters, to a national organization which does not require dues, but invites people to contribute online to promote particular agendas) have generated heated debate and discussion at both the national and chapter levels. We are in what one might call an 'organizational identity crisis.'

Is World Federalism still our long-term goal? If so, what does that mean: A more democratic United Nations? A World Parliament? Do we need to combine with other global organizations to be effective in helping to resolve international conflicts and in addressing other global problems? Is World Federalism still a relevant issue for most of our current members? Does it resonate with potential members?

Alternatively, does the concept of 'world federalism' bore or scare away members, as surmised by our national leadership? Should we (the MN Chapter) follow the national GlobalSolutions.Org organization to focus on various global issues, without a broader mission? If so, how will we differentiate ourselves from the many other 'global problems' organizations?

Resolving the 'Identity Crisis'

I offer my own thoughts below in hopes that they will stimulate discussion. Our present **name** ("GlobalSolutions.Org") provides a useful starting point.

1) "Global": Our role is to focus on global (international) topics problems, or issues. This does not exclude attention to local and national issues, if they are analyzed in a global context.

2) "Solutions": What might help to differentiate us from other 'similar-minded' organizations is the attention we give to exploring potential 'solutions' to global problems and to resolving global issues.

3) ".Org": This is the part with which most old-timers (the largest part of our attendees) feel the least comfortable. We know, however, that we must use new technology to change and improve our

communication with those who may wish to join us. The national office is attempting to ‘modernize’ the organization in an effort to attract larger numbers and more diverse members – especially young people.

What do you think? Are these things what you think we should promote? Is anything missing?

Values: I would argue that there IS something missing – and that is that some underlying values and assumptions are not identified as such. Our earlier name, “Citizens for Global Solutions” may have better conveyed our values for global identity, global citizenship, and global community.

Goals: Also, no specific, concrete goal or goals are identified, such as achieving a democratic United Nations or establishing a World Parliament. As with values, our present name does not exclude such goals. However, it does not give them priority, as did our original name, the “World Federalist Association.”

Niche: An additional consideration is that of our ‘niche’. Our focus on global issues and our general values for peace and justice are shared by many other organizations. To help us choose among topics for our Third Thursday Forums, we – I think appropriately – have given priority to those that don’t receive sufficient attention from our ‘sister’ organizations.

Please send me your thoughts! My email address is hughe038@umn.edu.

I look forward to discussing these issues with you in the coming year, by email, and in our Third Thursday Forums and other activities.

ACCOLADES FOR *TRANSFORMING THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM*

Joe Schwartzberg

This November the United Nations University Press is scheduled to publish my book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*. As is customary with many publishers, the UNU Press requested me to solicit endorsements for my work. The results far exceeded my wildest hopes and the press informed me that it has never had “a book with so much praise and backing from such a prestigious group of endorsers.” I provide below a selection of endorsements that I deem especially noteworthy. **(To order the book, see the note on page 4.)**

“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, former Secretary-General, 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

“This volume lucidly and intelligently presents a sweeping series of new, innovative ideas designed to reform the United Nation’s 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 R Pickering, former US Ambassador to the UN and former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs

“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, World peace requires reform of global institutions and strengthening the rule of law, nationally and internationally.”

Alfred de Zayas, Professor of International Law, University of Geneva and UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order

“No one has thought longer or harder than Joe Schwartzberg about the challenges of designing a fairer and better world order. This book is an essential contribution to a long overdue conversation not only about UN reform, but, more broadly about what passes for our current system (or rather non-system) of global governance.”

Thomas G. Weiss, Director, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, CCNY

“From the preface to the appendices, Joe Schwartzberg has produced one of the most extraordinary books ever written on transforming the United Nations system. The vision, the proposals and breadth of the work are astounding. The maps, graphs and statistics alone are tremendous. And at issue is the survival of civilization.”

William Pace, Executive Director, World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy

“The United Nations is the central but suboptimal piece of humanity’s response to our increasing inter-dependence. Most proposals regarding the reform of the United Nations system are overly concerned with what is feasible, at the expense of what is ideal. Professor Schwartzberg’s formidable work corrects that systemic bias, and shuttles between the feasible and the ideal, with elegance and rigor.”

Hakan Altımay, Non-resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution; Global Ethics Fellow, Carnegie Council; President, Global Civics Academy

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public.

**Where? Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church,
511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis (at Lyndale & Hennepin). Park in church lot.**

Thursday, September 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

A COMPARATIVE REVIEW OF GLOBAL CONFLICTS IN LATE 2013

Dr. Andregg will review current conflicts and compare them with those of the last few decades. While there is still plenty to worry about (Syria, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Israel/Palestine, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Mali, Colombia, drug wars in Mexico, and ubiquitous “terrorists”) the frequency of war has been declining slowly over the last 25 years. The number of war fatalities peaked in 1994. We will try to understand why these trends are occurring without neglecting conflicts currently underway.

Speaker: Michael Andregg. Dr. Andregg received his Ph.D. in genetics from the University of California, Davis in 1977, but then quickly focused on the causes of war. His book on that topic won a National Peacewriting award in 1999. He has taught at the University of Minnesota since 1981 and in Justice and Peace Studies at the University of St. Thomas since 1993. He also studies spies and has done war forecasting (an inexact art) for the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity.

Thursday, October 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

NEW TRADE TREATIES: BOONS OR BOONDOGGLES?

The Obama administration is on an accelerated path to complete two major trade agreements - one with countries of Asia and the Americas (**Trans-Pacific Partnership**), another with Europe (**Trans-Atlantic Partnership**). At stake with both agreements are important standards and regulations for our food system, worker safety, the environment and our financial system. The new, corporate-friendly regimes, negotiated primarily in secret, would set new benchmarks for all countries involved. Join us to hear more about what is at stake and how you can get involved.

Speaker: Ben Lilliston. Ben Lilliston oversees the programmatic work of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, covering trade, agriculture and food systems. He has written extensively on trade issues for more than a decade, working as a researcher, writer and editor at the Center for the Study of Responsive Law, the Corporate Crime Reporter and Sustain. Most recently, he has been a frequent contributor to Mandate for Change (Lexington) and was a co-author of a book on genetically engineered foods. See more at the IATP website.

GARRY DAVIS, WORLD CITIZEN, AND THE MINNESOTA CONNECTION

World Citizen Garry Davis passed away in Burlington VT, July 24, 2013, just short of his 92nd birthday. The City edition of the New York Times carried a long front-page article about him on July 28, 2013 and many other journals in the United States and abroad gave similar attention. It was quite a *bon voyage* for the controversial WWII

bomber pilot who took the cause of world peace very seriously.

Davis renounced his U.S. citizenship in 1948. Declaring himself a “citizen of the world,” he very soon became a world celebrity, winning support from many of the luminaries of the post-war period. A U.S. bomber pilot in World War II, he somehow couldn't square bombing innocent civilians just like him with any rational notion of justice or peace.

Through Davis' initiative, a movement to "mundialize" cities took root. On March 5, 1968, Minneapolis and Hennepin County became the first U. S. Cities to declare their inhabitants World Citizens. The process was led by Minneapolis World Federalists Stanley Platt and Lynn Elling and then Mayor Arthur Naftalin. Three years later, the State of Minnesota adopted a similar bi-partisan Declaration. In a ceremony on May 1, 1968, “World Law Day,” the U. N. flag, along with the American flag, was raised outside Minneapolis City Hall. Keynote speaker, former Governor, Elmer L. Andersen, was very proud to recognize the role of the United Nations and the Rule of Law. The UN flag flew in Minneapolis for 44 years, coming down quietly - almost without notice - on March 27, 2012.

Garry Davis believed that the United Nations was not up to the task of building peace and thus worked outside the UN structure. His passion for world peace never faded, and those of us who witness for peace through a United Nations system are fortunate to have had him as a strong advocate for peace among peoples and nations.

The Minnesota chapter hosted a viewing of a film in progress about Garry Davis in January 2013.

NOTE: Much more information about Garry Davis and the film cited above can be found at <http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/>, postings for August 12 and January 7 and August 12, 2013. On the same blog, on March 5 and 27, are postings about the UN flag at Hennepin County Plaza.

Dick Bernard, Chapter Vice-President

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(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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If you would like to order a copy of Joe Schwartzberg's book at a 25% discount (down from \$40 to \$30), contact him prior to October 12 at schwa004@umn.edu.

It is not because it is difficult that we are afraid to act; it is because we are afraid to act that it is difficult. **Seneca**