



September 2017

Visit our website: globalsolutionsmn.org

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.

CGS-MN PARTICIPATES IN THE DEMOCRACY CONVENTION, AUGUST 2-6, MINNEAPOLIS



Pictured: at left Nancy Dunlavy, CGS-MN president, with Dr. Gail Hughes, past president

The 3rd “Democracy Convention” was held August 2-6, 2017 at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis West Bank campus. Convention details are available at: <https://www.democracyconvention.org/>. CGS-MN board member Joe Schwartzberg’s The Workable World Trust was a Major Sponsor of the event, and shared their information table with CGS-MN. Copies of Joe’s book (*Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*) and its *Study and Discussion Guide* were available for purchase; other handouts included information about CGS-MN’s Third Thursday Global Issues Forum program. We also provided information about the UN Parliamentary Assembly Campaign Appeal (<http://en.unpacampaign.org/about/declarations/unpa-appeal/en/>). The tabling provided an opportunity for many meaningful conversations with conference attendees (about 500 in attendance). Joe, Nancy Dunlavy (CGS-MN board president) and Ron Glossop (CGS of Greater St. Louis) conducted, twice, a 75-minute conference session titled “Transforming the United Nations.”

REAFFIRMING OUR ROOTS, FORTIFYING OUR FUTURE

By Nancy Dunlavy, CGS-MN president

Welcome to another year of monthly in-depth discussions on topics of global importance, as **Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota** begins another year of hosting **Third Thursday Global Issues Forums**. While Forums will continue to cover a diverse array of subjects, each will include perspectives on what is needed to “*create and maintain effective democratic global institutions.*” (*CGS-MN Vision Statement*). As Joe Schwartzberg states so eloquently in his book **Transforming the United Nations System** (p.2), “*The design of decision-making institutions has an important bearing on the quality and legitimacy of the decisions they make.*”

CGS-MN is also committed to **expanding our impact** and **creating a foundation for future growth** through:

- **Youth Involvement:** Whether as speakers, event planners, audience members, or project participants, we hope to connect with younger generations of activists. We will highlight their work, listen to their concerns, and develop programs and projects that resonate for them.
- **Actions & Projects:** We want to focus on the “solutions” part of our name – suggesting possible actions and initiating projects related to our Forum themes.
- **Sustainable Development Goals:** In September 2015, countries adopted this set of 17 UN global goals toward 2030 to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. We will clarify how the topic of each Forum relates to these SDGs..

Please consider supporting our efforts by joining CGS-MN. Membership information is available on page 4 of this newsletter.

CGS-MN leadership: Nancy Dunlavy, President, Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, Vice President, Dick Bernard, Secretary, Dennis Dillon, Treasurer; Roxanne Abbas, Beth Blick, N. John Borgen, Dr. Gail Hughes, Jim Nelson, Dr. Bharat Parekh, Dr. Joseph Schwartzberg.

TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT YOUR WEBSITE!

<http://globalsolutionsmn.org/>

There is much new to see at our web address. Just for a single example, click on the tab “Past Talks”, all of which are videos of past programs of CGS-MN. During 2017-18, we will continue to videotape “Third Thursdays” and bring them to you on the website. There’s more to see...click on the other tabs, and look around. There will be more as time goes on.

CGS-MN PARTNERS WITH THE “WAMM CAMPAIGN TO BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS”

On July 7, 2017, 122 nations adopted a landmark agreement to ban nuclear weapons, known officially as the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** (<https://www.un.org/disarmament/ptnw/>). This was the first multilateral legally-binding instrument for nuclear disarmament to have been negotiated in 20 years. The US chose to boycott the treaty negotiations, and worked to persuade approximately 40 countries, including our neighbor Canada and most of the NATO states, to join the boycott.

In the Fall of 2016, Minnesota-based Women Against Military Madness (WAMM) began their **WAMM Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons**. Campaign coordinator Marie Braun states, “*As citizens of the only country that has used nuclear weapons, and the country that spends more on its nuclear arsenals than all other countries combined, we have a special responsibility to speak to ensure that these weapons are never again used by our government.*” CGS-MN is now partnering with WAMM, the Minnesota Peace Project, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Vets for Peace and other local organizations in this effort. More information coming soon to our website <http://globalsolutionsmn.org/>.

Citizens for Global Solutions – Minnesota (CGS-MN)
<http://globalsolutionsmn.org/>
2016-17 Report at Annual Meeting, June 15, 2017
(as revised by Dick Bernard for the September newsletter)

FIRST, we acknowledge the passing of two giants in the past year: Elsie Evans, 95, died May 25 (Memorial Service was held June 15). Elsie was one of the most dedicated members of the Minnesota chapter of the World Federalist Association. She served for several years as the secretary, hosted many meetings at her home, and frequently helped put out our chapter's newsletter. The last few years of her life were spent at a nursing home in North Oaks. **Don Irish** died April 14, at 97. Don was a long-time member, and came often to WFA-sponsored events.

In our archives is a sloppily typed onion skin draft copy written by some unknown person and labelled “*Minnesota UWF 1946-68*”. It is obviously a very rough draft of the history of our predecessor organization, the United World Federalists. According to the onion skin UWF was founded in Asheville NC on Feb. 22, 1947. “*The Minnesota group became part of the United World Federalists having received charter for Branch organization on October 5, 1947. Nov. 1, and 2/47 in St. Louis was the location of the FIRST NAT’L ASSEMBLY...First Minn Assembly was 11/11/47....*” (Ironically, 70 years later, the National CGS Assembly is scheduled for Oct. 20-22 in St. Louis MO!)

2016-17 was a time of transition for CGS-MN.

Dr. Joseph Schwartzberg’s book *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*, was published in 2013, and has been translated into seven world languages. Joe and Nancy Dunlavy have also prepared a Study and Discussion Guide to accompany the book and it, too, is being translated into seven languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. This important, comprehensive and very readable work is receiving increasing diplomatic recognition. **SPECIAL OFFER!** If you contribute \$100 or more to CGS-MN you will receive a personally inscribed complimentary copy of Joe Schwartzberg’s book *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World* (list price \$40).

In the year just passed, CGS-MN tradition of hosting Third Thursday Global Issues Forums continued with eight Third Thursdays, the 2016 Annual Meeting and two special programs. Last October we co-sponsored an event with the United Nations Association of Minnesota. Since January, 2000, CGS-MN has held over 150 programs, featuring over 200 speakers on a diverse assortment of global issues. Of these, 127 (169 speakers) have been Third Thursdays.

A major initiative of CGS-MN this year was to be primary sponsor of the World Premier of the new film, “The World Is My Country”, the inspiring story of anti-war activist and World Citizen #1 Garry Davis. More information on the film, including details on the opportunity to offer financial support as it approaches release is at <https://www.theworldismycountry.com/>.

In 2016-17, five newsletters were published and sent to our U.S. mail list of over 350 and e-list of approximately 80 people. The newsletters can also be found on-line.

President Gail Hughes was actively engaged with helping restructure the national CGS organization, which is going through trying times. (Its website is <http://globalsolutions.org/>)

2016-17 was a time of major change as well.

We are very much aware of a need to bridge a generation gap between younger and older citizens. Today’s youth will have to live in the future. There is a need for a changing of the guard, and young people communicate and organize in very different ways than the elders who, in 1947, founded United World Federalism, literally in the ashes of WWII.

Today is a time of peace, albeit very uneasy peace, and we feel a need to let the youth take charge of their own destiny, and for elders to help as we can.

In 2016-17, we worked to facilitate this change. CGS-MN invested in a complete redesign and rebuild of our website <http://globalsolutionsmn.org/> to make it of more interest to the young. The website is still a work in progress. We solicit ideas and suggestions. We purchased quality equipment to video record all of our programs.

Among the major changes a visitor will now find on-line are videos of fourteen programs at Third Thursday and other sponsored events (web tab "Past Talks"). These talks can now be viewed World Wide, "24-7". It remains very important that persons commit to attending these sessions in person, but at the same time, those who cannot, can now watch the programs on-line.

Summation of a remarkable year: We are "on the court" and in action.

We do need the help of you, the reader, to keep this remarkable movement vibrant and alive.

A little history: In the earliest years after WWII, in the United States, there were about 85,000 UWF members. In 1965, there were over 18,000 members, of which over 700 were in Minnesota.

Today society is changing. We tackled the issue of whether or not to even have "members" (a term apparently not resonant with youth). Technological changes give amazing potential, but can be their own impediment to communication within and between us.

CGS-MN continues as a membership organization. We are convinced that there remains a great hunger for world stability and peace through world law and a transformed United Nations at least equal to that experienced by the founders of our organization years ago. You can help make others aware of us simply through sharing this newsletter (which is also available on-line at <http://globalsolutionsmn.org/newsletters/>).

The global issues are, if anything, far greater and more dangerous than in 1947. Climate change and its varied implications; environmental degradation; overpopulation; the economic gap between the global North and the global South; weapons of mass destruction; and other examples are all around us.

We urge you to become involved in CGS in whatever ways you can, including sharing this letter with others.

To continue (and expand) our good work, your financial donations are needed. We are a 501(c)3 organization and accept tax-deductible contributions.

Young people are encouraged to get engaged with us as well.

We're proud of what we've accomplished, and will continue to accomplish, for a better world.

Join **CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, MINNESOTA**

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: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Our newsletter is available on-line at our website or via 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**

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUMS

Free and open to the public; no reservations necessary

For more information, contact Nancy (651-785-4243), or go to globalsolutionsmn.org.

A program honoring International Day of Peace



THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT: Advancing the Global Rule of Law

**Thursday, September 21, 6:45 – 8:45pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Ave. S., Mpls., 55403
(parking info available soon on our website)**

**Sarah L.S. Erickson, J.D. & Amanda McAllister, J.D.
Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellows in Human Rights & Law,
World Without Genocide**

In 2002, the International Criminal Court (ICC) began operating in The Hague, Netherlands, with the mandate to prosecute genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression perpetrated by individuals anywhere. This is the world's first permanent court with this mandate. The US had a prominent role in the creation of the ICC, but has not signed the Rome Statute, the document that provides for the creation of the ICC.

This program is sponsored by CGS-MN, and co-sponsored by Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, United Nations Association, MN, and World Without Genocide at Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

A program honoring United Nations Day



HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

**Thursday, October 19, 6:45 – 8:45pm
Plymouth Congregational Church
(Jackman room, lower level)**

1900 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis 55403

Abundant free parking in lot on Franklin Ave. adjacent to Church; enter building from lot on LaSalle Ave side.

**Jennifer Prestholdt, Deputy Director, & Mark Petty
The Advocates for Human Rights**

In March 2017, The Advocates for Human Rights led a delegation to conduct human rights advocacy before the United Nations. The speakers will discuss their experiences traveling to Geneva to advocate before the Human Rights Council, and will describe how they used UN human rights mechanisms to enforce international legal standards related to women's rights, the death penalty, torture, racial discrimination, and the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as the impact of their work on domestic foreign laws and practices.

This program is sponsored by CGS-MN, and co-sponsored by Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, United Nations Association, MN, and The Advocates for Human Rights.

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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Issues from 2013 forward are archived at

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

*"Labour to keep alive in your breast
that little spark of celestial fire called conscience"*

Rule of Civility Nr. 110 as transcribed by young George Washington <http://www.history.org/almanack/life/manners/rules2.cfm>

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE:

Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Augsburg College September 15-16, 2017. There is still time to register. Visit the website at <http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org/>. A video archive of the talks at the 2016 Forum are available at this site. Each conference is guaranteed to stimulate thought and discussion. Plan to attend.

Former Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Dr. Maureen Reed, is teaching a four-session course at the University of Minnesota, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Oct 3, 24, Nov. 14 and Dec 5, 2017. Her series is entitled **"Of Courage and Controversy: Women and the Nobel Peace Prize"**. Dr. Reed has a very distinguished record. More detailed information about the class at <https://learning.umn.edu/>, click on "courses" tab, and enter in the search box the title of the session.

The St. Louis Chapter of Citizens for Global Solutions is hosting the National CGS conference in St. Louis, October 20-22, 2017. All information on this conference is available at <https://cgsstlouis.wordpress.com/>, scroll down to update on the October Conference. Several members of CGS-MN will be attending this conference.