



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

January 2018

Visit our website: <http://www.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.



COP23 FIJI
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
BONN 2017

Climate Change Challenge: Let our Young People Lead the Way!

A special report by Jim Nelson

The logo captures the climate change vulnerabilities that affect Small Island developing states such as sea-level rise and increasing storm intensity. It applies as well to coastal areas around the world.

**“I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be”**

** From “Greatest Love of All”: **Whitney Houston** with lyrics of **Andy Abraham**

With only modest fanfare the nations of the world gathered in Bonn Germany for an annual update on global efforts to address the disruptive effects of climate change. The meetings are structured on several levels and include governmental leaders and representatives from various areas of civil society: business, education, conservation etc. Twenty students from the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University attended to observe and learn. I am following the adventures of these students, who are deepening their knowledge in Bonn and sharing their insights. The students are pursuing a variety of majors: environmental studies, public health, and political science. The diversity is appropriate since climate change is a multi-dimensional issue that impacts people in highly varied ways.

There can be few things in the world as profound as young people transforming to **self-reliant**, productive adults. Their seminal activities are likely to be important to understanding and dealing with the puzzle called **“climate change.”**



Pacific sea turtles are magnets for tourists. They help maintain sea grass beds, coral reefs and balance marine food webs. They are an indicator of environmental health.



“The most surprising thing I learned at COP23 would be the resilience the Island Nations showed. The conference brought to attention the demanding realities that these island nations must face. However, many of the representatives from these islands stood together in solidarity. I loved the message that the Pacific Island women promoted: “we are not drowning – we are fighting.” I think we should all adopt this message.

- Kristin J. Nelson

Kristin J. Nelson, College of St. Benedict Senior, is pictured above with Fiji presiding officer of the COP23 Climate Summit, Frank Bainimarama. He is a “climate champion” who is especially interested in identifying the most vulnerable to adverse climate changes but also building greater climate resilience everywhere. He exuded traditional Fijian Bula Spirit of inclusiveness, dialogue that precludes blaming others. He was fond of sharing stories of empathy with focus on the benefits of thoughtful action.

The official position of our US government is the exact opposite of Fiji. President Trump has expressed a desire to exit the Paris Climate Accord. As a country we are today very isolated. We are in fact the only country refusing to commit to “Nationally Defined Contribution” for emission reduction as well as other provisions of the Paris Accord. However many U.S. leaders and groups within our country are definitely working to fulfill commitments that were agreed in the Paris Accord. See: <https://www.wearestillin.com/us-action>.

Kristin Nelson is studying Sociology and Spanish at the College of St. Benedict. Like her classmates she brings an inquisitive mind, able to critically examine evidence and above all has a willingness to listen. Growing up in Minnesota she has many life experiences from family, neighbors and friends. She has travelled internationally on vacations visiting family in Scandinavia and the Netherlands. In addition, a mission trip visiting the poor in Calcutta, a study abroad semester in Chile and volunteer experience visiting isolated senior citizens in Minneapolis have helped develop her qualities of empathy. Hours of part time employment made this trip financially possible and especially meaningful.

Kristin’s research project focuses on challenges to food security and health due the major impacts of climate change in the Pacific Island Region. The various topics she is studying include: traditional crops, changing dietary habits and health patterns, impact on fisheries, decrease of pollinators and many more. Conserving wildlife and native vegetation can be important for areas that rely on tourism. Kristin Nelson’s report will outline some suggested climate coping strategies and long-term adaptations.

The industrious students are quite realistic in expectations. The completion of their research projects is merely “the end of the beginning”. Much more hard work is needed in the future. We can all be happy they are **leading the way!**

CGS-MN CO-SPONSORS UNA-MN EVENT ON MINNESOTA’S ROLE WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Association, Harold E. Stassen Division in Minnesota held its Annual Meeting and Program on Saturday, November 4. Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota co-sponsored this event, providing significant support by both promoting and staffing the event. **Joseph Underhill, Ph.D.**, Augsburg University’s Environmental Studies Director and the Nobel Peace Prize Forum Director, presented an excellent talk on **“Connecting the local and global: Minnesota’s role with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”** The video recording of this talk will soon be available online at <http://www.unamn.org/> (and linked to our CGS-MN website “Past Talks” page). Several pioneers of the UNA-MN Chapter were awarded the Harold E. Stassen Award, including our own Joseph E. Schwartzberg. Moving stories from each of these lions for peace and justice added further inspiration to the event.

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.

Plymouth Congregational Church, Jackman Room, 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.

All Forums are co-sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers and United Nations Association, Minnesota Chapter



Next Steps on Deep Climate Action: How Can Minnesota Lead?

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 – 8:45pm

J. Drake Hamilton
Science Policy Director, Fresh Energy

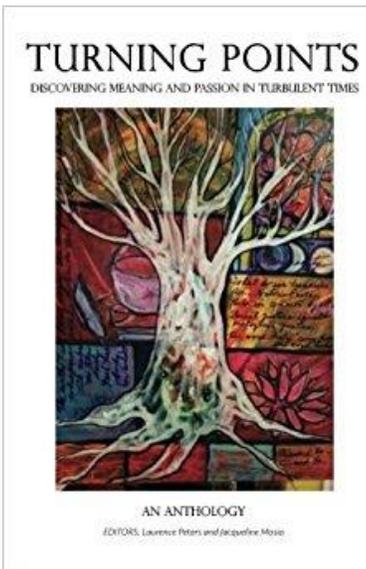
J. Drake Hamilton is the science policy director at Fresh Energy, Minnesota's 25-year-old nonprofit focused on climate and energy policy. A geographer and climatologist by training, J. is an expert in climate policy, and will be participating in the November 2017 UN Conference of Parties meetings on climate action in Bonn. She'll report back on what was achieved at COP23, next steps for nations and the world, and how you can act effectively. Minnesota has achieved high levels of carbon reduction at no additional cost, and – as a heartland state that is dependent on fossil fuels--has great potential to demonstrate effective climate policies at the scale of the climate problem. Fresh Energy's work can be found online at fresh-energy.org.

Turning Points in Turbulent Times: A Passionate Search for Global Solutions

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 – 8:45pm

Loft Peace & Social Justice Writer's Group

Members of the Loft Peace and Social Justice Writer's Group will read excerpts from their inspiring new book: *Turning Points: Discovering Meaning and Passion in Turbulent Times*. These are riveting accounts of how the turning points in the lives of our authors over the past half-century led them to find and implement creative solutions to global issues and how those lessons can be applied in today's turbulent times. Audience members will be encouraged to share their turning point stories. Featured presenters include Philip Lund, founder and facilitator of the writer's group, Burt Berlowe, award-winning author of the compassionate rebel anthologies; India native Robbie Orr, who is currently writing a series of novels titled *The Repentant Radical Trilogy*, and Korean War veteran and peace educator Roy Wolff.



AND COMING IN MARCH ...

Global-Local Disability Rights Movement: Inclusive Education, Self-Advocacy, and Non-Discrimination

Thursday, March 15, 7:00 – 8:45pm

PRESENTERS:

- **Renata Ticha, Ph.D.**, Director, Global Resource Center for Inclusive Education, U of M Institute on Community Integration
- **Brian Abery, Ph.D.**, Coordinator of School-Age Services, U of M Institute on Community Integration
- **Rick Cardenas**, former co-director of Advocating Change Together (*now retired*)

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

President: Nancy Dunlavy

445 Wacouta St., Unit 101

St. Paul, MN 55101

Newsletter editor: Dick Bernard, dick_bernard@msn.com

Past issues archived at

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

“The most surprising thing I learned at COP23 would be the resilience the Island Nations showed...I loved the message that the Pacific Island women promoted: “we are not drowning - we are fighting...”

Kristin J. Nelson (see page 2 of this newsletter)

NOTES AS 2018 BEGINS.

A sold-out theater and standing ovation greeted “**The World Is My Country**” at its Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival World Premiere in April, 2017. To thank CGS-MN for being a sponsor, the filmmakers are letting us watch the Film Festival screener online free -- for one week only: **Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 2018**. You’ll also learn how you can use it as a CGS organizing tool – with festivals & screenings in your school, club or community. **Sign up and get the password at www.TheWorldIsMyCountry.com/freeweek**

SEN. AL FRANKEN: The CGS-MN Board, at its December 13 meeting, authorized a letter to U.S. Senator Al Franken, in part as follows: “*We are writing to express our great appreciation for your outstanding service in the U.S. Senate... You have been a great credit to our state and nation in all ways...In a time when politics has become vicious and divisive, you have been a class act....*”

FORMER MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE MARK RITCHIE led Minnesota to a finalist position for host of EXPO 2023. Ultimately, Argentina was selected. An editorial in the Nov. 15, 2017 Minneapolis Star Tribune gives a good summary of the effort. You can read the editorial at <https://tinyurl.com/y9r5ks68>. Our congratulations have been conveyed to Mark, who has long been a strong supporter of the mission of CGS.

TO OUR READERS: As this issue demonstrates, CGS MN is “on the court” for a better world and nation.

Here are some ways you can help:

1. Share this newsletter with others (it will be archived on line at <http://globalsolutionsmn.org/>)
2. Work to encourage people to attend our Third Thursday and other events. Our speakers appreciate audience attendance and support.
3. Consider financially contributing to CGS MN. (See “Join us” below).

Our Board: 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.

Join us: Suggested donations: \$10 students, \$30 individuals, \$40 couples.

Checks to “Citizens for Global Solutions” mailed to Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St #414, Minneapolis 55403.