



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

May – June 2018

Visit our website: <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org>

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota 2018 Annual Meeting and Dinner

The MINNESOTA UNITED NATIONS HISTORY Project

Thursday, June 21, 2018

6:00 Refreshments and socializing

6:30 Dinner served

Plymouth Congregational Church, Jackman Room

1900 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis;
Abundant free parking in adjacent lot



DINNER: \$30 per person; **\$15** for students and those with limited income.

Reservations (and dietary needs) due by June 11 (pay in advance or at the door).

Please submit reservations ASAP to Dennis Dillon, dennis.dillon@msn.com, (612)333-0723 or Nancy Dunlavy, nancy-cgs@dunlavy.net, 651-785-4243.

Citizens for Global Solutions Minnesota is receiving a \$9700 grant from the Minnesota History Center to collect information about Minnesotans who have contributed to the goals of the UN and tried to make that institution more effective during its 75-year history. Our organization is invited to submit another grant request in 2019 outlining how our collected material could be used in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the UN in 2020. Jim will be leading this project. At the Annual Meeting he will share anecdotes from his five decades of involvement as a volunteer in the work of the UN. This is also a “listening session” for those present to offer suggestions for what will be included in our “Minnesota United Nations History” project. We hope our past sustained efforts may inspire future generations.

JIM NELSON is a lifelong Minneapolis resident. He earned a degree in Economics from the University of Minnesota and a Certificate in International Management from Minnesota State University, Mankato. He worked in Project Management and Administration over 40 years in three Twin City industrial Aerospace companies: Sperry Univac, Control Data and Honeywell. In parallel to his corporate career Jim enjoyed working in small scale farms and gardens. In this avocation his interests focused on native plants and insect pollinators. Jim is proud of his community involvement, especially in environmental affairs.

He attended the first UN conference on the environment in 1972. He was recognized with the Honeywell Corporate Community Service Award in 1996 for community education about the UN. The UN Association of MN honored Jim with the Harold Stassen Award in 2016 for 50 years of service. The Johansen Foundation (Denmark) presented a lifetime achievement award for Global Sustainability in 2017.

Dinner reservation form found on page 4 of this newsletter.

REMEMBERING TWO ANNIVERSARIES: FLYING THE UN FLAG AT MINNEAPOLIS CITY HALL MAY 1, 1968

Fifty years ago, World Law Day, May 1, 1968, 28 Hennepin County Mayors and a who's who of the Minnesota political and civic establishment met outside the south door of the Minneapolis City Hall, raising the United Nations Flag alongside the United States Flag, and recognizing Minneapolis and Hennepin County as the first World Citizenship Communities in the United States. Former Governor Elmer L. Andersen gave the keynote speech, which he would recall as one of his most important.

The project was jointly sponsored by the then-Minnesota World Federalists (now Citizens for Global Solutions) and the United Nations Association of Minnesota. The leaders were WFA leaders Stanley Platt and Lynn Elling. The UN flag was to continue flying at Hennepin County Plaza for the next 44 years, taken down March 27, 2012.

The event was remembered at the 2018 World Law Day dinner on May 1. CGS Mn Board member Jim Nelson, in 1968 a young man, attended the ceremony recalled that day on May 1.

Much more historical information is easily accessible at <http://outsidethewalls.org/blog/2018/05/01/>. Note especially the links to “**World Law Day 2018**” and “**Minnesota Declarations**”, including comments from 17 individuals over the years, including people like Jim Nelson, Stan Platt, Benjamin Ferencz, Joe Schwartzberg and Lynn Elling.

CONVENING THE FOUNDERS OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN, IN 1995

Submitted by Mark Ritchie, April 9, 2018. Mark is President and CEO of EXPO 2027, former Minnesota Secretary of State (2007-2015), former President of Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy (1988-2006)

In 1995, on the 50th anniversaries of a number of international institutions, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF, the FAO, the ITO (now WTO), and the UN Declaration on Human Rights, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy [<https://www.iatp.org/about/history>] gathered a number of the surviving founders of each at the place of their “birth” to both celebrate 50 years of accomplishments and to look hard at some of the difficulties and disputes that had challenged each of these along the way.

The one clear message in each and every one of these gatherings was the central focus of each on finding a way forward to avoid a third world war. This was not something that came naturally or instinctively to the post-war baby boomers but was deeply ingrained into the DNA of those who experienced one or both of the World Wars.

Finding a way to keep this perspective - that economic and social issues are central to all peacemaking and peacekeeping activities - was the task handed to us by the “old-timers” who have now largely passed away. We have to re-dedicate ourselves each morning that we are given to this task.

POSTNOTE for those unfamiliar with the above acronyms:

The **IATP** did reunion conferences in each location on the 50th anniversary of the UN, 1995.

The **UN Charter** was signed June, 1945 at the Opera House in San Francisco.

[<http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/>]

Bretton Woods (United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference) was 1944 at the Hotel Washington in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. [<http://www.imf.org/en/About>]

The first session of the **FAO** (Food and Agriculture Organization) was at the [Château Frontenac](http://www.fao.org/about/en/) in Quebec City from 16 October to 1 November 1945 [<http://www.fao.org/about/en/>]

The **ITO** (International Trade Organization) never truly came into existence, but was the forerunner of today's World Trade Organization) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Trade_Organization

Negotiations for the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was in New York in 1948. The Declaration was passed unanimously at the United Nations General Assembly in Paris, December 10, 1948. <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

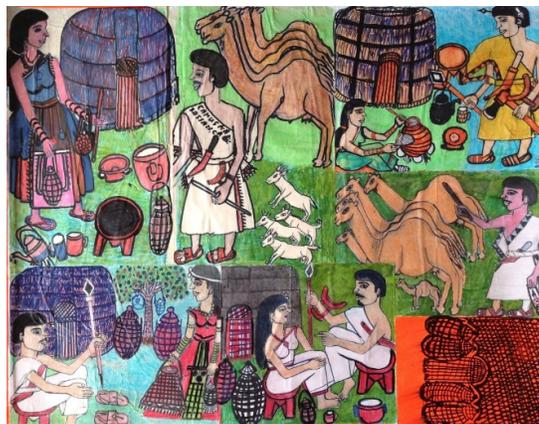
AN INSPIRING EVENING OF SOMALI AND ISLAMIC ART AND STORIES

CGS-MN members and friends met at the **Minneapolis Institute of Art** on the evening of Thursday April 19th for a private showing of the exhibit **"I Am Somali."** The museum's website explains:

This exhibition celebrates the work of three Somali visual artists from the Twin Cities: Hassan Nor (81), Aziz Osman (69), and Ifrah Mansour (30). Nor and Osman were born in Somalia and grew up there, migrating to the US in the 1990s after the outbreak of civil war at home. Their drawings and paintings look to the past, depicting life in Somalia before the war and in transit, on the way to their new country. Mansour, on the other hand was born in Saudi Arabia and raised in Minnesota. Her video addresses the cultural ignorance and stereotypes she encounters in her daily life. All three share stories of exile, memory, identity, pride, and resilience.



Jan-Lodewijk Grootaers, Mia Curator of African Art and organizer of the "I Am Somali" exhibit, provided us with an intriguing and informative private group tour of the exhibit, as well as other Somali and Islamic artwork from the permanent galleries. Artist **Aziz Osman** joined us to share many personal stories as he talked about his work.



Hassan NOR (b. 1937)
Untitled ("Vignettes of Life in Somalia")
Color marker on paper; Collection of the artist

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Dick Bernard, also Secretary of the local chapter of CGS MN.)

There is the old saw about the optimist who, coming across a pile of manure excitedly exclaims, "there must be a pony in here somewhere!" (One can do a quick internet search, and you'll find theories about the origin of the saying.)

Origins aside, speaking as one who is by habit an optimist, optimism is challenged these days.

I do see hopeful signs, which manifest in many ways, including long time UNA and Global Solutions activist Jim Nelson coming forward to make sure the important history of the United Nations Association in Minnesota is preserved for future generations. (You have information for Jim? He'd like to hear from you. His contact info: (612) 722-1693; kjdnelson@gmail.com; 5128 17th Ave S, Minneapolis 55417)

CGS Minnesota, the group which brings you this newsletter free of charge, endeavors to at least keep the spark of a more just and hospitable and sustainable world. We work at keeping hope alive.

We are always looking for persons willing to contribute some of their resources, money, time, talent...to keep CGS MN alive and vibrant. Nothing, including this modest newsletter, is really "free".

Yes, my optimism is very challenged these days. The simplest least desirable option is to simply accept the unacceptable status quo solving nothing. Your participation and active support is solicited. Have a great summer.

2017-18 CGS-MN 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,

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

President: Nancy Dunlavy

445 Wacouta St., Unit 101

St. Paul, MN 55101

Newsletter: Dick Bernard, dick_bernard@msn.com

Past issues archived at

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

“Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.” Confucius

CGS-MN Annual Dinner Reservation and Membership Form

Please reserve _____ dinners for (indicate names of those who will attend, and any dietary restrictions)

MEMBERSHIP: We value your membership in CGS-MN. Annual Membership fees are \$10 for students, \$30 for individuals, \$40 for couples.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS are welcome, and will be used to promote the work of the Minnesota Chapter of Citizens for Global Solutions. Those who donate \$100 or more may, if requested, receive a complimentary copy of the book *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*, by Joseph E. Schwartzberg (United Nations University Press, 2013, list price \$40).

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

\$ _____ for Annual Dinners

\$ _____ Membership Dues

\$ _____ Additional Donation

TOTAL: A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

**Please send check, payable to “Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota,” to
Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St., Apt. 414, Minneapolis, MN 55403.**

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