



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

HELPING TO BUILD THE FUTURE THROUGH THE PARTNERS PROGRAM

Claude Buettner, President, Minnesota Chapter, CGS

2009 promises to be an “interesting” year. While no one can really know what the future will bring for good or ill, that doesn’t stop us from trying to guess. It’s easy to be blinded by the blazing present and miss sometimes subtle, but fundamental, changes taking place in the way the world is organized in this soon-to-be-archaic age. (For expert perspectives, come to our Third Thursday Forum on February 19.)

Our global interdependence is evident as economic woes cascade from continent to continent. However global competition will probably intensify as countries and regions attempt to minimize their pain by seeking to maximize their gain in a shifting economic and political landscape. This tension between the ties that bind us together in a common fate and the centrifugal forces that fling us apart may be older than history. But the world has never been so small a place and how this dynamic plays out now may be unique to this era.

It has been said that a nation is formed when people realize they share a common fate. There would be no escape from the consequences of environmental damage that drastically reduces the earth’s carrying capacity, a large-scale nuclear exchange or a global pandemic. In this sense the world’s people already are a nation (albeit a highly-fragmented one). We just don’t recognize it as yet! And we don’t yet realize that *all* wars are civil wars, one faction of humankind against another.

Our vision of effective and democratic global governance is derived directly from a belief that it is an imperative pre-condition for long-term survival. Do you think of yourself as conservative? Then what are you trying to conserve? One person, one vote? Checks and balances among branches of government? Security for the nation? Do you think of yourself as progressive? What are you trying to progress towards? A more peaceful world? Universal education? A sustainable world that doesn’t fear the next meltdown?

Be part of making the future happen, right from the comfort of you own home, or, more in keeping with the times, from the comfort of your local Wi-Fi connection. Sign up for the CGS Partners for Global Change program at <http://globalsolutions.org/partners> or call 202-546-3950 x124. You’ll learn more about critical issues and have opportunities to customize the projects you want to work on.

Information is the currency of democracy. **Thomas Jefferson**

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, January 15, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

BRINGING BUSH & CO. TO JUSTICE: HOW BEST TO PROCEED?

Peace and justice activists have been enormously frustrated by the failure to impeach and remove Bush and Cheney from office. After January 19, what actions under U.S. and international law can be taken against them, along with other culpable members of their administration and their cohorts in the private sector? Who could those persons be? Under what codes and in what courts could they be charged? What support would be needed from the Obama administration, Congress and the public?

Presenters: FORMER FBI COUNSEL COLEEN ROWLEY and PROFESSOR BARBARA FREY

Ms. Rowley received a B.A. in French from Wartburg College, graduated with honors from the University of Iowa College of Law, and passed the Iowa Bar Exam. She became an FBI Special Agent in 1981 and worked on organized drug crime in New York, Italy, France and Canada. In 1990 she became the Chief Division Counsel in Minneapolis, "blew the whistle" on pre-9/11 "lapses," and was named a "Time Magazine Person of the Year." She left the FBI in 2004 and is now a dynamic advocate for the rule of law.

Professor Frey directs the Human Rights Program in the College of Liberal Arts at the U. of Minnesota. She is a well known international human rights teacher, advocate and scholar and has won numerous awards for her work. She served as Executive Director of Minnesota Advocates for Human rights (1985-'96), as an alternate member of the UN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2000-'03) and as the Sub-commission's Special Rapporteur to study human rights abuses with small arms (2000-'06)

Thursday, February 19, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

OBAMA'S FOREIGN POLICY: WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

Obama's foreign policy team includes highly experienced and respectable individuals, among them Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden and Susan Rice. But can we expect from such "old hands" the sort of progressive new initiatives for which so many of Obama's pre-election supporters had hoped? Will the Obama team be able to change course for the better in Iraq and Afghanistan, address problems such as genocide in Darfur, impartially mediate peace talks in Israel/Palestine and elsewhere, and, in other ways, engender a new sense of hope and substantially improve America's badly tarnished image in the rest of the world?

Presenters: PROFESSOR JACK NELSON-PALLMEYER and a second speaker to be determined.

Nelson-Pallmeyer received his BA in political science from St. Olaf College and his Masters in Divinity from the Union Theological Seminary in New York and is presently a professor in the Justice and Peace Studies Program at the University of St. Thomas. He has authored a dozen books on related themes, the latest of which (2005) is entitled *Saving Christianity from Empire*. In 2006 he challenged Congressman Martin Sabo for the 5th district US House seat and in 2008 sought the MN DFL nomination for US Senate.

Our second presenter will most likely be from the **Center for Politics and Governance** at the **Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs** at the University of Minnesota.

ODDS AND ENDS

Apart from attending the UNPA conference described on page 3, Joe Schwartzberg used his November trip to Europe to attend the annual Council meeting of the World Federalist

Movement in The Hague and to give a talk on Security Council reform at the Center for Regional Integration Studies (CRIS) at the UN University campus in Bruges, Belgium. Joe's proposal for SC reform was translated into Chinese last year by Professor Dongyan Li of Beijing University and has been presented by

her in the widely consulted yearbook of her research institute as a case study of possible regional reforms in the UN system. It will also be published by CRIS in a book scheduled to appear this year.

A UNITED NATIONS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY?

Joe Schwartzberg, CGS Board Member

For many years I have been an advocate of creating an elected Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) within the United Nations system to represent people, rather than nations. But I despaired of seeing such a development within my lifetime. Now, thanks to my participation on November 4-5 in a conference at the European Parliament in Brussels, I believe there is actually a chance that I might live to see my hopes realized; and, if not, that many of you reading this essay will do so.

The proposed UNPA would be analogous to the US House of Representatives, and would function alongside the UN General Assembly, which represents nations and may be seen (within limits) as analogous to the US Senate. A model for its creation is provided by the European Union. Initially, European Parliament (EP) members were elected by the Parliaments of the EU member nations and the body had only advisory powers; but since 1979 direct popular elections have been held every five years and the EP functions as a genuine legislative body for the 27 EU member nations. Its 785 current members sit not by country of origin, but by party affiliation: Conservatives, Christian Democrats, Liberals, Social Democrats, Greens, etc. Curiously, while it would require a Charter amendment for the UN to increase the size of the Security Council by even one seat, a UNPA could be established without such a step in that Article 22 enables the General Assembly to “establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.” What better way to democratize the UN?

The Brussels conference that I attended was that of the Steering Committee of the UNPA campaign launched in May 2007. Since its inception, the campaign has been directed by a remarkably able and energetic South African-born German, Andreas Bummel, formerly employed by an NGO promoting the rights of oppressed peoples. He is assisted by Dr. Claudia Kissling, an international lawyer. Both work full-time without pay. The thirty or so members of the steering Committee in attendance came from 17 countries on five continents, Europe,

North and South America, Asia and Africa. Most were middle-aged professionals, but one, Ed Rawson, a long-time World Federalist, was 94! The conference was addressed by several members of the EP, including our official host, Jo Leinen, the representative from the German state of Saarland.

To date roughly 600 members of parliaments from nearly 100 countries around the world have endorsed the idea of a UNPA, as have former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the European Parliament President Hand-Gert Pöttering, and more than 2,300 other prominent individuals, including several Nobel laureates. Additionally, the Argentine Senate and more than 150 NGOs and INGOs have endorsed the idea. The number of endorsements is growing by leaps and bounds. As of early November, each of the following countries had more than ten parliamentary endorsers of the UNPA idea: Canada (15), Mexico (13), Argentina (38), Germany (59), Switzerland (49), Belgium (45), Spain (22), France (17), UK (16), Italy (12), South Africa (32) and Tanzania (18). Although more than 100 prominent US citizens have also endorsed the idea, not a single member of the US Congress has done so. To learn more please go to the following websites: <http://www.kdun.org/> or <http://www.unpacampaign.org/>.

At the December 4 Board meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of CGS, we made two important decisions. First, we voted to add our name to the list of UNPA endorsers. Second, we agreed to form, in cooperation with other local like-minded groups (list to be determined), a delegation to visit one or more of our representatives in Congress to urge him/her/them to become the first member(s) of Congress to endorse the UNPA concept. Given the reluctance of most elected officials to go out on a political limb, our task may prove to be difficult; but it's worth trying. We do not yet know the extent to which President Obama will set a tone in his inaugural address that will facilitate our effort, but we are optimistic. So, stay tuned and we'll let you know how we're doing in our March Newsletter. We can help make history. This is truly exciting.

Want to Help? There are several ways by which you can help CGS at both the national and local level. Here's how.

- a) **Membership in CGS.** Join or renew by paying annual dues (\$25 for an individual and \$30 for a couple) directly to the national office, Citizens for Global Solutions, 418 Seventh St. SE, Washington, DC 20003. This will automatically make you a member also of the Minnesota Chapter. Be sure to include your address and other contact information.
- b) **Contribute to the national office.** Contributions, apart from dues, may be sent to the national office at the address noted above and earmarked for either the **political fund** (not tax deductible) or the **education fund** (deductible).
- c) **The Minnesota Chapter of CGS really needs some financial assistance.** For the last decade or so, our financial outlays have considerably exceeded our income. We don't like to beg, but we nevertheless request contributions of whatever you feel you can afford. Kindly make checks payable to CGS, Minnesota Chapter, and send them to our Treasurer, Dennis Dillon, 210 West Grant St., Apt. 414, Minneapolis, MN 55403-22244.
- d) **Our chapter would like to save on paper and postage** by sending this Newsletter and occasional additional messages electronically to members who prefer to receive it by e-mail. A small number of you have already expressed such a preference, but not enough to make it worthwhile trying to sort through two different lists or recipients when mailing time comes round. When we reach a critical mass of e-mail subscribers, we'll institute a new system, but we don't even know the e-mail addresses of most of our readers. If you'd like to hear from us by e-mail, please send your e-mail address and that request to our Secretary, Richard Lee Dechert, ldeschert@webtv.net.
- e) **Come to our sponsored events**, the Third Thursday Global Issues Forums, the Partners Programs and others. *
- f) **Volunteer.** Would you like to be considered for membership on our Board or to serve in other ways? If so, please write up a bit about yourself (don't be modest) and send the information to our President, Claude Buettner, at 17350 W. 67th St. Circle, Eden Prairie, MN 55346, or contact Claude by e-mail at claudel101@comcast.net.

Citizens for Global Solutions
(formerly the World Federalist Association)
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Eden Prairie, MN 55346

www.globalsolutionsmn.org

I want to see a fundamental objective of the foreign policy of the United States to be that of supporting and strengthening the United Nations and to seek its development into a federation of all the nations.

Hubert H. Humphrey