

CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, MINNESOTA YEAR IN REVIEW 2014-2015

Official Tax-Exempt Status: With the pro-bono assistance of Eric Oldenkamp and Alissa Shafer, student interns in the Legal Planning Clinic at the William Mitchell School of Law, our organization finished revising our Bylaws, submitted Articles of Incorporation to the State of Minnesota, and received tax-exempt (501(c)3) status. Citizens for Global Solutions, MN, is now an **independent affiliate** (rather than a Chapter) of the national CGS. The reason we changed our relationship is to ensure that our tax-exempt status will not be jeopardized by the political lobbying activities of the national organization. As a result, you can be assured that your membership dues and donations to CGS-MN will be tax-exempt. Former Board member June Parrott led this effort, pursuing a suggestion from our former CGS Secretary, Barbara Gerten.

Joseph Schwartzberg established “**The Workable World Trust**” to disseminate the ideas in his book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World* (2014). The first major event funded by the Trust will be a “Creating a Workable World” conference to be held October 9 and 10 in Cowles Auditorium in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. Contact Nancy Dunlavy, our CGS-MN Secretary, for more information: nancy2@dunlavy.net.

Third Thursday Forums, September 2014 through May 2015: During the year, the Forums moved from Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church to Plymouth Congregational Church.

September 18, 2014: “America’s Confusion in the Middle East” – William Beeman

October 16, 2014: “Human Trafficking” – Vanessa Fusco Noguera and Shiran Gooneratne

November 20, 2014: “A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict: Causes and Consequences” – Artyom Tonoyan

January 15, 2015: “Global Health: The Greatest Story Rarely Told” – Christy Hanson

February 19, 2015: “Getting Serious about Environmental Problems” – Jonathan Larson

March 19, 2015: “Overpopulation Can be Solved” – David Paxson

April 16, 2015: “The Work of Waste: Urban India’s Vital Infrastructure” – Vinay Gidwani

May 21, 2015: “How to Save the Economy, the Environment, the Internet, our Communities, Democracy, and Everything Else that Belongs to All of Us” - Jay Walljasper

If you have an idea for a Third Thursday Forum, please contact our President, Gail Hughes, at hughe038@umn.edu.

Ad Hoc Book Club: Several Board members and interested others met to discuss different chapters in Joe Schwartzberg’s book: *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*. CGS Board member Maryam Yusefzedah organized and hosted most of the sessions, which inspired Nancy Dunlavy, our Secretary, to write a **four-page summary of the book**. Please contact Nancy at nancy2@dunlavy.net if you would like a copy of her summary.

Series of Human Rights Talks by Humphrey Fellows: Humphrey Fellows gave talks about their countries during Fall 2014. Most of the talks were given at Noon at the U of Minnesota or at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. The series was organized by CGS Board Member Kristi Rudelius-Palmer.

Interviews of World Federalists: Ehtasham Anwar, a Humphrey Fellow from Pakistan, produced an **hour-long documentary** in which he interviewed World Federalist ‘old-timers’ such as Joe Schwartzberg, Lynn Elling, and Dick Bernard. The documentary will be shown on Friday, June 26, 4:00-6:00 p.m., probably in classroom 55 at the Mondale Law School, U of MN. Another session will be held 2-4 p.m. Sat June 27 at Washburn Library, 5244 Lyndale Ave S, in Minneapolis.

World Law Day Dinner: Annelee Woodstrom, who grew up in Nazi Germany, talked about her experiences at a special World Law Day dinner, May 1 at Gandhi Mahal Restaurant. This well-attended event was organized by our Vice President, Dick Bernard.

Annual Dinner, June 18, 2015, Plymouth Church: "Rule of Law Fact-Finding by NGOs: Monitoring Standards and Maximizing Impact" by **Rosalyn Park**, The Advocates for Human Rights.

Communication with the national CGS organization: Don Kraus, the previous Executive Director of the national CGS, has stepped down, and the organization is going through a strategic planning process before hiring a new Director. Our CGS-MN President, Gail Hughes, is heavily involved in this process. She serves on the Education Board of the national organization. She also is on the Grassroots Leadership Council and the Strategic Planning Committee. She has attended national CGS meetings in Washington, D.C. and in Chicago during the last year. Her priority is to ensure that money contributed by World Federalists is used on behalf of a World Federalist agenda.

Presentation at National CGS Conference in Washington, D.C.: Gail Hughes, CGS-MN President, gave a short talk on "The Need for a Globalized CGS" at the national conference last June. A slightly expanded version of the talk will be available as an article which will be posted on the CGS-MN website.

The CGS-MN Newsletter was published in September, November, January, March, and May during the past academic year. We send the newsletter by U.S. mail to several hundred persons, as well as posting and archiving the newsletter at our website. Please send ideas, comments, queries, and news items to our Newsletter Editor, Dick Bernard, at dick_bernard@me.com.

The CGS-MN Website is being revised and updated. Please visit us at <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/index.html>. Please send ideas, comments, queries, and items for the website to our Webmaster, Claude Buettner, at claudel01@comcast.net.

A CGS-MN Facebook site is being developed, too!

THE YEAR AHEAD

Since it directly addresses our goal of promoting democratic global governance, the "Creating a Workable World Conference" (October 9-10) will be the focus of our attention this fall. We will pursue a more general global education goal through our usual Third Thursday Forums, which will be held on the third Thursday of each month, September through May. We will strengthen Organizational Stability through further development of our communication tools (website, Facebook page, and Newsletter), and attempts to recruit new members – especially younger members. We will also attempt to promote participatory initiatives such as Board Member Bharat Parekh's project to end childhood nutrition in Mumbai, depending upon interest.