



Citizens for
Global Solutions

MINNESOTA

www.globalsolutionsmn.org

Newsletter
May 2011

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.

IS WORLD GOVERNMENT INEVITABLE?

Joe Schwartzberg, President, Minnesota Chapter

Author's note: *The following essay is from Chapter 18 (of 19), "A New Global Governance Architecture," of my book, **Designs for a Workable World**. Footnotes are omitted. After five years of work, I hope to complete the text this month. Comments will be welcome and may be sent to me at schwa004@umn.edu.*

Introduction:

Our future is not pre-ordained. At the global, regional, national and local levels decision-makers have innumerable options for influencing what is yet to come. Each choice comes with its own set of benefits and drawbacks; its own risks and uncertainties; its own time and space horizons; its own likely casts of relative winners and relative losers. Further, apart from their own choices, societies must also reckon with and respond to the often unforeseeable choices of other human actors (rogue states and terrorists, for example). Finally, there is the potentially powerful agency of nature, whether it be through processes that humans help set in motion or amplify (e.g., global warming or loss of biodiversity) or through the shock of cataclysmic events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical cyclones, floods, or protracted droughts. Obviously, then, any attempt at predicting the future will be fraught with uncertainty. Yet, plan we must, because maintenance of the status quo is demonstrably unsustainable.

In Part Two of this work I put forward proposals for reform of the decision-making processes of all major components of the United Nations system; for the creation, where necessary, of new organs; and for

ways by which to relate civil society organizations more effectively to the UN system. I do not suggest, however, that my own proposals are necessarily the best that can be devised. They are merely the best I can presently think of in light of my imperfect understanding of how various agencies have worked to date and appear likely to function in the future. Nor would I suggest that there is any obviously best sequencing of the proposed reforms (though some suggestions in this regard will be offered in Chapter 19). Nor, finally, do I suppose that every selected target for reform needs to be addressed in the foreseeable future. My aim is to promote **a world that is workable**, not a future utopia.

In broad terms, my strong preference is for **a constitutional system of democratic, federal world government**, a government characterized by a division of powers among executive, legislative and judicial branches and with clearly specified checks and balances to ensure that none of the three branches gains ascendancy over the others. Along with Albert Einstein and many others, I am convinced that such a democratic world government would offer the greatest scope for maximizing and

(Continued on page 5.)

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public. Come and bring a friend.

**Where? Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church,
511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis (at Lyndale and Hennepin). Park in church lot.**

May 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

CAN THE RULE OF LAW BE EXPORTED?

This talk will draw on the speaker's experiences in international rule of law development over more than a dozen years. In that time he has focused on the newly independent country of Kosovo (formerly a part of Yugoslavia), in the formerly Soviet republics of Georgia and Uzbekistan in the Caucasus and Central Asia respectively. He has helped in the drafting of Kosovo's 2008 Constitution, which was developed with representatives from all of Kosovo's ethnic groups.

Presenter: Judge JOHN TUNHEIM. A United States District Judge, Tunheim was appointed to that position by President Clinton in 1995. Following his graduation from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN in 1975 he served as a staff assistant to then Senator Hubert Humphrey. In 1980 he graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School and served as President of the Minnesota Law Review. He served as a law clerk to Judge Earl Larson, worked for a major private law firm, served two year as state Solicitor General and was appointed Minnesota Chief Deputy Attorney General.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR THE CHILDREN OF "GENERATION HOT," THEIR HEIRS AND OURSELVES?

By Richard Lee Dechert, CGS Board Member

In his 2011 book *HOT: Living Through the Next Fifty Years on Earth*, Minnesota-born investigative journalist Mark Hertsgaard explains why we're already in the "second era" of human-induced global warming. And even if our atmospheric greenhouse-gas emissions were to end today, his child, my first grandchild (who'll be born in August), your family's children and two billion other children of what he calls "**Generation Hot**" will spend the rest of their lives coping with mounting climate disruption.

But with CO₂ and other emissions rising well above what climate researchers like Minnesotan Will Steger deem the maximum level for a livable planet, the heirs of "Generation Hot" will have to cope with even worse "climate disruption"--unless maximum efforts are made to reverse global warming and adapt to its physical, biological, social, financial and other impacts. That's why the CGS Board selected global warming and climate change as the keynote theme of our 2011 Annual Dinner.

To help us better understand what we can and must do for the children of "Generation Hot," their heirs and ourselves, the keynote speaker will be Minnesotan John Abraham, an Associate Professor of Engineering at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul. His principal research specialty is heat transfer. He has received local, national and international acclaim for refuting climate change "skeptics" like British Lord Moncton, and for co-founding the Climate Science Rapid Response Team that provides high-quality scientific information to the media, government officials and the general public. In the 2011 session of the Minnesota Legislature, he has testified against bills to rescind laws that restrict new coal-fired power plants and limit greenhouse-gas emissions from plants. Many legislators passing those and other conservation rollbacks are climate change "skeptics." For additional details on Professor Abraham's career and presentation see facing page.

CGS MN ANNUAL MEETING INVITATION

Thursday evening, June 16, 2010, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Social Hall, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis

ABUNDANT FREE PARKING IN CHURCH PARKING LOT

If you need help, see www.haumc.org/worship/maps-directions-parking.

**SCHEDULE: 6:00 Social Hour; 6:30 Served Dinner (vegetarian option available);
7:15 Program; 9:00 Adjournment.**

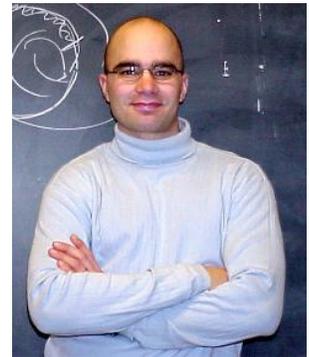
COST: \$30 per person; \$15 for students.

Reservations should be made by June 9. QUESTIONS? Call Hossein Akhavi-Pour at 651-633-9271.

Keynote Speaker: Professor JOHN ABRAHAM

THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

A professor in the School of Engineering at St. Thomas University, John joined that faculty in 2002 on completing his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota. His academic specialties are heat transfer, fluid mechanics and computational methods. In case these subjects make you feel uncomfortable, don't be intimidated. John is in great demand as a public speaker on the subject of climate change and knows how to tailor his presentations for lay audiences. You will surely find his talk as well as the Q&A period following it both enlightening and enjoyable.



John's career has included work with a wide variety of academic and industrial projects, as well as with the Department of Energy at Los Alamos National Laboratory and as a researcher on a National Science Foundation grant. His publication record is rich and remarkable.

_____ Cut here.

MEETING RESERVATION FORM AND BALLOT

RESERVATION: Please reserve _____ places for (indicates names of those who will attend):

_____ My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

VOLUNTARY DONATION: I would also like to contribute \$ _____ to promote the work of the Minnesota Chapter of Citizens for Global Solutions. A check is enclosed.

**Please send checks, payable to "CGSMN," to Hossein Akhavi-Pour,
321 Wyndham Circle, New Brighton, MN 55112**

BALLOT (for CGS members only): Check the following spaces as you wish. I hereby cast my ballot for:

_____ all the candidates listed for the officers' posts and Board of Directors (see list on reverse of this page):

_____ all of the candidates except for the following: _____

_____ the following write-in candidates (please state position): _____

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF CGS, MN CHAPTER

N.B. One must be a member to vote, but does not have to attend the dinner to do so. Ballots appear at the bottom of reverse side of this page and should be sent to Hossein Akhavi-Pour, 321 Wyndham Circle, New Brighton, MN 55112.

PRESIDENT: JOE SCHWARTZBERG (incumbent). A life-long peace and justice activist, Joe has served twelve years as President of the Minnesota Chapter of the World Federalist Association / Citizens for Global Solutions. He has been named a “Distinguished International Emeritus Professor” at the University of Minnesota where he taught for 36 years. His academic specialties are South Asia, political geography and the history of cartography. He has published and lectured extensively on UN reform and will soon complete a book, *Designs for a Workable World*.

VICE-PRESIDENT: GAIL HUGHES (incumbent). Gail teaches undergraduate global studies courses at St. Cloud State University and graduate education courses through Capella University. Her academic background is very eclectic and inter-disciplinary. She taught English as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho, traveled widely in Africa, and was a Program Evaluator for the Minnesota Community Colleges.

SECRETARY: TED RICHTER. Now retired, Ted taught social studies and peace education for almost four decades in a Twin Cities suburban high school. He has served as President of the Minnesota Chapter of the World Federalist Association in the early 1970s, on the Advisory Board of the UNAM, and on the Board of Directors of the former Foreign Policy Association of Minnesota through which he organized seminars for high school students throughout Minnesota. He is also a current CGS Board member.

TREASURER: DENNIS DILLON (incumbent). Retired after 38 years of work on educational testing and survey research and a co-founder of two companies, Dennis is active in peace, justice and sustainability pursuits for the Basilica parish, the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (directing the 2008 Peace Island project and now serving on MAP Secretary) and the Network of Spiritual Progressives. He is a Coordinator of the People of Faith Peacemakers and on the Leadership Committee of the Minnesota Peace Project.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

CLAUDE BUETTNER. A life member of WFA/CGS since the 1970s, Claude has served numerous terms as President, Treasurer, Secretary or Board member and is the webmaster for the Minnesota Chapter. His international perspective was largely shaped by living in the Middle East and South America for four of his formative years. Working in industrial sales and customer service, he continues to travel widely for pleasure and to better understand the transitional times in which we live, He is a firm believer in international education.

BARBARA GERTEN. After moving from her home state, Montana, Barbara graduated from the University of Minnesota Carlton School of Management. She worked as a certified public accountant for 10 years before switching to “human services.” She served on the founding boards of the Minnesota Restorative Services Coalition (MRSC) and Partnership for Education of Children in Afghanistan (P.E.C.A.) and on the planning committee for the recent conference on Nonviolence in Islamic Tradition. In 2003 she traveled to Afghanistan.

JASON JOHNSON. Currently a teacher of social studies, speech and mathematics, as well as debate coach at Henry Sibley High School, Jason is passionate about infusing more international education and public policy analysis into the curriculum. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics and a Masters in Education and in Fall 2011 will enroll in the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota to develop ideas for education reform and pursue a graduate minor focusing on Central Asian history." In 2010 he won a national Coca Cola “Educator of Distinction” award.

BHARAT PAREKH. A native of India, Dr. Parekh is a theoretical physicist, educator and consultant with Indian and American companies and NGOs specializing in technology transfer and trade in the environmental and rural development sectors (particularly for bio-diesel fuels and water resources). He has long been active in the UN Association of Minnesota and has made many presentations in support of the UN’s Millennium Development Goals.

JUNE PARROTT. A retired faculty member at St. Cloud University, where she taught women’s studies and ethnic studies from 1985 to 2001, June earned her Ph.D. in sociology from Johns Hopkins University. She has been a member of Soka Gakkai International, a lay Buddhist organization that focuses on peace, culture and education, since 1985, and formerly served three years as a CGS Board member.

(Continued from page 1)

sustaining human well being, promoting justice and insuring political stability. Yet, I am fairly certain that most readers of these words will take issue with my conclusion and would be inclined to settle for some less radical alternative. The readers in question, however, are likely to come from a privileged—but diminishing—segment of global society, mainly that of the politically, economically and socially advantaged global North. It is only natural that they should wish to preserve a system that perpetuates their special privileges, even while offering occasional expedient concessions to the relatively disadvantaged global South. In that the North is still politically, economically and militarily dominant, it can, if it so chooses, delay the reform process or, perhaps, stop it dead in its tracks. But to do so will become increasingly risky in a rapidly changing and electronically networked world, a world in which new powers are emerging and in which the knowledge of blatant injustice anywhere swiftly becomes Internet news virtually everywhere else. In short, an unjust world cannot long remain a peaceful world. The recent political youth-led turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East testifies to the truth of that statement.

I would like to believe, along with the highly regarded international relations scholar, Alexander Wendt—among others—that a single world state is the inevitable end-stage of our planet’s political development. But, despite my personal preferences, I cannot do so. Wendt’s avowedly teleological and highly theoretical argument posits progression through five stages: “a system of states, a society of states, world society, collective security, and the world state,” essentially a transition from global

anarchy to a stable global order. My doubts hinge on the abundance of historical evidence of human greed and stupidity and the real possibility that miscalculation can lead to a global conflagration that will bring civilization to an end. Also, I find it strange that Wendt barely acknowledges—in only one footnote!—the existential dangers posed by “exogenous shocks that could prevent world state formation—an asteroid impact, plague, ecological collapse, and so on.” That he should specifically mention the very low-probability threat of asteroid impact, while failing to note explicitly the far greater—perhaps imminent—threat posed by global warming strikes me as peculiar. Moreover, I am troubled by Wendt’s time perspective. He guesses “that a world state will emerge within 100-200 (?) years.” And my sense is that many other students of international relations would go along with such a judgment or suggest an even lengthier time horizon. However, given the inertia within and acceleration of the global warming process, a more realistic and more prudent view, I believe, is that we may have no more than twenty or so years in which to get our planetary house in order—assuming that we have not already passed a point of no return—perhaps not to the extent of creating a full-fledged world state, but, at a minimum, a system sufficiently different from what we now have to stave off ecological catastrophe.

In what follows, I shall put forward my preferred vision for a new global governance architecture, recognizing the exceedingly low probability that it will be created in precisely the form that I propose. I do so, however, in the hope and expectation that my proposed model will generate creative discussion and lead to refinements of at least a few of my proposals.

BEQUESTS

We are deeply indebted to Martha Platt, who died last year at the age of 100 and whose will provided generous bequests to the international World Federalist Movement, the national organization of Citizens for Global Solutions, and CGS’s Minnesota Chapter. Martha and her late husband Stanley were exceedingly dedicated members of the World Federalist movement and both have been memorialized in previous numbers of this Newsletter.

Additionally, Dorothee Aeppli, has informed our chapter that it may auction off a beautiful stained glass

window that formed part of the estate of her late husband Alfred, a former chapter President. The window measures 17” x 17” and shows the UN logo (a map of the world between two olive fronds, surrounded by concentric rings between which appear the words, “World Peace through World Law with Justice.” The window, which cost more than a thousand dollars to produce, will go to the highest bidder up to June 30. (No bid under \$250 will be accepted.) If not sold by June 30, the window will be auctioned one-bay. If interested, please contact Joe Schwartzberg at schwa004@umn.edu

Thanks to outgoing officer: John Groos (Secretary); to outgoing board members: Charmagne Campbell-Patton, Lee Dechert, Randy Roberts, Verlyn Smith, and Adepeju Solarin; to continuing officers, named on page 4; and to continuing board members: Dick Bernard, Lyle Christianson, Hector Garcia. Jim Nelson, Rosa María de la Cueva Peterson, and Soren Sorenson.

ON THE KILLING OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

Editor's note: *The following passages are excerpted from a recent posting from Voices for Creative Nonviolence. They relate in part to the responses of people who had lost loved ones in the attacks of 9/11 and who had formed an organization called "Families for Peaceful Tomorrows" to "represent the belief that security is not founded in violence and revenge."*

"[P]articipants were asked what we'd suggest as an alternative to invading Afghanistan. One response was that the U.S. and other countries could enact a criminal investigation and rely on police work and intelligence to apprehend the perpetrators of the attack. As it turns out, the U.S. discovered where Osama bin Laden was through those means and not through warfare. How have the past ten years of aerial bombardments, night raids, death squads, assassinations and drone attacks in Afghanistan benefited the U.S. people? Did the carnage and bloodshed bring the U.S. closer to discovering the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden? Have we defeated terrorism or created greater, deeper hatred toward the U.S.?

"In the past, President Obama has said that "we stand on the shoulders of giants like Dr. King, yet our future progress will depend on how we prepare our next generation of leaders." (Jan. 18, 2010). In a historic speech, "[Beyond Vietnam—A Time to Break Silence](#)", King said: "We can no longer afford to worship the god of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate. And history is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate."

. . . . "In that same speech, King called for a neighborliness that goes beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation. . . .

"Matt Daloisio, [a peace activist] . . . sounded a note that we find far more authentic than triumphal celebration. '10 years,' Matt wrote. 'Over 6000 US Soldiers killed. Trillions of Dollars wasted. Hundreds of thousands of civilians killed. Tens of thousands imprisoned. Torture as part of foreign policy. And we are supposed to celebrate the murder of one person? I am not excited. I am not happy. I remain profoundly sad.'"

Citizens for Global Solutions

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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White Bear Lake, MN 55110

www.globalsolutionsmn.org

<http://globalsolutions.org>

Mark the Date!

June 16

C.G.S. Annual Dinner

Keynote Speaker

Professor John Abraham

"The Science of Climate Change"

"World government is necessary; therefore it is possible." **Giuseppe A. Borge**