

# Citizens for Global Solutions Minnesota

## Newsletter, November 2006

www.globalsolutionsmn.org

**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.*

### DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS

The election season is, for me, always a time of soul-searching, one in which I try to balance the demands of conscience with the necessity of obtaining optimal outcomes. The outcome I hope for in this year's Congressional elections is a House and Senate that will, at a minimum, provide platforms from which to move forward in the following ways: to free our country from the contrived fear and hysteria that have infected political decision making since 9/11; to extricate us from the quagmire of our illegal and immoral occupation of Iraq; to reverse five years of erosion of our civil rights; to work toward a just peace in Israel / Palestine; to shift from our misguided, arrogant, macho unilateralism to multilateral diplomacy and greater use of the United Nations; to promote the UN's millennium development goals and move towards the creation of a global Marshall Plan; to recognize the severity of environmental crisis and to respond accordingly; to strengthen our educational system; and to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable medical insurance.

No candidate can be expected to deliver on every one of the above agenda; so deciding whom to support inevitably, calls for judgment and compromise. At times, then, I will promote candidates whom I regard as electable, even though they are somewhat less than ideal. In judging how far short of ideal a candidate really is, I find it necessary to imagine what s/he would most likely do once in office, as opposed to what s/he finds it necessary to say in order to reach that office. I recognize that very few politicians – other than those in super-safe districts and those who know they haven't a chance – can allow themselves the luxury of saying candidly what they truly believe.

Still, I take heart when I read something like the opening paragraph of the lead editorial of the most recent number of *The Nation*, which I quote here in full:

*“Four years ago at this time, Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone was winning his campaign for reelection,*

*despite being targeted by Karl Rove and the most ruthless GOP political operation in history. The race had been tight until October, when the White House engineered House and Senate votes authorizing force in Iraq. Urged by fellow Democrats to take the safe way out, Wellstone voted no and declared: ‘I know the conventional wisdom among Republicans is that this is the issue that will do [me] in. But I think people want you to do what you think is right.’ As it turned out, Wellstone was correct. He quickly opened a lead in the polls and was headed toward victory when a plane crash robbed the Democratic Party of its conscience.”*

While only a handful of current Congressional candidates, irrespective of party, have consciences that function at the moral level of Wellstone's, there is, at last, a rapidly growing perception of the evil and stupidity of our Iraq intervention and of a host of related policies of the Bush administration. This will, I presume, be reflected in the results of the impending election. Following that election, I anticipate that many decent – though still overly cautious – candidates will recover their moral bearings and help enable our country to embark on a new course toward goals in keeping with our best national traditions.

**Joe Schwartzberg, President  
Minnesota Chapter, CGS**

### CANDIDATES ENDORSED BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Based on responses to questionnaires and on the voting record of incumbents, the national office of CGS has endorsed the following candidates (and contributed financially to the campaigns of those marked with an \*): **Amy Klobuchar** \*, for the Senate; and **Keith Ellison** \*, **Betty McCollum**, **Kathleen Rowley**, and **Patty Wetterling** \* in their respective House races.

## Important Coming Events

### 2006 HAWKINSON PEACE AND JUSTICE AWARDS

**When: Sunday, November 12, 3:00 P.M.**

**Where: Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 4537 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis** Parking in church lot.

**Honorees: MARIE AND JOHN BRAUN and RALPH AND KAY HILGENDORF,  
plus six HAWKINSON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

This always-inspiring event, honoring the memory of the Rev. Vincent L. Hawkinson, is sponsored by the Foundation that bears his name. It recognizes men and women in the Upper Midwest who have made exceptional and sustained contributions to the promotion of a more just and peaceful world. It also features awards of scholarships to exceptional students engaged in peace and justice activities in the five-state region.

### 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MAP PEACE CELEBRATION: THE ECONOMICS OF PEACE

**When: Tuesday, November 14, 6:00-9:00 P.M.**

**Where: Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis**  
Parking in church parking lot.

**The Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (MAP)**, a coalition of 67 peace and justice organizations, will explore the interdependence of peace and economics, with emphasis on the **UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**.

**Speakers: KEITH ELLISON**, Representative in Minnesota House of Representatives, human rights activist and DFL candidate for 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District seat in US House of Representatives

**MARK RITCHIE**, founder and long-time President of the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and candidate for Minnesota Secretary of State.

**Program: 6:00 p.m. Millennium Village**, a gathering space for learning about the MDG.

**7:30, Gay Men's Chorus, followed by speakers and questions and answers.**

**Tickets: \$5.00**, available for purchase on-line at [www.mapm.org](http://www.mapm.org) or at door. Free for students with ID.

### THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public

**When: Thursday, November 16, 7:00-9:00 P.M.**

**Where: Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis**  
Parking in church parking lot.

**Topic: MAKING SENSE OF THE PAST ELECTION.** The campaigns and outcomes in the Minnesota elections will be examined in the context of emerging national patterns in both the House and the Senate. This will afford an opportunity to discuss the impact of the election on U.S. policies at home and abroad. In particular, an attempt will be made to sort out the interplay of events in Iraq and the war on terrorism in the electoral results.

**Presenter: WILLIAM FLANIGAN.** Professor Flanigan, who earned his Ph.D. at Yale University, has been a member of University of Minnesota's Department of Political Science since 1961. His specialty is American politics with an emphasis on public opinion and voting behavior. He has been analyzing the Minnesota Senate race and the House race in the 6<sup>th</sup> District as part of a national survey of competitive elections. His text, *The Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, co-authored with his wife, Nancy Zingala, has just gone into its 11<sup>th</sup> edition.

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**N.B.** Because of the closeness of the Christmas holiday, **there will be no Forum on December 21.**

## WHY WE MERIT AND NEED YOUR SUPPORT

In the few years of CGS's existence and over the much longer lifetime of its predecessor, the World Federalist Association, those two bodies have provided a meeting ground for a truly remarkable group of activists and a means for the development, exchange and dissemination of ideas that bear vitally on the future welfare of our species and our planet. Long-time members are aware of such luminaries as **Albert Einstein, Walter Cronkite, Norman Cousins, Emery Reves** and **John Anderson** and of their manifold creative initiatives. Here we wish to say a bit about some less well known, but also passionately committed, individuals who have worked selflessly here in Minnesota and to inform you of what we have done collectively as WFA/CGS chapter.

Some of our stars are, alas, no longer with us, except in spirit. We think of people like **J. Huntley Dupree**, a political science professor at Macalester College, whom Kofi Annan cites among the few mentors who most inspired him; his much loved contemporary at the University of Minnesota, **Mulford Q. Sibley; York Langton**, known throughout Minnesota as "Mr. UN;" **Governors, Harold Stassen**, a major figure in drafting the UN Charter, and a tireless advocate of a reformed and greatly strengthened UN, and **Elmer Anderson**, one of our state's most generous philanthropists; and **Stanley Platt**, a founder of the Civic League, whose writing, fund raising and organizational skills invigorated Federalist activities at both the state and national levels.

On the facing page we call your attention to the coming Hawkinson Peace and Justice Awards event. We list here known WFA/CGS honorees since the inception of the award and the dates of their awards. Deceased recipients (some noted above) include **Mulford Sibley**, 1988; **Stanley Platt**, 1990; and **Arthur and Martha Sternberg**, 1992. Those still active include **Louise Pardee**, a current CGS Board member and a leading figure in the former Minnesota Peace and Justice Coalition, 1997; **Joseph Schwartzberg**, current chapter President and one of the co-founders of the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, 1999; **Lynn Elling**, founder of World Citizen, Inc. and originator of the world-wide Peace Sites movement, 2001; **Eleanor and John Yackel**, founders of the Yackel Foundation to support educational programs to promote a just and peaceful society, 2002; and **Donald Irish**, active in Witness for Peace and in numerous causes relating to social justice in Latin America, 2004. Finally, we note two of this year's honorees, **Marie and John Braun**, tireless

workers for peace in the Middle East and, in the case of Marie, a three-time traveler to Iraq with Voices in the Wilderness.

Others currently on or newly rotated off our Board also deserve recognition. Space constraints allow us to cite only a few. **Michael Andregg**, founder of Ground Zero Minnesota, has probably organized more educational events in Minnesota than any person we know. He is the author of the exhaustively researched, award-winning book, *On the Causes of War*, 1998; an internationally recognized expert on intelligence organizations, an adjunct professor in the Justice and Peace Studies program at the University of St. Thomas, and an active member of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations. **Dick Bernard** is the indefatigable and innovative president of the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. An avid blogger, with wide-ranging interests, he has done much to promote exchanges of ideas on controversial topics. Of particular note are his efforts to promote justice in Haiti, since his first trip there in 2003. **Richard Lee Dechert**, a long-time staffer at Twin Cities Public Television, is also a prolific blogger as well as a local and national media watchdog and activist. **Lisa Ledwidge**, Outreach Director for the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research and Editor of Science for Democratic Action, puts enormous effort into maintaining our chapter's excellent website, yet still finds time to coordinate our chapter's efforts to promote the Mayor's Climate Initiative, whereby a growing number of Minnesota cities (along with others, nation-wide) are adopting the environmental standards of the Kyoto Protocol.

Finally, our chapter President, **Joe Schwartzberg**, also serves on the Steering Committee of the World Federalist Institute, a CGS think-tank. Over the past fifteen years he has been promoting two major undertakings. One is the pursuit of peace in Kashmir, pursued largely through the influential Kashmir Study Group, of which he was a co-founder. The other is UN reform, on which he has written extensively and lectured throughout the United States and abroad. At the request of the UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information his essay calling for a UN Administrative Academy was recently published in the *UN Chronicle*. Along with other recent works by Joe, it is listed on page 3 and may be ordered by interested readers.

While, to this point, we've mainly noted individual accomplishments, the CGS Board as a whole also has

much to its credit. Year after year it has sponsored a remarkable series of programs: our **annual dinner meetings**, with prominent keynote speakers; our intellectually stimulating and timely **Third Thursday Global Issues Forums**, and various other programs such as a recent workshop on **The US in the World** and a debate at the University of Minnesota on whether or not to abolish the UN. We've also co-sponsored and contributed financially to numerous events organized by MAP and several of its member groups. The chapter has sent delegations to the offices of several of Minnesota's representatives in Congress to discuss matters of global concern and communicated with them also by letter as need arises. And last month we voted to support and contributed financially to an initiative to erect a peace memorial in Washington, a city where war memorials abound.

As most of our readers know, our chapter does not raise dues on its own. While we do get modest returns from the national office, prorated according to our membership, most of our expenses are covered by contributions from our well-wishers. Ever since Stanley Platt's death in 1997, when we received numerous gifts in his memory, we have been gradually drawing down that legacy. Last year, for example, our expenses exceeded our income by more than \$2,000. We are now at a point where we must replenish our dwindling financial resources if we are going to continue to promote the vision and goals of CGS. We hope you will respond generously.

**Joe Schwartzberg, on behalf of the Board,  
Minnesota Chapter, Citizens for Global Solutions**

*SELECTED WORKS BY JOSEPH SCHWARTZBERG RELATING TO UN REFORM \**

Please note availability on a complimentary basis with contributions of \$25.00 or more to MN Chapter of CGS (details on page 4). For cash orders, please note number of copies desired.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Revitalizing the United Nations: Reform through Weighted Voting*, New York and The Hague: Institute for Global Policy, world federalist Movement, 2004, xviii + 79 pages. \$10.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Package of two papers: "A New Perspective on Peacekeeping: Lessons from Bosnia and Elsewhere," *Global Governance*, vol. 3, 1977, pp. 1-15; and "Needed: A United Nations Administrative Academy," *UN Chronicle*, No. 1, 2006, pp. 14-16. \$0.50

\_\_\_\_\_ "United Nations Reform: Can the UN Be as Effective as Hammarskjöld Wished?" Presented at The American Swedish Institute, August 2005, 21 pages. \$0.50.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Regional Representation as a Basis for Security Council Reform," University of Minnesota, November 2004, 14 pages. \$0.50.

\* All items are sold roughly at cost. Make checks payable to CGS Minnesota. For orders of items without a contribution of \$25 or more, please add \$1.00 for postage and handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to support the work of the **Minnesota Chapter of Citizens for Global Solutions**. My check, made out to CGS Minnesota, is enclosed.

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**N.B.** Contributors of \$50 or more will receive complimentary copies of all the publications on UN reform listed on page 3. Contributors of \$25 or more will receive either: A) a complimentary copy of *Revitalizing the United Nations: Reform through Weighted Voting*, or B) copies of each of the shorter works listed on page 3. Please indicate your choice: A or B \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be more active in the Minnesota Chapter. Please put me on the core e-mail list.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not yet a member of Citizens for Global Solutions, but wish to join. Please send first year's membership dues in return envelope (\$25 for one individual, \$30 for a couple, \$10 for a student).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_