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**OUR VISION:** We envision a future in which countries work together to abolish war, protect universal human rights and freedoms, foster sustainable development, and solve related problems facing humanity that no country can solve alone. This vision requires the involvement of informed world citizens to create and maintain effective democratic global institutions that will supplant the law of force with 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, promoting global citizenship and a new spirit of sharing, and devising initiatives to promote our vision. We undertake our mission by organizing educational events, communicating global concerns to public officials, collaborating with globally engaged organizations, and disseminating proposals to reform and strengthen the United Nations and other international institutions, including the creation of new agencies when necessary.

## THE FACES OF FUTURE LEADERS IN OUR WORLD.



These five young people, three from the organization Green Card Voices (<http://www.greencardvoices.com/>), and two visitors, honored us by their presence at the Third Thursday Global Issues Forum on October 20. From left: guest **Luciana (Lulu) de Souza Leao**, from Brazil, PhD candidate in Sociology at Columbia University; speakers **Zaynab Abdi**, Yemen and **Fosiya Hussien**, Somalia; guest **Shimri Zameret**, Israeli Peace Activist; and speaker **Wendy St. Felix**, Haiti. Each are holding copies of Padre Johnson's 1992 *Journeys with the Global Family*, presented to them at the meeting.

The students who spoke are among those featured in a fascinating new book, *Green Card Youth Voices*, all present or past students at Wellstone International High School in Minneapolis. Details about the book, which would be a **great holiday gift**, are at the Green Card Voices website. The program was videotaped and will be available on our Global Solutions web site soon.

Our attendance in October 20 was low. Please help honor our speakers by your attendance at these very stimulating monthly programs. All programs are free and open to the public.

## HATS OFF TO JIM NELSON

By Joe Schwartzberg

At its annual meeting on Saturday, October 29, the United Nations Association of Minnesota honored **James (Jim) W. Nelson** for his fifty years of continuous volunteer service to that organization. As many readers of this Newsletter are aware, for most of those years Jim was also one of the most committed and effective members of the Minnesota Chapter of the World Federalist Association (serving for one term as its President) and its successor organization, Citizens for Global Solutions, as well as many other service-oriented NGOs, especially in the field of human rights (most notably with Amnesty International) and in respect to environmental issues. He was particularly active in raising public awareness of UNCED, the 1992 UN Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro; he promotes the restoration of native grasses in Minnesota and elsewhere (experimenting with them on his own farm in Dakota County); and, currently, he is championing the protection of the endangered, but vitally important, bumble bee.

On Sunday, October 23, Jim and his wife, Nenita, held an open house for some fifty or so friends at his home in Minneapolis. On display were numerous memorabilia attesting to his work for a better world. Guests were given two of Jim's recent publications; one, "Nurture our Bumble Bees," is a gem, beautifully written and illustrated with Jim's exquisite close-up photos of bees in relation to the flowers they help pollinate; the other, "Well done is far better than well said," is a booklet documenting a career of incredible activism. Included in the latter work is a letter I wrote to Jim on 22 April 2000. It reads, in part, as follows:

*Dear Jim,*

*It is often said that the best teacher is the one who teaches by example. If this is true, as I believe it to be, then you are an exemplary mentor ... [You make] clear what individuals and groups, at various scales from the household to the global, can do to promote sustainability on our endangered planet. You have injected a note of hope and light into an intellectual landscape that is all too often depicted in prevailing gloomy tones ...*

**Joe Schwartzberg**

## AN INTERESTING PROPOSAL FOR A SOLUTION IN SYRIA

Dr. Joseph Schwartzberg has given a great deal of thought to how to deal with the complex and seeming irresolvable situation in war-torn Syria. Some weeks ago, Dr. Schwartzberg wrote an essay, whose title explains itself: "*Lessons from the Berlin Airlift Applicable to Humanitarian Aid in Syria*".

The Essay itself is too long for this newsletter. It can be read in its entirety at the OutsideTheWalls.org/blog for October 16, 2016 (<http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/dr-joseph-schwartzberg-lessons-from-the-berlin-airlift-applicable-to-humanitarian-aid-in-syria/>).

In the early 1950s Dr. Schwartzberg was an Army officer in Germany, and saw near-first hand how the Berlin Airlift of aid solved what seemed to be an intractable problem. All situations differ, of course, but creative thinking is necessary, and Dr. Schwartzberg writes a very interesting 3-page opinion piece sharing his ideas on the matter.

**Our Board:** Dr. Gail Hughes, President; Dick Bernard, Vice-President; Nancy Dunlavy, Secretary; Dennis Dillon, Treasurer; Roxanne Abbas, N. John Borgen, Margaret Esslinger, Walid Issa, Kristi Rudelius-Palmer, Dr. Bharat Parekh, Dr. Joseph Schwartzberg, Maryam Yusefzadah.

**Join us:** Suggested donations: \$10 students, \$30 individuals, \$40 couples.  
Checks to "Citizens for Global Solutions" mailed to Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St #414, Minneapolis 55403.

**Contact:** Dick Bernard, [dick\\_bernard@msn.com](mailto:dick_bernard@msn.com) or 6905 Romeo Road, Woodbury MN 55125-2421, 651-334-5744

## THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUMS

Free and open to the public

Plymouth Congregational Church (Jackman room, lower level), 1900 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis. Abundant free parking in the lot on Franklin Ave. adjacent to Church; enter building from lot on LaSalle Ave. side. For more information, please phone Gail at (612) 237-9819, or go to our website at [www.globalsolutionsmn.org](http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org).



### NOVEMBER, 2016 THIRD THURSDAY FORUM

“Freeing the Dove”

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 6:45 – 8:45pm

Presenter: Walid Issa, Palestinian Peace Activist

In his presentation, 27-year-old Mr. Issa will share his story and discuss the projects he has created to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Raised in the Dehesha refugee camp in Bethlehem, Walid is the founder of the American Palestinian Hope Project and the co-founder of the Shades Program on Negotiation. He has received a Welter Global Citizen Award from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and a Student Leadership award from St. Cloud State University, where he received his degree in Economics. Don't miss a chance to share ideas with this inspiring young peace entrepreneur!

### There is no Third Thursday Forum in December.

- January 19<sup>th</sup>: Kristi Rudelius-Palmer and Amanda Lyons will talk about global human rights treaties and the current stance of the United States on these treaties
- March 16<sup>th</sup>: Dr. Karen Shragg will present “Move Upstream: A Call to Solve Overpopulation”
- Proposed topics for February, April, May and our June Annual Dinner are: TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership); Brexit; the Global Refugee Situation; and U.S.-Russia Relations.

**Details of the Third Thursday Programs for Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, and May 18 will be announced in upcoming newsletters and on our web site – SAVE THESE DATES, and Stay Tuned!**

At the Sep. 15 Forum, Dr. Joachim Savelsberg made a most interesting presentation on his book: *“Representing Mass Violence: Conflicting Responses to Human Rights Violations in Darfur”*. The book can be read at no cost online. Simply go to <http://www.joachimsavelsberg.com/> and click on the book cover.

### CHANGE IS AHEAD FOR OUR WEBSITE

It is no secret to elders that the means of communication are changing much too fast. Those who receive this newsletter via U.S. mail remember when newsletters like this were the primary way of receiving information. Enter the internet and change is happening at warp speed. We have been working at integrating this newsletter and our website, <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/>, and come January, 2017, we plan to inaugurate a website designed by a young person which will be more accessible and user friendly to young people, who are the future of our organization.

Board member **Maryam Yusefzedah** is coordinating redesign efforts. She comments:

*We have been wanting to re-design our website to represent our younger members and their informational expectations. We are building a site that easily features our chapter's activities such as our Third Thursday Presentations, our resource materials, and blog posts. We have updated the site with a fresh new look and feel that will be closely aligned with our Facebook site, and available to other social media used by our membership and followers. The new website is expected to be in place sometime in January, 2017.*

*We thank Claude Buettner for his many years of updating and managing our current website. Through his dedication to our mission, Claude has freely provided his time and services to CGS-MN, and we very much appreciate his efforts for us all. Thank you, Claude.*

## **Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota**

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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

**“...that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”**

Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg, Nov. 19, 1863.

## **POLITICS AND A 501(c)3 ORGANIZATION**

By Dick Bernard, editor, Vice-President

This newsletter is being assembled and will be mailed and received about the time of the 2016 U.S. election. In recent years, CGS Minnesota has become a 501(c)3 organization, which prohibits our taking partisan positions: who should be elected is everyone's personal decision in the political process.

I've been an active member of CGS since 2004, and we've never involved ourselves in partisan politics, even when we could have been. Our emphasis has always been consistent with our mission statement (at the beginning of page one). We seek, I think it is fair to say, a better world for everyone. That is what we have a passion about.

In a few days (perhaps already in the past, depending on when you receive this newsletter) the American people will have made their choices for the next two or four years. This election is, as always, a consequential event.

But as important as election results may be, they pale against the responsibility we all have to be the very “politics” which we may despise.

Casting a ballot is never enough. In all of the ways accessible to each of us we need to stay engaged in having an informed say in the development and implementation of policies for our state, our nation and our world.

Sometimes it seems like a hopeless case: a single person, a single small group, seems so inconsequential.

But I am always guided by that Margaret Mead quotation, which is so very true: *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”* Of course, “group” suggests differing opinions which need to be negotiated, no matter how small the group. This is important.