

Newsletter November 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.

ON GOODNESS

Joe Schwartzberg, President, Minnesota Chapter

Much of our attention these days is riveted to the Occupy Wall Street and other occupation movements that have mushroomed over much of the world. Exciting as mass movements can be, I find myself more powerfully drawn to individuals, especially young people, whose behavior is in some way exceptionally exemplary. Every year I have an opportunity to draw inspiration from such individuals at the annual awards ceremony of the Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation for Peace and Justice. Cribbing much of the following text from the most recent Hawkinson newsletter, let me record here some of the achievements of this year's scholarship recipients.

Top honors went to **Sara Marie Tomczyk**, a 24-year old graduate from the Nursing School of the University of Minnesota, who undertook an internship in Ethiopia for International Christian Charities. There she developed and applied a holistic treatment of podoconiosis, a disfiguring and stigmatizing foot disease. While at Minnesota, Sara worked at the Center for Victims of Torture and founded a Global Health and Transcultural Nursing Group. She will apply her scholarship to her tuition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where she will be studying for a master's degree in epidemiology and public health.

Asma Saroya, of Blaine, MN, graduated in 2007 from St. Catherine University, is currently studying law at Hamline, and plans to specialize in immigrant law to better serve minority communities. She is a co-founder and chairwoman of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, MN, where she advocates for victims of hate and discrimination and educates communities about legal rights and religious accommodation. Asma also serves on the Boards of several organizations such as the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and as a St. Paul Foundation Facing Race Ambassador.

Christine Jeske, of Madison, WI, aged 34 and a mother of two, has spent many years living with and learning from people in poverty in Nicaragua, China, South Africa and other countries around the world. She is currently working on a PhD in socio-cultural anthropology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, focusing her studies on how cultural misunderstandings and power assumptions deter development and justice in the developing world. In 2009 she completed an autobiographical book, *Mud: Inspiration for Everyday Activists: Stories from Africa*.

Anya Svanoe, 22, of Sioux Falls, SD is presently a senior at the University of Minnesota majoring in global studies, social justice and leadership. She has worked on a development project in Honduras, studied in Kenya, been active in a student coop, volunteered with MPIRG, and tutored at several elementary schools. Her Hawkinson scholarship will help support her organizational work with Isaiah and Take Action Minnesota. (continued on page 4)

*** AN EVENT YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS ***

November 22, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

The Hon. LLOYD AXWORTHY "THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT"

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Room 25, Law School, Mondale Hall, West Bank, University of Minnesota 229 19th Avenue South

Parking in Municipal Ramp, 1501 Washington Avenue South, adjacent to Holiday Inn Metrodome

Over much of the world, autocratic regimes have used the mantle of "national sovereignty" as a means of protecting themselves from outside intervention as they undertook campaigns of genocide or ethnic cleansing against ethnic or religious minorities, tribal populations, dissident political movements and other supposedly undesirable groups. The rights of States traditionally trumped the rights of people. But in 2005 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously approved a fundamentally new concept of what sovereignty meant, declaring that it not only gave States certain rights, but also entailed the responsibility of States to protect their own citizens. Further, the new doctrine stipulated that when States failed to uphold this responsibility, the international community, acting through the UN, had not only a right, but an obligation, to act in the interest of endangered populations and could even use force to do so, though only as a last resort, when all other means of peaceful intervention had been exhausted. Laudable though the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine appears, it must be admitted that the international resolve to apply it has been wanting on multiple occasions. Why this is so and what can be done about the problem will be addressed by Dr. Axworthy during the course of his presentation.

Our presenter, the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, is a former Foreign Minister of Canada and a former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, serving twice as President of the UN Security Council. He served 21 years in the Canadian Parliament and has held seven different cabinet

posts in the Canadian government. Currently, he is President of the University of Winnipeg.



He has gained distinction for his advocacy for the International Criminal Court, the Responsibility to Protect principle, and the abolition of land mines for which he was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. He holds honorary doctorates from twelve universities. His book, *Navigating a New World - Canada's Global Future*, was published in 2003.

Sponsoring organizations: Minnesota Chapter, Citizens for Global Solutions; United Nations Association of Minnesota; Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, Advocates for Human Rights; Canadian Consulate General, Minneapolis; Advocates for Human Rights; World Without Genocide at William Mitchell College of Law; the Minnesota International Center; and the following units of the University of Minnesota: Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Human Rights Center of the Law School, Human Rights Program of the College of Liberal Arts, Department of Political Science, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, and the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change.

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.

November 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m. LIBYA. Given its small population, Libya has a curious modern history as a prototype for "something or other." But what that "something" might be changes from era to era. This talk will look at the question in relation to the contemporary situation, examine what is currently happening in Libya and explore ways of thinking about what lies ahead for the country and its people.

Presenter: Professor MARTIN SAMPSON. Decades ago, Martin Sampson, then a Peace Corps volunteer, taught seventh grade English in a southern Libyan oasis village and spent a third year in Tripoli as an Associate Director of Peace Corps / Libya. His 1994 article, "Exploring the Seams: External Structures and Libyan Foreign Policy," reflects two academic interests, development under conditions of affluence and, second, weaker actors exploring seams in structures established by the strong. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Minnesota and has won the U. of M. Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award and the U. of M.'s President's Award for Outstanding Service.

December 15: Because of the proximity of this date to the holiday season, there will be no Third Thursday Forum in December.

Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 p.m. MOVE TO AMEND

Speaker: David Cobb

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church 511Groveland at Lyndale, Minneapolis

The Minnesota Chapter of Citizens for Global Solutions is proud to join roughly 80 other member organizations of the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers as a cosponsor of the Move to Amend program noted above. We urge your attendance. Tickets are \$5.00 and may be purchased at the event.

Most corporations serve society well. But, giant corporations armed with big money and the presumed "rights of persons" are now hijacking our democracy. Their path to political power was greased in 2010 by the extraordinary "Citizens United" decision of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that corporations were legal persons and that campaign contributions, no

matter how large, were a protected form of "free speech."

In the past year, as more and more Americans face severe economic hardship, large corporations have been raking in enormous profits, often free from taxation and with little or no regard to the environmental consequences of their business decisions. The obscene gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. Is it any wonder then that we are now witnessing "occupation" movements, not only on Wall Street, but in cities and towns throughout the nation, as well as in many other countries around the world where greedy corporations have gained excessive power?

Happily, events of the past two months have demonstrated that ordinary citizens are capable of organizing and fighting back. The grassroots Move to Amend (www.movetoamend.org) movement is one way of doing so. It promotes a Constitutional amendment that would overturn the Citizens United ruling, establish that money is not speech and that only human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights, Such an amendment would protect local communities, their economies and the environment and safeguard democratic rule from illegitimate pre-emption actions by governments bought our by corporate interests. Join the movement.

ON GOODNESS (continued from page 1)

Brittany Gallagher, 28, of Lake Geneva, WI, has served both in AmeriCorps, working largely with at-risk teenagers, and in the Peace Corps, spending two years in a small village in Niger as a natural resource management volunteer. She also spent a year in Fiji studying connections between social and environmental problems. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, with a degree in communication and film, she is currently pursuing a master's degree in environmental studies at Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. Her focus is on empowering communities to use their collective power to improve the lives and health of their people and their environment.

Apart from the five young scholarship recipients noted above, the Hawkinson Foundation honored **Charles** ("Chuck") Lutz of Minneapolis, who, for more than fifty years, "has been an effective advocate for peace and justice issues at the congregational, regional and national levels, and in denominational, ecumenical and interfaith arenas." Though the son of a pastor, Chuck has always served in a lay capacity. He has authored several books relating to peace, justice and social ethics. His principal retirement endeavor has been with Churches for Peace in the Middle East, a coalition of 24 national agencies advocating for a just peace in Israel / Palestine. In that capacity he has coordinated a half dozen group trips to the region.

Change agents like those described here radiate goodness. They inspire and empower others and put to shame those whose life paths are directed by greed. Though they may not gain as much media attention as the praiseworthy occupiers of Wall Street and other sites, they provide examples of selfless dedication to the well being of others that will, I believe, ultimately help change our systems of local, national and global governance.

To learn more about the Hawkinson Foundation, including scholarship information, please visit www.hawkinsonfoundation.org.

Comments, sent to Joe Schwartzberg at schwa004.umn.edu, will be welcome.

Citizens for Global Solutions

(formerly the World Federalist Association) 5492 Bald Eagle Blvd. E. White Bear Lake, MN 55110

www.globalsolutionsmn.org http://globalsolutions.org

Where your talents and the needs of the world cross, there lies your vocation. Aristotle

One does not have to be an angel to be a saint. Albert ${\bf Schweitzer}$

If something comes to life in others because of you, then you have made an approach to immortality.

Norman Cousins

Important event on November 22 See page 2 for details.