



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

CELEBRATE CONSENSUS BUILDING AND PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER

Claude Buettner, President, Minnesota Chapter, CGS, August 28, 2008

We are one-twelfth into the first century of the new millennium (Thank God that's over!). During this period we have witnessed previews of what could have been a major change of course; but many Americans are left with a feeling that we've seen and heard all this before.

What we're now experiencing is a thinly disguised retelling of the same sad story of the last few centuries when distance and delays in communication made it easy for people to think of countries as isolated, unattached entities. When our own country was new, the social contract that bound its citizens together did not seem to apply on an international scale. Then, even the basic human rights of prisoners of war had to be promoted and negotiated by the newly independent United States, whose citizens had been hideously abused in our parent-empire's prison ships off Manhattan Island and elsewhere. But today the farthest distance on earth has shrunk to at most 48 hours for a traveler taking scheduled airlines and to minutes for an intercontinental missile. Communication is instantaneous and ubiquitous thanks to an infrastructure of satellite carriers and Internet servers. But, in a time when the world is inextricably interconnected, our international institutions are not yet up to the task of ensuring a secure future. Signs that we are prone to regression abound.

Ironically, we are surrounded by successful examples of how free committed groups with divergent and seemingly irreconcilable views are able to work through a long, sometimes tedious, but eventually manageable, process of consensus building. As we Americans watch our political process with fascination - - and sometimes trepidation - we witness a mostly successful model that could be scaled up to allow peaceful transfer of power on an international level, with checks and balances and guarantees of basic rights.

Take heart that there is a way forward to a democratic (small d), inclusive system of international institutions that could be capable of solving life-and-death problems that no nation can solve alone: nuclear proliferation, water and energy resource wars, environmental degradation, and overpopulation. With guidance, our embryonic system of global governance -- as it now exists in the Security Council, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization -- can be improved by increasing transparency and accountability and by increased and better representation of those who are affected by the decisions made by these institutions.

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public.

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

Thursday, September 18, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

A WORLD PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Until recently, the idea of an elected World Parliamentary Assembly would have struck most people as hopelessly utopian; but new diplomatic and non-governmental initiatives have given it credibility. This presentation will discuss how such an assembly might function (initially, as with the European Parliament, only on an advisory basis), what it might be empowered to do, and how it might be brought into being.

Presenter: PROFESSOR JOE SCHWARTZBERG. A professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota, where he taught from 1964 to 2000, and a past President (11 years) of the Minnesota Chapter of CGS, Dr. Schwartzberg is the author of many publications on reform of the United Nations system. He is presently writing a book, *Designs for a Workable World*, which will tie together and expand upon many of his ideas on global governance including the one to be addressed in our September forum.

Thursday, October 16, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA AND ITS INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The conflict now being waged in Georgia is not just about that small state. Rather, it has serious implications for the whole of the ethnically troubled Caucasus region and poses fundamental dilemmas for Ukraine and other former Soviet republics in Russia's "near abroad." Beyond that, it plays a major role in shaping political and economic relations among the US, our NATO allies in Europe and the newly confident, oil-rich Russian regime, most of whom apply double standards in dealing with the issues.

Presenters: SAM SCHUETH AND PROFESSOR THEOFANIS STAVROU. Mr. Schueth, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota, has made several trips to Georgia, beginning in 2001, and has spent 18 months there learning the language. He has written on Georgia's foreign policy under Edward Shevardnadze and is currently working on a dissertation on the country's reform and state-building efforts since the 2003 "Rose Revolution." Professor Stavrou came to the United States from Cyprus in 1952, began teaching at the University of Minnesota in 1960 (a year prior to completing his doctorate at the University of Indiana), and studied for a year at the University of Leningrad. He has visited the Soviet Union/Russia every year from 1963 to 1995 and has traveled in every one of the USSR's constituent republics. A highly acclaimed teacher and author, he has supervised over 40 dissertations on various aspects of Russian history.

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

RETHINKING 9/11

Rethinking 9/11 is a compelling 60-minute documentary that presents photographic and other evidence regarding the fall of World Trade Center Tower No. 7 and other issues that make the official story of 9/11 very unlikely. It pays particular attention to behind the scenes activities of intelligence agencies from at least four countries and references other videos and documentaries in detail. For example, members of Israel's Mossad were present at the scene on 9/11; and some money for Al Qaeda came from Saudi sources through Pakistan's ISI (Interservice Intelligence Agency).

Presenter: PROFESSOR MICHAEL ANDREGG. Dr. Andregg has been the Director of Ground Zero Minnesota since 1982, an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota since 1981, and an adjunct professor of justice and peace studies at the University of St. Thomas since 1993. He is an internationally recognized expert on intelligence operations, the author of the award-winning book, *On the Causes of War*, and the producer of scores of videos, including approximately fifty for the TV series, *Rethinking the World*.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

Joe Schwartzberg, CGS Board Member, September 5, 2008

Well, folks, it's been anything but a quiet week in Minnesota, home to Lake Wobegon and the Xcel Energy Center, the site of the 2008 **Republican National Convention**. Interesting as the RNC was, it was not the only noteworthy recent activity in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. This report deals with only a few of the related happenings.

For starters, **Veterans for Peace**, to which a number of CGS members belong, had its annual national meeting at the Ramada Hotel in Bloomington. Well over 300 hundred vets and family members from all over the country attended. Regrettably, the only part of a very rich program that I was able to attend was the banquet on August 29. Among several inspiring after-dinner speakers was **Kathy Kelly**, founder of Voices for Creative Non-violence. Kathy has made numerous trips to Iraq since the first Gulf War to deliver medicines in defiance of the US embargo and has served repeated jail terms for doing so. Together with five others, she had just completed a forty-five day walk from Chicago to St. Paul, spreading her anti-war message in small towns and cities all along the way. How so much energy could be packed into a body weighing no more than a hundred pounds (my guess) amazes me. Following Kathy was **James Yee**, the former Muslim Army chaplain who ministered to the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. A third generation Chinese American, 1991 West Point graduate and convert to Islam, Captain Yee was unexpectedly accused of espionage and subjected to 76 days of solitary confinement and sensory deprivation. He was never advised of the evidence against him. In fact, there was none; and he was released as unexpectedly as he was imprisoned. Resigning his commission, he received an honorable discharge and later a commendation for exemplary service (!), but not a word of apology. Yee's talk was accompanied by numerous slides documenting the horrible conditions at Guantanamo. The final speaker was Pulitzer Prize winner **Jeremy Scahill** whose book, *Blackwater*, provides an expose of the immensely harmful consequences of privatization, at an enormous cost, of much of the US's military operations in Iraq and elsewhere, including New Orleans in the wake of hurricane Katrina.

On August 31 and September 1, about 35 peace activists, mainly vets, undertook a **24-hour fast at St. Paul's Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church**; and fifteen of them, including several present and former **Board members of CGS** spoke on various peace-related issues. **Wayne Wittman** coordinated this activity.

The four days of the RNC were a period of numerous **marches and demonstrations**. Following their own convention, many veterans stayed on and marched at the head of the largest of the marches that converged on the Xcel Center. More than 800 marchers and demonstrators were arrested, and many of these were also maced, tear-gassed, pepper-sprayed or roughed up by local police officers. Among them were two photographers for *Democracy Now* as well as the program's director, Amy Goodman, who tried to intervene on their behalf. Two detainees, one only 19 years old, appear to have been brutally manhandled in the Ramsey County jail. Although Mayor Coleman and the St. Paul Police Department had given repeated assurances that every effort would be made to protect the Constitutionally guaranteed rights of demonstrators, the authorities often failed to do so. Especially egregious were preemptive raids on the "convergence center" in West St. Paul where many anti-war activities were being planned, as well as on four private homes in Minneapolis and St. Paul, because of (false) allegations of planned incitement to violence. Computers, journals, funds, and other property were confiscated. To be sure, some individuals (none from the raided premises) did, predictably, commit acts of vandalism. However, none of that excuses the conduct of the security forces, who should have been held to a higher standard of conduct. Mounting evidence suggests that the Department of Homeland Security and the Secret Service instigated some of the excesses. This was not democracy's finest hour.

Among the most prominent Twin Cities visitors dissenting from US policies, especially in the Middle East, was **Scott Ritter**, a former US Marine Corps intelligence officer and a senior UNSCOM weapons inspector in Iraq. He spoke at several venues in the Twin Cities during the RNC, including the **Hennepin Ave. United Method Church**, in an event organized by our President, **Claude Buettner**. Ritter documented the mendacity of the Bush administration in leading the US to war in Iraq and warned that "we are seeing history repeat itself," in our current demonization of and preparation for war on Iran.

In marked contrast to the frenetic activity on the streets and inside the Xcel Center, a two-day **Peace Island** conference was held nearby at Concordia University in St. Paul. This richly informative, "solutions-driven" conference was organized by **MAP (the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers)** and had well over 350 registrants. It featured twenty-six speakers in plenary and breakout sessions relating to "Energy and the

Environment,” “Global Peace and Nonviolence,” and “Justice and Human Rights” and had literature displays from several dozen organizations including CGS. Several **Board members**, notably **Dennis Dillon** (Chair), **Dick Bernard** and **Verlyn Smith**, were key members of the planning committee that met weekly for nearly a year to put the program together. Among the speakers I most enjoyed were **Kathy Kelly** (see above), **Doug Johnson**, director of the Center for Victims of Torture, and FBI

whistle-blower and 2006 DFL Congressional candidate, **Coleen Rowley**, speaking on political ethics. Other presenters included **Bharat Parekh**, a current CGS Board member, speaking on the UN’s Millennium Development Goals, and **Lisa Ledwidge**, a former Board member, on a carbon-free, nuclear-free US energy policy. CGS also had a literature table from which much literature was dispensed. All in all, CGS, Minnesota can be proud of its contributions to a splendid event.

PROPOSAL FOR UN CHARTER REVIEW DISCUSSED AT UNESCO MEETING IN PARIS

On September 3-6 a number of long-time World Federalists took part in a UNESCO-sponsored conference in Paris, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Nearly 2,000 delegates from NGOs throughout the world were in attendance. Citing Article 28 of the UDHR, which states: “*Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth*

in the Declaration can be fully realized,” some of the delegates observed in a breakout session that the UN Charter, in its present form, is incapable of achieving that goal and called for a broadly based movement for a general Charter Review conference as provided for in Article 109 of the Charter. The calling of such a conference would not be subject to a great power veto.

SUPPORT CGS-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Based on responses to a CGS questionnaire and, where applicable, on past voting records, CGS is pleased to single out for support the following candidates: **Al Franken** for Senate, the incumbent **Betty McCollum** for the House, and the challenger **Steve Sarvi** for the House. We hope that you will contribute to their campaigns through the CGS political action fund. For further information please consult <http://www.actblue.com/page/cgs4change3> or http://www.globalsolutions.org/politics/elections_and_candidates.

Citizens for Global Solutions
(formerly the World Federalist Association)
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www.globalsolutionsmn.org

Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving government the power to control men’s minds.

Justice Thurgood Marshall

Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

Frederick Douglas