



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.

ATOMS FOR PEACE NEEDS RETHINKING

Claude Buettner, President, Minnesota Chapter, CGS

A very conservative acquaintance once asserted to me that the primary purpose of a national government is to establish security. Our global governance system (UN, WTO, IMF, etc.) is failing by this primal measure to guard against potential global conflicts that could be precipitated by the ever-increasing water/food/energy insecurity.

There is an inherent loophole built into the “Atoms for Peace” regime which allows all nations the right of owning the entire production cycle of nuclear material. As Scott Ritter, former UN weapons inspector and the presenter in CGS’ past September forum, pointed out in his recent book, *Target Iran*, all nations including Iran have the right to process nuclear fuel for civilian use. Unfortunately the exact same process used for enrichment of nuclear material for civilian energy use is also used for further enrichment for use in nuclear bombs for military purposes: merely cycle the material through cascading centrifuges until the desired concentration is reached.

How could international law be changed to block countries from developing this technology or at least to require *all* nations to submit to *full* supervision of the concentration phase of production? Can we imagine the US and Russia (who, according to the reputable Union of Concerned Scientists, own 96% of all nuclear weapons) going along with these new requirements? Would other countries agree to such supervision if these rules don’t apply also to the US and Russia? The relationship between the US and Russia, especially on the nuclear issue, will remain pivotal if the world is to move forward on the security front.

Allen Greenspan recently said that it was human nature that caused the global financial meltdown and that, because human nature doesn’t change, a similar meltdown could reoccur. Hmmm... If that’s true, then, by the same reasoning, we remain vulnerable to all-out nuclear war. Thus, the 96% of the nuclear weapons held by the US and Russia must be seen as a greater long-term threat to civilization than the new ones coming on line. It may seem that past cycles of mass violence provide the skeleton of human history upon which subsequent details are fleshed out. But it is social, industrial and governmental structures that make up the framework of civilization; and war, especially global war, is the cancer that threatens that structure. What we need now are effective *structures for peace*, to use a favorite term of our late chapter inspiration, Stanley Platt.

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It's time to get on with the work of civilization, to establish and maintain peace at the international level, even if peace remains imperfect at the local level. In the same way, peace among neighboring US states doesn't completely eliminate local crimes or brawls. The higher authority of our federal courts allows even serious disputes between states to be resolved without resorting to military action. This is the tradition that needs to be established at the international level.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The Board of the Minnesota Chapter of CGS is fortunate to have as a member Randy Roberts, a social studies teacher at the prestigious Blake School in Minneapolis. Randy regularly teaches a course on the UN and takes Blake students to various locations to participate in Model United Nations programs. We print below, with vicarious pride, an account of what that experience has meant to one of Randy's students.

My First Model United Nations Experience by Sutton Higgins, 10th Grade

As a first year participant in The Blake School's Model United Nations club, I was able to attend a 4-day conference run by undergraduate students at the University of Chicago. From beginning to end, the weekend was filled with action, including 24 total hours of committee work while still finding time to be with my friends and see some of the sights around Chicago. I was the Saudi Arabian delegate to the Economic and Financial Committee of the General Assembly, and I would be lying if I said that working as a first timer was not a challenge. The more experienced and knowledgeable delegates immediately launched

themselves into solving the issue of sustainable development in Africa and I was extremely intimidated by their sheer knowledge and competence. However, having prepared myself for months, and not one to back down from a challenge, I began to learn from my peers how to effectively communicate my country's position, compromise, while still maintaining my country's values, and write effective clauses for position papers and resolutions. I took pleasure in gaining knowledge from such intelligent and genuinely friendly fellow delegates and, by the end of the weekend, I was proud to say I had a much firmer grasp on the United Nations process. I have always enjoyed international affairs and thus when Model United Nations was first suggested to me last Spring it seemed like the perfect fit; so, it was hardly a surprise when I fell in love with the conference and the whole entire experience of MUN. I fully intend to return in the coming years and I would recommend Model United Nations to anyone who has even the slightest interest in international affairs.

ODDS AND ENDS

Recent "**Third Thursday Global Issues Forum**" programs (see page 3) have been exceptionally good. If you haven't sampled them, you really ought to. Our February 19 program, **Obama's Foreign Policy: What Can We Expect?**" led by Professors Roy Grow and Jack Nelson Pallmeyer, drew a record attendance.

Many members of CGS were privileged on February 20 and 21 to attend the program organized by Friends for a Non-Violent World at Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church with the general title "**Turning the Tide: Towards a Foreign Policy of Human Dignity.**" I found it an inspiring event, marked by outstanding speakers who combined deep knowledge with practical wisdom in presentations

that challenged their audience to think beyond the policy nostrums too long advocated by most politicians and the mainstream media. Particularly impressive, in my opinion, were the following: an introductory keynote address on how to bring peace to Israel and Palestine by Jim Fine of the Friends Committee on National Legislation; an analysis of the prospects for diplomacy, especially in respect to nuclear issues, by Craig Eisendrath, a Philadelphia-based retired diplomat; an often humorous view of US-Cuba relations by the journalist and book author, Reese Ehrlich; an eye-opening review of US-Iranian relations by William Beeman, Chair of the Anthropology Department of the

University of Minnesota and a brilliant closing keynote address by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, presented as a future historian's imagined retrospective account of the remarkable global transformation effected in the 21st century following the recognition that humanity was on an unsustainable political and environmental trajectory.

CGS is pleased to note that the **Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers** has signed on to the CGS initiative on a UN Parliamentary Assembly noted in our previous Newsletter. More on this in our next release.

J.E.S.

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, March 19, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE: PARALLEL REALITIES

Our speaker will provide an overview of the situation in the Middle East with special attention to the history and current developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In keeping with his previous journalistic work, he will summarize the approach of “Parallel Realities” (a series of articles written for the *Star Tribune* and later compiled into book form) and talk about how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict derives at least in part from the two connected historical narratives.

Presenter: ERIC BLACK. Black is a senior writer for MinnPost.com, in which his work has appeared since January 2008. Previously, for 30 years, he wrote for the *Star Tribune*, specializing on political coverage and pieces that provided timely historical context to issues in the news. He has written books about the U.S. Constitution (1987), the Cold War (1988), the Arab-Israeli conflict (1993), and conflicts in Northern Ireland and Bosnia and has won several journalism awards, most recently a first place in the Page One Awards from the Society of Professional Journalists for his online work.

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

The global food crisis is often analyzed in Malthusian terms of meeting expected future demand (sometimes projected 50 years out!) by increasing supply through public investing in hi-tech solutions. However, such “solutions” are often economically and environmentally unsustainable. Decentralized agricultural planning and production, with less import dependence on both inputs and foods, is a viable option for many developing countries, particularly as climate change results in greater supply and price volatility making foreign agricultural investment more problematic.

Presenter: STEVE SUPPAN. Suppan has been a policy analyst at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) since 1994. He has traveled to about 35 countries to explain U.S. agricultural, trade and food safety policy and IATP’s views on these issues to non-governmental organizations, farmer organizations, and intergovernmental organizations. He edits the quarterly *Global Food Safety Monitor* and contributes to the food safety and agricultural markets sections of the International Assessment on Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (www.agassessment.org).

Thursday, May 21, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A MAJOR TOOL OF DIPLOMACY

In today's complex, interdependent and globalized world, the economic chasm between the global "North" and the global "South" is a major source of political tension and instability. It also presents the affluent countries of the North with a serious moral challenge. It has become important, therefore, that the art of diplomacy recognize that without basic economic development, there can be little hope for a sustainable global peace. This presentation will discuss how the requisite diplomacy might ideally be conducted.

Presenter: RONALD M. BOSROCK, J.D. After a long and varied banking and international business career, Ron Bosrock was appointed to the Myer's Chair at Saint John's University in 1998, a position he held until 2005. Currently he is the author of the column, The Global Executive published by the StarTribune. He is also the Founder of the Global Institute and a guest lecturer at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. He is also the Honorary Consul General of Austria to Minnesota, a position he has held for the past 30 years.

Want to Help? There are several ways by which you can help CGS at both the national and local level. Here's how.

- a) **Membership in CGS.** Join or renew by paying annual dues (\$25 for an individual and \$30 for a couple) directly to the national office, Citizens for Global Solutions, 418 Seventh St. SE, Washington, DC 20003. This will automatically make you a member also of the Minnesota Chapter. Be sure to include your address and other contact information.
- b) **Contribute to the national office.** Contributions, apart from dues, may be sent to the national office at the address noted above and earmarked for either the **political fund** (not tax deductible) or the **education fund** (deductible).
- c) **The Minnesota Chapter of CGS really needs some financial assistance.** For the last decade or so, our financial outlays have considerably exceeded our income. We don't like to beg, but we nevertheless request contributions of whatever you feel you can afford. Kindly make checks payable to CGS, Minnesota Chapter, and send them to our Treasurer, Dennis Dillon, 210 West Grant St., Apt. 414, Minneapolis, MN 55403-22244.
- d) **Our chapter would like to save on paper and postage** by sending this Newsletter and occasional additional messages electronically to members who prefer to receive it by e-mail. A small number of you have already expressed such a preference, but not enough to make it worthwhile trying to sort through two different lists or recipients when mailing time comes round. When we reach a critical mass of e-mail subscribers, we'll institute a new system, but we don't even know the e-mail addresses of most of our readers. If you'd like to hear from us by e-mail, please send your e-mail address and that request to our Secretary, Richard Lee Dechert, ldeschert@webtv.net.
- e) **Come to our sponsored events**, the Third Thursday Global Issues Forums, the Partners Programs and others. *
- f) **Volunteer.** Would you like to be considered for membership on our Board or to serve in other ways? If so, please write up a bit about yourself (don't be modest) and send the information to our President, Claude Buettner, at 17350 W. 67th St. Circle, Eden Prairie, MN 55346, or contact Claude by e-mail at claudel101@comcast.net.

Citizens for Global Solutions
(formerly the World Federalist Association)
17350 West 67th Street Circle
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

www.globalsolutionsmn.org

Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Goethe

Another world is possible. She is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing. Arundhati Roy