

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.

PRIORITIZING ISSUES FOR THE COMING YEAR

Claude Buettner, President, Minnesota Chapter, CGS

(Adapted from remarks made at June's Annual Dinner meeting)

Two millennia ago Seneca the Elder wrote, "If one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favorable." Touchstones for many modern organizations are their Vision statements. Ours appear above. While that statement does inform us in a very general way of where we ought to be headed, it does not answer the practical question, "What should we do next? Let's think about it.

It has been said that politics is the art of the possible. So our long-term goal is to move the center of mass of public opinion and that of our elected leaders of **all** persuasions to make it possible to support and create effective, democratic (small d) institutions at the international level. **This will happen when the public-at-large perceives greater security in thoughtful movement to the rule of law at the international level and relatively less security in the current anarchy and vigilantism of the less-than-effective UN and treaty system of world governance that we have today.**

We invite you to review the big issues identified on the CGS national web site:
<http://www.globalsolutions.org/> (See Issues tab on left of the web site's main page.)

Climate Change

Human Rights

Law of the Sea

United Nations

Global Peacekeeping

International Criminal Court

Nuclear Weapons

[Look these over and](#) let us know **your** highest priorities. There is much to be done.

Our ideal is a world community of States which are based on the rule of law and which subordinates their foreign policy activities to law.

Mikhael Gorbachev,¹ Address to United Nations, December 7, 1988

We now have before us the opportunity to forge for ourselves and for future generations a new world order, a world where the rule of law, not the law of the jungle, governs the conduct of nations.

George H. W. Bush, State of the Nation address, January 16, 1991

There is a new world emerging everywhere, the results of the advance of freedom on all continents and within all political systems. We cannot betray the world freedom that wants to rise up. If we want to construct the world's future we cannot go on staring at the past.

Oscar Arias, Nobel Peace Prize winner, *Harvard Magazine*, 1988

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 17, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

GOVERNING GLOBAL FINANCE: WHAT NEXT?

The current global financial and economic crisis has been a salutary reminder of the dangers of both deregulation and privatization, as well as the limits of the theories justifying such deregulation. If the problem seems clear, the solutions do not: A crisis, by definition, is a time when expertise is in question. This presentation will sketch out the historical geography and differentiated landscape of global financial flows and their governance since the Bretton Woods agreement in 1942, in light of shifting discourses about the state, the market and development. It will illuminate how we reached our current situation and summarize, for discussion, selected proposals for governing and regulating finance.

Presenter: REGENTS PROFESSOR ERIC SHEPPARD. Professor Sheppard teaches economic geography at the University of Minnesota and has also taught in his native England, Canada (where he earned his Ph.D.), Austria, Indonesia and Australia. His recent scholarship has examined the uneven geographies of globalization, particularly since the neoliberal turn of the early 1980s, with particular regard to its impact on North-South relations. He has examined global trade, financial flows and migration and attempts to manage them by global, national and local institutions and social movements. The most recent of the ten books that he has authored, co-authored or edited is the highly acclaimed *A World of Difference* (2nd edition), Guilford Press, 2009.

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WHITHER IRAN IN THE OBAMA ERA?

Although the United States has changed course on Middle East relations with the election of President Obama, many of the political forces active in the Bush era are still forcing the present administration to proceed cautiously, especially with regard to Iran. Nevertheless, we can be cautiously optimistic about long-term improvements in U.S.-Iranian relations. We will discuss the problems President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton still face in their difficult diplomatic task and review their successes thus far. Iran is bound for change no matter what the Obama administration does or does not do. The demographics of youth and rising role of women virtually guarantee this.

Presenter: PROFESSOR WILLIAM O. BEEMAN. Professor Beeman chairs the Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota and is President of the Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association. He was formerly the Director of Middle East Studies at Brown University. For more than 30 years, he has also worked in the Middle East, Central Asia, the Caucasus, Japan, China and South Asia and has special expertise in Iranian culture. Among the 14 books that he has authored or edited are *Language, Status and Power in Iran*, and *The "Great Satan" vs. the "Mad Mullahs": How the United States and Iran Demonize Each Other*. He has served as consultant to the US State Department, the Department of Defense, Congress and the United Nations. He is a frequent commentator on international radio and TV and his written opinion pieces have appeared in major newspapers throughout the world.

Readers: We like to keep our Thursday Forum topics timely and to have top-notch speakers or panels for whatever topics we choose. We also like to be responsive to the wishes of those who attend. If you have a particular topic or speaker to recommend to us, please contact Joe Schwartzberg at schwa004@umn.edu.

WORLD PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION (BEST BOOKS AND GROUPS)

(Courtesy of Jim Ranney, Philadelphia Chapter, CGS)

BOOKS:

1. Lawrence Wittner, *Confronting the Bomb* (2009). Distillation of earlier 3 volumes that conclusively proves the old adage that it is *People Power* that has led to every significant arms control initiative.
2. Jonathan Schell, *The Gift of Time: The Case for Abolishing Nuclear Weapons Now* (1998). A very important book, by America's lead author in America on this issue, ever since his 1982 classic, *Fate of the Earth* (still a must read to sense the existential dread felt by many of us during the Cold War).
3. Richard Rhodes, *Arsenals of Folly: The Making of the Nuclear Arms Race* (2007). Excellent summary of the nature of the problem.
4. Strobe Talbott, *The Great Experiment: The Story of Ancient Empires, Modern States, and the Quest for a Global Nation* (2008). Important.
5. Benjamin Ferencz & Ken Keyes, *Planethood* (1991). Excellent introduction to world federalism.
6. James Carroll, *House of War: The Pentagon and the Disastrous Rise of American Power* (2006). Amazing history of growth of military-industrial-congressional legalized-theft complex by a guy who was "there," skipping down the halls of the Pentagon as the son of the first head of the NSA.
7. G. Mische & P. Mische, *Toward a Human World Order* (1977). An old classic, but a comprehensive approach informed by a wonderfully humane viewpoint.
8. Robert Muller, *Most of All, They Taught Me Happiness* (1978). This is everyone's favorite book by Robert, a pick-me-upper for those made dreary by PSR "bombing runs" or drained by "peace fatigue" caused by constantly trying to "jump start other people's consciences".

GROUPS:

1. World Security Institute, 1779 Mass. Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; 202-332-0660; www.cdi.org (retired military challenging excess military spending; a very effective group).
2. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Mass. Ave., N.W., Wash., D.C. 20036-2103; 202-483-7600; www.ceip.org (well-funded think tank, probably the leading one on the peace issue).
3. Global Action to Prevent War, 675 Third Ave., Suite 315, New York, NY 10017; 212-818-1815; www.globalactionpw.org (coalition of many peace groups trying to create a consensus plan for worldwide disarmament).
4. WILPF (Women's International League for Peace & Freedom), 1213 Race St., Phila. PA 19102; 215-563-7110; www.wilpf.org (they "keep everlastingly at it").
5. Project for Nuclear Awareness, Ed Aguilar, Exec. Dir., 1760 Market St., #602, Phila., PA 19103; 215-568-1702; nonukearms@aol.com; EdAguilarEsq@aol.com (excellent consortium of groups).

If you would like further recommendations on books and groups, contact: jamestranney@post.harvard.edu

KENNEDY AND THE SAD STATE OF OUR MEDIA

Louise Pardee and Joe Schwartzberg

As we mourn the death of Ted Kennedy, one of America's greatest Senators ever, it is worth comparing the extent of media coverage of his passing with that given to Michael Jackson. No contest, Jackson by a mile. And here in Minnesota, Tiger Woods' unsuccessful bid to win the PGA Tournament at Hazeltine and Brett Favre's tortuous path to becoming a Viking also received vastly more media attention than did Kennedy. What does this tell us about the state of American journalism? It simply underscores its descent into the realm of entertainment and escapism. The media anaesthetize the public and fail to provide information that would help citizens make intelligent decisions about major issues. That is exactly what the corporate owners and their corporate advertisers want: couch potatoes. Then they are free to manipulate Congress with well-paid lobbyists. That is why we need books such as those recommended above, as well as alternative media including responsible Internet services, and such educational vehicles as our monthly Third Thursday Global Issues Forums.

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 55403-2244.
- 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)
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www.globalsolutionsmn.org

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance. **Anonymous**