



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.

A BINATIONAL COMMISSION WITH RUSSIA

Claude Buettner, President, Minnesota Chapter, CGS

Imagine my surprise, while browsing through a defense contractor's web site, when a series of links brought me to the home page of the US State Department and a linked video of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/10/130567.htm>). She spoke in Moscow on October 14 and touched on the Binational Commission with Russia, part of which deals with missile defense. About twenty minutes into the video, during the questions and answers section, she was asked to prioritize issues of the Russia-America partnership. Clinton's lengthy answer included the following: "*Our goal is to be as cooperative as we can. And it would be, in my view, a very positive outcome if someday in the future you see the United States and Russia announcing a joint plan on missile defense...*" This underscores the sea change that has taken place over the last few decades under many administrations regarding our relationship with Russia, our nemesis for most of the second half of the last century.

In his landmark book, *Cosmos*, of 1980 Carl Sagan suggested that neither the United States nor the Soviet Union could forgo development of the latest space (and delivery) technology and concluded that joint exploration was therefore the logical bridge to a time when hostilities would have subsided. We seem to be well into this transition with the international work of the Space Station and continued talks on joint exploration of Mars. Perhaps it is now past time when it is politically possible to reexamine just how many operational missiles and stored warheads both countries need to be "safe." Calls for nuclear nonproliferation will ring hollow as long as the main keepers of nuclear weapons continue to hoard them and resist further progress in decreasing their stockpiles.

(By the way, did you know the US Atlas V commercial rocket flies with a Russian-made rocket engine?
<http://www.lockheedmartin.com/europe/russia/>)

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Slightly edited excerpts from a blog posted by Dick Bernard

Twenty-four hours ago, President Barack Obama was awakened to hear an announcement that caught him by surprise: he had just been awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. * It did not surprise me to learn that Obama's

enemies on the radical right were up in arms about his receiving the honor. It did surprise me that many leaders in the far left were similarly critical, though for a very different reason. (continued on page 2)

Only the Committee knows why Mr. Obama made the cut. My candidate for “ground zero” is the Nobel Committee’s profound respect for the President’s accomplishments, and the radical right wings revulsion towards his award, goes back to a phrase in a speech he gave in Berlin, Germany, in July 2008. In that speech, Obama began with this: “...*I come to speak not as a candidate but as a citizen; a proud citizen of the United States and a fellow citizen of the world.*” In a single phrase, he tore down the wall of American exceptionalism; and by his subsequent actions, he has begun to “walk the talk;” and it shows in the profound change in how the United States is viewed by other citizens in other countries. He spoke this risk-laden phrase during his run for the U.S. presidency, before he was officially nominated as the Democrats candidate, before the U.S. economy officially collapsed (September, 2008), and at what turned out to be the bitter end of the

dangerous dreams of the right wings Project for a New American Century, whose belief was, effectively, that the U.S. ran the world, and was not part of it. It was politically risky for him to utter that phrase at that time in his campaign.

So, long before nominations were closed in February 2009, Barack Obama had, thankfully, dramatically changed the national and international conversation. Whatever comes after is simply an addition to a huge accomplishment made even before he was elected in November 2008. Does the President deserve the Award? Absolutely. Jim Statmiller’s “Letter of the Day” in a recent *Minneapolis Star Tribune* said it as well as any will say it: “*The Nobel Peace Prize committee recognized that President Obama is changing America from world hegemonist to world citizen.*”

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, November 19, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

A CARBON-FREE AND NUCLEAR-FREE ENERGY SYSTEM

In 2007, the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research published a ground-breaking analysis of the planet’s three-fold energy crisis: severe climate change caused mainly by carbon dioxide emissions; insecurity, violence and war associated with control of oil supplies; and nuclear weapons proliferation connected to the spread of nuclear energy. That work, *Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy*, examines the feasibility of getting to a zero-carbon dioxide energy system by 2050. Authored by IEER president and senior engineer, Arjun Makhijani, the book provides a technological roadmap for achieving the goals indicated in its title and is popular among clean energy advocates and policy makers. The presentation will summarize the analysis and discuss what is being done to implement the book’s recommendations.

Presenter: LISA LEDWIDGE. Outreach Director at the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Adjunct Instructor at Inver Hills Community College, and former CGS-MN Board member, Lisa has been deeply involved in environmental, peace and security issues for more than a decade. Her focus has been on eliminating nuclear weapons and the Cold War’s health risk to present and future generations. She holds Master’s degrees in Environmental Science and in Public Affairs. Telecommuting from Minneapolis, Lisa edits and writes for IEER’s quarterly newsletter, *Science for Democratic Action*, and other publications. Additionally, she organizes annual workshops for activists, is a frequent public speaker, and has testified before a Congressional subcommittee on nuclear worker issues. IEER, a nonprofit, nonpartisan technical organization based in Takoma Park, Maryland, provides scientific information and analysis on environmental, energy, and security issues to grassroots activists, policy makers, journalists, and the public.

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. Please note that there will be **no Forum in December** because of the conflict with activities in the holiday season.

PROGRESS IN PROMOTING UN REFORM

Joe Schwartzberg

Many readers of this Newsletter are aware that for the last two years or so I have been working on a book, *Designs for a Workable World*, and also that I have, for many years, been writing and publishing articles relating to various aspects of UN reform. The book, which is now about two-thirds complete, will be both a synthesis and an extension of what I have previously written. At times, writing about UN reform appeared to be a largely thankless, as well as a fruitless endeavor; but I am pleased to report here on a number of indications that that is no longer entirely the case.

In September, quite unexpectedly, I received a call from a lawyer in the Legal Office of the United Nations asking if I would be willing to be a part of a panel on Security Council Reform on October 22 at the opening plenary session of the **International Law Weekend** conference in New York of the American Branch of the International Law Association. The panel was to be chaired by Professor José Alvarez, past President of the American Society for International Law and to include members of the UN delegations from the United States, Japan, Italy and Sierra Leone. (The American panelist was Alejandro Wolff, number two in the US mission after Susan Rice, who was invited, but could not come.) Noting that there were many writers on SC reform much better known than me, I asked the UN panel organizer why I'd been chosen and was told: "Because your ideas are *different*."

Happily, I was able to reprise my presentation only four days later at the **UN University** (from which I'd had a long-standing invitation) at the UN itself; but there, rather than being part of a panel, I made a solo presentation and had forty-five minutes or so afterward for questions and answers from the audience. At each of my two presentations there were audiences of more than a hundred. (Others were able to watch and listen to the UNU talk via live interactive Internet transmission). The UNU talk will soon be archived and a summary of it will be published by the UN Association, USA. I have also been asked to prepare a paper on my ideas for the journal of the International Law Students Association.

Additional evidence that my proposals are increasingly being taken seriously include the following:

- After my monograph, *Revitalizing the United Nations System*, was published in 2004, I was invited to Oslo to be the keynote speaker at the International Students Model UN, which was organized according to the representation system that I had recommended.

- My work has been discussed in articles in Canadian, Chinese, Czech, German and Italian publications (and very likely others of which I am unaware). The Chinese annual, *The Yellow Book of International Politics*, singled out my "non-main-stream proposal" and devoted more than three pages to its analysis.
- The **Center for War/Peace Studies** has issued a DVD, introduced by the recently deceased (and sorely missed) World Federalist, **Walter Cronkite**, promoting my ideas on regionally weighted voting in the Security Council (along with Richard Hudson's Binding Triad proposal for voting in the General Assembly).
- I have spoken on UN reform (often by invitation) at many locales in the United States and abroad.
- I have had articles published in *Global Governance* (twice), *The UN Chronicle*, *Global Dialogue*, *The Federalist Debate*, *Political Geography* and other journals.
- I have discussed my reform proposals with the UN ambassadors or other high-ranking diplomats at sixteen UN missions and/or foreign ministries and with several UN Under-Secretaries-General, sometimes (e.g., with India and Japan) with enthusiastic responses.

As luck would have it, I was able to combine my October trip to New York with two very stimulating conferences. The first, attended by invitees from 19 different countries, was a one-day affair to promote the establishment of a **United Nations Parliamentary Assembly**; and I presented a paper on that subject. (This will, by the way, be the theme of January's **Third Thursday Global Issues Forum**.) Immediately afterward (and with many of the same participants) came the four-day annual meeting of the **Council of the World Federalist Movement** of which I am a member. I am always stimulated at events of this nature because of the dedication and expertise displayed by so many of those in attendance. (An example is **Ed Rawson**, now 95 years old, and an unwavering federalist, since his reading of Clarence Streit's, *Union Now* in 1938). Also inspiring is the able leadership shown by **Andreas Bummel** (of Germany) and **Bill Pace** (of the USA), directors of **UNPA** and **WFM** respectively.

If you'd like to learn more about what I've been up to, please visit my newly created, and still far from complete, website, <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~schwa004>.

WORLD SAVVY

Citizens for Global Solutions is pleased to have **Charmagne Campbell-Patton** as a board member. Charmagne is the Program Manager at **World Savvy**, a global education non-profit working to educate and engage youth in community and world affairs. **World Savvy** was founded in response to a critical need for youth to acquire global knowledge and 21st century skills, and to the conspicuous absence of global education programs in the United States. Since its founding in 2002, **World Savvy** has grown from serving 90 youth and 20 educators in San Francisco through its single initial program, to serving over 6,000 youth and 750 educators through four core programs for youth and educators in California, New York and Minnesota in the 2008-09 academic year. In the Twin Cities, **World Savvy**

coordinates the **World Affairs Challenge**, an annual academic competition for middle and high school students. This year, students will explore the theme of water around the world. Over the next four months, students will learn about the global water crisis and prepare solution-oriented presentations for Challenge Day, which will take place at Macalester College on March 6th. For information about how to get involved as a volunteer or judge on **Challenge Day** call Charmagne at 763-588-7440 or e-mail charmagne@worldsavvy.org. We also invite you to an open house on December 2nd from 5-7:30 at our new office: 619 S. 10th Street in Minneapolis to learn more about World Savvy's work. Visit www.worldsavvy.org/minneapolis for additional information.

Leaders are indispensable, but to produce major social change many ordinary people must also be involved. **Annie Firor Scott**

The future depends on what we do in the present. **Mohandas Gandhi**

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Service is the rent you pay for room on this earth. **Shirley Chisholm**

You're either part of the solution or part of the problem. **Eldridge Cleaver**