



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.

THESIL MORLAN, 1945-2011, IN MEMORIAM

Joe Schwartzberg, President, Minnesota Chapter

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Thesil Morlan, who suffered a fatal brain aneurysm on December 8. Most readers of this note will probably not have heard of Thesil. She never tried to make waves. She preferred to work quietly, but dependably, from her home, Quill Cove [sheep] Farm, on the rocky coast of Maine, to promote numerous causes related to global peace and justice. She was a passionate advocate of human rights, especially those of women and girls, and a leader of the Maine Chapter of Amnesty International. And for 22 years she was active in UNA USA, at times serving as President of its Maine Chapter. I have interacted with Thesil for roughly a quarter century, first through the World Federalist Association and then through its successor, CGS; and we have both served as members of the Steering Committee of the World Federalist Institute (WFI), a CGS think tank, since its founding in 2005.

The daughter of a professor of political science at the University of Redlands, Thesil graduated Phi

Beta Kappa from Mt. Holyoke College and subsequently became an intellectual, author and artist in her own right. She was the consummately skilled editor of all 39 numbers of the semi-annual magazine, *Minerva*, now an official publication of both CGS and WFI. At this writing, it is not known whether anyone else will try to replace her in that capacity. Readers would do well to access past numbers of *Minerva* on line. (Just Google *Minerva* and you'll get it.) Writing of Thesil and *Minerva*, Tad Daley had this to say: "*We just devoured Minerva . . . I really read a lot and . . . try to absorb a great deal of the contemporary policy debate. Yet, each time I received Minerva, it contained stuff that I had not seen anywhere else. Important stuff. Insightful stuff. Imaginative stuff. Beyond the parameters of the mainstream stuff.*" We respectfully dedicate to Thesil this number of the *Newsletter* of the Minnesota Chapter of CGS and honor her memory by including in it the following three excerpts (prefixed by **M:**) from *Minerva*, 39, November 2011.

M: Excerpt from Book Review by David Shorr of Stephen Weber and Stephen Jentleson, *THE END OF ARROGANCE, America in the Global Competition of Ideas, 2011.*

(Shorr is a staff member of the Stanley Foundation.)

(Quoting the authors) "In 2010, globally, there remains a deep skepticism about the proposition that

the United States can be more powerful and the world can be a better place at the same time. The belief that these two things can be consistent or even reinforce each other was the most precious advantage America had in the post-World War II milieu. It has eroded and that changes the nature of the ideological competition dramatically. A new foreign policy proposition has to find a way to put that belief back into play."

M: Excerpt from Stephen Eric Bronner, IMPERFECT REVOLUTION. 2011

Bronner is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of Civic Diplomacy and Human Rights at the Institute for Global Change at Rutgers University.

The Arab Spring was marked by spontaneous revolts, lack of charismatic leaders, youthful exuberance and disdain for more traditional forms of organizational discipline. That is what made these revolutions so appealing. Institutional obstacles to democracy, however, require institutional responses: speaking truth to power is no longer enough. Success now hinges on the organization of power by the former insurgents and their ability to deal with the armed forces, the bureaucracy, religious institutions and the

M: Statement by Thomas Steinbeck on his father's view of PLANETARY PATRIOTISM, 27 September 2010.

My father valued patriotism above all other social obligations, but he had his own particular interpretation of just how true patriotism was meant to function. His definition was directly geared to a socio-

global economy....

Revolution is a daunting task, but running a country the day after is perhaps an even more daunting proposition. New liberal republics in economically disadvantaged circumstances will need to navigate a swirl of conflicting economic interests and illiberal institutional claims. These are not discrete concerns though, in each circumstance, the art – not the science – of politics is required to provide an integrated set of responses. Ignoring the logic of power is no solution. Only by confronting the reactionary and exploitative interests with an eye privileging the common needs of the disenfranchised and the oppressed will a fresh breeze sustain the Arab Spring

political axiom of his own invention, and I knew it by heart by the time I was seven years old. He said, “If the solution to a problem of absolute disagreement extends to a call for bloodshed, then neither party has demonstrated the intelligence to form the question properly.”

CHARITY VERSUS CHANGE

Hank Stone

Editor's note: Hank is a retired engineer living in Rochester, New York.

At the end of the year, I spread out on my desk a year's worth of requests for money. I don't have enough to give to every worthy cause. So where should I put my support?

Of course, I want to support my local volunteer fire department, church and National Public Radio, which provide me services. I want to support local ventures, where people I know to be good-hearted are trying to do some public good. I want to stand with them, to be neighborly. Beyond that, the question of “charity” versus “change” is key.

As I see it, charity concerns itself with addressing the effects of bad public practice. If people are hungry homeless, sick, poor, or discriminated against; I would like society to respond to their needs. In America, this doesn't always happen, and some circulate the notion that the poor or disadvantaged deserve their unhappy circumstances.

But we (the virtuous people) can address their needs through charities. No one is against feeding the hungry and healing the sick, so society smiles on charitable giving, and rewards it with tax deductions.

Traditional charities are favored by churches, for example, since they raise no divisive political questions. So charities tend to be given relatively large amounts of money.

The trouble is, charity doesn't come close to fixing these problems. Charities may also institutionalize them, by reducing the incentive for government to address them.

I want a different kind of society. If I ran the world, I would eliminate war in favor of a world peace system, address climate change, phase out fossil fuel use, tax extractive industries to pay for remediating the harm they do, provide universal health care (including reproductive health care), and eliminate the hold of corporations and banks over our government and our economy.

Many people would like to see these changes, but they are opposed by traditional decision makers. To support such changes is “controversial,” meaning potentially offensive to rich and powerful people who benefit from the status quo.

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Controversy can scare off big donors, so organizations aimed at creating a whole new world tend to operate on shoestring budgets.

The point is, not all monetary contributions are created equal. Every dollar you or I contribute to

Change is likely to have much more effect than the dollar a rich man contributes to Charity.

So if you have money to contribute to making the world a better place, please consider whether you want charity or change.

Too many have dispensed with generosity in order to practice charity. **Albert Camus**

Charity sees the need, not the cause. **German Proverb**

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**

January 19, 2012, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

OCCUPY WALL STREET AND THE TWILIGHT OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM

Occupy Wall Street has grown from an isolated protest act to an international movement and media sensation. Yet, what does this movement represent? This talk examines the meaning of Occupy Wall Street in the context of a crisis in American capitalism and democracy that has its roots in the rise of Reaganism, Thatcherism, and the transformation of the global economy that began in the 1980s and which came to a crash in 2008. Occupy Wall Street challenges America with an alternative choice regarding how to structure domestic and international economic and political institutions.

Presenter: Professor David Schulz. David Schultz is a Hamline University School of Business professor and a senior fellow at the Institute on Law and Politics at the University of Minnesota Law School. He is the author/editor of more than 25 books and 80 articles on American politics, law, and public policy. He is a frequent political analyst in the local and national media, appearing in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and on all the major television and radio networks.

February 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

WEIGHING GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION: DOES INCREASED ECONOMIC INSTABILITY ERASE EFFICIENCY GAINS?

The current round of “globalization,” that has returned international economic integration to pre-1914 levels has benefited people in many nations. It has contributed to dramatic economic growth in East and South Asia and to poverty reduction in other countries. But there is also evidence that the world economy is more fragile than in much of the post-WWII period, more subject to economic fluctuations driven by contagion effects from financial centers in the United States or European Union. To what extent is this fragility actually linked to global integration and can these dangers be reduced without sacrificing real gains elsewhere?

Presenter: Ed Lotterman. Ed’s column, “Real World Economics,” appears twice weekly in newspapers in St Paul, Minnesota, Bismarck, North Dakota and Boise, Idaho. He also teaches at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Ed grew up on a farm in southwest Minnesota and has lived and worked in Brazil and Peru in addition to teaching at several colleges and universities. While a research fellow at the University of Minnesota from 1986-1992 he helped establish an international research network dealing with common property. From 1992 to 1999, he was a regional economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

AXWORTHY PRESENTATIONS

Dick Bernard, Board member, Minnesota Chapter, CGS

Editor's note: The following observations relate to two CGS-sponsored presentations made by the Honorable Lloyd Axworthy on November 22. The first, at the Law School of the University of Minnesota Law School, was attended by about 175 persons, mainly students, focused on "**The Responsibility to Protect.**" This was followed by more wide-ranging remarks at a catered dinner at the nearby Holiday Inn Metrodome, attended by 35 persons, mainly present and former Board members of CGS and from various co-sponsor organizations, especially UNA USA, which arranged for eight high school student attendees. Dr. Axworthy, a former Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and twice President of the UN Security Council, is presently the President of the University of Winnipeg, as well as President of the World Federalist Movement.

My takeaway from the gatherings yesterday is that it is easy for folks like us to sit around in a coffee shop, or in an affinity group, and figure out all of the world's problems – or at least the problems we have identified as most important. These days, for most of us it seems, the world revolves around our own particular thing, our own "truth," from the profound to the trivial. We put leaders in impossible quandaries. In a complex society and world, there are no easy answers.

It is essential to have the big picture folks like Dr. Axworthy around, the visionary and diplomatic ones who can identify problems and work towards long-term solutions under oft-times impossible

appearing circumstances. I've been around people like Dr. Axworthy before, and they always inspire awe. They truly are "been there and done that" folks, at home with seemingly impossible situations while the rest of us, like me, can muse about how things ought to be. Things do look simple when all you have to consider is your single issue, and debate its merits only among others who agree with you, using your own data as proof.

Who we elect as leaders is extremely important – it is not a task to be taken lightly. Then, once elected, the leaders task is not "light".

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**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

Responsibility is the price of freedom. **Elbert Hubbard**

Responsibility walks hand in hand with capacity and power. **Josiah Holland**

Today, more than ever before, life must be characterized by a sense of Universal responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life. **The Dalai Lama.**