

www.globalsolutionsmn.org

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.

BOOK ON UN REFORM TO BE PUBLISHED BY UN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Joe Schwartzberg, President, Minnesota Chapter

On February 8 I heard from the United Nations University Press, that they had decided to publish my book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*. Six years in the making, the work was originally too long to be commercially viable and had to be trimmed by nearly half before the UNUP would even consider it. An abridged version was sent to the press in September 2012. Since acceptance, further trimming reduced the text down to roughly 150,000 words, which, in published form, should come to roughly 425 pages, much longer than the UNUP's usual 300-page maximum. The work should appear late this year or early next year. I include below, the opening paragraphs of the Preface to give you some sense of the work.

PREFACE

*The splitting of the atom has changed everything, save our mode of thinking,
and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe.*

*Henceforth, every nation's foreign policy must be judged at every point by one consideration:
does it lead us to a world of law and order or does it lead us back to anarchy and death?*

Albert Einstein

The correctness of Einstein's admonitions ought to be self-evident; but that is clearly not the case. Rather, most of the influential inhabitants of our planet prefer to live in a state of denial. Were that not so, they would sense the need to bestir themselves and try to correct glaring shortcomings in our system of global governance. And it is not only the threat of nuclear annihilation that is being denied. Comparable threats arise from other sources: global warming, loss of bio-diversity, depletion of vital resources such as petroleum and fresh water, and the explosive potential inherent in the obscene gap between the world's haves and have-nots, to cite but a few. The reasons for inaction are many. But, among them, the inadequacies in the design of the institutional machinery of the United Nations system and the total absence of certain institutions that are urgently needed are especially noteworthy. This book puts forward numerous recommendations, which, if adopted, would help remedy, those deficiencies. Let me begin then with the enunciation of six fundamental propositions:

* **We must find ways to supplant the law of force with the force of law in international affairs.**

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HENNEPIN COUNTY AND THE UNITED NATIONS FLAG: A CALL FOR CITIZEN ACTION

Dick Bernard

(Much more on this issue, including links and photos, can be found at <http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/> for March 5, 2013.)

March 5, 1968, was a significant day in the history of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. On that day the Board of Commissioners of Hennepin County, the Minneapolis City Council, and then-Minneapolis Mayor Arthur Naftalin unanimously recognized *"the sovereign right of our citizens to declare that their citizenship responsibilities extend beyond our city and nation. We hereby join with other concerned people of the world in a declaration that we share in this world responsibility and that our citizens are in this sense citizens of the world. We pledge our efforts as world citizens to the establishment of permanent peace based on just world law, and to the use of world resources in the service of man and not for his destruction."*

The Declaration, by the first American community to take such action, further requested that the Municipal Building Commission *"proudly display the United Nations flag on suitable occasions at the main entrance to the City Hall and the main entrance to the new county building."*

On May 1, 1968, then as now, Law Day, a large group of citizens, including at least 27 Mayors of Hennepin County communities, met at the City Hall to publicly raise the United Nations flag alongside the American flag. Keynote speaker, former Gov. Elmer L. Andersen, proudly supported the flag raising. Among other remarks, he said the raising of the United Nations flag *"represents a commitment to cooperation among nations for world peace, to belief in the common brotherhood of all men of all nations, and to aspirations for a world community of peace, freedom and justice under world law."* The UN Flag was raised on a new flagpole next to the U.S. flag, a symbol of community and non-partisan friendship with the world.

The UN Flag, to my knowledge, flew continuously until March 27, 2012, when the Hennepin County Board decided that the UN Flag be taken down. The directive stated that *"solely the flags of the United States, Minnesota and Hennepin County"* be raised, "in compliance with the U.S. Flag Code." I discovered this resolution at the end of December 2012, and immediately took issue, as a citizen, by writing the Members of the Hennepin County Board, of whom six of the seven members had been on the Board at the time of the earlier resolution.

To date, the only rationale provided by the Board is that flying the U.N. flag goes against the U.S. Flag Code Section VII, Paragraph C, easily accessed on the Internet. The citation in Statute seems to apply only to U.S. flag "when carried in a procession with another flag". The flagpoles at City Hall were stationary. At no time, to my knowledge, was the UN flag displayed superior to the U.S. flag.

The Minnesota Chapter of GlobalSolutions.org has sent a letter of protest to Mr. Mike Opat, Chief Commissioner, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, Hennepin County Government Center, Minneapolis, MN 55487; and we would greatly appreciate your sending your own letter to any or all Hennepin County Commissioners on this issue would be appreciated. If you do write, please send me a copy, either by e-mail (additional information is in the blog referenced at the beginning of this post) or by US mail to Dick Bernard. 6905 Romeo Rd., Woodbury. MN 55125. Thanks.

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 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

HOW SPECULATION AND BANKRUPTCY DRIVE OUR CITIES TODAY, FROM BANGALORE TO BARCELONA TO CHICAGO.

Some of the most dramatic recent changes in “city making” are reflected in the bankruptcy contagion in cities as diverse as Stockton, CA, Barcelona, Kampala, Athens, Dubai and Manila. Subsequent “discipline through finance” has greatly impacted urban government, property and citizenship. To highlight this world of urban instability, the speaker takes us to a meeting in Barcelona of leaders “rethinking cities,” then shifts to a financial summit in New Delhi, and ends up inside the collapse of cities in Spain and India. En route, we see how new urban policies circulate and get shaped through a variety of financial forces.

Speaker: Michael Goldman, Professor of Sociology and Global Studies, University of Minnesota. Among his publications is the award-winning book, *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization* (Yale Univ. Press, 2001, with subsequent publication in India and Japan). His numerous awards include a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Writing and Research Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship and a U. of M. McKnight Presidential Fellowship. His work has been translated into French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish. His present research, “Speculating on the Next Global City,” examines uneven social and spatial transformation of diverse cities of the global South.

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (postponed from January)

GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT’S RISING STAR

While preventable and curable infectious diseases continue to take the lives of millions around the world, considerable progress has been made in global public health in the past 20 years. For example, deaths due to diarrheal diseases have been cut roughly in half. The global health architecture supporting this progress will be discussed and today’s public health priorities will be presented, with particular reference to the changing landscape in which non-communicable diseases are surpassing communicable illnesses as primary sources of excessive morbidity. Case studies of global progress in disease control in regard to neglected tropical diseases and tuberculosis will be presented.

Speaker: Dr. Christy Hanson, Dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship and Humphrey Professor in International Studies at Macalester College. Dr. Hanson earned her PhD in international health systems from Johns Hopkins University and has more than 18 years of experience in international public health in Africa, Asia and Latin America, working with the World Health Organization, World Bank and other agencies. Her independent research focuses on the relationship between poverty, health care seeking behavior and responses from the health care system,

MPR PEACE SITE HONORS LEE DECHERT

In a ceremony on January 25 Minnesota Public Radio became an “International Peace Site” in honor of the late Lee Dechert, who worked there for many years. Lee, a former Vice-President and Board member of Citizens for Global Solution was one of our most ardent workers, with a passionate interest in global warming. The ceremony was attended by 22 of Lee’s former colleagues, six CGS Board members and Lynn Elling, originator of the Peace Site concept, and Martha Roberts of World Citizen, Inc.

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- * **Our planet is an exceedingly interdependent organism;** what nations do within their own borders often adversely affects other nations in unacceptable ways.
- * **Global problems require global solutions;** there are many pressing problems that national governments cannot solve acting on their own.
- * **National sovereignty conveys to governments not only certain rights, but also responsibilities;** the foremost responsibility is the promotion of the security and welfare of the nation's citizens.
- * **All human beings are entitled to the enjoyment of political, civil, economic and social rights** as set forth in *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and various treaties and covenants adopted in furtherance of that declaration.
- * **We are our brother's keeper;** when nations fail egregiously to protect the rights of their citizens it becomes the responsibility of the international community to protect those rights.

WORLD CITIZEN FILM EVENT

On January 6, with co-sponsorship and financial support from the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, World Citizen, and the Film Society of Minneapolis-St. Paul, the Minnesota Chapter of GlobalSolutions.org hosted a special preview screening of a film about the remarkable career of **Garry Davis**, now age 90, who, in 1948 officially declared himself a "citizen of the world" and has lived as such ever since. Entitled *My Country Is the World - & the World Is My Stage*, the film was introduced by its director, Arthur Kanegis, who hopes to have the final version ready in time for this year's Sundance Film Festival. Almost a hundred viewers saw and overwhelmingly appreciated the production, but, nevertheless, gave Arthur much constructive feedback on ways to improve it as well as contributing financially for the project. Hosting the event was a major undertaking and our chapter's Board members did themselves proud in handling it.

GlobalSolutions.org

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

5492 Bald Eagle Blvd. E.

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

www.globalsolutionsmn.org.

You are invited to explore Joe

Schwartzberg's website:

www.JosephSchwartzberg.org.

Another world is not only possible; she is on her way. On a quiet day I
can hear her breathing. **Arundhati Roy**

Hearken not to the voice, which petulantly tells you that the form of
government recommended is impossible to accomplish.

James Madison, *The Federalist*, no. 14