



Citizens for  
Global Solutions

formerly World Federalist Assn.

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Philadelphia Chapter

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## *Awakening Planetary Consciousness !*

Philadelphia chapter member John R. Ewbank was a speaker at the 6th Global Symposium on 'Awakening Planetary Consciousness' in Lucknow, India, held from December 11 to 14, 2009. This was sponsored by the World Movement for Global Democracy and held in parallel with 10th World Judicial Summit and attended by chief justices and legal luminaries from 78 countries. WMGD's founder and organizer of these events, Jadish Gandhi, is an educator who started Lucknow's City Montessori School in 1959 with just five children. Today it holds the Guinness record as the world's largest school, with multiple campuses and over 37,000 pupils. It is the first and only school to receive the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education. Gandhi is an ardent believer in the need for world government and these Symposiums and Judicial Summits represent what he feels to be the most effective first step: vigorous encouragement of international law.

While many participants were concerned with fostering global harmony within the context of existing institutions and jurisdictions, Ewbank's talk focused on why the governing of individuals by a world government is necessary. For this to happen effectively he stressed the need for a culture of "servant leadership," which he distinguished from the more familiar military model of top-down "dominant leadership" that for centuries has characterized most governments and large organizations. Expanding on the servant leadership (cont. on pg 3→)

## **Traveling Mercies' Aldo Magazzeni addresses Philadelphia Chapter Meeting**

Aldo neglected to mention his last name. Nor did he mention the name of his organization, nor the fact that he is a successful businessman; and only spoke about a handful of his activities. As he talked it became clear this was a man who eschews *hype*, lets facts speak for themselves, and connects with people in a direct, honest and personal way. Only afterward, as he was preparing to leave, when I approached him and asked him if he had any handout I could use to write an article, did he produce a brochure of "Traveling Mercies" and point to its web address on the back. He had brought several dozen beautiful mini-poster sized photos mounted on paperboard for us to look at, placing them in 3 or four accessible stacks around Pam Packard's living room where we met on



March 6; only one of these did he hold out for us to see while explaining its story. For the others, it was up to us to look at them if we wanted to. Only later when I inspected the web site did I realize that these were pictures he took himself and each one served to document a fascinating Traveling Mercy experience. Some were photos he took in the Abruzzo region of Italy just a few weeks after the April 6, 2009 earthquake. The photos could have been Haiti or Chile, judging purely from the devastation. For Aldo on a mission to help, it was also a homecoming: (cont. pg 2→)

## **Chuck Melchior --- Activist & Friend ---**

Our friend and World Federalist colleague Chuck (Charles Montfort) Melchior passed away November 5, 2008 at Crosslands, the Kennett Square retirement community where he lived. A tireless fighter for peace, and civil rights for all Americans, he attended and sometimes led demonstrations and vigils opposing the war in Iraq, and rallied us in earlier days in the quest for peace. Here's a fond note from his daughter Emma: "The last time I saw him, which was about 2 weeks before his sudden death, he had to run off because he was organizing some sort of peace vigil involving multiple different groups of people. I am attaching a photo of him at his typewriter. Although he transitioned to word processing and email a number of years before his death, the photo portrays how he did much of his political work in his efforts to change the world. He spent hours at his keyboard writing emails, letters to congressmen and letters to the editor." His last message to us, in the Philadelphia chapter, sent Oct 9, 2008 is illustrative... figuratively addressing himself to the nation's "lame duck" president in a colorful style that always evoked a smile, Chuck said: "*Get your facts straight before you publish any more BS propaganda, perpetuate mythology or reinvent history...*"

Chuck was the beloved husband of the late Mary Louise (Roberts) Melchior, also well known to many of us, who died in 2006. (cont. pg 2→)



*A Journalistic Thank You!*

Newspapers, magazines, and all print media that have to pay their own way are under pressure, these days. I heard about a sports writer in Cincinnati who was laid off, first from one of that city's newspapers and then from the other. He'd had a following of local sports fans, so he decided to write a "sports blog" for them, online. That was fine, but he had bills to pay and the trickle of ad dollars he got from the blog was hardly fending off starvation. So he put out a notice asking his readers to contribute, promising if they sent in enough he would go to baseball spring training in Florida. He needed \$4,000 but his readers sent him \$7,000!

This newsletter isn't a sports blog but we've had something of the same experience, in a small way. On the back cover of every newsletter we make an appeal for contributions. And we're delighted to reveal that some of you do respond! For years, now it may seem we've taken your support for granted... but in fact we not only appreciate it, we depend on it. And we'd like to take this opportunity to thank the following recent contributors to the Philadelphia Chapter newsletter:

- Ed Rawson, McLean, VA
- Mary H. Jacker, Gwynedd
- Paul Joyce Collins Williams
- Philip R. Bagley, Wynnewood
- Sol Blecker, Kennett Square

Without your help we'd never make it to "Florida." □

time has already passed for reforming or mending our organization [the UN]. What we need to do is reinvent it."

Hmmm... "some of most influential and powerful"?... maybe he's talking about some of the permanent members of the security council? But which ones? Most likely the same ones that take leading roles in those smaller Groups where the other 184 (or 172, or 168) can be blissfully ignored. And it's likely the last straw for Brockmann was the June 2009 UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, with all 192 participating, where there was general agreement about the causes of the crisis: "unsustainable global macroeconomic outcomes, ...major failures in financial regulation, ...excessive reliance on market self-regulation, overall lack of transparency, financial integrity... and irresponsible behavior" (from the conference "outcomes" document). But agreement on sufficient specific measures for fundamental reform of global economic and financial rules and architecture was utterly lacking. This happened because of reluctance by richer countries to engage wholeheartedly in this UN forum. That's right, when "might makes right," you know you're in a jungle!! □

**Ewbank attends conference in India**

(cont. from pg. 1)

...servant leadership concept, John described its aspects such as altruistic voluntarism and bringing subordinates into the decision making process at every level. After he gave his speech John was gratified to hear a number of subsequent speakers echo those same "servant leadership" themes; they were originally popularized by Robert Greenleaf, a Quaker business consultant, and are now being taught in management schools on all occupied continents. The Symposium in Lucknow was John's prime destination but getting there involved a trip halfway around the world. It seemed a good opportunity to bring fellow



**Ewbank at 6<sup>th</sup> Global Symposium**

Philadelphia chapter member (and inseparable spouse) Marjorie along too; and to help with travel arrangements and necessities, they brought their son Bob along, who proved invaluable when the unexpected happened. They expanded the itinerary into a 6 week adventure tour (for 90 something year olds, which the senior Ewbanks are), stopping off in Europe, Egypt, various spots in east Asia, and Hawaii on the way home. Unfortunately, Marjorie fell and broke several teeth and cracked her jaw in a fall at a hotel in Udaipur, India. She was detained for treatment while John went on to Lucknow. Once back on her feet, Marjorie visited the Taj Mahal on her own, and they were reunited in New Delhi. Happily, at the time of writing this article Marjorie's teeth have had the best restoration modern dentistry can provide. Both Ewbanks are enthusiastic about their round the world experience and the great interest in global law and governance that was exhibited in Lucknow by representatives from so many nations. □

**Frustration at the UN**

We are all used to hearing about the G8, the G20 and the G24, but what about the G192? By another name it's the General Assembly of the United Nations. And how does it stack up against these other G(for Group)s? Not very well, according to one well-informed source; here's what Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, recent president (2008-2009) of the UN General Assembly said: "It is absolutely undeniable that ... some of [the UN's] most influential and powerful members do not buy, as applicable to them, the principles therein contained [such as in the UN Charter or many of the General Assembly's resolutions]. In fact, they defend and apply the law of the jungle—might makes right.... The United Nations has not achieved the fundamental goals for which it was created.... If the United Nations is evaluated having those [goals] in mind, then it has failed.... I have come to the conclusion that the