

UNITED WORLD
CDWG NEWS AND VIEWS
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Editor's Corner: Anniversary Deferred

Hard as it may be to believe, this month's issue is the Silver Anniversary Issue of *UNITED WORLD*. Volume 1, No. 1 was published in September of 1988, twenty-five years ago this month. We had planned on printing a special commemorative issue marking that anniversary. We were going to publish the winning essay of the Isely-Ewbank Scholarship Contest.

We had also intended to pay tribute to our many contributors over the years, who had written articles or letters to the editor – or quite often both. This includes a long list of those who are no longer with us: Norman Cousins, Henry Osborne, R. Ward Harrington, John Kiang, Harold S. Bidmead, Ross Smyth, John Roberts, Hanna Newcombe, Robert Muller, Errol E. Harris, Mia Lord, Guy Meyer, Tom Liggett, John Ewbank, Phillip Isely and Martha Killebrew, to name just a few. Without the support of these pioneers of the movement, both with their writings and their monetary contributions, our little experiment would have long since died.

All these plans, however, were put on hold when we learned, just as the July-August issue was going to the press, that Garry Davis had died on July 23, 2013 in Burlington Vermont, at the age of 92. Garry Davis, popularly known as World Citizen Number One, was such an important figure in the world unity movement that we felt it was necessary to mark his passing in some special way.

Therefore, instead of this issue being dedicated to celebrating the milestone of our 25th anniversary, we will dedicate it instead to celebrating the life, and mourning the passing, of Garry Davis. Not everyone in the movement agreed with what Garry Davis believed. He was a revolutionary, who had no patience with those whose goal was simply to reform the United Nations. He was dismissed as too radical, an impractical dreamer. Some called his tactics for gaining publicity 'grandstanding' – a perfect example of that was his recent issuing of a world passport to NSA renegade and fugitive Edward Snowden.

Yet no one can question his dedication to his ideals. Garry Davis was one of those who did not just talk to talk, but walked the walk. He did not

compromise his principles, even if it meant being sent to prison – just like Gandhi, Havel, King and Thoreau. In fact, he used civil disobedience as his primary tactic, just as they did. He was in good company.

The world unity movement, in its various manifestation, had had its share of advocates who were famous people: Norman Cousins, Albert Einstein, Walter Cronkite, Peter Ustinov, and H.G. Wells, to name just a few. Many of these have graced the front covers of this magazine. But Garry Davis was unique. Unlike all of them, who were famous for a variety of other reasons, Garry Davis was famous BECAUSE of what he believed. In the early decades of the movement, he could draw rock-concert sized crowds to hear him speak. When he was thrown out of the United Nations, news-reel cameras rolled. His death was itself front page news – in the New York Times, no less.

Whatever else may be said of him, Davis’ decision to base his call for world political unity on the sovereignty of the people, rather than depending upon influencing the halls of power, was a powerful influence on the movement. Whether anything comes of his legacy will be up to those of us who remain.



Letter to the Editor

Gary,

I was most pleased to receive my issue of *UNITED WORLD* today. Please feel free to send me any feedback you may receive regarding the “People Alone” article my way. I do not mind if my email is shared.

A few days ago the Massachusetts Attorney General posted our proposed ballot initiative – <http://www.mass.gov/ago/docus/government/2013-petitions/13-12.pdf> Our first signature on the list is that of the provost of the University of Massachusetts, Winston Langley. Now all we

need is some bored, rich idealist who desires to drop \$200,000 towards our cause to fund the ballot initiative!

Gary, reading the *UNITED WORLD*, I find your opinions and thoughts very...refreshing. I'd also like to subscribe. Please tell me how/where to send my \$12 fee. Also, I'll now have my mail sent to a new address.

Have a great day, Thanks Gary,

Paul Anderson
598 Sale St. #721
Lynnfield MA 01970



Garry Davis Obituary

Originally printed in the
Burlington Free Press, July 29, 2013

GARRY DAVIS - BURLINGTON - Garry Davis died peacefully on July 24, 2013, in Burlington. Born in Bar Harbor, Maine, to musician Hilda Emery and band-leader Meyer Davis on July 27, 1921, Davis was World Citizen #1. An actor and dancer by profession, he stood in for Danny Kaye on Broadway in 1942. A B17 pilot during W.W.II, he was profoundly shaken by the death of his brother, Meyer "Buddy," and his experience "bombing women and children." He spent the remainder of his life striving to create a political environment for world peace.

Affirming that being born human guarantees inalienable rights of sovereign choice, Davis founded the World Government of World Citizens in 1953, along with its administrative agency, World Service Authority. The World Passport it issues to this day, based on the mandate of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights, has helped thousands of war victims and displaced refugees gain official identification and freedom. Davis firmly believed one could personally start bringing about world peace, in a pragmatic and legitimate way. By publicly declaring oneself a World Citizen, one signifies to all fellow World Citizens one's recognition of Humanity and refusal of war. In a practical sense, one "makes peace" with the Human family. At a global level, Davis believed World Law enforced by a World Court of Human Rights would resolve conflicts through law, replacing the anarchy of war.

He is survived by two of his siblings, Ginia Wexler-Davis, and Emery Davis; four children, Kristina, Troy, Athena, and Kim; grandchild, Emma Davis; former wife (France, 1963), Esther Peter Davis; as well as many extended family members; and close friend, Robin Lloyd. A memorial will be held during Human Rights Day Dec. 10, 2013: www.universalrightsfestival.org. Donations may be sent to www.worldservice.org.



Garry Davis, World Citizen #1: Celebrating His Life and Legacy

**by David Gallup
President and General Counsel
World Service Authority**

Garry Davis is "World Citizen #1": the first person to stand before the world in the era of global communication, to step out of the nation-state system, and to declare himself a world citizen. Leaving the role of national citizen, Garry entered upon the world stage. This was not a mere symbolic act. In 1948, Garry Davis claimed this new status politically by affirming

his allegiance to his fellow humans and legally by renouncing his nationality under the Nationality Act of 1940.

Then, in 1953, he declared his world citizenship status organizationally, by establishing a government of, by and for the people of the world. Claiming his right to choose his own political allegiance to humanity and the earth, he spent his life affirming his world citizenship in an absolutist way - with no fear and no regrets.

According to the Ellsworth Declaration of 4 September 1953, the founding document of the World Citizen Government, world citizenship is based upon three main principles: 1) an understanding of universal values, 2) a view of the world as one, and 3) the knowledge of the fact that there is one humanity. During World War II, Garry personally experienced the enmity and devastation that nation-states perpetuate by ignoring these unifying principles. He knew that the anarchy or lack of enforceable law between nation-states is the breeding ground for war. Hence, for the claim of world citizenship to be effective, Garry understood that it must be linked to world law and world government. Garry wanted to see us flourish, to be able to resolve our differences here on earth, allowing us to put all of our efforts of human ingenuity to lead us into space and interstellar travel. Star Trek was one of Garry's favorite TV shows because it highlighted a united earth and respect for universal rights; Garry even issued a few honorary World Passports to Star Trek actors such as LeVar Burton and Patrick Stewart.

Garry always had a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with him and would hand them out to everyone he met. "You must know what your rights are before you can claim them," Garry said. He was one of the staunchest optimists and resolute activists - never letting other people's criticism, ignorance, xenophobia, or limited viewpoints alter his course. In fact, other people's rejection or misunderstanding pushed him further to stand his ground - to laud the earth.

Challenging his critics who would call him "idealistic," Garry would question whether they understood the hypocrisy and the inherent violence of the nation-state system. Garry would say that the idealists are those who think that the status quo of the exclusive and militarized nation-state system can continue without leading to global annihilation. Oftentimes, those

critical of his actions were the privileged in society who had the opportunity to help others but who were more concerned about maintaining their socio-economic status. Whereas refugees and others trying to survive on a daily basis beseech to become world citizens. They want justice and respect for their rights that they cannot find at the national level. They see world citizenship as a mechanism to lift them from their “second” or “third-class” status, from their starvation, oppression, and despair.

Like hundreds of thousands of others around the world who have claimed their rights as world citizens, Garry dealt with the challenge of diplomats and other national bureaucrats through the tools of the World Government and the World Passport.

“Expose without opposing,” I would often hear Garry say. Many times Garry would find himself face-to-face with an embassy official or border guard who did not know how or did not want to be bothered to deal with him in human terms. With often comical results, Garry would camp on bridges or stand on the “line” between countries, revealing the impotence of the officials in either country to control him. Garry could only feel sympathy for these diplomats and border guards who are paid to reject our humanness, paid to discriminate, paid to separate us, and paid to instill fear of our differences.

Despite some critics, Garry has reached millions of human beings from all walks of life. Whether it was in the heyday of his renunciation of nationalism back in 1948, whether it was aiding countless refugees and undocumented individuals with World Passports and I.D.s over the past 60 years, or whether it is the current legal advocacy of persecuted individuals around the world through the World Service Authority, Garry has saved lives, freed individuals from torture, educated people about how to claim their rights, and focused us on the main issue that matters - humanity’s survival.

The world is a better place and humanity has a stronger chance of survival because of Garry Davis’s action of extending his personal sovereignty to the world level, to humanity as a whole. He let us know that we are already world citizens, that we are one human family, and that this earth is our home. Garry Davis never saw himself as state-less, he always saw himself as world-full. He was full of love for humanity and the earth. Why

fight and die for a country, when you can love and live for humanity and the earth?

Because he killed as a bomber pilot and because his brother was killed during WWII, he made it his life's mission to expose the structural violence of the nation-state system and to offer an alternative tool for humans to live together peacefully based on the establishment of global institutions of law such as a World Court of Human Rights. Because of the violent part he played in World War II, when he returned from the war, Garry wanted to play a healing role of bringing about world peace. Garry worked in the here and now. He said, "If we don't claim our world citizenship status and our rights currently, no one else will claim them for us and we will continue to fight with each other." Garry's ultimate goal has been to outlaw war, war that in the nuclear age can mean total global destruction.

Garry's supporters have included writers, scientists, and activists such as Albert Camus and Albert Einstein who understood why Garry had to claim world citizenship, not merely to atone for his role of bomber pilot for the nation-state but to affirm as sacred the eternal and universal values of love, law, justice, and equality of which peace is a consequence. Another supporter, Jean Paul Sartre wrote, "Nous sommes des sous-hommes à la recherche de notre humanité" – "We are sub-humans searching for our humanity." Garry has planted the seeds of a new awareness of who we are as human beings. Garry has ignited the shift from a nation-centric, "we versus they" mentality, to an old but renewed paradigm of human oneness. We accept as self-evident that biologically we are human; what Garry has done is to take this mundane fact right before our eyes and act upon it as no one else had previously.

The best way for us to celebrate Garry's life is to continue his work - to know that each of us as world citizens are responsible for creating the kind of world that we want. A world in which we work together to fulfill everyone's needs, rights, and responsibilities. A world in which we self-actualize both as a species and as part of the universe.

As a comedian, actor and storyteller, Garry appreciated the outpouring of love that an audience would give him. He simply wanted to make people laugh and forget, for a time, the difficulties of the human condition.

World War II, at least for a time, took the laugh away from him. Since then, he worked to establish a world in which we would not feel the need to fight our fellow human - but rather to rejoice, dance, sing and laugh with each other.

Although Garry has recently left this earthly stage, his life, legacy and teachings remind us of what we can achieve together and that we are world citizens, first and foremost.



In Memoriam

by John Dale

Dear Friends,

Thanks to a Bahá'í friend for bringing to my attention the July 29, 2013 New York Times article about the death of Garry Davis. I knew Garry personally and worked with him back in the 1970s when he started a Washington, DC office of the World Service Authority. Garry changed my life.

The article itself, while informative on minor historical details of Garry's life, particularly his early life as an actor, for which he will NOT be remembered, is unfortunately almost completely air-headed when it comes to the philosophy, jurisprudence, and framework of universal human rights upon which Garry based his thinking and his better behaviors.

Those things are, IMO, serious issues that Baha'i and progressive public discourse needs or will need to grapple with and respond to. For we need to be able to say who we really are, and to articulate a framework within which we humans can all govern ourselves.

Garry Davis was not, as the NYT article seems to imply, a nut case, a "Dean of the One-Worlders" who wanted quixotically and stupidly to "erase" national borders, thinking that this would magically end war. Where is the

NYT's and the author's journalistic and intellectual integrity? How stupid do they think their readers are? (Stop! Do not answer that question!)

Did the federation of the states under the United States Constitution "erase" state borders? Of course not. Has the European framework of transnational self-government "erased" the borders of the constituent jurisdictions? Of course not. Borders are necessary for self-government to proceed on a rational basis. Garry knew this as well as any social theorist.

The problems start when borders inhibit communication, consultation, and the flow of rational and beneficial human interests and begin to lead to psychopathic and sociopathic levels of disunity and distrust, e.g., wars, ethnic ghettos, race riots, arms races, global espionage, etc.

Dysfunctionalities between nations – that's what Garry, like any would-be sane human being, wanted to erase.

Although not mentioned in the article, Garry studied under gurus in India after his initial forays into the existentialist dialectics of world citizenship with thinkers such as Sartre and Camus, and his acquaintance with Esperantists and the notion of a world free of language barriers. The latter is a concept that, we may wish to remind ourselves, is a foundational principle of the Faith of God and one that Garry acted on.

He was thus NOT a nave eccentric. Like a Zen master, he used eccentricity to try to point to a prophetic and holistic level of awareness and to a state of enlightenment about the relationship between individuals and the institutions by means of which they govern themselves.

Along with Jesus, he believed that the Sabbath was created for man, not man for the Sabbath. He believed that the followers of every religion eventually make and that leads to that religion's intellectual stagnation and thus the need for progressive fundamental renewal from within the essence of being, the process of rebirth.

Garry was one among many at the end of WWII to articulate, in stark and compelling terms, the dialectics of global/local interdependence. In this, his and their thinking is IMO totally correct.

Like many others, including Einstein and Bertrand Russell, Schweitzer, and the founders of the World Association of World Federalists and of the World Constitution and Parliament Association, he articulated the transcendental choice facing humanity between disaster, on the one hand, and an ever-advancing civilization on the other. In this, his thinking, IMO, was totally correct.

That same choice faces us RIGHT NOW in terms of what to do in order to avert and mitigate the massive breakdown of Earth/human and human/human relationships facing us in 20 years or less, as outlined in computer models of the global system such as reported last year in the book 2052, the latest report to the Club of Rome on the limits to growth.

To act to avert the worst case scenarios will require global unity of will and knowledge, and coherence and coordination of action, on a scale never previously attempted. Where is this unity and coherence going to come from? We as Bahá'is had better have some cogent answers a-flying on the wings of our Bahá'í public discourse.

Many spoke of the problem of unity after WWII. Where Garry differed from many, however, was in the fierceness of his need to put himself body and soul literally on the line between mutually exclusive sovereign nations, in the effort to awaken and save humanity from the disaster and irresponsibility implicit in the notion of absolute national sovereignty.

People talked about world government and talked and talked. But Garry believed not in the sovereignty of the group but of the ultimate sovereignty of the individual.

Finally, in Garry's mind, if nobody else – none of the One Percent, none of the Member States of the United Nations would actually start a world government of world citizens, he would do it himself. And so he did, God bless him. Deeds, not just words.

One small step for a man; a potentially giant leap for humankind, depending on how we follow up on it.

As the NYT article notes, Garry came from a background of the One Percent, to use a useful contemporary metaphor. But he had the conscience

of a genuine, universal human being, a conscience that refused to bury itself in material possessions and distractions.

In order to empower his species to save itself, he therefore renounced his privileges over the rest of humanity and put himself into a status of international legal statelessness in solidarity with the 99 Percent who also have no global State in order to become a genuine and uncompromised channel for the message of the oneness of humanity and our ability to originate individual and collective action on the basis of that oneness.

Like Gandhi, whose ideas he also studied, he walked the talk. Like our own Dawnbreakers in the time of the Bá b, he gave over his life for the sake of a better world.

In a world which, after WWII and the US use of the atomic bomb, seemed destined for a war of final mutual annihilation, perhaps God and the rest of us will forgive Garry his publicity stunts. Instead, let us try to learn the deeper lesson of the need for an inner coherence of being, function, and will that his example and principles actually demonstrate.

If we too wish to act on the basis of universal human conscience, and become genuine uncompromised channels of global spirituality, we too must inwardly become aware of and renounce our privileges over others. This includes our language privileges, our socio-economic and imperial political privileges, our skin-color privileges, our gender and gender-role privileges, our anthropocentrism, etc., etc.

And we need to find a self-government framework and a name under and by means of which, ultimately, to articulate this solidarity. Garry disliked the term “United Nations.” I dislike the term “world government” for a host of reasons, but at least Garry’s name, the World Government of World Citizens, founds the collective on the basis of the individual.

Perhaps as we all work toward building a sustainable Earth Community, one name and organizational framework to remember and think about is Garry’s World Government of World Citizens, which still remains in need of a constitution but more of that in another post.

We as Baha'is must perfect our own being in order to BECOME the oneness we wish to see in the world, and not just talk about it as an abstract future project of elites "creating" a world government.

Garry's deepest lesson is that in the realm of potentiality we already ARE a world government of world citizens: we simply have to stop blinding ourselves to our own inherent originative power and need to SAY SO in a coherent and organized way. To "say so" begins to elevate us into a whole different and more truly human "world of God." This is the spiritual power of utterance spoken of by Bahá'u'lláh. To echo the words of the Qur'an, if enough of us say, "Be!", it will be.



Collected Tributes to Garry Davis

Garry Davis was a very talented, insightful, visionary man concerned for humanity and the betterment of mankind. He personally went and addressed the United Nations in the beginning as an advocate of peace and human rights.

I urge you to watch the short video about Garry Davis' life and a larger documentary about him that is underway. The clip, "One: The Garry Davis Story" is available on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_lJHifaP8U. Created by OneFilms, two years ago, it has had 3,564 views. The five minute short won "Best Global Documentary" at the New York International Film Festival.

Garry David will be sadly missed by thousands of World Citizen members and all who came to know him.

Andres Espino

I feel very sorry to hear about the demise of Garry Davis. May the God of consolation and comfort through the Holy Spirit be with the bereaved family, friends and fellow World Citizens.

Dr. David Ngin Sian Pau

I was very sorry to hear of Garry Davis' passing on July 24th. He was truly an inspiration to me and many others. I was unable to find any information about the cause of death. Was it just old age or had he been in ill health? My deepest condolences to his family and everyone at the World Service Authority.

To those of you who cannot access the Garry Davis Memorial Page I set up on Facebook, here's another link to his obituary and Guest Book:

[http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/burlingtonfreepress/
obituary.aspx?pid=166110078#fbID=1541642595](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/burlingtonfreepress/obituary.aspx?pid=166110078#fbID=1541642595)

I did not write the obituary. It appeared in the Burlington (Vermont) Free Press. I did, however, financially sponsor Garry's Guest Book, so it will remain online permanently as a memorial to him. As a World Citizen and World Passport holder, I wanted to provide a lasting tribute to Garry Davis and his work. I'm asking everyone in this group to please visit and sign Garry's Guest Book, so we can preserve his legacy for this generation and all generations to come. Thank you!

Deborah Kalinowski,
World Citizen # 122893

Of course, I wish I had something more eloquent and fitting to say. Having fought five years of corruption and injustice in 'democratic' United Kingdom, attempting the legal and legitimate return of my Albanian husband to me, his English wife, to our home and his business which he had run, worked and built his and our lives here together, in desperation, confusion and frustration I finally went and studied immigration law in the UK, to find our only option left was to win the lottery, put one million pounds in

Barclay's Bank and he would have had his visa and passport in 48 hours; or smuggle my husband into the country – which neither of us was prepared to do. Then I discovered Garry Davis' work and the world passport, and the hope that provided was relief enough to allow me to survive a second brain tumor, get back to full time work and begin the work to bring my husband home to me. For the hope and inspiration of the work of Garry and the World Citizens, I am still here and determined to make changes for freedom for each individual who has a pure motive to be a citizen of worth to humanity and the planet.

Cathy Abernethy



News and Notes from All Over

WSA to Continue

In response to questions about how the death of Garry Davis will effect the issuance of WSA passports, the Moderator of the WSA list-serve replied:

“Please note that the World Service Authority continues to educate about, promote, and implement human rights, world citizenship, world law, and the global institutions necessary for peaceful human interaction. The World Passport and various other documents continue to be issued, and WSA's Legal Department continues to provide human rights advocacy worldwide. The WSA is dedicated more than ever to maintain and progress the social, legal and political tools that are uniting humankind as one human family under a system of participatory government, law and universal rights that Garry Davis espoused his entire adult life.”