

UNA-GKC NEWS

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Up Coming Events in Kansas City and Elsewhere

- Kansas City Ethnic Festival, August 15-17, 2003.
- UNA-GKC Board Meeting, September 24, 2003.
- Essay, Poetry and Art Contest Entries due September 25, 2003.
- Kansas City World Citizen Award presented, October 14, 2003.
- Kansas City Mayor's UN Dinner, October 14, 2003.
- American Model UN Conference for UMKC Model UN group, Chicago, Illinois, November 22-25, 2003.



Message from the UNA-GKC President

By
Willadee Wehmeyer

The National Forum on the United Nations opened on June 26th at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Ambassador William Luers, UNA-USA President and CEO, welcomed some five hundred participants representing UNA chapters and divisions throughout the United States. The opening plenary session featured remarks by Kim Holmes, Assistant Secretary of State,

Idriss Jazairry, Ambassador of Algeria to the United States, and John Ruggie, Former Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General. Not unexpectedly, Holmes, Jazairry, and Ruggie differed in their support for the UN as it currently functions and, thus, provided the audience with a preview of the discussions to follow during the three-day event. A welcome reception, sponsored by the Friends of the United Nations,

followed the opening plenary session and the first day ended with a banquet featuring John Negroponte, US Ambassador to the United Nations. Negroponte's keynote remarks downplayed the war in Iraq and instead focused on the UN peacekeeping and humanitarian roles, especially the work of the World Food Programme.

The remaining two days of the Forum included concurrent sessions dealing with a formidable number of

In Search of a Global Ethic

By
Buddy Liston

Many feel that ethical behavior is crucially important to attaining world peace and understanding, but what constitutes a standard for ethical behavior?

In a global community of diverse cultures and varying religious beliefs, current thinking indicates that ethic relativism [which dictates that there are no

absolutes] is the principle way to assure respect and tolerance of others. Global understanding is complicated and has been sufficiently dynamic enough to baffle humankind back to the days of Diogenes, who burned a candle during daylight to demonstrate his search for honesty in a world of moral twilight.

However, will ethic

relativism, which carries the requirement to consider all alternatives, ever bring about a world standard for behavior? Often, global situations conflict with multicultural moral imperatives or other cultural values. The solution is to find some moral common ground.

Rushworth Kidder, who serves as President of the *Institute for*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE UN

*Visit the
UNESCO web-
site at
www.unesco.org*

*Recent dramatic
increases in
AIDS funding
need to be put
toward
prevention and
treatment.*

*"If there is ever
to be a world
ethic, it's likely
to be born in a
multinational
forum such as
the United
Nations."*

UNESCO, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO was formed late in 1945 with the purpose to contribute to the peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations by the charter of the United Nations. The original constitution of UNESCO states:

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences [sic] of peace must be constructed (...) A peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind".

Constitution of UNESCO, 16 November 1945

UNESCO has issued more than 10,000 titles between

1945-1999 and continues to print and distribute significant amounts of books, serial publications, periodicals and bulletins. Many of which are available for reading free of charge on-line, and others are available for sale via their website at <http://upo.unesco.org/>

Want to learn more about the United Nations, its mission and organization? Then, spend a few of your spare minutes on the internet at www.unesco.org.

Sec. General Kofi Annan on AIDS Funding

Remarks by Secretary General Kofi Annan on June 1, 2003, regarding international AIDS funding:

"I would like to acknowledge the recent dramatic increases in AIDS funding that President Bush, Chirac and others around the table have made possible. Those efforts are at last putting some real resources behind the comprehensive global strategy, which puts equal

emphasis on prevention and treatment.

"I hope you will direct a significant part of that new AIDS money to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Fund is an important vehicle that will allow us to make the best use of the resources that are available, and ensure that all countries in need can benefit. Our chal-

lenge is to ensure that it has enough resources to carry out its vital work. Most of the money from the initial round of pledges has been committed. The time for additional funding has arrived, and I hope that you, the G-8 leaders, who played such an important role in getting the Fund up and running, will now endow it with the

In Search of a Global Ethic (continued from p. 1)

dent of the *Institute for Global Ethics*, suggests the following eight moral values as a starting place for establishing a global ethic: Love, Fairness, Unity, Responsibility, Truthfulness, Freedom, Tolerance, and Respect for Life. It takes courage to be a person, nation, state, or people of conviction; especially when called on to discuss a tough

subject like establishing a global moral ethic. Dante said, *"The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in time of great crisis maintain their neutrality."*

The United Nations is the world's forum for multinationalism, and also the world's forum for nations that have the courage of their convic-

tions to rationally discuss solutions to the world's problems. If there is ever to be a world ethic, it's likely to be born in a multinational forum such as the United Nations.

To that end, each of us should support organizations such as the UNA.



President's Message (continued from p. 1)

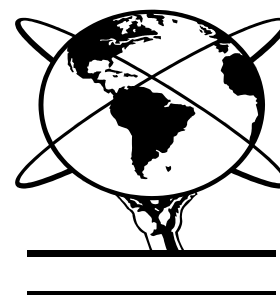
Palestinian/Israeli conflict, the image of the UN in US schools, pursuing US national interests in the UN, land mines, bilateral v. multilateral funding for eradication of HIV/AIDS, the International Criminal Court, environmental protection and sustainable growth, UNESCO, reforming the UN for the 21st century and much, much more. Summaries of many of

the sessions are now available on the UNA-USA website at <http://www.unausa.org>.

The closing plenary session was called to order by Gillian Sorensen, UN Assistant Secretary General for Public Outreach, who introduced the keynote speakers, Mary Robinson, Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Shashi Tharoor, UN Under Secretary General for

the ongoing relevance of the United Nations and she urged engagement of the United States in international bodies like the International Criminal Court. Tharoor echoed the call for strong support of the UN and multilateral decision-making, saying "there is no substitute for the unique legitimacy of the United Nations." Pointing to the recent Security Council controversy, Tharoor said,

mirror of the world. Its record of success and failure is not unlike that of the governments of the best nations. Challenges will remain when Iraq has left the front pages and the UN will continue to have a vital role to play."



UNA-USA Biennial Convention

By Willadee Wehmeyer

The National Forum was followed by the UNA-USA Biennial Convention. William Luers presented his report at the opening session on June 28th. Luers reviewed accomplishments including the development of a new strategic plan, upgrading the UNA-USA website, integration of Global Classrooms in a number of school districts in the

*The UNA-USA
GKC Chapter will
host the Central
Region Meeting in
April, 2004.*

United States, and the development of new sources of funding. Areas where improvement is needed, according to Luers, include better communication with chapters and divisions,

speedier reimbursement to chapters for membership, growing the membership nationwide, and more frequent trips to the field by UNA-USA staff. Luers also announced that Senior Vice Presidents, Jeffery Laurenti and David Scheffer, are leaving UNA-USA. Many will recall that David Scheffer was the featured speaker at the April 2003 dedication of the UN Peace Plaza in Independence, Missouri

June 29th. Attending were representatives from Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri. Much of the discussion centered around a proposal for the Central Region meeting in 2004. I distributed programs from the April 2003 dedication of the UN Peace Plaza in Independence, Missouri and suggested that the Greater Kansas City Chapter host the regional meeting. This proposal was unanimously approved and those present pledged their support and involvement in the planning

Essay, Poetry and Art Contest Information

Responding to the invitation of Mayor Kay Barnes, secondary students in the Greater Kansas City are encouraged to participate in the celebration of United Nations Day by entering a competition in categories of essay, poetry, or art. This year's contest theme is: **2003**

*2003 International Year of
Fresh Water.*

All high school students grades 9 through 12 are eligible to participate. Students produce and submit to their teachers, original essay, poetry, or art works which reflect their viewpoints, ideas and feelings about this

this year's topic.

All entries will be judged on the basis of spontaneity, freshness of expression, imagination and individuality. The six finalists (two from each category) and their sponsoring teachers will be recognized at the Mayor's UN

Dinner on Thursday, October 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Adams Mark Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. They and their parents will be guests of the Committee for dinner. First place winners will receive \$150 and second place \$75.

Information is currently being sent to the local schools.

**United Nations Association of the
United States of America
Greater Kansas City Chapter**

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**We're on the Web
at www.una-kc.org**



**On This Day in
History**

- President Harry Truman signed ratification of the UN Charter, August 8, 1945.
- International Youth Day since August 12, 2000.
- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition, August 23.
- UN World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 4, 1995.
- International Literacy Day since September 8, 1966
- Construction of UN Headquarters began in New York, September 14, 1948.
- International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer since September 16, 1987.
- USSR-USA Cuban Missile Crisis ended, September 28, 1962.



UNA-GKC MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to become a member of the UNA-USA, Greater Kansas City Chapter, please use the form below or register online at www.unausa.org. If you are already member, we thank you for your continued support.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email : _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Bus Phone: _____

I am interested in a new membership

I am interested in renewing my existing membership

I am purchasing a gift membership

Chapter: Greater Kansas City Area Chapter

Membership: \$1000 Lifetime (one time dues payment)

\$ 500 Patron

\$ 100 Sponsor

\$ 40 Member

\$ 25 Introductory (First Year Only)

\$ 25 Senior

\$ 10 Student

Please make your check payable to UNA-USA and send it to:

UNA-USA, 801 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017-4706