

UNA-GKC NEWS

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Up Coming Events in Kansas City and Elsewhere

- Kansas City World Citizen Award presented, October 14, 2003.
- Kansas City Mayor's UN Dinner, October 14, 2003.
- United Nations Sunday, All Souls Unitarian Church, October 19, 2003, 8:45 and 11:15 a.m.
- American Model UN Conference for UMKC Model UN group, Chicago, Illinois, November 22-25, 2003.



Gillian Sorensen, UN Assistant Secretary General to speak at KC Mayor's UN Day Dinner on October 14, 2003.

By

Willadee Wehmeyer

The Mayor's UN Day Dinner is a long-standing tradition in Kansas City. This year, the 33rd annual UN Day Dinner is scheduled for October 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Adam's Mark Hotel (across from the Truman Sports Complex at 9103 East 39th Street). The evening events will include a formal proclamation of UN Day in Kansas City by Mayor Kay Barnes, recognition of the World Citizen Award winner, Dr. Frank K o r a n d a , and presentation of awards to high school student

winners of the annual poetry, essay and art contest. The keynote address, dealing with the relevance and role of the United Nations in the 21st century, will be delivered by Ms. Gillian Sorensen, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations for External Relations.

In light of the troubled relationship between the United States and the United Nations that have come to the forefront in 2003, it is extremely important for us to signal our support of the United Nations mission whenever possible. The



Mayor's UN Day dinner provides the community with an opportunity to learn more about the UN's work around the world, to ask questions of its representatives, and to show our support for its mission of peace and justice. Please favorably consider attending this informative and entertaining event.

Ms. Gillian Sorensen: A Short Biography

Gillian Martin Sorensen has been described as "direct," "frank," "lively," and "personable". In January 1997, Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed Ms. Sorensen to the job of Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations. In this capacity, Ms.

Sorensen is responsible for outreach to parliamentarians, academics, religious leaders, non-governmental organizations and other groups working for peace, human rights, and development. Prior to her current assignment, Ms. Sorensen served as Special Advisor for Public Policy to Secretary-General Boutros

Ghali. She has also held such prestigious positions as New York City Relations Commissioner to the international diplomatic community, as well as performing as the past president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE UN

“Tourism has a huge potential for good or evil,” says UNEP Executive Director

Resolution calls for DPRK to completely dismantle any nuclear weapons program.

“There are too many barriers that stunt, stifle and starve...we must rebuild faith in multilateral trade.”

UN agency warns of both blessing and curse in biodiversity tourism

‘With visits to the world’s biodiversity hotspots, regions richest in species but facing extreme threats, set to account for most of a projected doubling in tourism by 2020, the United Nations in September warned of both a blessing and a curse – a major danger for nature or a chance to ease the poverty of the planet’s poorest peoples.

Tourism has huge potential for good or evil. It is in everyone’s interest, particularly the industry’s, that the economic power of 21st century tourism is harnessed for the benefit of local people and wildlife,” the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Klaus Toepfer, said in launching the most comprehensive study

ever focusing on the affects of tourism on biological diversity.’ For more information on this and other topics in this section, see the UN News Center online at www.un.org.



UN nuclear watchdog calls on DPR of Korea to dismantle any nuclear weapons

‘The United Nations nuclear watchdog today called on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) to completely dismantle any nuclear weapons programme, promptly accept comprehensive international safeguards, and allow UN inspectors back in.

In a resolution adopted by acclamation in Vienna, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) called on the DPRK, which withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in December last year when IAEA inspectors were forced to pull out,

to cooperate with the agency in the full implementation of safeguards.

The DPRK was reported earlier this year to have said it would develop nuclear weapons and might carry out tests.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan earlier this month warned that a ban on nuclear testing was more vital than ever given the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula.’

Kofi Annan makes impassioned plea for rich countries to open up trade for poor countries

‘United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in September made an impassioned plea to the world’s richest countries to allow the world’s poorest to benefit from globalization instead of being its victims, granting them access to cheap generic drugs, ending subsidies undermining their agriculture and opening up markets to their textiles.

“Instead of open markets, there are too many barriers that stunt, stifle and starve. Instead of fair competition,

there are subsidies by rich countries that tilt the playing field against the poor.”

Opportunities must also be opened for developing countries through effective liberalization of trade...Just as we need to improve the multilateral security framework, so we must rebuild faith in the multilateral trade framework.’

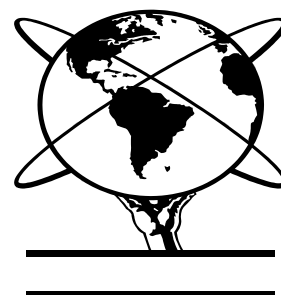
World Citizen Award—2003

Dr. Frank Koranda is an active and participating member of the *Medical Missions Foundation*. In this capacity, Dr. Koranda has traveled to Guatemala, China, the Philippines, Croatia, Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Korea, and Romania, at his own expense, in order to serve patients and medical teams and to share culture and training. The voluntary surgeries done by Dr.

Dr. Koranda have benefited the neediest and helped to reconstruct one life at a time. His long list of voluntary work typically involves correction of birth defects and treating child trauma injuries—many of which involve burn reconstruction and repair of cleft palates. In addition to his accomplishments as a medical doctor, Dr. Koranda has curriculum vita that

would be the envy of many academics. He is a staff member for the University of Colorado, University of Wisconsin, University of Iowa, and University of Kansas medical schools and is a fellow of the National Institutes of Health. A prolific author, Dr. Koranda has written more than 40 scholarly articles for such prestigious publications as the *Journal of*

the American Medical Association and *Sauer's Manual of Dermatology*.



War and the Virtue of Peace

By
Buddy Liston

Historically, the peoples of the world have too often relied to war as the ultimate solution to conflict. Contemporary thinking indicates that reasons for entering into armed conflict other than defensive purposes are immoral. Therefore, the appropriate role of the responsible nation-state is

is to keep the peace and defend the country's legitimate interests, while not acting as an aggressor.

The chain of events leading to confrontation often follows a time honored system of saber rattling and bolstering the military's "defensive" posture in preparation for the eventuality of hostile actions. Although military readiness appears to be at the very notion of deter-

rence, there are other considerations. Like professional prize fighters, whose fists are considered legal weapons that must never be used outside of the ring for anything except defense, the armed nation-state should exercise military might only for defensive purposes.

Peacefulness as a virtue requires a nation-state to prefer peace to war and in order to resolve critical issues, and a neutral forum is essential

essential to facilitate a process which leads away from hostilities. A multinational forum such as the United Nations is the ideal venue for open and frank discussion of issues prior to resulting to warfare as well as having the capability to independently police areas of potential conflict. We as concerned world citizens should do our individual parts to assist the worthwhile mission of the UN through organizations such as the UNA.

UMKC Group Goes to American Model UN Conference

In late November, 2003, the newly-formed UMKC Model UN group will participate in the American Model UN Conference in Chicago. The group will represent Afghanistan and it is currently preparing position papers and resolutions on a variety of

subjects. The First Committee on Disarmament and International Security will discuss the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament. The Second Committee will focus on the environment and sustainable

development. The Third Committee, which focuses on social, humanitarian and cultural issues, will discuss the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. The Sixth Committee deals with legal issues, espe-

cially those relating to the protection of victims of armed conflict, a condition that Afghanistan knows well. The UMKC team will have representatives on these committees, and in each case they will be representing the issues and concerns of Afghanistan.

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

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**We're on the Web
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**On This Day in
History**

- World Teachers Day, October 5.
- WHO and UNICEF announce victories over tetanus, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, polio and tuberculosis, October 8, 1991.
- World Food Day — UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) founded, October 16, 1945.
- United Nations Day — UN Charter effective, October 24, 1945.
- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, November 6.
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child unanimously adopted, November 20, 1989.
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25.



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