

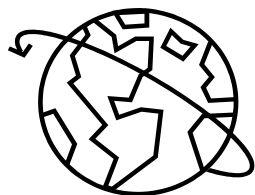
UNA-GKC NEWS

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Up Coming Events in Kansas City and Elsewhere

- September 8, Open Session of the 56th Annual Conference on NGOs, United Nations, New York
- September 17-18, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Third Biennial Kansas City Conference
- October 14, Kansas City Mayor's UN Day Dinner. Mark your calendar — See details within
- November 2, U.S. National Elections — Get out and vote



Mayor's UN Day Dinner - October 14, 2004

By Jay Sjerven

Since 1970, Mayors of Kansas City, Republican and Democrat, have demonstrated their steadfast support of the United Nations and its works by commemorating the founding of that world body. This Oct. 14, Mayor

Kay Waldo Barnes continues that august tradition, which has no equal in any other city of the United States.

It's time for Americans to become reacquainted with their United Nations. In 1945, war-weary representatives of the

world's peoples met in San Francisco. They established the United Nations in order to ensure than the world never again plunged into another Great War. They also committed the world body to improving the lot of the poor, (continued on page

Ado Vaher from UNICEF to Speak at Dinner

By Jay Sjerven

Mr. Ado Vaher will speak at the Mayor's UN Day Dinner on October 14. Since 1995 Mr. Vaher has been UNICEF's director of United Nations Affairs and External Relations.

In that capacity, Mr. Vaher directs UNICEF's relations with the U.N. and its agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as with various international governmental organiza-

tions. He also works with governments from around the world on a wide range of political, developmental and humanitarian issues related to the well-being of children.

(continued on page 3)

UNA-GKC 2004 World Citizens Award to James E. and Virginia G. Stowers

James E. and Virginia G. Stowers will be awarded the 2004 World Citizen Award at the Mayor's UN Day Dinner in October.

James and Virginia Stowers met in Kansas

City and married 50 years ago. They have enjoyed tremendous financial success in their lives. They have become great philanthropists and benefactors to the citizens of Kansas City and the

United States, and, with the establishment of the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, to the citizens of the world.

James Stowers, in

(continued on page 3)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE UN

Eradicating hunger and providing education at the top of the list of Millennium Goals.

The UN pledged to support the Iraqi people, security circumstances permitting.

"...the success of the conference would be measured by participants' future actions."

The Millennium Development Goals

By the year 2015, all 191 United Nations Member States have pledged to meet the following goals:

(1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by reducing by half the proportion of people living on less on a dollar a day and by reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. (2) Achieve universal primary education by ensuring that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling. (3) Promote gender equality and empower women by eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. (4) Reduce child mortality by reducing by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five. (5) Improve maternal health by reducing by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

(6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (7) Ensure environmental sustainability by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and by reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water; and (8) Develop a global partnership for development. For more information, please see <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Iraq: Top Envoy Discusses UN Role in Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Efforts

Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Special Representative Ashraf Qazi and Planning Minister Mahdi al-Hafez focused on reconstruction efforts in cities like Najaf and Al-Sadr city in Baghdad, the scene of fierce fighting in mid-August. "Unemployment and poverty lead to the proliferation of crime and terrorism," Mr. al-Hafez said.

The two also discussed the Government's development priorities, with the minister calling for an active UN role in his country's reconstruction and rehabilitation programme as well as in the transitional political process.

Iraq's Minister of State Kassim Daoud attended the meeting.

Mr. Qazi pledged the full support of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) to support the Iraqi people in cooperation with the interim government, security circumstances permitting. For more information please go to <http://www.un.org> and click on 'The Situation in Iraq'.

Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the UN

This is the title of the final report of the 2003 DPI/NGO Conference which attracted a record 2,000 representatives from more than 600 United Nations affiliated NGOs, and included the participation of scores of Permanent Mission and United Nations officials. The Conference, organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in full partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, was dedicated to United Nations staff members killed or injured in August 2003 in Iraq. It focused on the challenges of providing real human security to people around the world through partnerships

security to people around the world through partnerships among the United Nations, civil society and Governments. It was admitted that the success of the conference would be measured by participants' future actions. To read the report, please go to <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/56final.pdf>.

Mayor's UN Day Dinner (continued from page 1)

the hungry and the uneducated. The founding conference largely was led by Americans and inspired by American ideals. There were voices then, as now, that called on America to "go it alone." But these voices were decisively rejected by the American people, who had learned well that their fate was bound with those of all

others. Since then, the U.N. has helped the world navigate through epochal changes including decolonization, a Cold War and the ongoing advance toward a free, secure, democratic, healthy and fed world.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, reminded us that the world was one and that each of us bore a measure of responsi-

bility for others. We are honored to be addressed at the dinner by an official of that great organization (see article below) which exemplifies the best in all of us and which embodies the spirit and promise of the United Nations.

The dinner will be at the Clarion Hotel-Sports Complex (formerly Ad-

ams Mark in Independence) at 7 p.m. on October 14. The price per ticket is \$40. The price per table is \$320 (eight seats times \$40). Those seeking more information should visit our website at www.una-kc.org; or you may call Jay Sjerven at 816 569-4523. Hope to see you there.

Ado Vaher to Speak (continued from page 1)

UNICEF is the world's leading advocate of child welfare with a staff of 7,200 and programs in 157 countries. UNICEF now has five major priorities: immunizing every child; getting all girls and boys into schools; reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and mitigating the impact of the disease on young people; protecting children from violence and exploita-

tation, and introducing early childhood programs in every country. Mr. Vaher points out that UNICEF also champions global investment in children, asserting that efforts to reduce poverty and build a more secure world can only be successful if children have an opportunity to grow into adulthood in health, peace and dignity.

Before joining UNICEF in 1991, Mr. Vaher served as a counselor in the Canadian Permanent Mission to the U.N. in New York. Before this, he worked for national and state governments in Canada and Australia. In Papua New Guinea, as deputy under secretary for planning in the Department of Transport, Mr. Vaher was involved with that country's

transition to independence.

Mr. Vaher was graduated from the University of Toronto in 1967 with a degree in engineering. He later completed that university's master's program for urban and regional planning. In 1978, he was awarded a master's of science in economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Mr. Vaher was born in Sweden and raised in Toronto.

Stowers Honored as World Citizens

1958 founded Twentieth Century Investors, now know as American Century Investments, which today controls more than \$100 billion in assets and serves more than 2 million shareholders. Virginia Stowers, graduated as a Registered Nurse from Research Hospital School of Nursing, has been a wife, mother, a professional health care provider as well as a supportive

portive partner to her husband, James. Additionally, Virginia Stowers has done volunteer work for the Rose Brooks Center for Domestic Violence Intervention and the Midwest Bioethics Center. Both James and Virginia Stowers are cancer survivors.

In 1994, James and Virginia Stowers founded the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, endowing the institute with more than \$1 billion in assets.

than \$1 billion in assets. By creating this institute and attracting world-class researchers in biomedical sciences, the Stowers have helped make Kansas City a major world player in the field of biomedical research. The institute's stated purpose is: "To make a significant contribution to humanity through medical research by expanding our understanding of the secrets of

life and by improving life's quality through innovative approaches to the causes, treatment and prevention of diseases." The institute opened its doors in 2001.

They together were honored as Philanthropists of the Year in 2000 by the Greater KC Council on Philanthropy. That same year, they also jointly received the Founder's Award from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine and were the Kansas City Area Development Council Annual Luncheon honorees.

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

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**On This Day in
History**

- September 4, 1995: UN World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace convened.
- September 8: International Literacy Day since 1966.
- September 13: World Law Day since 1965.
- September 28: US and USSR Cuban missile crisis ended.
- October 1: International Day of Older Persons.
- October 4: UN-sponsored treaty ended 16-year civil war in Mozambique, 1992.
- October 8: WHO and UNICEF announce victories over tetanus, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, polio and tuberculosis, 1991.
- October 24: United Nations Day—UN Charter effective, 1945.



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