

GLOBAL CONCEPTS



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G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2010

Save the Date!

October 14 & 15, 2010

6th Biennial G.A.M.E. Conference on
**UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC) &
 UN Conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of
 Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

At the Embassy Suites on the Plaza, Kansas City, MO

*GAME ANNUAL BOARD AND
 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON APRIL 18*
 Global and Multicultural Education will
 hold its Annual Meeting on
Sunday, April 18, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at
 4428 Harrison, Kansas City, MO.
 All GAME members are invited to attend
 and learn about programs and projects
 for 2010 and beyond.

*Our general membership will be
 recognized for their support and new
 board members will be welcomed.*

*In addition, details will be shared
 about the 6th biennial CRC/ CEDAW
 conference in October.*

*Refreshments will be served--come and
 join us.*

*Questions? Please contact Sara
 Pedram at 816-753-2372 or*
spedram45@kc.rr.com

Manny & Sara Pedram to receive Social Justice Award

The Annual Meeting was originally scheduled for April 25, but was re-scheduled to accommodate G.A.M.E.'s Founder, Manny Pedram, and G.A.M.E.'s Director, Sara Pedram, in traveling to Davenport, Iowa to receive a Social Justice Award during their church's district conference.

Congratulations to the Pedrams!

Marketing Intern Joins G.A.M.E. Effort

G.A.M.E. is pleased to have Erin Turnbaugh working as a Marketing Intern. Erin will be helping with the CRC / CEDAW Conference, the G.A.M.E. website, and the creation of a blog.

Learning about the World: *International Children's Festival* at MCC-Longview

Hundreds of children found enchantment at MCC-Longview's *International Children's Festival* on Saturday, March 13th. With parents and friends, they marveled at shows from Stone Lion Puppet Theater, performances by the Esoke Dance Troupe, and interactive story telling from Latino Writers Collective. When not attending performances, everyone could create art, learn their names in numerous languages, dance a cake walk in hopes of winning a prized cupcake, see artifacts from around the world, style their new henna tattoos, get on-the-spot origami and balloon animal souvenirs, and learn West African songs and games. At every turn was evidence of Kansas City's multicultural community; at every turn was fun. It was a wonderful venue for G.A.M.E. as well, and Manny and Sara Pedram added their own sparkle to the day; teachers, community leaders, parents, and students of all ages learned about G.A.M.E. as they met our strongest, most engaging ambassadors.

Manny and Sara jumped right into all the festivities, and so many attendees were impressed with their energy and vision. Judy Rice was the leader of this lively day, and in all her preparations and planning, she consistently emphasized creating celebration of cultures - - the many peoples, traditions, and experiences of nations everywhere - - and then extending warm welcome to every person attending the festival. Her vision became reality, for truly this day reflected commitment to both community and knowledge. Volunteers from Kansas City and beyond came to contribute their time and energy; volunteers included students from MCC-Longview, various Missouri colleges, and local high schools. Judy Rice is the Library Manager at MCC-Longview, and her team included various colleagues: Jennifer Argo (Judy's co-chair for this event), Melissa Eaton, and Jan Rog. Moreover, our team included Nola Magady and Marlena Boggs, two community leaders who have been an integral part of every International Children's Festival since we began these celebrations in 2005. I have been fortunate in working with this wonderful team since our festival began, and I can honestly say this year's was the not only the largest but also the most joyful of all the celebrations. It reflected the best within all of us.

- Jan Rog, G.A.M.E. Member



Dr. Emanuel Ngomsi, an international communications consultant, gives a lively presentation.



Dancers from Panama show off their colorful and flowing outfits, after an exposition of dance.



Manny & Sara Pedram – G.A.M.E.'s Ambassadors at the MCC-Longview International Children's Festival

6th Biennial Conference on CRC & CEDAW

For the decade since 2000, the Global and Multicultural Education Center has provided a forum, focused on educational advocacy, to educate the Kansas City community about two international human rights treaties effecting women and children and to advance understanding of the need for their ratification. With ratification of these two treaties, the nation accepts a major obligation and responsibility to take measures, pass legislation, and enact procedures that guarantee human rights issues enumerated in CRC and CEDAW. G.A.M.E.'s biennial conferences raise awareness of the conventions, involving the Kansas City community and other interested individuals. Both CRC and CEDAW are an affirmation of the international community regarding human rights of all individuals, with a focus on age (under 18) and gender equity (women), to create an international community fit for every man, woman and child.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) contains 54 articles and its two protocol documents set minimum standards on all aspects of cultural, social, educational and civil rights of children under age of 18. The four core areas of CRC convention include non-discrimination, right to life, survival and development, right and respect to child's views, and the best interest of the child. On the 20th anniversary, November 20, 2009, celebrations were held under the title of "Dignity, Development and Dialogue", the three areas of challenge for full implementation of the CRC.

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) celebrated its 30th anniversary on December 18, 2009. 186 countries have ratified this convention and 98 its optional protocol that gives individuals and groups of women the right to complain to the CEDAW committee. The committee, in turn, investigates such complaints in countries that have signed, ratified, and are party to the optional protocol.

The CRC/CEDAW Steering Committee is moving ahead with selection of a keynote speaker and topics for the break-out sessions. Stay tuned for details and updates!

Sara Pedram, Director



Quote of the Issue

"In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language."

UN CRC – Article 30



Capacity Building Assessment for the Future

Global and Multicultural Education, along with 75 other community organizations, received an invitation to participate in a capacity building assessment process. This project was the result of a collaborative effort between UMKC Institute for Human Development and Midwest Center for Non-Profit Leadership with the objective of "strengthening the capacity building" of community non-profit organizations. Thanks to the support of Bambi Shen, board treasurer, and Sara Pedram, director, we attended two presentation sessions, followed by hours of examination of 275 self assessment items and, finally, the analysis of G.A.M.E.'s assessment by the Institute of Human Development.

The assessment included five components: program, management, governance, financial resources/management and administrative system. In this process, we discovered the strengths of G.A.M.E. and also areas requiring increased effort on the part of board members to focus for improvement. Among our strengths were the "clarity of the organization's mission, aspirations and priorities." The boldness of our vision is compelling and achievable. We learned that our programs function together effectively, with strong relationships and mutually beneficial collaboration with diverse organizations.

The membership in general has a common set of basic beliefs and values shared within the organization and core programs are defined and "aligned" with mission and vision.

The lack of a permanent staff and minimal day-to-day use of technology has limited our success. Moreover, the analysis report pointed out limited financial planning and forecasting long-term planning as the reason for the lack of organizational ability to generate effective marketing to expand our programs in the community. The final analysis report recommended

that “development of a strategic planning and development process that moves the organization to a stronger funding position, particularly as it relates to addressing information technology and operating concerns, was identified and recommended as a needed area for capacity building.” In conclusion, it was “recommended that it will be worthwhile for G.A.M.E. to invest in board development very early in the next generation of agency capacity development.”

Manny Pedram

Upcoming Events Local and National



April 17, 2010, 9:00 -3:00p.m. Boy Scouts workshop, Citizenship in the World, Mid-Continent Library, Boardwalk branch and Northland Ethnic Festival

April 18, 2010, 2:00 -4:00p.m.G.A.M.E. Annual membership and Board of Director’s meeting 4428 Harrison Street.

October 14-15, 2010, G.A.M.E Sixth Biennial Conference on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The International Events Calendar

May 18, UN TREATY on the SEA BED in FORCE 1972.

May 21, World Day for Cultural Diversity, Dialogue and Development.

World Health Organization (WHO) unanimously adopted a treaty against smoking (2003)

May 31 World No-Tobacco Day

June 5 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY for reflection upon the need to preserve and enhance the environment.

CHILDREN DESERVE BETTER

At the height of the catastrophic and devastating earthquake in Haiti, UNICEF indicated its concern about the vulnerability of its children

and cautioned the international community of individuals and groups who might take advantage of this difficult moment in Haiti in the name of religion or other motives. It was no surprise to read about a group of Baptist missionaries trying to take 33 Haitian children across the border to another country and another orphanage.

Around the globe, children (under age18, based on the international definition of “child”) are being abused, mistreated and trafficked in the name of religion, or for a national need such as child soldiers, or for monetary gains.

The CRC, known as Convention on the Rights of the Child, which celebrated its 20th anniversary on November 20, 2009, has been signed and ratified by 191 nations around the globe with 54 specific guidelines to help nations pass laws and regulations to strengthen the protection of children. There are a number of guidelines for taking children out of their native land or from their parent without proper documentation. CRC articles, including articles 3, 5, 8, 9, and18 specify the responsibility of parents and extended family and the rights for the child to remain with family to be raised, except in situations that are incompatible with the child’s interest.

Articles19, 20, 21, 22 specify protection of the child’s identity in the case of children without family, the right to respect children’s rights to his or her “identity, nationality”. In situations where a child is “temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment” he or she is entitled to special protection. Nations are required to take special measures for the best interest of the child, and are obliged to provide special protection for a child that has lost family environment, with alternative family care and institutional placement that meets child’s cultural background. Nowhere in this international document for protection of children is a statement to give any missionary group or any other group under any name the right to enter another country and move a group of children without proper documentation out of the country.

Manny Pedram

Quote of the Issue

“From our orbital vantage point, we observe an Earth without borders full of magnificence and we pray that humanity as a whole can imagine a borderless world as we see it and strive to live as one in peace.”

Astronaut Willie McCool of Columbia Mission
January 29, 2003

In the light of the recent agreement between U.S. and Russia in reduction of nuclear warheads, the following report and recommendations, dated November 17, 2009, examines sample public opinions.

Talking to the U.S. Public About Nuclear Policies

Once again, there is a real conversation happening about nuclear weapons—their role in the world, safety and morality concerns surrounding them, and the potential use of nuclear weapons and/or theft of vulnerable nuclear material.

In the summer of 2009, the U.S. in the World Initiative (USITW) was asked by the Stanley Foundation and others to synthesize, analyze, and develop messaging recommendations based on three recent research projects that examined public opinion on nuclear issues. Below is a summary of key recommendations for advocates. More information on each of these recommendations—including some sample language—can be found in the report.

- Peace and security advocates should work to help the public think about nuclear weapons in a new way.
- Reducing risk should be underscored as the goal of peace and security advocates.
- The Risk Reduction Frame is different from the Safety Frame and there are long-term

advantages to starting from the Risk Reduction Frame.

- “Getting to zero” should not be presented as the primary focus of advocates.
- Advocates should be able to describe all of the shorter-term policy goals of the peace and security community as steps to reaching the overarching goal of reducing the risk posed by nuclear weapons.
- When introducing the Risk Reduction Frame, advocates should be focused on the risk posed by nuclear weapons—not just the risk of nuclear terrorism.
- Public skepticism about verification has the potential to cost support even from those who, in principal, are supporters.
- In order to effectively reach the public with these messages, advocates must also understand the public’s perception of peace and security

For more information and total report go to November 17, 2009: www.stanleyfoundation.org

www.un.org

The World Wide Web is a magnificent “place” to invest, or lose, hours tracing meaningful and banal information, ideas, and images. As you spend time surfing, take a moment to investigate the United Nations’ web site. There are multiple resources, including tabs at the top of the web page which lead to segments that focus on:

- Peace and Security
- Development
- Human Rights
- Humanitarian Affairs
- International Law

Within each tab, information is broken down into UN Bodies, Thematic Issues, Resources, and other sections which are relevant to that specific area.

There is also a place for children, called the Cyber School Bus – see the sidebar menu on their web site to find this. The Cyber School Bus connects children to information about countries, UN documents, even puzzles and games with an international education emphasis.

Matthew Westra -

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A non-profit organization.

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Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E.

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today.

Membership Form:

Date: _____

Patron..... \$ 30.00 _____

Family \$ 15.00 _____

Individual..... \$ 10.00 _____

Organization/School.. \$ 15.00 _____

Name _____

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I would like to contribute an additional \$ _____ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

We thank you for your support.

Mission Statement: G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.