

GLOBAL CONCEPTS



www.kcglobalconcepts.org

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

Vol. 25 no.2

SUMMER 2007

G.A.M.E. CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

The vision for establishing G.A.M.E., an organization with its emphasis on education, began in 1979 when Dr. Manny Pedram's article *Global Community: Can Schools Speed This Alternative?* was printed in International Foundation of Education Quarterly. In this article he argued in favor of an interdisciplinary approach in classrooms in dealing with various international issues. This article provided an opportunity for a conversation with Robert Muller, then Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations. Dr. Muller was writing the first draft of his views on teaching and school curriculum. Manny asked and received permission to include the draft curriculum in the G.A.M.E. publication, *Global Community Curriculum Guide*. Thus, the foundation was laid to create Global And Multicultural Education, which was officially incorporated in Missouri in June 1982.

During these early years, Manny was encouraged and supported by individuals such as Ben Kjelshus, Bobbie Sharp, David Wolfe and William A. Voss, each of whom had a strong interest in teaching, the United Nations, the African cultures, and educational and international issues. In addition, a grant from the U.S. Department of Education funded a joint G.A.M.E. teacher training workshop and publication of *Education for Global Community: A Resource Guide*. Another grant from the Department of Health and Human Services provided an opportunity for three weeks of leadership training for refugees and the

publication of *Moving Toward Self Sufficiency*.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary in 2007, we reflect on the many diverse accomplishments of G.A.M.E. to provide programs to teachers, students and the community at large within the greater Kansas City area, as well as our surrounding region. Two prime examples within the past decade are four biennial conferences (beginning in 2000) on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) with a dual focus in 2006 on the CRC, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Continuing our emphasis on global education, G.A.M.E. joined in partnership with the Mid-Continent Library System in 2005 to offer classes to Boy Scouts. These semi-annual events enable those who participate to earn their merit badge for Citizenship in the World.

To recognize the past 25 years and honor our founder, Dr. Manny Pedram, we invite you to join us on September 13 at Princess Gardens Restaurant for a very special event. The evening begins with a reception at 6:00 followed by dinner and an awards program. Please save the date and watch for your invitation. We want to see YOU at our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

Sara Pedram
G.A.M.E. Director

QUOTE OF THE ISSUE

“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.”
Winston Churchill

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



UNITED NATIONS DECLARES OCTOBER 2nd, GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY, AS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

The United Nations General Assembly (June 15, 2007) decided to observe the International Day of Non-Violence each year on 2 October, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who helped lead India to independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.

Introducing the resolution adopted by the 192-member body, Anand Sharma, India's Minister of State for External Relations, said the idea originated at an international conference on "Peace, Non-Violence and Empowerment," Gandhian Philosophy in the 21st Century, convened in New Delhi in January this year.

Gandhi's mass mobilization and non-violent actions, brought down colonialism, strengthened the roots of popular sovereignty, of civil, political and economic rights, and greatly influenced many a freedom struggle and inspired leaders like Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr., Mr. Sharma stated.

The Assembly, "desiring to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence," invited States, UN bodies, regional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals to commemorate the Day, including through education and public awareness.

UN LAUNCHES LEGISLATIVE GUIDE ON CHILD RIGHTS TREATY

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on June 12, 2007, announced that it is launching a new publication which aims to serve as a research tool for children's rights advocates based on the major international treaty guiding their work.

"This major study documents how the Convention on the Rights of the Child came to represent a sea change in the way the international community was prepared to address the rights of children," High Commissioner Louise Arbour writes in the book's preface.

The two-volume Legislative History on the Convention on the Rights of the Child lists among the many major advances ushered in by the Convention recognition, for the first time in a human rights treaty, of the differential and often discriminatory impact that national legislation, policies, attitudes and cultural traditions can have on girls.

The Legislative History on the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first comprehensive record of the drafting of the Convention, according to a news release from Ms. Arbour's office.

Produced following 10 years of work by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Save the Children Sweden, the publication is available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

QUOTE OF THE ISSUE

"The environment you fashion out of your thoughts...your belief... your ideals...your philosophy...is the only climate you will ever live in."

Alfred A. Montapert

International Days and Observances: July-August

- July 6, 1945** First Nation to ratify U.N. Charter, Nicaragua
- July 7, 1954** U.N. Convention on the Political Rights of Women
- July 8, 1996** International Court of Justice Advisory opinion: Use of Nuclear Weapon violates international Law.
- July 11, 2007** WORLD POPULATION DAY, 6.5 billion and growing.
- July 12, 1817** Henry D. Thoreau Birthday, essayist and pioneer on nonviolence, Concord, Massachusetts.
- July 15, 1985** U.N. Third World Conference on Women, Nairobi. Kenya.
- July 18, 1998** INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE DAY, Formation of International Criminal Court, Rome.
- August 5, 1963** USSR, US, UK signed treaty to ban nuclear test in the Atmosphere. Moscow.
- August 23,** INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR REMEMBRANCE OF SLAVE TRADE AND ABOLITION, commemorating the 1791 San Domingo uprising
- August 28, 2000** Millennium World Peace Summit of world religious Leaders.

LOCAL EVENTS:

- July 15, 2007** G.A.M.E. Board of Director's bimonthly meeting
- July 19, 2007** GAME-UU-UNO Great Decisions Series, All Souls Unitarian Universalist, 7:00 p.m WAR CRIMES
- August, 16, 2007** GAME-UU-UNO Great Decisions Series, All Souls Unitarian Universalist, 7:00 p.m CENTRAL ASIA
- September 13, 2007** GAME 25th Anniversary Celebration, 6:00 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY REVIEW

STOLEN CHILDHOODS, narrated by Meryl Streep, was a featured documentary presented at All Souls Unitarian Church in mid-May. It documented a number of child-related issues that have been the focus of the Global and

Multicultural Education's biennial conferences since 2000.

The plight of children, some as young as five or six and all under 17 years of age, focused on child labor in factories and in agriculture fields, forced to pick pesticide-laden tobacco, coffee and vegetables in countries such as Brazil, Kenya and the United States. The recent report from the International Labor Organization (ILO) indicates that "Over 132 million girls and boys aged 5 to 14 years old often work from sun up to sun down on farms and plantations, planting and harvesting crops, spraying pesticides, and tending livestock."

The documentary also brought audience attention to the child trafficking for the purpose of prostitution and white slavery, child abuse and child soldiers. It reflected the vulnerability of children in every corner of the globe including the United States, the only eligible nation on planet earth, yet to ratify the Child Rights Convention (CRC).

Once again, the film demonstrated the need for global partnership to address the children rights issues. G.A.M.E. for the past seven years has been providing conferences as an educational instrument for public awareness and public mobilization for the ratification of U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children's vulnerability and the enormity of the problem reflect the need to promote the application of national and international laws and child related policies that strengthen the worldwide movement to address the rights of children.

The World Day Against Child Labor (June 12, 2007) is aimed at mobilizing people around the world against child labor and its worst forms, reflecting local cultures and customs, while encouraging the participation of authorities, the media, civil society and the public at large.

Following the documentary, Manny and I had the opportunity to answer questions and make comments relevant to this issue. This event led to an opportunity to be interviewed on the Children's International Music program on KKFI and a brief discussion of GAME and our biennial conferences on this important issue. The 2008 conference is in the early planning stage...more information will be available soon.

Sara Pedram
G.A.M.E. Director

GLOBAL CONCEPTS

Newsletter of the Global And Multicultural Education Center (G.A.M.E.)

A non-profit organization.

3009 Holmes

Kansas City, Missouri, USA 64109

(816) 960-1546 (816) 753-2372

www.kcglobalconcepts.org

Board of Directors:

Sara Pedram, Director

Manny Pedram, Director Emeritus

State Senator, Charles B. Wheeler, M.D.

President: Gregory Brown, Ph.D.

Vice President: Haumana Johannsen

V.P. Programs: Doris R. Stout

Treasurer: Norman Burkart

Secretary: Haumana Johannsen

V.P. Membership: Hattie Williams

Nancy Brooks

Teri Chu

Joyce Cox

Richard Dawson

Gene Foster

Arthea Saller

George Saller

Bambi Shen

Bill Thebo

Matthew Westra, Newsletter Editor

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 _____

Address: _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail: _____

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.