

GLOBAL CONCEPTS



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G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

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Meet the Board

Introducing **Paul DeBarthe**, new Vice President-Programs

A teacher for 40 years in the social studies, Paul began in Shawnee Mission (thirty seven years) and has retired to take up a new career teaching in KCMSD. With Masters degree in anthropology and a specialty in historical archaeology, he and the beautiful talented Tahitian, Tepurotu Rina Fauura DeBarthe have been encouraging student interest in international education throughout their careers. His Model UN students have established the program at JCCC and in China. He and Rina with friends and family have been supporting an Outreach-International school in Haiti for the past 15 years. They declared themselves mundialized in 1972 and have raised five children with dual citizenship and cross cultural interests. Their six grandchildren, Neesa Kahaia Montoya, Alexander Kai Montoya, Taina Sheilah Maeva Chapman, John Reese Coleman Chapman, Inara Teahi Johannsen, and Ryker Tunui Johannsen exemplify cultural bridging with their carefully selected beautiful meaningful names.

Paul comes from an Iowa farm background and returns there weekly to reconnect with his roots. Fence posts pulled in the past couple of years remind him of the conversations 50 years ago with his dad about building the fence right so it will last a

lifetime. Besides grain and livestock, the farm has produced a wealth of sustainable ideas. Production of food feeds his interest in ending hunger. Recognition of diverse fence posts and thinking skills stimulates his project orientation in education with special emphasis upon Socratic learning. Appreciation of the remarkable genius implicit within cultures encourages his participation as a board member of the UNA-GKC and as an elder in the Community of Christ. As the breezes flow over the land, so good ideas flow over the earth and we all benefit.

Calendar

July First Saturday [International Day of Cooperatives](#)

July 11 [World Population Day](#) (approx 6,771,062,147)

August 9 [International Day of the World's Indigenous People](#)

August 12 [International Youth Day](#)

August 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

September 8 [International Literacy Day](#)

September 15 International Day of Democracy

September 16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)

September 21 [International Day of Peace](#)

During last Week [World Maritime Day](#)

From the UN Chronicle

Women's Rights as Human Rights: The Promotion of Human Rights as a Counter-Culture

By Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat

Human rights are rights claimed against the State and society by virtue of being a human being. However, the human rights of most people have been continuously violated all around the world. Since all civilizations have been patriarchal, regardless of the overall human rights conditions maintained in a society, women have been subject to more human rights violations than men. Women constitute the poorest and the least powerful segments of their communities. They are denied equal access to education, job training, employment, leisure time, income, property, health care, public office, decision-making power and freedoms, as well as control over their own body and life. Cultural norms, laws and philosophies, including those that are considered progressive and emancipatory, have usually discriminated against women.

(For the rest of the article, go to http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2008/issue2_3/2_308p09.html)

GENE & BAMBI IN SPAIN & FRANCE

Four days after Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States, Gene and I left for a much anticipated trip to Spain and France. We started in Seville where we visited Fernando, the Spanish student who lived with us last school year. Our home is located two blocks from the campus of the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Each of the last seven years,

we have taken two international students into our home to familiarize them with American life style and to give them a chance to practice English. They have come from Taiwan, Bulgaria, Saudi Arabia, France, Spain, Finland, Turkey, and Malawi, Africa. They learn from us, and we learn the culture of our students.

In Seville, Fernando met us at the airport and escorted us into the city by train. As we departed the train station, we saw Seville's connection to Kansas City as our first Sister City, in that one of the streets leading out of the station was named "Avenida Kansas City." We left our bags at Fernando's uncle's house and went right out to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of Spain.

Since we only had one full day in Seville, we chose to see the most famous Tower of Seville, built in 1171 as the minaret of the great mosque. In 1248, when the Muslim chiefs negotiated the surrender of Seville to the Spanish, they asked to destroy the great mosque and its minaret to avoid these structures falling into Christian hands. But Prince Don Alfonso, the Spanish commander, threatened to kill anyone who dared remove even one brick of the Tower to destroy such a beautiful edifice. So the minaret was spared. It is unique in all the world, in that there are no stairs to the top. Instead, 35 ramps of gentle ascent were constructed in order to provide access for the horse of the first muezzin, who was a very old man, so that he could make the call to prayer five times a day.

Seville is definitely a city worth several days of stay, due to its rich history and interesting architecture. We will return.

Our next stop was Lourdes, France, a trip I promised myself to make 50 years ago. In February 1958, I was in Saigon, Vietnam; during the Cathedral candlelight procession that celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the Blessed Virgin's apparitions in Lourdes, I made a vow, "If my life is good, I will go to

Lourdes to celebrate the 150th jubilee.” At that time I was preparing to start college in Kentucky that September. I knew that the success of my life would depend on what I would do with it. Even then I felt confident that I would make this trip, but the added blessing was that I did it in the company of my husband and soul-mate, Gene.

Lourdes is the second most popular tourism city in all of France. It is only second to Paris in the number of hotels (almost 300) to accommodate some five million visitors a year, mostly in the spring and summer. In 1898, Lourdes went from being a small village in the Pyrenees to being a global attraction, especially to the Catholic world. A fourteen year-old peasant girl, Bernadette Soubirous, claimed that she saw, “...in the crevice of the rock, a young girl, surrounded by light, who looked at me and smiled.” Seventeen more visions followed during which the “lady” requested that a chapel be built, that people pray, and that Bernadette dig for a spring and wash herself. Finally, the apparition identified herself by saying, “I am the Immaculate Conception,” which identifies her as Mary, the mother of Jesus. Little Bernadette had no knowledge and no understanding that only four years earlier, the Vatican had defined the Immaculate Conception of Mary as a dogma of faith. Bernadette did find the spring which since then produces some 27,000 gallons of water a week. Chemically this water has no curative elements, but many faithful believe it to be healing. Gene and I took an icy dip in the specially made pools. Upon returning to dress in our cubicles, our bodies were dry even though no towels had been provided.

The Catholic Church is very careful and reluctant to declare many of Lourdes healings to be miracles. As Bernadette so well put it, “To those who believe, no explanation is necessary; to those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.”

By Bambi Shen

Quotes of the Issue:

“Food is our common ground, a universal experience.”

James Beard (1903-1985)

“Food for all is a necessity. Food should not be a merchandise, to be bought and sold as jewels are bought and sold by those who have the money to buy. Food is a human necessity, like water and air, it should be available.”

Pearl Buck (1892-1973)

Film Review

The Class, First French film to win the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival since 1987.

Shocking to see my classroom with kids speaking French! Fortunately the subtitles translated adequately (my Tahitian sweetheart generally approved). Yet, to see discrimination against foreigners and their incapacitation in the face of deportation, to hear the misconstrued statement from the teacher used as a weapon, to feel the angst of a teacher trying to instruct and assist in the face of cultural obstacles, administrative blundering, parental interference, and students with drama as a higher priority than education, all these spoke of my classroom in KCMUSD.

One of the most compelling movies of the flawed educational genre of recent years. It does not require the teacher to sacrifice marriage and family to be successful with students. It portrays honestly and even though a French portrayal should not be expected to accurately reflect the situation in Kansas City, it does.

By Paul DeBarthe

Editor's Note: The Class, as it is known in English, was released as **Entre les murs** in 2008. For trailer and more information, follow the link: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1068646/>



G.A.M.E. CONFERENCE ROOM DEDICATION

On Sunday, June 7, 2009, the board of directors dedicated the G.A.M.E. Conference Room to be named the “Dr. Charles B. Wheeler Conference Room.” For the past decade, Dr. Wheeler has chaired G.A.M.E. Biennial Human Rights conferences with focus on Children's Rights (CRC) and CEDAW, and the Convention on Non-Discrimination Against Women.

Moreover, one wall of conference room is draped with a large 120x90 inch United Nations Flag, the first U.N. flag that flew over the International Airport during Dr. Wheeler's mayoral term, when the City Council mundialized, or declared Kansas City as a World City.

G.A.M.E. president, Haumana Johannsen, introduced the ceremony and Manny Pedram explained the UN flag background and the generosity of another founding member, Bill Voss, who chaired

the mundialization effort and later donated the flag to Manny as founder of G.A.M.E. G.A.M.E. board member, State Representative Beth Low, and other friends and joined us for this special occasion.

Sara Pedram, Director



**A DECADE OF
ADVOCACY ON
CHILDREN'S AND
WOMEN'S HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUES
2010: TIME FOR
CRC/CEDAW
RATIFICATION**

**Save the Date: Friday,
October 15, 2010**

**The 6th Global and Multicultural
Education Kansas City Conference
on the UN Convention on the
Rights of the Child (CRC) and the
UN Convention on the Elimination
of all forms of Discrimination
Against Women (CEDAW).**

**In the millennium in 2000, the
Global and Multicultural Education Center
began a grassroots public effort on behalf of
the Children Rights Convention, known as
CRC; and in its 3rd biennial conference had
added the Non-Discrimination Convention
against women or CEDAW.**

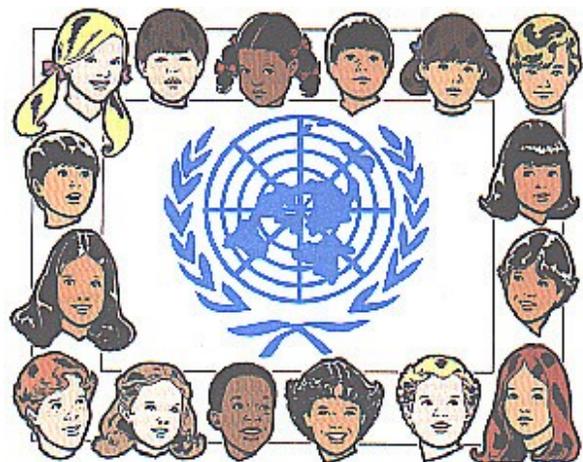
CRC and CEDAW have been offered
to the community and region as major
advocacy and education projects. **Human
Rights** in general still remains as one of the
three major challenges of the 21st century,
together with **security** and **development**.

Since 2000, the GAME biennial
conferences have been at the forefront and
instrumental in their advocacy, and have
actively advanced and provided educational

activities through nationally and
internationally known speakers to enable the
public to discern the reality as well as the
mis-conceptions about the conventions. In
these advocacy and educational activities,
we have partnered with like minded groups
such as the University of Missouri-Kansas
City Women's and Gender Studies, United
Nations Association of Greater Kansas City,
and a number of other organizations that
create teamwork for success.

In recent months, there is
encouraging news that both the children's
and women's conventions may receive US
Senate ratification before the end of
President Obama's administration.

**2010 IS THE YEAR AND TIME FOR
CRC/CEDAW RATIFICATION, WE
INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR
ADVOCACY GROUP TO ENABLE
THIS TO HAPPEN.**



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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 _____

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.