

# GLOBAL CONCEPTS



[www.kcglobalconcepts.org](http://www.kcglobalconcepts.org)

G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

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## MANNY'S CORNER

### Challenges and Opportunities for the Future:

For the past year, I have expressed my desire to pull back from my role as founder and director of the Global and Multicultural Education Center and serve as emeritus member of the board of directors. Several factors contributed to my decision, and all of them embody the interest and sustainability of the organization and its future. Included in this decision are:

(1) At no time in the past 25 years has G.A.M.E. been in such a strong position as it is at the current time. The board of directors is made up of a group of diverse skilled professionals, with a high interest in global, cultural and educational advocacy and they have taken a major role in advancing the organization's objective and direction. This particularly was apparent in the GAME board retreat on August 19, 2006 when the entire board reviewed the past and present and developed strategies to fill the vacuum created by Manny's exit as director.

(2) For the past few years, Sara Pedram has served as co-director and has assumed some of the responsibility and leadership in advancing GAME projects and educational missions.

(3) Recent GAME educational and human rights advocacy projects have received local, regional and national

attention. The biennial conferences on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and this past year with inclusion of Convention on Non-Discrimination against Women, created a partnership with UMKC Women's and Gender studies and received much support from UNICEF-USA, United Nations Association, SGI (Soka Gokkai International) and a number of international and human rights groups in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Contributions by Irwin and Rita Blitt, Bank of America, Sosland Foundation and a number of other supporters since 2000, to CRC and CEDAW and GAME, as well as past support by the Kauffman Fund for global environmental projects, have all strengthened the organization's finances.

(4) GAME has joined the UU-UNO (Unitarian –Universalist, United Nations) to organize an annual Earth Day event in April 2007 at All Souls Unitarian Church, to push for greater mobilization of area groups to consider the impact of climate change and work to advocate for global and environmental issues.

Finally, my sincere thanks to you as members and contributors of GAME (a number of you for the past twenty five years), who provided both financial and personal support, instrumental in making GAME a sustainable and enduring organization. I thank you and I know that the officers of this organization will continue to count on your support and contributions to perpetuate the educational and human rights projects of G.A.M.E.

**Manny Pedram**

## **Amazing success from CRC/CEDAW conference!**

November 16 & 17, 2006, GAME and UMKC Women's and Gender Studies Program hosted another successful conference to promote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We kicked off the first day of the conference with MADRE founder and Executive Director, Vivian Stromberg, who gave a riveting message to inspire us all into action. She outlined her personal experiences working with communities to empower the women and children to take control of their financial security. We emphasized Non-profit organizations as our focus for the evening to increase networking and support for our common interests.

The following day, students and teachers from Northeast High School, Kansas City, MO joined us as we focused on 4 main topics of Children and Women of Meth, Trafficking, Juvenile Justice and Incarceration of Women; and Hunger and Poverty. Margot Kidder, aka Lois Lane from the original Superman movies, eloquently delivered the keynote address over lunch. As she marched through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to identify the strengths and violations of the USA, murmurs of 'Amen' could be heard throughout the crowd. Her performance empowered us to talk politics and promote political candidates with a strong moral backbone who would truly champion our issues.

Success of our conference can be noted by the high marks in evaluations, the smiles on people's faces while they were networking with like-minded individuals, and with the Human Rights assembly that Northeast High School held due to the students' enthusiasm behind this conference.

Deepest gratitude to our Honorary Chair Senator Charles Wheeler for his

consistent advocacy for children and support of this conference; Co-Chair Professor Barbara Bonnekesson for her knowledgeable session on Trafficking and sharing the resources of the UMKC Women's and Gender Studies Center; Co-Chair Reverend Bob Meneilly for his ever-present charm and delivery during our opening session; Manny Pedram for his countless hours of preparation, fundraising and networking; Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn for establishing meaningful relationships with these powerful speakers; Board members (Sara Pedram, Sarah McCoy-Harms, Jay Sjerven, Teri Chu, Joyce Cox, Dan Stoll & Norman Burkart) who were able to contribute to the planning and decision making to assure a success; Soka Gokkai International for the Children's Rights display; and UMKC Women's Center for the ReVisioning Women Project. These contributors deserve a great round of applause and appreciation for stimulating this crowd into action!

***Haumana Johannsen***

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**NOTE: The following piece reflects an individual's book review and does not serve as a candidate endorsement.**

## **Barack Obama--Audacity for 2008!**

During Margot Kidder's address to the CRC/CEDAW conference, she emphasized Illinois Senator Barack Obama as an individual we should rally behind and support due to his moral integrity and focus on the issues. Intrigued by her statement and tantalized by the growing media attention to a potential Presidential campaign, I voraciously read *Audacity of Hope*. Senator Obama succinctly conveys his thoughts on reclaiming the American Dream. In my personal opinion, Senator Obama is the Tiger Woods of politics. With his diverse ethnic background of Kenyan heritage from his father, Caucasian mother from Wichita, Kansas, upbringing in Hawaii and Indonesia, he represents a wide cross section of our melting pot society. The media is pumping up Obama as a potential Democrat nominee for President asking Americans if we are ready for a minority to become president. If you ask me, we're long overdue!

***Haumana Johannsen***

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## Great Decision Series Returns

The **Great Decision Series** is scheduled once again to be at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, starting on February 15, with the final program scheduled on September 20. Sessions will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

G.A.M.E. Board member Joyce Cox is coordinating the Series once again, with various people serving as facilitators for each of the meetings in the Series. The topics will cover:

- Middle East
- Climate Change
- Mexico
- Migration
- South Africa
- War Crimes
- Central Asia
- Children

The **Great Decisions Discussion Program** is the oldest and largest grass-roots world affairs education program of its kind in the country. The Great Decisions Global Affairs Education Program celebrated 50 years in 2004, and includes the annual Briefing Book, Great Decisions TV, the National Opinion Ballot Report, discussion groups across the country and the GD Online newsletter.

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### Quote of the Issue

“The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it.”

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**



## World Wide Web Review:



### Global and Multicultural Language Education

Have you ever wanted to learn a foreign language? Do good foreign language programs cost too much? No worries, the KC Library offers **free** Rosetta Stone courses online for anyone with a KC Library card.

*Rosetta Stone is a suite of award winning language programs developed by Fairfield Language Technologies. You may learn more about Rosetta Stone at <http://www.rosettastone.com>.*

To use this awesome resource, simply follow these steps:

Go to <http://www.kclibrary.org/> .

Select **Subject Guides** in the top navigation.

Click **Library Databases** in the Subject Guides drop-down list.

Click **R** under Browse Library Databases by Letter.

Click **Rosetta Stone: Online Language Learning Center**.

Type your **library card number** and your **pin**. (If you do not have a pin number, go to your local library to create one.)

Click **Register**.

Type your information in the empty fields and click Register.

At this point, your information will be sent to your email account. (I believe the system also logs you in – but I am not certain.)

To use the system, follow the same path as before. In the last step simply enter your login information. Click **First Time Users** to learn more about how to use the system.

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**Hattie Williams**

**GLOBAL CONCEPTS**

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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Individual..... \$ 10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
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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.

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