

DKG@UN

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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We open this issue with news about our NGO representatives at the UN. Again, there have been changes. Dr. Rita King (NY) was a representative for many years, and served as Primary Representative from 2006-2010. During that time she was a member of the International Personal Growth and Services Committee. She also served as the CTAUN Advisory Council Chair for a number of years, and in that capacity organized the annual Advisory Council luncheons, arranging for guest speakers from a wide variety of fields that specialized in UN-related activities. Rita resigned as an NGO rep at the end of 2012, and her insights, dedication, generosity and quiet sense of humor will be greatly missed. Our incoming rep is Ann Grosjean (CT), and she has written the article below to introduce herself.

Lochie Musso, who has been a rep group member for several years, is also serving during this biennium as a member of the International Expansion Committee. It is inspiring to discuss with her the Society's work expanding into new countries, and she has written about some of her reflections.

Other articles include: the announcement of a Peace Education Workshop scheduled to be presented near the UN on Tuesday, April 9, and an article by Liz Brewer, UN Liaison from Pennsylvania, about some of her memories from the CTAUN Conference "Advancing Social Justice: The Role of Educators" held at the UN held last January.

A LETTER TO OUR READERS FROM THE NEWEST NGO REPRESENTATIVE **By Ann Grosjean, Connecticut**

I am honored and delighted to be serving Delta Kappa Gamma as an NGO representative to the United Nations and also serving as a member of the CTAUN conference planning committee. I have been a member for over twenty-five years of Theta Chapter (northeast Connecticut) of Alpha Kappa State where I serve on the Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World committee. (Curriculum of Hope newsletters are posted on the Connecticut state website: deltakappagamma.org/CT. Scroll down the side menu under Publications.) I earned my BS in Elementary Ed from William Paterson College in New Jersey and my MA in Gifted Education, Sixth Year in Administration and my PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Connecticut.

My parents met and married in Japan and as a child I lived in The Hague, Netherlands, for several years. I attended a French school and spoke Dutch in the community and English at home! Each vacation we visited another city in Europe—Paris, London, Rome—as well as the Rhine. I revisited Europe following college and then in the early 1990s adopted my two daughters from Romania. During the last thirty-two years of my teaching career I taught in a diverse community in a university town where thirty languages were spoken at home. We celebrated the culture of each child, and I learned so much.

Now that I am retired, I am so excited to have the opportunity to learn more about the many factors that affect children and education around the world. As an NGO rep I have the opportunity to attend a briefing each week from October to June at or near the United Nations with topics like climate change, food security, emancipation from slavery, and the responsibility to protect those in need, to name just a few. The briefings we attend make us aware of current topics and introduce us to the people who are on the cutting edge, some of whom may become speakers or panelists at a future CTAUN conference. Having enjoyed many of the CTAUN conferences at the United Nations over the last decade as an attendee, I am now experiencing the process of meeting once a month to help plan future conferences. It was always my favorite conference so I hope that you will consider attending the CTAUN conference next winter! It is also fun to spend the time in New York City!

UNITED NATIONS IN AUSTIN? THE DKG EXPANSION COMMITTEE

By Lochie Musso, New York, DKG NGO Representative

Guatemala, Iceland, Georgia (USA) and New York sat down with Texas in DKG headquarters recently and explored possible locations for expansion as well as ways to assist struggling nation states already a part of the DKG family. Claudia Maria Estrada, chair (Guatemala), Hertha Jonsdottir (Iceland), Gail Ford (Georgia), and Lochie Musso (New York) were coached on the duties and charges of the International Expansion Committee by President Beverly Helms and Executive Director Corlea Plowman. The team examined charts of membership numbers in the eighteen state organizations outside the US. It did feel like a mini United Nations as we talked about the “Big Picture” of DKG around the world. Power point slides of the recent induction in Japan were exciting, as were the stories told by Beverly and Corlea of their adventures in the new state of Kochi, Japan.

Becoming a member state at the UN is a carefully programmed course of action, and so it is with DKG when countries wish to join our sisterhood. The process is a step by step procedure involving the local educators, the International Expansion Committee and the Executive Board. It is a deliberate and systematic process, supportive and encouraging, much like the United Nations. Neither DKG nor the UN moves into new territories unless invited.

Purpose number seven of DKG states, “To inform members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.” It is imperative that DKG have representation at the United Nations as we continue to expand around the globe, “uniting women educators of the world in a genuine spiritual fellowship.” We have much to offer in the field of education as well as much to gain. In reflecting back over my first meeting with others on the Expansion Committee, I thought how fortunate we are, as women educators, to be part of an international educational organization and to be able to share our experiences with others in many parts of the world.

PEACE EDUCATION WORKSHOP AT THE UN

A peace education workshop will be presented by The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) in cooperation with The Hague Appeal for Peace on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 from 3 pm – 5 pm at 777 UN Plaza, New York (on 44th Street across from the United Nations). The workshop will feature renowned peace educator Tony Jenkins, who serves as Vice President for Academic Affairs of the National Peace Academy, as well as the Global Coordinator for the International Institute for Peace Education. Tony has worked around the world supporting the

development of “learning communities” of peace educators to address and transform local manifestations of violence through education and active citizen participation.

This workshop is a special opportunity to examine the impact and effectiveness of peace education methods in nurturing personal, social, and political change and transformation.

Educators who are unable to attend the workshop will find useful materials available on the website of the National Peace Academy (www.nationalpeaceacademy.us), including programs and projects, calendars of events, virtual classrooms, and lists of teaching resources including curricula for different age groups. The website for The Hague Appeal for Peace (haguepeace.org) presents materials for educators such as “Peace Lessons from Around the World.” Additional materials are available on the United Nations website (un.org/cyberschoolbus).

A REPORT ON THE CTAUN 2013 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE **By Elizabeth Brewer, UN Liaison, Pennsylvania**

CTAUN 2013, “Advancing Social Justice: The Role of Educators,” provided a moving day of stories and reports from individuals and panels that centered on such issues as economic inequality and human trafficking. More than 400 educators from around the US as well as other parts of the world were in attendance at the conference, which took place on January 18, 2013.

The morning session revolved around the inequality of wealth in the world. Thomas Pogge, Professor of Law at Yale, shared that the top 15 percent of the population of the world possess 90 percent of the wealth. He stated that we now have “supra-national lobbyists”, who go beyond international lobbying, where the elite of the world, which includes actors in large corporations, billionaires and a few others, determine the order of the entire world! And the only way that this can be addressed is to educate the youth of the world to challenge and create reform through lobbying for change. To bring it even closer to home, Dr. Pogge quoted from Nicholas Kristof’s work that the richest one percent take home 24 percent of the wealth in the United States, and this one percent is not the group that pays the bulk of the taxes or makes the most purchases. Rather it is the 90 plus percent that keeps the money flow occurring in the United States. (A link to Dr. Pogge’s power point presentation can be found on the 2013 UN Conference Report on the CTAUN website: teachun.org.) Dr. Pogge’s presentation was followed by a panel on “Economic Inequality: Its Global and Local Impact”.

Another highlight for me was the “Spotlight” presentation that ended the morning. Ramu Damodaran, Director of the United Nations Academic Impact, introduced Kevin Merges, a student at the Rutgers Preparatory School in Somerset, New Jersey, who together with some fellow students created a UN iPhone App for use by students around the world and is especially useful in areas where teachers are not available, schools are non-existent or students have been displaced by war or natural disaster. Six young men who accompanied Mr. Merges, along with their computer science teacher Pablito Lake, were honored for designing the App and premiered it for the Conference attendees. This App, which is so easy to use, can become a valuable tool in teaching our students about the history of the UN and its crucial work. Future Apps are also planned for each of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as hygiene, disaster preparedness, Model UN, and literacy in a variety of languages.

The App, which is currently available for iPhone only, is available free from iTunes. An iPad App is being created, and the Android version was scheduled to be released on March 7.

The focus in the afternoon was on human trafficking. Many of us may not believe that human trafficking is in our own neighborhoods, but after listening to two powerful women who spoke at the afternoon session we realized ways in which we all are definitely affected indirectly. Rachel Lloyd, survivor of human trafficking and author of *Girls Like Me: A Memoir*, has created a mentoring service in New York City called *GEMS* (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services) where she helps young women who find themselves in this modern day slavery. She gave a powerful talk about having the girls she works with living in her apartment, wearing her clothes, and evolving from being persons in bondage to free young women.

Ms. Lloyd told us that even though many in the room will not encounter human trafficking as she did, there are victims of domestic violence and trafficking who work and have families right around us and who, because of love, loyalty and for their own security, are kept in the cycle. These individuals—girls, boys, women and men—cannot even trust the local law enforcement system, which may add to the problem or victimize them even further.

Where one is born, grows up, race, class and zip code have big impacts on a person Ms. Lloyd said. She stressed the importance of high school students completing their education. She recommended that in our communities we volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters or other anti-poverty programs, teach parenting classes and advocate for funds for these under-funded groups.

This was then followed by a humbling talk from Somaly Mam, a Cambodian heroine, who fought her way out of the brothels of Southeast Asia where her grandfather first sold her into this trade when she was 12 years old and where her slavery lasted for a decade. She constantly stated that all she wants to do is to go back and save those who are suffering as she did and are often as young as four and five years old. Her book, *The Road to Lost Innocence*, shows that one individual can bring about monumental change!

There is a website that can analyze if we have slaves working for us at the website www.slaveryfootprint.org. Try it and you will be amazed that even though they may not be visible in our own neighborhood, we affect their worlds!!

Please share this information with your colleagues in education, and in 2014 attend the CTAUN Conference. It will change your world forever!

YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVES

The members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International listed below are your official representatives at the United Nations Department of Public Information and the Economic and Social Council. Most of them also work with CTAUN. You can email us for further information.

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