



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (DPI) AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

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A Woman Secretary-General?

by Grace Murphy



In the past, the selection of the Secretary-General of the United Nations was a relatively secretive process. Usually, a candidate was chosen by the members of the Security Council. Then his name, since the eight previous holders of the office were men, was sent to the General Assembly for their approval.

The term of office of the current Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, will expire at the end of 2016. His successor will be chosen by a different - and more transparent - process thanks to the efforts of General Assembly president Mogens Lykketoft and US envoy Samantha Power. For the first time, governments have been encouraged to present candidates and they have. And for the first time, of the nine candidates four are women. All of the candidates one of whom will be elected for a five year term, have had the opportunity to introduce themselves and their ideas to the Assembly members and other groups in a series of sessions at the UN and elsewhere.

On April 21, 2016, Anne-Marie Carlson and I had the opportunity to listen to one of the candidates, Irina Bokova from Bulgaria. She mentioned the daunting global challenges facing the next leader of the United Nations: from striving to attain peace, achieving gender equality, and improving educational opportunities to encouraging the full acceptance by all the nations of the Sustainable Development Goals. She concluded by saying that the people of the UN are rich in ideas, the next Secretary-General must be an optimist, and diplomacy and negotiation are part of the path to peace.

If you are interested in more information on each of the women candidates, it can be found at www.womansg.org. or by searching "Campaign to Elect a Woman UN Secretary-General."

"East Meets West"

by Eileen Venezia

In October of this past year Atsuko Ando our DKG sister from Japan spent several days in New York City where several DKG/UN reps organized a variety of site seeing adventures. One of Atsuko's requests was to visit an inner New York City elementary school. I, as a fellow DKG sister and member of the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN), was able to make these arrangements with one of



CTAUN's partner schools, PS 119 in Brooklyn, New York. Under the leadership of teacher Kate Patton and Principal Lisa Fernandez, the School of Global Ethics happily provided a warm and welcoming reception for Ms. Ando. Children from several classes gathered in the school library where they sang songs, recited poems and presented Atsuko with personal letters of introduction to bring back to her students in Japan.

Atsuko was moved with happiness as both Kate Patton and Lisa Fernandez allowed time for her and the children to interact. Atsuko told the story of the "Blue-Eyed Doll"* and she presented the teachers and students with gifts from Japan. Following the time with the children, a small luncheon was held in the school art room. It was a wonderful and exciting experience for all involved as the children displayed



much interest and respect for our visiting sister. Ms. Patton said that these children had been studying about Japan so this was very special.

Left: Atsuko with a student at the school

*Atsuko Ando is leading a breakout session at the July Convention in Nashville sharing this story and the history of the "Blue-Eyed Doll."

Art as a Tool for Conflict Prevention and Reconciliation

By Lochie Musso

"A girl in Chad is more likely to die in childbirth than attend secondary school," and thus began our briefing on how using the universal language of art can bring about cultural change.

Nicholas Ledner with UNICEF's Division of Communications, uses music and videos to reach the millennials. His latest effort from Chad involved local actors and musicians to depict a dying young woman in childbirth. When the film went backwards, it showed her forced wedding to a much older man, and before that, her earlier and happier life in school. Then the film took a different direction where the girl finished school with no marriage and no deathly childbirth. A powerful message was sent through the arts of music and the movie camera; no dialogue was necessary.

Lily Yeh of Philadelphia, PA, USA, brings neighborhoods together through her art of mosaic sculptures. Recognizing the need to up lift the barren and abandoned yards and parks in depressed areas, she first brought the local young people into her projects and then their parents and elders of the community. "The broken pieces of mosaic are like the broken pieces of their lives and we put them all together beautifully," she said. All the creations are open to the public. "Angel Alley" in Philadelphia is one of these monuments. Another is in Rwanda where she worked with native peoples, children and adults, to design and construct a "beautiful memorial" to those who died in that country's conflicts. Her creations bring solace to the survivors. Yeh's Barefoot Artists, Inc. "brings the transformative power of art to impoverished communities around the globe."

Drama is the media used by the Bond Street Theatre director, Joanna Sherman, engaging victims of war and those fleeing conflict, providing opportunities for open dialogues and giving people voice. She calls

it “theater in the dirt” in refugee camps, supplying “food for the soul, restoring humanity.” Emphasizing that no one had any training, the participants wrote, directed and performed their own works. She says, “Theater is intrinsic to human nature.”

For more professional results, David Murdock, Emmy Award winning director of documentaries, says trust is essential. People telling their stories need to know they will be treated with dignity and respect. He shared a video he produced showing Christians and Muslims in Nigeria working together for peace.

Carolina Alvarez Mathies, Head of Communications at El Museo del Barrio, in New York, is providing pathways for Auto Didactic (self taught) Artists in El Salvador to exhibit their artworks. Allowing individuals to express feelings and ideas openly through art indirectly affects the violence in this country in a positive way; the economy improves, people are engaged and off the streets.

The Refugee Crisis: Rethinking and Strengthening the Response

by Ann Grosjean

We have witnessed, through the media, the heartbreaking exodus of the Syrian people as they leave their war-torn homes, towns and country. The United Nations is working to arrive at a peace agreement for Syria through the Security Council. They are also providing humanitarian services for the 7.4 million displaced persons still in Syria and the 4.7 million refugees living in camps in other countries through the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). The commission is also charged with assisting nations in registering refugees so they can legally start a life in a new country. Unfortunately, Syria is only one of many troubled areas worldwide, including Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Central and South America.



On February 18, 2016, a briefing was held at the UN to share the current status of refugees worldwide and look for ways to stop the need to leave and to settle those who have left. The moderator from the UN Department of Information (DPI), *Maher Nasser*, described being the son of refugees and the sadness his parents experienced leaving their home and belongings behind and their longing for their homeland, never being able to return. In 2014, there were sixty million displaced persons in the world, the largest number since World War II. There are 33.8 million registered refugees and 51% are under the age of 18 with most having no access to education. In choosing to leave, they face many dangers. Smugglers charge on average \$1,000 per person for a boat crossing. Thousands have died, including many children. Many others have been injured, lost or trafficked.

Ninette Kelley of UNHCR stated that it has a staff of 9,000 working in 126 countries with 900 national partners implementing 700 programs. She reported that on September 19, 2016, a *High Level Summit on Refugees and Migrants* will be held to address the national, regional and global approach to this problem and to develop an action plan. Kelly said solidarity, commitment and leadership among nations are necessary to stop the flow. She added that countries must work together so that the burden does not fall on a few and to develop an equitable road map for migration in conjunction with the UN to enable safe and predictable movements. The country of origin must work with the countries of transit and destination to manage the flow.

Predrag Avramovic, a European Union (EU) representative to the UN, stated that Europe has accepted one million refugees, fewer than Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Iran. He said it has become a political crisis within the EU as it tries to find ways to honor the legal and moral responsibility to protect the refugees. EU leaders have mobilized to save lives at sea and monitor the borders. They have also repatriated those who do not have the right to stay and half of the migrants have been successfully repatriated to their country of origin.

Suzana Sottoli from UNICEF, acknowledged the presence of the many NGO partners and shared the effects of migration and displacement on children. Of 4.7 million displaced in Syria, more than half are children. Of the million seeking asylum in Europe, one third are children. In South Sudan, two thirds of the 1.5 million are children. In 2015, 40,000 children were apprehended at the U.S. Mexican border.

The children often face an even more traumatic journey than the adults. Separated from their families, many adolescents start out alone in foreign lands as unaccompanied minors who face exploitation, abuse or trafficking. They can be detained upon arrival, be discriminated against, experience poor living conditions, and meet barriers to education, social services or work.

UNICEF supports families globally by providing child-friendly safe spaces called Blue Dot Hubs. They assist governments in protecting the life and rights of children and train the front-line workers. They also work to reunify families.

Finally, several NGO representatives described their experiences with refugees including the added layer of discrimination and danger experienced by the LGBT community, widows, and the disabled.

To view this briefing in full, please visit webtv.un.org and locate it by date (February 18, 2016) or title.

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