

Global Learning Center Newsletter

February 1995

334 North Topeka ♦ Wichita, Kansas 67202 ♦ (316) 264-6884

Discussions, decisions & directions

The weeks between Thanksgiving and the New Year -- traditionally busy and eventful -- have been particularly notable for the GLC. Due to the holidays and transitions of the organization, the December 1994 and January 1995 issues of the GLC newsletter were not produced during this unsettled period. This issue will review the events of the last two months.

December 1 membership meeting

December began with a special meeting of the GLC membership. During the meeting, the 30 people in attendance briefly stated their appreciation for the GLC and its mission and expressed hope that the organization would continue. Members stressed the relevance of the GLC as:

"... to push forward the frontiers of learning."

"An intellectual forum [for] peace and understanding...."

"Providing understanding of social issues in the rest of the world."

"... learning about others through programs and ethnic dinners."

"An open forum for controversial issues and getting both sides."

"... helping others to become aware of the world."

"... bringing a piece of the world to Wichita."

"... diverse and open-minded ... please don't close, I just found you!"

However, despite its noble mission, others acknowledged the GLC has struggled with understaffed committees and functions and insufficient finances.

Howard and Jeanne Johnston presented an annual report to conclude the meeting.

December board meetings

A board meeting on December 1 reviewed members' comments and

discussed *if* and *how* the GLC should continue.

There were varied ideas for resolving the imbalance of expenses against income, and personnel versus work to be done; the majority spoke for continuing in a diminished capacity and overhead. Possibilities mentioned were:

- Vacate the Broadway office.

- Preserve the country and global issues files in the Peace & War/Global Issues (PW/GI) room on the WSU campus. Develop a supportive relationship with the neighboring office of the Multi-Cultural Resource Center (MCRC).

- Move the administrative functions of the GLC (phone, mailing address, business and membership files, etc.) to Inter-Faith Ministries (IFM).

After discussions, a motion was approved to maintain the GLC as a legal entity; a reevaluation of goals and a mission would begin after the holidays. It was decided to reduce overhead by shifting the office into a storage. A team of volunteers and board members boxed and packaged office supplies on December 3.

During a board meeting on December 13, it was decided to accept two generous offers of donated office space from IFM headquarters and the PW/GI group. An arrangement with the IFM receptionist to handle GLC phone calls and receive walk-in visitors was suggested. Also, it was proposed that Signe Knee, MCRC director, be appointed to the GLC board to provide limited representation at the site.

January 10 board meeting

Additional plans to vacate the Broadway office and move to new locations were discussed during a January board meeting. Concerns



The GLC has vacated its south Broadway office. We apologize for any inconvenience this move may have caused. Please make note of our two new locations now open.

GLC Administrative Office

334 North Topeka

Wichita, Kansas 67202

Phone: (316) 264-6884

This location (at Inter-Faith Ministries) will be the GLC business office and mailing address.

GLC Resource Room

Brennan Hall, Lower Level

E. 17th St. & Yale (SW corner)

Wichita, Kansas 67208

Phone: In care of the MCRC (316) 689-3041

Resource material (country files, books, maps, etc.) are now the Multi-Cultural Resource Center and the War & Peace/Global Issues program.

The next issue of the GLC newsletter will describe the goals of IFM and MCRC and the relationship that the GLC may develop with these two organizations.

for the effective operation at two locations without a coordinator were discussed. The IFM receptionist has offered to answer the GLC phone, channel messages, and greet visitors; the GLC board eagerly agreed on a small monthly donation for this efficiency. However, essential tasks performed by the Johnstons must be assumed by new volunteers or paid staff.

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February 1995

DISCOVERING THE WORLD AROUND US...

From the Chair

Dear GLC Friends and Members,
Happy 1995!

As the new year progresses, there have been many changes taking place, as well as redefinition of the GLC's place in our community. The move of our physical inventory has been accomplished, and we are looking forward to our new surroundings at WSU and Inter-Faith Ministries. Now the real challenge begins!

It is hardly enough to again express our appreciation to Jeanne and Howard Johnston for their vision, knowledge of global affairs and understanding the importance of such to our everyday lives. The hours they have spent paying attention to the myriad details of organizing events, seeking new members, and networking with other organizations will be difficult to replace.

Due to the Johnston's retirement, important questions must be raised: How do we carry on? How much time and energy are members able and willing to contribute? Or can we rely on monetary support for a paid staff person to attend to all the details? Should the GLC diminish its goals, objectives, and scope? We ask for all members to thoughtfully consider your hopes for the future, and to ask how you can make a difference. Would you provide a higher degree of personal involvement such as serving on work committees, accepting a board appointment, or volunteering on a regular basis?

We must ask ourselves what the future would be without the GLC in our community. Are there other organizations that provide a suitable forum? Are there sufficient alternatives to the mainline media? Is there a sufficient audience to support the GLC? Would it be missed if it ceased to exist? We are counting on you all for your continued support; to achieve our goals we cannot do without it!

See you at the Annual Meeting on February 26!

Susan Menking

February

14

Tuesday

Confronting Racism In American Society

Speaker: Ali Rashad Umrani

Room 209, Hubbard Hall, Wichita State University

7:30 p.m.

Phone: 689-3034

16

Thursday

Development in Local Low-income Communities

Speaker: Randy Hershey

The Community Development Credit Union seeks to provide financial services that are currently not accessible to low-income individuals and organizations in our county. The concept and process of financially empowering this community through a credit union will be discussed.

The Multi-Cultural Resource Center, Brennan Hall 1, 17th St. & Yale

7:30 p.m.

Phone: 689-3034

17

Friday

Black History Month Reception

The Multi-Cultural Resource Center, Brennan Hall 1, 17th St. & Yale

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Phone: 689-3034

23

Thursday

Global Learning Center Open House

Members and friends are invited to visit the new office of the GLC during this open house. Please stop by any time -- during the day, over lunch break or after work -- and say hello to our new friends at IFM.

Inter-Faith Ministries, 334 N. Topeka

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Phone: 268-6884

26

Sunday

Annual Membership Meeting of the GLC

Please plan to attend this important meeting and help determine the future of our organization. In addition to a brief business meeting and election of officers, dramatic entertainment will be provided by local poets Maaskelah Chinyere and Brenda Gray. The two will relate life -- joy and pain, love and loss, pride and racism -- through the eyes of African American women.

Multi-Cultural Resource Center, Brennan Hall 1, 17th St. and Yale

3 p.m. poetry reading followed by meeting

Phone: 268-6884

April

2

Sunday

Russian Friends & Pot-luck Dinner

Mark your calendar for a celebration of Russian culture. The GLC will host 17 Russian children and their host families. The children will provide the evening's entertainment. This would be an excellent opportunity for any local youth to find and photograph a pen-pal from Russia. Bring a covered dish to share with your old and new friends!

Details will be announced in the next newsletter.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.



I would like to join the Global Learning Center today, so that global understanding might be cultivated and come to flower in a brighter tomorrow. As a member, I understand I will receive the Center's Newsletter, and will be entitled to participate in the Center's decision-making process at quarterly Membership Meetings. In addition I am entitled to discounts for GLC-sponsored workshops. I have enclosed my (tax deductible) check for:

- ☐ \$10.00 annual Student/Child/Low Income Membership
- ☐ \$25.00 annual Individual Membership
- ☐ \$40.00 annual Family/Couple Membership
- ☐ \$60.00 annual Organizational Membership for _____
- ☐ \$100.00 annual Business Membership for _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

In addition, I am enclosing my tax deductible contribution of:

- ☐ \$25 - \$499 Friend
- ☐ \$500 - \$1,999 Partner
- ☐ \$2,000 - \$4,999 Patron
- ☐ \$5,000 - and up Benefactor

Global Learning Center

I want to be a Builder, I can help _____ hours/week, or _____ hours/month with:

- ☐ Publicity, Membership, Fundraising
- ☐ Conferences and Programs
- ☐ Office and Organizational Work

Global Learning Center Newsletter

October 1995

334 North Topeka, Suite 101 ♦ Wichita, Kansas 67202 ♦ (316) 264-6884

United Nations: The First 50 Years

For 50 years the United Nations has been a world assembly with ambitious goals which include:

- resolving conflict/waging peace
- advancing human rights
- promoting understanding between nations/ethnic groups

The United Nations was founded, in part, because charter members realized that no nation, no matter how rich or powerful, could solve global problems unilaterally. Global problems require solutions from a diverse community of problem-solvers.

The Global Learning Center shares many U.N. goals and, in recognition of our common mission, will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations with special events during

the month of October. A commemorative banquet and program will be presented on October 22 at 6 p.m.. The GLC has also made a formal request to the mayor and county commissioners to have October 24 proclaimed as United Nations Day in Wichita and Sedgwick County.

Despite the U.N.'s accomplishments, the GLC encourages everyone to critically consider the U.N.'s policies and achievements. How effective has it been in solving world problems? What hopes are there for the next 50 years? The United Nations is worthy of both commemoration and evaluation during this month and for the rest of this special anniversary year.

Board elects new chair And board members

GLC board members elected Dr. Dorothy "Dotty" Billings as chair in a meeting on September 5. She will be chair for the remaining 1995 term which ends in early 1996.

Dotty is a founding member and long-time board member of the GLC. She is an associate professor of anthropology and Coordinator of the Peace and War Group. Dotty has been active in the membership and direction of many other organizations whose objectives are similar to the GLC.

Current board members are:

Manjor Alam*
Dona Baba*
Dr. Prem Bajaj
Sue Barker*
Lana Bennett*
Dr. Dorothy Billings
Clarence Brown
Norman Carr
C.G. Chacko
Louis Earle
Edward Frey
Che C. Gonzalez*
Genna Gretskey*
Annabelle Haupt*
Abdelhamid Hamoudi*
Mary Harren*
Bob Hernandez
Vern Jantz*
Leland Johnson
Howard Johnston+
Daisy Kabagarama*
Seliwe Kawewe*
Signe Knee
Charlie King*
Sara Lindsley
Dr. Manfred Menking
Otis Milton
Sam Muyskens
Harold Plenert*
Bonnie Portz
Judith Proctor*
John Pyles*
Karen Schoenebech*
Erma Lee Skillman*
Kate Spellissy
Kenneth P. Stewart
Gracia Toubia Stucky*
Michael Ware*
Mashitah Yusoff*

*Elected July 1995
+ Honorary



50th Anniversary Commemoration Of The United Nations

Plan to attend an evening of commemoration in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations. This will be an opportunity to celebrate and evaluate the gathering of nations. The evening will include a banquet and feature Dr. Wayne Howdeshell and Dr. Carol Konek as guest speakers. Dr. Konek has just returned from the U.N. sponsored 4th Conference on Women held in Beijing. She will present a speech titled: *"50 Years of the United Nations: Are Women's Rights Human Rights?"*

Date: Sunday, October 22, 1995
Time: 6:00 p.m. Doors open, dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Place: Machinists Hall, 3830 S. Meridian (Immediately south of the Meridian exit off the Interstate 235 bypass)
Tickets: \$10.00 for dinner (the speech is free)

Phone 264-6884 for reservations or for more information.

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Dear GLC Members and Friends,

The GLC is built on your knowledge, interest and participation, and we are glad you are still with us. Several of our colleagues have been carrying the responsibilities for our ongoing operations during a time when all of us seem to be thinking and reevaluating the role of organizations like ours in today's world. We are still thinking as citizens of the global village, and we want to act locally and effectively where we are.

We all have especially to thank our officers for keeping the show on the road: V-P Clarence Brown, Secretary Kate Spellissy, Treasurer Prem Bajaj, Program Chair Sara Lindsley, and Public Relations Chair Norman Carr. Many thanks to Ken Stewart who advises us on legal issues. Thanks also to Susan Menking for her careful stewardship of the organization, and to Howard and Jeanne Johnston who continue to teach and help other members assume GLC responsibilities. We are particularly indebted to Inter-Faith Ministries for sharing their facilities and camaraderie with us.

We have a Board of committed old-timers and committed newcomers, all of whom have been active here or elsewhere in related work. Their names are listed in this newsletter so that you will know who is representing you, and so that you may contact them individually.

You are encouraged to recommend or plan GLC programs for which we can attract an audience. Ask Sara Lindsley or myself for help. As Chair, I will play the coordination role of Keeper of the Calendar and Clearinghouse Chief. Please phone me at 684-1469 with your ideas and leave your message.

We see ourselves, as we always have, as an umbrella group and we want to list your related activities in other organizations in the GLC Newsletter. Please call 264-6884 and report dates and times for the newsletter calendar. The GLC views the U.N. commemoration as an opportunity for all of us in our various organizations, some of which are co-sponsoring this event, to come together to carry on our common work. We hope to see you there.

October

- 10 Tuesday GLC Steering Committee Meeting
Inter-Faith Ministries, 334 N. Topeka 5:00 p.m.
- 22 Sunday 50th Anniversary Commemoration of
The United Nations
See front page for more information
3830 S. Meridian 6:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$10.00 Phone 264-6884 for reservations

November

- 4 - 5 The Quaker Church in Kenya
Sat. & Sun. Speaker: Meshack Mudamba
University Friends Church, 1840 University 262-0471
Saturday 7:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:45 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Tuesday GLC Full Board Meeting
Inter-Faith Ministries, 334 N. Topeka 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Saturday Bridging the Divides: A Coalition to
Promote Dialogue and Democracy
A dialogue is based on a Swedish model of "study circles" formed to solve community problems. This planning date will bring diverse organizations together to discussions. For information phone Rev. Poage at 682-1597.

December

- 12 Tuesday GLC Steering Committee Meeting
Inter-Faith Ministries, 334 N. Topeka 5:00 p.m.

January

- 9 GLC Full Board Meeting

On going

Every Wednesday: La Table Francaise
French conversation and lunch at Picadilly Deli
7728 E. Central 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Phone 744-9449 or 838-0351 for more information

Fridays Mittagstisch
German conversation and lunch at Picadilly Deli.
7728 E. Central 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
Phone 744-9449 or 838-0351 for more information

Popular T-shirts are back!

Place your order for a T-shirt decorated with colorful flags from 187 different countries. Order now and receive your shirt in time to wear it to the United Nations Commemoration on October 22 -- decorate yourself!
T-shirts are available in S, M, L, sizes for \$15.00; XL size cost \$17.00.

Buttons & Bags

Buttons that boast "I'm International" will be available at the U.N. Commemoration for \$1.00. Tote Bags too -- handy and decorative, order now.
Phone 264-6884 for more information. -- Sara Lindsley



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