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Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association of the USA, Inc.
P.O. Box 1531 Madison Square Station • New York, New York • 10159

Accredited to the United Nations in Consultative Status Category II • Member Organization of National Council of Women

Issue 2, Volume 8

December 1998

President's Report

by Teresa A. Hintzke, President

The Annual DPI/NGO conference at the UN was held on September 14-16th in New York; I was able to attend it, as PPSEAWA is and always has been entitled to be represented.

The conference, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was attended by 2601 participants, representing 619 organizations from 60 countries in which NGOs are based. Secretary General Kofi Annan gave the opening address, followed by one of the keynote speakers, Susanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt.

The theme of the conference was "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: From Words to Deeds", showing how the Declaration and subsequent human rights treaties have been implemented and how they are functioning now, as well as what impact they have had on nations and societies around the world.

The Conference was divided into four main topics:

1. Overview of Human Rights
2. Universality of Human Rights
3. Impact of Globalization of Human Rights
4. Human Rights and Peace

The sessions were divided into subgroups reinforced with dozens of workshops. Throughout the conference, the emphasis was on the interrelationship of the Declaration with the universality of human rights.

The speakers emphasized the crucial role played by NGOs in focusing the attention of governments, intergovernmental organizations and the public on the need to promote human rights.

In addition to Helen Chong, PPSEAWA USA alternate representative to the UN, and myself, present at the conference were several of our members who were representing other organizations:

Marjorie Sorenson- Chief NGO Rep. "Association for World Edu-

cation" HQ Denmark

Terry Singh- Alternate Rep. "International Alliance for Women" concentrating on health.

Emma Broisman- "International Council of Women"

Judy Grodin- PPSEAWA International

Grace Ijima- Alternate NGO Rep. "Federation on Aging"

Since the NGO Conference is an annual event, and we are a UN organization, I think we should seriously consider having our annual National Meeting coincide with this conference. This would give members a better opportunity to actively participate in an event of which we are a part.

The PPSEAWA Network: Conference Connections Lead to News Coverage

After attending the PPSEAWA conference in Malaysia, Member-at-Large Lisa Dreier spent the first 7 months of 1998 traveling through India, Nepal and Indonesia. Her mission was to find and write about outstanding women activists, and to learn and write about broader issues related to environmental protection and sustainable development.

"I was inspired to go to India, in great part, by the PPSEAWA members from India who I met at the 1997 Kuala Lumpur conference," Lisa said. "These women (who are leaders in the All-India Women's Conference and experts on various women's issues) were extraordinarily welcoming. At the invitation of AIWC Secretary Asha Dixit, I visited and stayed at the AIWC headquarters in Delhi, and visited Asha's projects in and around the city of Jaipur."

Lisa has written and is still in the process of writing a number of articles related to her recent travels. A list of articles to date includes:

1. "Profile of Medha Pathar and the Save the Narmada Movement" (Women's Feature Service)



Mrs. Kofi Annan (left) and Teresa Hintzke at the Peace Day Celebration on September 15, 1998 at the U.N.

2. "Tibetan Women in Exile Work to Preserve their Rights and Heritage" (Women's Feature Service)
3. "Villagers Unite to build a School for Girls in Rural Rajasthan" (Women's Feature Service)
4. "Indonesian Women find Opportunity amidst the National Crisis" (Women's Feature Service)
5. "A School of their Own" (Ms. Magazine, June/July 1998)
6. "Camel Trekking in the Remote Thar Desert" (Christian Science Monitor, 2/13/98)
7. "The Heart of a Hustler: meditations on the sociology of tourism" (Salon Magazine, 9/18/98)
8. "Tracking Wild Tigers in Rajasthan" (Christian Science Monitor, to be published this fall)
9. "Growing Together: Women and Environmental Survival in Rural Nepal" (Women's Feature Service, to be published 10/98)
10. "Foundations of Dignity: building support for women and local autonomy in Nepal" (Women's Feature Service, to be published 10/98)

"I have about 10 other articles yet to be written or placed in publications, on topics that include women's solo travel, the Tibetan community in exile, Indian women activists, Indonesia's future, and Nepal's environmental treasures," Lisa said. "For copies of any of the above articles, feel free to contact me at lisadreie@aol.com."

The USA Workshop for
"Children, the Family and Health"

Will be held on
Saturday, March 13, 1999
At Nestle Headquarters in
Glendale, California

For more information contact:
Shirani Stanislaus
Daytime phone: (213) 413-2666
Fax: (213) 413-3992



Toledo Chapter

Report, October 16, 1998

The 1998-1999 season got off to a lively start with a meeting on September 12 featuring a report from our representative to the UNESCO/WHO/PPSEAWA sponsored workshop in Hawaii in August, titled "Children, the Family, and Health." Kathy James, our representative, reported that the other countries represented at the workshop have the same problems as we do. While no easy solutions emerged, sharing of programs, ideas, methods of funding, etc. made for an interesting program with several other countries showing particular interest in programs such as our Head Start. Member Lorene Gunderson reported on the plight of Robin Lim, a nurse-midwife who had been working in Bali but was forced to evacuate her clinic when the problems in Indonesia became critical. The Toledo group has decided to send her monetary support. A further report on Robin's situation is included herein.

Autumn Board Meeting in California

The annual autumn meeting of PPSEAWA USA was held in Pasadena, CA on October 17. Representatives from five chapters were present: Chicago, Minnesota, New York, Toledo, as well as the host Los Angeles chapter. The gracious hostess was Marilyn Garcia, president of the LA chapter.

Most of the out of town participants stayed at the Athenium Club in Pasadena, which gave us a chance to enjoy our stay in southern California together.

Friday, October 16th, the out of town guests were joined by members of the LA chapter members for a dinner at a Korean restaurant. We had a wonderful meal, had time to socialize and were able to hear reports from two PPSEAWA-sponsored participants from the recent UNESCO Hawaii workshop, Jane Bates of Minnesota and Flora Gil Krisiloff of Los Angeles.

On the following day the PPSEAWA Board met at the home of Marilyn Garcia for a continental breakfast, business meeting and luncheon hosted by the Los Angeles

Chapter. It was a productive meeting, at which several UN reports were given. The date for the

annual meeting was tentatively established for May 21, 1999 or June 4, 1999 in New York.



Los Angeles Members (L->R) Lauren Bryandt, Shirani Stanislaus, Marilyn Garcia, Harumi Hata with USA President Theresa Hintzke

Toledo Chapter Supports Philippines Family Planning Project

On their way to the Malaysia conference last year, Toledo chapter members Fran Delamater, Lorene and Sonia Gunderson visited Bali, Indonesia.

Bali Women's Health Project

A highlight of their trip to Bali was a visit with Robin Lim, author of several books on natural birthing, a volunteer midwife and master teacher of Natural Family Planning (NFP) who moved her family to the island, learned the local language and spent five years living among villagers in Nyuh Kuning, a small village in central Bali near Ubud. During her time in Indonesia, Robin delivered many babies, taught family planning and served a variety of health needs for families throughout the area. Prior to the recent collapse of the Indonesian economy, Robin also founded and raised funds to begin building a family health clinic for the region, started a pre-school and a library for village children. After their visit, Lorene commented, "Robin is like a young Mother Theresa, without the support of an organization like the Catholic Church."

After many months of collective effort, the clinic will soon be complete, but because of the political unrest, Robin and her husband felt it was unsafe for their family (including ~ small children) to remain in Bali. They decided to leave the country for two years, while continuing to offer counsel and advice via email to the local Balinese women whom she trained. In the meantime, they pray for political and economic stability to return to the island.

Philippines Women's Health Project

When she left Bali, Robin accepted an offer from the Shontoug Foundation to work as a midwife NFP trainer in Baguio City (Philippines), where her grandmother had been a midwife during WWII. There, she initiated a new project "Promoting Maternal and Infant Care for Indigenous Peoples in the Cordillera Administrative Region," which (like her work in Bali) is community-based and culturally sensitive. According to Robin, "Through this project we can begin to fill a desperate need for family planning which is culturally appropriate

for this unique region."

The two-phase project in the Philippines includes 1) a maternal and infant health needs assessment for the under-served indigenous peoples of the Cordillera, and 2) implementation and evaluation of a maternal and infant care pilot program.

This project will take place in two pilot areas of Benguet Province, in the Cordillera mountains of the Philippines. It will involve many existing midwives and "hilots" (traditional birth attendants) in the area. They will receive additional training where needed, a network of backup for high-risk situations will be co-created within the communities served. Natural Family Planning instructors will be trained from within the community, drawing on the existing community health volunteers, midwives, doctors and concerned clergy as well as lay people.

Because of funding shortages and delays, the urgent need for financial assistance for this project was brought to the attention of the Toledo chapter. Robin said, in accepting the donation, "your generous donation will allow us to open an office from which we

may serve women in the Cordillera region."

If other chapters or individuals wish to participate in this worthy cause, please contact Fran Delamater via email at fdelama@uoft02.utoledo.edu or Ginny Schlicher at bergman@solarstop.net for details.

ppseawanews

*A bi-annual publication of
PPSEAWA-USA*

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Report from Papua New Guinea

Jennifer Litau,
USA Member at Large

Jennifer Litau writes from Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea to share her achievements on behalf of PPSEAWA in the last year. For the past year, she reports, efforts have been made to network with women in the country about PPSEAWA. So far the network includes lecturers in Nursing Colleges, Agricultural extension workers and a core group of interested women in Port Morsby. One of Jennifer's difficulties has been communication. She lives 14 miles out of town and women are spread over a large region. She has a goal of fundraising to purchase a fax machine to facilitate communication.

On May 13, 1998, Jennifer organized a one-day conference for the women of Port Moresby at the Pacific Adventist University. Thirty women attended. A midwife spoke on the topic of "Safe Motherhood", a physician on the topic of "Family Health and AIDS" and an attorney on the topic of "Constitutional Rights of Women". There had never been anything of this nature done in PNG before.

From 16 to 22 June, 1998, a Home Economist lecturer and Jennifer took a group of eleven

women to Cairns, Australia for an educational-cultural exposure trip. The women were students at PAU or wives of students. The objective of the trip was to show women that they are able to mobilise and organise to achieve things together. Fund-raising was undertaken to help subsidise the cost of the trip. The women came back with feelings of more self-esteem than before the trip.

Three projects Jennifer has personally been involved in this year are: inclusion of policy statements in the student handbook about improper sexual behavior, harrasment and physical assault at PAU. Most of the violations of these policies are against women. Another project has been drug awareness, mentoring and counseling young women in a Primary School. Lastly, Jennifer is a proposal for funding to train the wives of students. They would become certified trainers in the areas of nutrition, health, education, women and the law and family life. This way they return after four years to their island communities with greater status.

Editor's note: If you wish to respond to Jennifer or help to fund her projects please write her at: Pacific Adventist University, Private Mail Bag, Post Office BORO KO, National Capitol District, PNG

The Ukrainian Museum Appreciates PPSEAWA [USA-Ukraine]

Iryna Kurowyckyi, Past President of National Council of Women and Vice President of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), was presented with a book by Eleanor Donnenfeld on behalf of the women of Vladivostock. One of the participants to the recent UNESCO workshop in Hawaii from Vladivostock shared with Donnenfeld how important it is to save the cultural traditions of her country. In the PPSEAWA tradition of making connections, Donnenfeld told the participant of the existence of the New York Museum.

Kurowyckyi in turn presented the book to UNWLA President Anna Krawczuk at a recent UNWLA Board of Directors meeting. The book is about Russian folk art. This is the kind of publication difficult to find in the West.

The UNWLA would like to express our thanks to Eleanor

Donnenfeld and Shirley Munyan, both past Presidents of PPSEAWA-USA and have served PPSEAWA International, the National and International Council of Women for many years, for popularizing the Ukrainian Museum with women in other parts of our world. Further the UNWLA thanks the women of Vladivostock for their generous gift.



Iryna Kurowyckyi (r.) presents a book from the women of Vladivostock to Anna Krawczuk



Participants to the Hawaii Conference from USA. (L->R) Flora Krisiloff of Los Angeles, Jane Bates of Minnesota, and Kathy James of Toledo.

Thai Women Set up Watch Committee

After the NGO Forum on Women, in Beijing 1995, Thanpuying Sumalee Chartikavanij, Honorary President of PPSEAWA Thailand lead a group of Thai NGOs to monitor and evaluate activities by the Thai Government and NGO's in Thailand on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This network, "Thai Women Watch" (TW2) was established in March 1996.

PPSEAWA Thailand sent several representatives to join the numerous activities of the network. Up to the present, TW2 was instrumental in organizing the first na-

tional Thai Women Forum 1996 in which PPSEAWA Thailand was one of the main organizers. During 1997-1998, five regional Women Forums were held in different regions of the country. The National Thai Women Forum 1998 was held in October 1998.

Following this, Thailand's Women Watch has been chosen to report in January 1999 in New York. As one of the first active networks, they will not only serve as a model for organization, but also for reporting.

Editor's note: Other PPSEAWA Associations with an active Women Watch in place, please send a short article for our next edition.

Just to let you know:

Cyndy Green from the Stockton Chapter has "passed her torch" to Kharen Pella. Cyndy did a tremendous job of keeping the Stockton Chapter going after her mother, who had been the president, died. PPSEAWA USA's Board extends its great appreciation for a job well done. At the same time we wish her successor, Kharen, the best.

Anne Palamountain did a superb job on a report which UNESCO requested from PPSEAWA USA on the current situation in our areas in regard to the Convention Against Discrimination in Education. The Board and I are extremely grateful to her and extend our thanks. A copy of

the report will be sent to all Chapter Presidents, so if any member wishes to have the report, please contact your respective chapter.

In the last Newsletter several items that were submitted did not get into print. One item was about Pamela Logan, LA Chapter member who is currently in Tibet managing a project to restore two monasteries there. She has published a book about her travels entitled *Among Warriors*; published by Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc. New York.



Obituaries

New York

Maria Mendez, a native of the Phillipines, passed away in July after a long fight with cancer. She had been a member of the New York chapter since 1991 and had served on the board as a Vice President. Her husband was the former Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations. Maria's long association with the UN made her a natural choice as PPSEAWA-USA's representative to the UN, in which capacity she served despite failing health until her death.

The New York chapter remembers her fondly for her dedication and ability to seek out newcomers and

make them feel welcome. She is described "as a most gracious lady with inner beauty." She will be missed deeply by her PPSEAWA friends.

Chicago

Charlotte Buijk, born in Jakarta of Dutch-Indonesian origin, died September 27, 1998 after a bout with cancer.

After her marriage, Charlotte left Indonesia for the Netherlands and eventually came to the US and settled in Chicago.

She served as Treasurer for PPSEAWA-Chicago and introduced spouses of several Indonesian Con-

sul-Generals to PPSEAWA; through her efforts the Chapter enjoyed many interesting cultural events with the Indonesian community.

Her memorial service was attended by her family, the entire staff of the Indonesian Consulate, PPSEAWA-Chicago members, and many friends.

Zorine Roy-Singh born in Allahbad, India, died September 19, 1998. This month she would have celebrated her 55th wedding anniversary with her husband Raja, who survives her.

After their marriage they traveled extensively in India due to Raja's work in education for the

government. These travels awakened Zorine's lifelong interest in women's social issues.

When Raja was appointed UNESCO's regional director for Southeast Asia the Roy-Singh's moved to Bangkok, where they lived for twenty years and were able to travel throughout Asia and the Pacific region.

After her husband's retirement they settled in the Chicago area and Zorine joined PPSEAWA and served as the chapter's UN Liaison.

Zorine will be remembered for her graciousness and warmth, which she imparted to all who knew her.

Marcelle Tibbs Retires as Editor

*Ann Aurelius,
Newsletter Coordinator*

Our thanks and gratitude go Marcelle Tibbs for serving as the Editor for USA News for the last five years. There has been a lot of excellent reading and important information that she has reported for us. Marcelle had surgery to relieve the pain from carpal tun-

nel syndrome. She is also giving more time and attention to her husband, DeLloyd.

Marcelle, we will miss your style and sense of choice. I miss your sharp editor's pen. Good wishes on all you do.

NOTE: Volunteers for reporters and an Editor, please contact Theresa Hintzke

Speedy Recovery Wishes

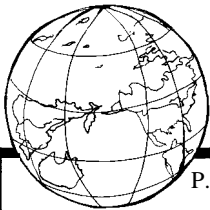
Toledo - Marjorie Wilson, who broke her hand during the summer, is almost as good as new.

Minnesota - Shirley Lulic Berkness is on the mend after two surgeries in early October.

Chicago - Phyllis Ellis is recovering from a broken leg suffered in mid-September. Elaine Bernstein underwent successful surgery and is due home soon.

Stockton - Kharen Pella underwent several operations, the result of the severe burns that she sustained in a stove fire when she was working in Cambodia.

New York - Emma Broisman has been battling an illness for the last few weeks. We are rooting for her and hope she will be up and about soon.



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