



Peacemakers Incorporated

Upcoming Events

July 18-22

BePeace
Educators'
Workshop

September 21

Third Annual
International
Day of Peace
Luncheon

Women Drive as a Sign of Protest in Saudi Arabia

Currently, Saudi Arabia remains the only country in which it is illegal for a woman to drive. In the rural areas of Saudi Arabia, where the government has little control over its citizens, women have been driving for years. Closer to the cities, women must rely on hired drivers who are often very expensive. Fundamentalists view this law as a statement of the country's reliance on their traditions in a time in which Western culture is rapidly expanding. Many women in the region see the law instead as a form of oppression. Finding inspiration in women's participation in the recent uprising in the Middle East, some Saudi Arabian women are beginning to take a stand.



Photo by Change.org

In May, Manal al-Sharif created a Facebook page to urge women with foreign licenses to drive on June 17th as a form of protest. Al-Sharif's initial actions led to her imprisonment for nine days based on a video she posted that showed her driving, which was later used as evidence against her. As punishment, she was required to sign an agreement not to drive again and was not allowed to talk to the media.

The reaction of the law enforcement officers changed on June 17th. Between 30 and 40 women were estimated to have participated in the protest drive; however, most women were ignored, and only a couple of women were reported to have been stopped by police, with none being jailed. Some have credited foreign pressure for the lack of governmental action against the women. Outside of the legal system, many citizens who oppose this cultural change threatened to take the law into their own hands. So far, there are no reports of any of the women being harmed.

Select members of the royal family agree that it is time to grant women the right to drive. The King along with many others have alluded to a potential change in the law, but have yet to act on these statements. Peacemakers salutes these women for their courage.

Hispanic Women's Workshops

Anita Marcos, one of Peacemakers Board members and the chair for our Third Annual Luncheon, has organized a series of four empowerment workshops for Hispanic women entitled *Mejorando Nuestras Vidas*. These workshops are being presented in Spanish every other Saturday during the summer at the Bataan Center in West Dallas as part of a joint effort between Marcos Productions, West Dallas Community Centers, Hispanic Women's Network, VLMC and The Ark. The purpose of these workshops is to empower women who may not have the means to access this type of information and who are interested in improving their lives. The experiential workshops include topics related to self esteem, self worth, assertiveness, self sabotage, domestic violence, addictions, women's health, nutrition, and parental and budgeting skills. A workbook is provided to all participants.

In order to raise money to put on these workshops, Anita organized a wine and cheese event in March. Anita believes that when you help a woman, you help a family, and when you help a family, you help a community—has led to her lifelong passion to work for the empowerment of women.

If you are interested in finding out more about the *Mejorando Nuestras Vidas* program please email Anita Marcos at marcosanita@gmail.com.

Peacemakers' Volunteers of the Month



Nia MacKay began volunteering with Peacemakers in 2006 when she served as Communications Coordinator for Peacemakers' 2007 International Conference and daughter Anissa was 4 years old. Nia also served as the president of Peacemakers in 2009. Anissa, now 9 years old and a 5th grader at Manara Academy Charter School in Coppell, has been helping her mom volunteer in Peacemakers' offices this summer, re-arranging our new office space and organizing office supplies among other helpful tasks. Besides Nia's many academic achievements including a Ph.D. in microbiology and years of teaching, she also serves on the Executive Committee of DFW International. In addition to volunteer work, Nia and Anissa enjoy sharing fun activities together; they both ice skate and Anissa assists her mom when she teaches aerobics classes. Thank you both for your volunteer gifts and for being part of Peacemakers' community.

President's Article

As many of you know, I am a member of the United Nations Association of the USA as well as being president of Peacemakers Incorporated this year. Bill and I have supported and have been active on the board of the local Dallas Chapter of the UNA. I serve on the UNA Board as Chair for Education; Bill is President of the Texas Division. Because of these commitments, we attended the recent 2011 Annual Meeting of the UNA-USA June 12-14 in the Washington, D.C., area. The meetings were held at the Hilton Arlington hotel in Arlington, VA.

This was a historic meeting because the merger of the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Association of the USA took place. Documents were signed approving the merger by representatives of the sixty-three UNA chapters who were present at this meeting. "The UN Foundation is an advocate for the UN and a platform for connecting people, ideas and resources to help the UN solve global problems. The UN Foundation has become the premier organization in helping the UN meet these challenges." (<http://www.unfoundation.org/>)

The **Better World Fund**, a program of the UN Foundation, is the entity that has managed the historic \$1 billion gift in 1998 from entrepreneur and philanthropist, Ted Turner, to support UN causes.

Now the **United Nations Association (UNA) is a program of the United Nations Foundation (UNF)**. The UNA has always been the grassroots organization that informs, inspires, and mobilizes local Americans to support the principles and vital work of the UN. The UNA-USA is a nonprofit membership organization with 125 chapters and divisions and more than 10,000 members nationwide. As a result of this strategic alliance, the two organizations represent the single-largest network of American supporters of the UN. (<http://www.unfoundation.org/>, <http://www.unausa.org/>)

UNA-USA's education and Model UN programs help connect young people to the UN, while the Council of Organizations brings NGO's together, connecting them to the UN. The alliance announcement was made at the Global Leadership Dinner on November 18, 2010, in New York City, and the official documents were signed at the Annual Meeting on June 13, 2011. U. S. Permanent Ambassador Susan Rice was the speaker.

Current campaigns of the UNF to raise awareness in specific areas are as follows: **Nothing But Nets**, securing bed nets for all of Africa to prevent malaria; **Girl Up**, the new organization to help American girls identify with girls who need support in other countries with regard to education, human rights, health, equal opportunity, freedom from violence, and equal rights with boys; and the **Global Vaccines** program to eradicate polio and measles worldwide.

Peacemakers Incorporated's mission is closely aligned to the mission of the UN. One of my goals is to apply for **NGO status with the UN for Peacemakers**. I have the paperwork and will begin work on this project soon. Two other possibilities for cooperation with the UNA are (1) to assist with a city-wide campaign for **Nothing But Nets** to be held soon in Dallas and (2) to plan an event for the **Girl Up** campaign possibly sometime next year. I will keep you posted on news from the UNA-USA. Also, a new program I have seen advertised is **Start with a Girl: A New Agenda for Global Health**, a project to improve the health of adolescent girls in the developing world. **To change the world, invest in adolescent girls!** Sounds perfect for Peacemakers! (<http://www.girlup.org/about/working-with-the-un.html>)



Norma Matthews, President

Don't Miss the Early Bird Discount!!

July 31st is the deadline for the early bird discount for tickets to the Third Annual Peacemakers Luncheon. The Luncheon, which celebrates the United Nations International Day of Peace, is scheduled on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at the Tower Club on the 48th floor of Thanksgiving Tower at 1601 Elm Street in downtown Dallas. Doors will open for the exhibit hall at 10:30 a.m. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. The keynote speaker is Patricia Smith Melton, the founder of the international peace organization Peace X Peace, based in Washington, D.C. We are please to announce that the emcee for the luncheon is WFAA TV Anchor Gloria Campos.

Save \$10 per ticket by buying your ticket by July 31st. The early bird discount price for individual tickets is \$65 for Peacemakers members and \$90 for non-members.

Save \$100 on a table for 10 and sit with your friends. We will recognize you in the program with a listing. With the "early bird" discount, a table hosted by a Peacemakers member is \$650 and a table hosted by a non-member is \$900. Annual membership is \$35.

Promote your organization, school or company by hosting an exhibit. The cost of a booth is \$250, which includes 2 free luncheon tickets, and a 1/8 page program ad.

Advertise or place an announcement in the luncheon program for as little as \$50. Details on ad sizes and costs are available at www.peacemakersincorporated.org.

Get more visibility for your organization by putting together a table of 10. With the early bird discount pricing and your Peacemakers member discount, each of your table partners qualifies for a \$65 ticket if purchased by July 31st. Your organization will also get a listing in the luncheon program.

Join the fun! For the past 2 years, more than 200 people have gathered with Peacemakers to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace. The event is inspirational, the food is great, and the company is outstanding! For more information, call Peacemakers Administrator Rosann Naim at 972-239-2942 or contact her via email at peacemakersInc@aol.com.



State Legislature Passes Anti-Bullying Bill

On June 17, 2011, Governor Rick Perry signed House Bill 1942 (HB 1942), which is anti-bullying legislation authored by State Representative Diane Patrick (R-Arlington). The bill was shepherded through the House Committee on Public Education and the Senate Committee on Education. HB 1942 became effective immediately and is to be implemented, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.

Though the Texas Legislature has provided no funding for the Act, it can still be used as a means to introduce peace studies into public schools. The Act emphasizes policy, rather than operation. Nevertheless, it can be interpreted to show a clear intent of the Legislature to eliminate bullying. In summary, the Act does the following:

- Defines "bullying" and "harassment";
- Allows inclusion (in staff development curriculum) of training in conflict resolution and in preventing, identifying and responding to bullying;
- Authorizes school boards to transfer bullies to another class or another school;
- Requires School Boards to "adopt a policy, including any necessary procedures, concerning bullying ..." to be included in student and employee handbooks, in the district improvement plan, and "to the extent practicable" on the district website;
- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt curricula incorporating "essential knowledge and skills that include evidence-based practices that will effectively address awareness, prevention, identification, self-defense in response to, and resolution of and intervention in bullying and harassment"; and
- Mandates that the legislation becomes effective immediately, to be first implemented in the 2012-2013 school year.

The complete text of HB 1942 is available on the website of the Texas Capitol at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=82R&Bill=HB1942#>

At the June meeting of the North Texas Peace Education Coalition, coordinated by Peacemakers Incorporated, the coalition members discussed the anti-bullying legislation and strategized on ways the coalition could assist DFW area schools with implementation of HB 1942. Coordinator Laura Seipp announced the formation of a community calendar on which representatives of the Coalition can post peace studies events, including seminars, training sessions and forums.

Carol Donovan, Executive Director

Good Neighbor Program



The Good Neighbor Program was created in the spring of 2010 as a Peacemakers Incorporated program, which aimed to assist refugees in the North Dallas area, specifically Vickery Meadows. Peacemakers Incorporated has worked to become a link between refugees and nonprofit organizations and companies who are able to assist with the needs of the refugee community. It is our ultimate goal to promote peace, independence, and women's empowerment through our work with the local refugee communities. Since its beginning, the Good Neighbor Program has addressed the desires of the women of the Bhutanese community by arranging ESL and interview prep courses.

This summer, a year after its creation, the program is being reevaluated and adapted. First, Peacemakers Incorporated is looking to recruit a year-long intern through nearby universities and colleges to coordinate the program between August and May 2011. Second, we are working to arrange child care certification and informational sessions on vocational trainings with the Bhutanese women to help prepare the women to enter the workforce. Finally, the program hopes to create relationships with local schools and colleges to recruit volunteers that will support Peacemakers in its mission to promote peace through education and community involvement.

If you are interested in applying for the internship position please contact Rosann Naim at peacemakersinc@aol.com or contact the Peacemakers Incorporated office at 972-239-2942.

Erica Mahoney, Summer Intern

Civility Corner

On Monday morning, June 27, 2011, I attended the Installation of new Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and the new Dallas City Council. All 15 attended and were each accompanied on stage by a family member. The ceremony, which was held at the Meyerson Symphony Center, was a great example of people practicing what they preach.

Throughout his campaign, Mike Rawlings emphasized the importance of diversity, education, economic growth, and fairness to the "Southern Sector," which constitutes 60% of the land mass of the City of Dallas, but only 15% of the tax base. The ceremony was, indeed, diverse. The Invocation and Benediction were presented, respectively, by a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi, with a "Charge of Duty" given by a Protestant pastor. The National Anthem was sung by the Dallas Police Choir and "Amazing Grace" was sung by a woman who had met Mike Rawlings when she was living at "The Bridge," the city's homeless shelter, while he was the city's "Homeless Czar". The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a Boy Scout Troop from Lakewood, and the Dallas Black Dance Theater performed. State Representative Rafael Anchia served as emcee. A mariachi band played at the reception following the ceremony.

The remarks of Mayor Mike Rawlings were gracious, courteous and what we call "civil." He acknowledged his opponents, thanked them, and stated that he would be a better mayor as a result of the public debates of issues and concerns in which they had engaged during the campaign. Outgoing council members were recognized for their service to the city. Mayor Rawlings asked all 9 of the women on the new City Council to stand and be recognized. He pointed out that women now hold a majority of the seats on the 14-member council, and he predicted that one of these councilwomen would be elected by the Council as the Mayor Pro Tem. He emphasized that, if Dallas was to be successful, we would all have to work together.

The Mayor's remarks about diversity and teamwork are consistent with a conversation he and I had at the home of Becky Sykes, executive director of The Dallas Women's Foundation. There, I told him about Peacemakers' goal of establishing a city or county "civility commission" to promote civility and civility training, including peace studies. He expressed an interest in such a commission, and emphasized that civil discourse was consistent with team-building to get jobs done. We will follow-up with Mayor Rawlings on our civility campaign. Meanwhile, he is certainly off to a great start, and we wish him the best.

Carol Donovan, Executive Director

Peacemakers Incorporated

Address:

5910 Cedar Springs Road
Dallas, Texas 75235

Phone: 972-239-2942

Email Address:

PeacemakersInc@aol.com

We're on the Web!

PeacemakersIncorporated.org

