



**THE NGO COMMITTEE ON SPIRITUALITY, VALUES AND GLOBAL CONCERNS CHAIR'S REPORT TO CONGO**

The NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns had a busy last quarter in 2008 with its October 20-24 Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (WOS) program, *Spirit of the UN: Making the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Come Alive*.

All eleven working groups created the following programs for the WOS:

1. Every morning from 9:00-10:00 AM the **Sacred and Transcendental Arts Working Group** held a meditation in the UN Meditation Room;
2. On Monday, October 20th, the **Spirituality, Values and Business Working Group** and the **Eco-Spirituality Working Group** held a joint program in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium entitled: *Spirituality In Everyday Life: Embracing Human Rights*. The WOS also held its *Spirit of the UN Award* ceremony in the same venue. Ambassador Hilario G. Davide, Jr, from the Philippine Mission was the award's 2008 recipient. Ambassador Paulette Bethel from the Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas gave the introductory remarks on Ambassador Davide.
3. On Tuesday, October 21st, the **Culture of Peace Working Group** held a program entitled: *Advancing The Culture of Peace: Is Peace A Human Right?* The Campus Peace Center also put on a program entitled *Students Unite For The Right To Peace: Activating Campus Peace Centers*.
4. On Wednesday, October 22nd, the **Spiritual History of the UN Working Group** put on a program entitled: *Bridging The Historical Divide For A New World Renaissance*. The **Universal Ethics And Global Concerns Working Group** put on a program entitled: *Spiritual And Ethical Dimensions Of Human Rights Law*.
5. On Thursday, October 23rd, the **Sacred And Transcendental Arts Working Group**, together with the Spiritual Caucus held a silent meditation at the Church Center. The **Women Rising Working Group** did a program entitled *The Way Of The Feminine: Making Human Rights Come Alive*. The **Spiritual Council for Global Challenges Working Group** held a program on *The Consciousness Of Human Rights: The Transformative Moment*.
6. On Friday, October 24th, the **Healing, Transformation and Spirituality Working Group** held a program entitled: *Cultivating The Seeds Of Forgiveness And Meaning Making: Transforming Trauma Into Healing*. The **Spiritual Dimensions of Science and Consciousness Working Group** held a program called: *The Answer Lies Within: What Is The Relationship Between The Science Of Meditation And The Practice of Human Rights?* Due to technical difficulties, a webcast link with a WOS program taking place simultaneously in Brazil was unsuccessful, although both programs were well attended and mutually anticipated with much excitement. The Closing Ceremony was also held with the cutting of a cake marking the UN's 63rd anniversary. The WOS is designed to fall on the anniversary date of the founding of the UN.

The working groups had a variety of programs from silent meditations, group meditations, speakers, songs, dances, art work, discussions, and dialogue. It was a week rich in variety, high level participation, and engagement from a broad spectrum of constituents from Missions, businesses, UN affiliated NGOs, and civil society representatives.

The September speaker in the monthly speaker series was Jerry Piasecki from UN Radio. He shared about UN Radio, where he was the creator and director of the United Nations News Service, and the Global Peace Schools Program which he created.

The October speakers were Samite Mulondo and Michael Rennie, Founder and Director, and Co-Director, respectively, of Musicians for World Harmony, a non-profit organization that seeks to promote global peace,

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understanding and harmony through music.

The Executive Council resumed its monthly meetings after the summer break from September through the end of 2008. The general committee meetings were held in September and October. The usual monthly meetings which are held on the last Thursday of every month were not held in November and December because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The annual CSVGC Winter Solstice party was held on December 11th . It was a well attended, moving and fun-filled event that also combined a birthday celebration for Lena Arellano, who has been a wonderful friend to the CSVGC.

The CSVGC continues to be a growing, dynamic Committee with enthusiastic and dedicated participants.

Dated: February 14, 2009

Respectfully submitted,  
Audrey E. Kitagawa, Chair  
NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, New York

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