

## The National Service Conference of The American Ethical Union

Volume 4, 2009

### UN online tool allows people to track nations' pledges on climate change



People around the world can now keep tabs on countries' promises and proposals on combating climate change, thanks to a new online tool launched by the United Nations Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)). The Climate Pledge Tracker was launched in Copenhagen, Denmark, where nations met with the aim of agreeing on an ambitious new commitment of initiatives and funding. The new program will be updated as new proposals are made in the Danish capital, and it compares and consolidates all pledges made to date with the goal of keeping global temperature rise at or under 2 degrees centigrade from pre-industrial levels. Go to: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) to make use of the tool.

# Climate Justice

**The National Service Conference** of the NGO Working Group on year. We sought to embed all based motivation, eg., to connect growing inequity between the and nations, to promote engage-are effective and governmental warming, and finally to mandate lend technological innovations achieve the targets in reducing you who want to assess our effectiveness, check the world news on internet with these targets in mind. How we did remains to be seen. What we did, however, to achieve these goals were : 1) to visit the UN agency working on the Conference and ask how we could help; 2) to invite UN staff speakers to our meetings who advised us as to how to proceed: 3) brought a high visibility speaker Riane Eisler to the UN to which UN officials came to hear 4) developed talking points to lobby for during the Copenhagen Conference; 5) to send eight of our group to the Conference to report and help us continue our work after the Conference.



joined the core planning group Climate Change at the UN this frameworks of action in morally the climate change crisis with wealthy and vulnerable peoples ment between local efforts that approaches to mitigating global wealthy nations to fund and to vulnerable ones to help them carbon emissions. For those of

Martha Gallahue 12/29/09 2:56 PM



*The American Ethical Union, the National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union at the United Nations and the Ehrenfeld family share in the loss of Phyllis Ehrenfeld, who recently passed after a brief, yet courageous battle with cancer in July, 2009.*

*To read some of Phyllis and Sylvain's articles, please visit the "[From the UN](#)" page at [www.nationalserviceaeu.org](http://www.nationalserviceaeu.org). Copies of selected articles may be purchase in booklet form as well. Contact the AEU office at 212-873-6500 for more information.*

Martha Gallahue 12/17/09 11:43 AM

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AMICC

**The International Criminal Court** announced the establishment of a new Advisory Board headed by

former UN Secretary General and Nobel Laureate Kofi Annan. The Coalition is the largest partnership in the world advancing the cause of international justice including 2500 organizations in 150 countries. The National Service Conference is one of them, in addition to our participation in The American Coalition for the International Criminal Court and the Faith and Ethics Based Network for an ICC at the UN. To date, 139 countries have joined and 110 countries have ratified the Rome Statute, the name of the ICC agreement. Go to: [un.org/icc](http://un.org/icc) for updates or [www.amicc.org](http://www.amicc.org) for five things you can do to support the progress of the Court.

**At the World Parliament of Religions** in Melbourne, Australia, Andrew Newman represented the National Service Conference at the Parliament of the World's Religions. Andrew is the Project Coordinator of Million Trees NYC, a joint project of the City Parks & Recreation Department and the New York Restoration

Project, a local nonprofit spearheaded by Bette Midler. In his program, "MillionTreesNYC: Urban Ecology and Environmental Stewardship," Andrew chronicled the history of Million Trees NYC as one example of how individuals, communities, non-profits, and religious institutions can cooperate to preserve the urban ecosystem. Along with the goal of planting one million new trees across the five boroughs by 2017, Million Trees NYC educates New Yorkers about the importance of trees and how to protect them, trains city youth for careers related to trees, and conducts research. The city is a "fully functioning ecosystem," Andrew said, as he invited listeners to "cultivate the greenery that has always existed between the cracks of our sidewalks."

Andrew studied religion, philosophy and clinical psychology at the University of Rochester



## A New Millennium Development Goals Initiative



During this year's program honoring the Spirit of the UN, the National Service Conference through the Universal Ethics Working Group of the NGO Committee Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns partnered with the UN Nigerian Mission and a new initiative that was brought to our attention by Donna Minkowitz of Brooklyn Society called Story Bowl. This initiative representing over 75 years of story telling is now dedicated to create concerts whose revenue will be to alleviate hunger. Their first Story Bowl Concert took place on October, 29, 2009 and featured Laura Simms, internationally renowned storyteller, Sheku Monserray of Sierra Leone and Robert Reiser creator of the initiative. To learn about their work and to support the initiative, go to [www.storybowl.ning.com](http://www.storybowl.ning.com).



**In honor of the 2009 UN's Designation as the Year of Reconciliation,** The United Religions Initiative at the United Nations conducted a program, "Reconciliation as a Key to Sustainability" on Monday, May 4th, 2009, during the Commission for Sustainable Development. The program was planned and designed by Martha Gallahue and featured Sami Ariekat of the UN Division for Sustainable Development (DESA), Dr. Michelle Kim of Franciscans International, Monica Willard, Main Representative for The United Religions Initiative, and Dr. J.J. Hurtak, The Academy for Future Science. Martha Gallahue moderated the interactive program.

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*Volume 4, 2009*

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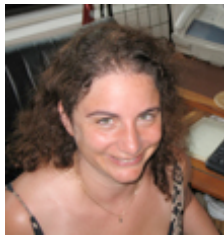
Volume 4, 2009

### Jacqueline Pope (NYSEC) and Kay Dunderf (RY-SEC) New NSC Officers



In September, after the untimely death of former President Phyllis Ehrenfeld, Bergen Society, the National Service Conference held election of officers. Pictured are Dr. Jacqueline Pope (right) President, and Kay Dunderf (left) Treasurer standing with Katharine Archibald, AEU Executive Director. Other officers are: Vice-Presidents, Dr. Kurt Johnson and Lucile Kleiman, Secretaries, Dr. Sylvain Ehrenfeld and Martha Gallahue. The Executive Council approved Martha Gallahue to serve as Leader. She was certified by the National Leader's Council during the 2009 Assembly and will exercise her Leader role as Main Representative at the UN for the NSC. Dr. Pope's first priority is to establish closer working relationships with one another and to raise the visibility of the National Service Conference of the AEU at the UN. Toward that end, she has called for monthly meetings among the Executive Council and more detailed reporting. Vice-President, Kurt Johnson

is easing Kay Dunderf's job by sharing the Treasurer's role through the end of 2009. Kay has already reviewed our records, gathered information from the office and can produce a simplified 2009 financial statement and 2010 budget upon request. (212-873-6500)



### NSC Appoints First Phyllis Ehrenfeld Intern for 2010

Temma Ehrenfeld was selected to become the first Phyllis Ehrenfeld Intern for 2010. She was chosen because of her skills and her initiative in self-publishing a selection of published articles that her mother and father wrote over the years that reflect the complex issues governments face at the UN. Temma will focus on helping the NSC to better capitalize the over 53,000 "hits" our website received in the last 11 months of its operation. She will also continue the tradition of producing more "From the UN" articles which are circulated through the AEU community. Said Fred Guterl, Asst. Managing Editor of Newsweek International, "For several

years, Temma contributed dozens of science stories to Newsweek International, which I edited. Most of them came from ideas she hatched herself (she's got a good eye for a story), some of them were news of the week stories. Regardless, Temma pursued each story with tenacious reporting and delivered it with a consistently smooth writing style. She is a pleasure to work with."

### From "The Key Word is We" by Kurt Johnson, from Kosmos Magazine, May 2009

*(We in NSC are often asked what is the core concept from which we draw our motivation; the following excerpted reflection offers an insight about this question)*



The emergence of a palpable new sense of 'We', a distinctive energy or level of consciousness experienced as available in, and for, collective consciousness is now at least glimpsed by nearly every deeply rooted spiritual practitioner. ...It is important to recognize that this energy, this consciousness, this experience, is both the Center and Source of what is currently unfolding. It is the skill set of this consciousness that is paramount, not just its mental aspect, although that is a necessary part—something human habit often forgets.

...A skilled collective is now possible for us. This is the core message of our time.

...Because there is no pre-existing map for this unfolding, only the unfolding itself, this new phenomenon is being co-discovered and co-created by each of us experiencing this and actualizing it into our actions and co-actions. This appears to be the root of what is unfolding worldwide in what has been recognized as the Obama phenomenon. It is extremely important that 'spiritual' and 'transformational' communities clearly elucidate this reality and opportunity for the rest of our world. [www.isdna.org](http://www.isdna.org)

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*Volume 4, 2009*

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## Why NSC Needs Your Support



Inside this newsletter, you can read the annual appeal from our President telling you of some of our work that continues at the United Nations. But may I say a word as well about why your membership dues means so much to us today.

The world is in duress where climate crises, nuclear arms, a growing appeal to terrorism collide with an emerging awareness that grass-roots collectives who embrace an evolving consciousness about human potential hold the key to lasting world peace. You can be sure that our message continues to be that ethics is central in working out intelligent and effective solutions to the world's heartbreaks.

What is different today is that more folks are listening to the message. They are listening as more groups proclaim it. But our message is unique, as we hold

dear that ethics is a human endeavor built upon comprehensive learning and authentic engagement. Since 1947, we've served at the UN and continue to enjoy deep respect from our many colleagues. The AEU Executive Director and her office along with the National Leaders Council give tangible back-up. While we continue to serve on a volunteer basis for now, we cannot do this forever. We must attract attention to our message with increased professional skills and wise frameworks of action.

Your membership dues cover our growing overhead, so that we can raise funds and create programs that will attract funders. We do our best to hold costs down. Yet our website, our programming at the UN, our Platform talks in Societies and our yearly NSC luncheons do cost. Thank you, thank you for your loyalty. We are doing our part to ensure the future of our voice at the UN, and when you give, you are a part of it all.

Martha Gallahue, AEU Leader for NSC

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