

APRIL PROGRAM

7:00 p.m., Monday, April 11, '05

Unitarian Universalist Church in Spokane

4340 West Fort Wright Drive

"The World Water Decade 2005-2015: Water for Life"

Rachael Paschal Osborn

The United Nations General Assembly has declared the decade 2005-2015 as the Water for Life Decade, to be launched on March 22, 2005. The goals of the program are to bring greater focus to water issues, to improve women's participation in water development efforts, and to further the water-related goals of various international agreements and declarations.

Rachael Osborn will discuss international water problems and programs and how these efforts connect to water issues right here in the Spokane region.

Rachael Paschal Osborn is a public interest water lawyer, director of the Columbia Institute for Water Policy, and teaches water and environmental law at Gonzaga Law School. She is co-founder of two NGOs dedicated to protecting Washington's water resources -- the Center for Environmental Law & Policy and Washington Water Trust -- and writes and speaks regularly on water issues around the West.

"The World Water Decade 2005-2015: Water for Life" Program is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Friends of the Aquifer.

The League supports water resource programs and policies that reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, groundwater and surface water...

Visit their Spokane website and see what their concerns are for here at home.

www.lwvwa.org/spokane

The Friends of the Aquifer is a non-profit group working to inform the public of threats to the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Aquifer and to lead efforts to keep our aquifer safe.

Water Issues and The Millennium Development Goals

The following highlights the importance of safe water and how it can contribute to each MDG by goal : http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/2005advocguide/en/index2.html

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The security of household livelihoods rest on the health of its members; adults who are ill themselves or must care for sick children are less productive.

Illnesses caused by unsafe drinking- water and inadequate sanitation generate high health costs relative to income for the poor.

Healthy people are better able to absorb nutrients in food than those suffering from water- related diseases, particularly helminth infections, which rob their hosts of calories.

The time lost because of long- distance water collection and poor health contributes to poverty and reduced food security.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Improved health and reduced water- carrying burdens improve school attendance, especially among girls.

Having separate sanitation facilities for girls and boys in school increase girl's attendance, especially after they enter adolescence

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Reduced time, health and care- giving burdens from improved water services give women more time for productive endeavours, adult education and leisure

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Improved sanitation and drinking- water sources reduces infant and child morbidity and mortality.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Accessible sources of water reduce labour burdens and health problems resulting from water portage, reducing maternal mortality risks.

Safe drinking- water and basic sanitation are needed in health care facilities to ensure basic hygiene practices following delivery.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/ AIDS and other diseases

Safe drinking- water and basic sanitation help prevent water- related disease, including diarrhoeal diseases, schistosomiasis, filariasis, trachoma and helminths.

The reliability of drinking- water supplies and improved water management in human settlement areas reduce transmission risks of malaria and dengue fever.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Adequate treatment and disposal of wastewater contributes to better ecosystem conservation and less pressure on scarce freshwater resources.

Careful use of water resources prevents contamination of groundwater and helps minimize the cost of water treatment.

Goal 8: Develop partnership for development

Development agendas and partnerships should recognize the fundamental role that safe drinking-water and basic sanitation play in economic and social development.

Chapter Message

Julian Powers

UNA member

GLOBAL WARMING DOOMSDAY? GLOBAL WARMING UPDATE

Media is increasingly carrying stories about the current global warming happenings around the world. Just in case you haven't kept track, here are some of those happenings.

Today floods, fires, droughts, and severe rainstorms, are causing less snow, and bringing more rain. Grinding windstorms, including hurricanes and tornadoes, are producing precipitation increases and decreases. Glaciers are retreating and thinning. Snowpacks are decreasing. These happenings are causing the surface warming of our oceans. Oceans are warming and cooling at depths of four to five kilometers. These lower and higher surface temperatures, are the ultimate cause of the sea level rise, causing in turn the highest rate of species extinction's in 65 million years, producing more and more deadly diseases, and migrations of flora and fauna.

There have been many predictions on future climatic events. The time scale of such events is unclear as Mother Nature controls and continues to surprise us, especially in the time scales. At some point the Atlantic Gulf Stream will likely change course (remember the movie "The Day After Tomorrow"?). Although the movie climatic events were over-dramatized and compressed into two hours, the occurrences except for the inundation of the Statute of Liberty have been predicted. Some predictions are **SIGNIFICANT** sea level rise (up to 20 feet if the major Greenland ice deposits enter the ocean), **SIGNIFICANT** additional sea level rise if Antarctica ice deposits enter the ocean), and increases in all of the currently observed climatic changes. Credible, high-level scientists are saying "catastrophe". Lemme tell you of some of the global human impacts caused just by the air conditioning of rich nations. These rich nations with sturdy and heated/cooled houses, along with heated/cooled shops and work places are seriously effecting global change. In many undeveloped areas living conditions will become unsuitable for human habitation, water stresses will magnify, and global food production will plummet. Many diseases will propagate. Today in Southeast Asia and

Africa, infectious diseases account for two-thirds of all deaths! All levels of medical care will be inadequate. Governments will fall: anarchy will be prevalent. Not millions but BILLIONS will perish!

Although the time scale is not known, climatologists and scientists who are both knowledgeable and credible write with dire pessimism. Not written about much but obliquely referred to is that global warming will continue to get worse for a predicted 100 years AFTER the global concentration of greenhouse gases are stabilized! OK, "remove the greenhouse gases". The technology exists but current judgments are that it is not "cost effective"! I have read predictions that at some point global warming will **"FEED ON ITSELF"** which says that **NOTHING HUMANKIND CAN DO WILL MITIGATE CONTINUING ESCALATION OF GLOBAL WARMING.**

Stay tuned.
Julian Powers

Spokane Chapter Calendar

Monday, April 11, '05

7 p.m.

Unitarian Church

Rachael Paschal Osborn

"The Clean Water Act"

Meeting in commemoration of World

Water Day (Mar. 22)

and World Health Day (Apr. 7) 7 p.m.

Unitarian Church

There are no meetings in June, July, and August.

Sept. 12, Monday-to be announced.

Oct. 24,

UN Day

Monday, May 9, '05

7 p.m. Unitarian Church

Ben Cabildo, Executive Director,

African American, Hispanic, Asian,

Native American Business Association

(AHANA).

Nov. 14,

Adopt - a - Minefield Dinner

IN APPRECIATION

of

LIFETIME MEMBER

DORIS WAGES

UNA Spokane thanks you
for your generous support!

Welcome to UNA Spokane!

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**UNA-USA Spokane Chapter Newsletter is published monthly,
September through May.**

**Your communication is appreciated. Unless otherwise noted, please direct
your comments to: President Jo Stowell, 1118 E. 34th Ave., Spokane, WA 99203.
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