



Women's contributions in "Building a Better World"

Women have made many valuable contributions in "building a better world"! Every year during March we highlight vital contributions of women in many areas of human endeavors. If one becomes active in civic organizations dealing with world affairs, they will quickly appreciate the many talented women that have shown us that individuals can effectively address global scale problems.

Many "builders of a better world" demonstrate perseverance, with keen discernment of the root causes of problems. One dramatic example was **Fanny Brin** who organized the earliest United Nations Rally in Minnesota, a network of dozens of primarily women groups interested in preventing wars and promoting cooperation across the globe. The united strength of so many groups helped win vital support for the work of the United Nations.

Many enjoyed working with spirited leaders like **Mary Lou Nelson** and **Emily Anne Tuttle** and admired their ability to orchestrate complex education projects with diverse groups of volunteers. They understood the benefits of working together with schools and community groups to learn about global cultures and common problems. They helped form Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers and encouraged thoughtful participation in the Great Decisions programs and the activities of the Humphrey Institute for Public Policy.

Another dynamic leader **Norma Rowe** pioneered a very effective "global classrooms" experiential learning project that helped hundreds of young learners gain experience in crafting programs and solutions for our very diverse and often conflicted world. Transforming idealistic young students from passive learning to active participation greatly increased their interest in world affairs.

Many of us have fond memories of **Evelyn Schiele**, an organizational leader and **Elsie Evans** who championed the importance of law and legal agreements as a framework for human rights and mutually beneficial global commerce. They promoted "world citizenship" in the Annual Law Day observance and engaged

many individuals in this life affirming work, with an uplifting spirit that made the serious work, joy filled and deeply rewarding.

Looking back, one notices that many of these women/ leaders had worked in helping professions like education and health. They had a “nurturing manner” that promoted a sense of cooperation. They were emotionally mature and sensitive to the feelings of diverse individuals. It was helpful that these women so often did a good job of keeping their own egos in check when dealing with people with so many strong opinions.

Working for a better world was fulfilling but often required great personal sacrifice. **Clare McLaughlin** was an accomplished professional musician and singer. She stepped back from her promising career to work for a world free of tragic wars. Together with her husband, Ronald, they started the present-day Citizens for Global Solutions chapter in Minnesota. She also served on the Board of the United Nations Association.

She was very creative in getting people to think of resolving international conflict. There are many examples. With the help of Senator Hubert Humphrey, she arranged to have a Congressional subcommittee on disarmament hold hearings in Minneapolis (June 1956).

Years later with Senator Humphreys help she led a successful petition drive to begin a “*peace race*” to counter prevailing public support for the “arms race”. The petitions were a response to President John F. Kennedy’s invitation contained in his address to United Nations (September 1961). These petitions were personally delivered to President Kennedy’s staff at the White House (May 1962).

Clare Mclaughlin loved to share her enthusiasm directly with her fellow citizens. She appeared often speaking together with her husband. For that purpose, she created and staffed a booth annually at the Minnesota State Fair. Clare like so many women working for a better world subscribed to Franklin’s adage “well done is far better than merely well said”.

We are grateful for their record of achievement!