

Moral Leadership in Today's World

[Back to Previous Page](#)

ECAAR's Fall Benefit at the home of Patti and Jeffry Kenner focused on two lives for peace: those of Dr. Oscar Arias and Dr. Robert J. Schwartz.

Dr. Arias said the world is "far from achieving our goal: a society where everyone's basic needs are ensured and where all children and adults have ample opportunities to live in dignity and develop to their full human potential." But, he continued, "there is no lack of resources in the world for fighting poverty.

What we are experiencing is rather a lack of moral leadership." Dr. Arias said that UNDP estimates show that 5 percent of the \$800 billion spent on arms and troops in the year 2000 for each of ten years would, if diverted, "be enough to provide basic education, health care and nutrition, potable water and sanitation to all the world's people."

Dr. Schwartz spoke about his lifetime commitment to world peace with justice for all. He made several references to his justpublished book, "Can You Make A Difference?", which can be obtained from Lantern Books, www.lanternbooks.com.

In his speech, Dr. Schwartz said that the source of terrorism had always been clear to him: "We have not just the will to control, but as the single superpower, we have the means to dominate world affairs. While we preach democracy, we often fail to exert it fully at home and rarely in our international policy."

"We talk with such justifiable horror," he continued, "about what happened at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and how can anyone do this to civilians, yet most of this country ignores our bombing for a decade of Iraq where the civilians are the ones who suffer the most."

Economists for Peace and Security
<http://www.epsusa.org>