



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION *of the United States of America*

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER
of the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION

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March 2009 Issue 1



Modern-Day Slavery in Orange County

2009 UNAUSA/OC Coffee Talk #1

by Gaye Christoffersen

How can this be? What can we do about it? What are we doing about it? What is the global-local connection?

Sandie Morgan, Administrator of the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, gave the first UNA critical issues presentation of 2009 on March 9 at Soka University, in Aliso Viejo, to an interested group of UNA members and supporters from other local NGOs. This presentation was given in recognition of International Women's Day.

Her presentation provided an overview of human trafficking in Orange County, with an emphasis on gender perspectives in our changing global community. Since California is part of the Pacific Rim, she gave special attention to the connection between Orange County and Southeast Asia; and emphasized the relationship of the law of supply and demand to the prevalence of human trafficking locally.

Just as Orange County has a task force to counter human trafficking, the United Nations also has a task force to counter human trafficking in Southeast Asia, called the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (UNIAP).

UNA co-president Ken Tye welcomed the audience and said a few words about the UNA. After a brief video of support provided by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Gaye Christoffersen, UNA Vice President for Programs, introduced the speaker.

More information about the OC Task Force can be found at <http://www.ochumantrafficking.org>

UNA-OC 2009 Board of Directors

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Special Thanks

April Virk, Newsletter Editor; Dan Carter, Webmaster; as well as Former Board members and others who have agreed to serve on the above committees. Where would *you* like to help?



Honoring our long-time member - Thérèse Ballet Lynn

by Ken Tye

Thérèse Ballet Lynn has been Vice-President and President of the Orange County Chapter of the UNA-USA. Currently, she is serving as Co-Treasurer with George Wilson. She has also served the Chapter in many other ways, being a Board member and participating in Chapter events.

Thérèse has an interesting life story that began when she was born in France to a German mother and French father. She experienced the reality of war and enemy occupation for four years, which made her a lover of peace for the rest of her life. In her early years she was educated in a Catholic school where, in her own words, “Her independent nature was not appreciated.” Thérèse began her university studies at the University of Poitiers, majoring in English and Literature.

Thérèse married an American, Tommy Lynn, who was stationed in France after the war. They returned to the US and promptly had four children, two girls and two boys. She continued her education at the University of Tennessee and obtained her Master of Arts Degree. With her children in tow, she went off to the University of Illinois to complete her PhD. She returned to Tennessee to teach at the University of Tennessee and, at that time, an all black college.

At the University of Illinois two of her professors, the Huberts, went to UCI and invited her teach there. After eight years at UCI she was denied tenure (there was that “independent spirit” again). She sued the University and after ten years won her case, finding out “the joys of blacklisting.” She was offered a position at Chapman College (now Chapman University), where she finished her academic career teaching in the Humanities Department.

At a Chapman event, she met the International President of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. She joined WILPF and traveled with members of the organization from the triennial meeting in Helsinki by rail for 22 days to the United Nations’ 4th Conference on Women in Beijing. After returning home, one day while she was making a presentation about the experience, she met Suzanne Darweesh. Suzanne convinced Thérèse to join the Orange County chapter of UNA-USA. The rest is history!

By the way, a book resulted from the Peace Train saga, written by a German participant who interviewed 30 of the travelers. The book was translated by Thérèse, and she refers to this as an example of “Women cooperating.”

2009 UNAUSA High School Essay Contest Semifinalist a Student at Santa Margarita H.S.

The theme of the UNA-USA 2009 National High School Essay Contest was “**What can the US do to help ensure environmental sustainability?**” Congratulations to senior, **Kevin Jain**, the UNAUSA Orange County winner. He was selected by a Southern CA UNA Division team of judges including OC leaders, **Geraldine McNenny** and **Diane Lichterman**. The semifinalists were selected from 1,300 students who entered this contest nationally. More information including a list of all of the semifinalists can be viewed at <http://unasanationalhighschoolessaycontest.com/>. **The finalists will be announced there later this month.**



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ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY

by Barb Tye

The Orange County chapter has embarked on a campaign to visit every member of the Orange County Congressional delegation during February and March.

The plan is to ask our elected representatives to do two things: First, to support HR 578, a bill that calls upon the United States to support the UN High Commission for Refugees in its work with Iraqi refugees, war widows, and orphans. Second, to support a movement to have the United States sign the Treaty on the Rights of the Child. This treaty was written in 1989, and since 1990 it has been signed by all but two nations: the U.S. and Somalia. The time has come to stand with the nations of the world in support of children.

Barbara Tye visited the Garden Grove office of Rep. Loretta Sanchez on Feb. 10 and had a productive meeting with chief of staff Dolores Gonzalez-Hayes and intern Lilly Nguyen. In addition to the two agenda items mentioned above, two additional topics were covered: Rep. Sanchez' support for the work of the OC Task Force on Human Trafficking, and the bill she introduced in the House in 2008 (HR 6073), calling for funding for international education in elementary and secondary schools. The possibility of Rep. Sanchez accepting an invitation to speak to the UNA-OC members later this year was also discussed.

Volunteers are needed to visit the other five Orange County congressmen* or their local chief of staff before the end of March, in groups of two or three. UNA-OC intern Briana Carlson carls110@mail.chapman.edu is ready to assist with scheduling. Go to <http://capwiz.com/unausa/dbq/officials/> for help in finding your representative. Experience is clear: face-to-face contact is much more effective than writing letters. Give half an hour of your time to meet your congressman and impress upon him the keen interest of you, his constituent, in the two UN-related issues mentioned above.

* Ken Calvert, John Campbell, Gary Miller, Dana Rohrabacher, and Ed Royce

INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S INTERNS by Ken Tye



Briana Carlson currently serves as an Intern for the Advocacy Committee of the Orange County Chapter of the UNA-USA. In addition to coaching Lacrosse at Foothill High School in Tustin, she has served as Philanthropy Chair for her sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma. This involved organizing events and a volleyball tournament. She developed a philanthropic budget and managed a committee of six members.

For three years she worked as Site Director and Volunteer Counselor for the YMCA of Orange. As Site Director she oversaw a staff of three, and developed a schedule of activities and work hours. She had her own budget and was responsible for distributing and utilizing it effectively in the purchase of supplies, games, equipment, and snacks. She held staff meetings and had meetings with parents.

She has been a Volunteer at the YMCA of Orange summer camp since 2004. As a camp counselor and drama program staff member, she worked with children at the overnight camp, organizing activities, overseeing their daily events, comforting them when necessary, providing a safe environment, and developing and running the drama program.

Currently, Briana is a junior at Chapman University with a major in Peace Studies and an emphasis in Sociology. She has traveled in Britain, France, Italy, Greece, the Czech Republic, Mexico and Canada. Her ultimate goal is to be involved with human rights issues, specifically International Humanitarian Law.



Catherine Ngo is an undergraduate at UCI working on her BA degree in International Studies and Political Science. She serves the Chapter on the Education Committee, specializing in outreach to Model United Nations (MUN) Chapters. Her ultimate goal is to be involved with some sort of international service.

She was in the Honor Society at her high school and has a number of relevant Model United Nations experiences including being Co-Class Director of the MUN class for two years at UCI with responsibility for lecturing on UN history and procedure, assigning research and position papers for country policies on political topics, and communicating with University officials and the School of Social Sciences.

Catherine has attended three MUN conferences including the Pan-American Conference in Las Vegas in 2007, the MUN conference in Turkey in Ankara in 2008, and the National MUN conference in Washington, DC in 2008. She serves as Financial Director for the International Club at UCI that involves such responsibilities as managing current funds and organizing fund raisers.



What a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

By Geraldine McNenny

On January 18, members and supporters of the Orange County chapter of the United Nations Association held their annual luncheon and meeting at the historic Hacienda Inn in Santa Ana. With a cheerful turnout of approximately 100 people in attendance, the event was clearly a success.

Part meeting, part charity event and fundraiser, UNA-OC participants enjoyed a buffet lunch and refreshments while participating in a silent auction.

During the business portion of the meeting, past president Suzanne Darweesh presented the slate of officers that had been approved by the Board of Directors at its December meeting, and asked for additional nominations from the floor. As none were forthcoming, she called for a voice vote and the slate was approved without opposition.

Afterward, the featured speaker, Dr. Fred Bush, Professor Emeritus of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, gave a timely presentation on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in Gaza entitled "Palestinians and Israelis Up Against the Wall." In it, he provided a comprehensive overview of the decades-long conflict between the Israelis and Palestinian people who have been forcibly isolated by a 35-foot high wall from the neighboring regions, their farmlands, and their compatriots. The history of failed and broken treaties between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority were laid out with scholarly precision, as Dr. Bush cited documentation from numerous sources and multiple perspectives that illustrated the complexity of the issue. From his presentation, the overwhelming conclusion that the Israelis' refusal to allow food and supplies for daily survival to pass through their barricades into Gaza has had a severe impact on an entire generation of Palestinian children, was unavoidable. Dr. Bush illustrated his talk with helpful maps of the territory. A lively question and answer period followed.

Altogether, the gathering was a welcome opportunity to meet with old UNA friends and make new ones, to listen to an enlightening talk, and to install this year's Board of Directors. Our thanks go out to Joyce McFadden for her hard work in putting together a terrific event.

***Many thanks to the following members for recent donations to our chapter:
Fred Bush, Kitty Bergel, and Aniko Sherry***



Message from Co-Presidents,

Ken & Barb Tye

Well, 2009 is off to a great start for the Orange County chapter. To begin, the annual membership meeting and champagne brunch on January 18 was a huge success, with a wonderful turnout and a terrific speaker (see Gerri McNenny's article on p. 5).

Second, we have four outstanding new interns: Sameera Ali, Briana Carlson, Catherine Ngo, and Michelle Pascucci.

Third, four new Board members—Dorothy Augustine, Asma Men, Anita Penner, and Marianne Smith—met at our house on Feb. 7 for lunch and an orientation to their new roles; Susan Eaton helped us by providing the chapter's institutional memory.

Fourth, our advocacy campaign got under way Feb. 10 with a visit to the local office of 47th District Congressional representative Loretta Sanchez (read more on p. 2). We really hope that you, the members of our chapter, will step up to be part of this campaign of face-to-face visits with our elected representatives.

Fifth, everything is in place for the first speaker in our 2009 critical issues coffee talk series on March 9 (see Gaye Christoffersen's article on p. 1). We hope you will plan to attend the coffee talks this year. Every one of last year's five talks was deeply engaging—immigration, the situation in Afghanistan, the world food crisis, how the U.S. should disengage from Iraq, and population control. Every speaker had firsthand knowledge of their topic and spoke with passion and commitment. The same was true of the speaker at our annual brunch, who addressed the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. In short, we can promise you a continuing series of thought-provoking events, with the opportunity for lively give-and-take with speakers who are on the front lines of their issue. You asked us for more events for the whole membership—see you on March 9!

Finally, we are so happy to welcome into our chapter the UNA members who live in South Orange County. It is our hope that many of our new members—and long-standing members, too, as a matter of fact will give us a little of your time this year by serving on one of our committees. Help is still needed on the following: Communications; Education/MUN; Fundraising; Media Relations; and NGO Networking. Call us at (714) 744-2821 or e-mail us at tye@chapman.edu—we would truly love to hear from you! Ken & Barb Tye

Upcoming Events

 **Women** 
International Women's Day March 8th

March 9th Women's Day Program (2009 Coffee Talk #1) 7:00 pm, Soka U.

April 4th Great American Write-In Advocacy Day 9:30 – 12:30 Lakeview Senior Center, Irvine

May 2nd International Fair, 10:30 – 5:30 Soka University

****Welcome to Caastline Chapter members now merged into OC Chapter****

UNA-USA lapel
pins now available!
Support the UNA-USA/OC
by wearing with pride this
attractive lapel pin
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UNITED NATIONS NEWS



Rice Chosen as U.S. Ambassador to U.N.

Barack Obama's choice as the new U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Susan Rice, (pictured here with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon) was confirmed unanimously by the Senate on January 22nd.

The President also returned the position to cabinet-level status, from which it had been demoted during the Bush administration. In so doing, Obama again made it clear that he intends to support the work of the United Nations—a welcome development.



Good News for the United Nations Population Fund

by Barbara Tye

President Obama also signed an Executive Order on January 23, 2009 unfreezing U.S. funds to the United Nations Population Fund. Although the U.S. actively supported the formation of UNFPA in 1969, it is the only country in the world that has ever refused to fund the agency for purely ideological reasons. From 2002 to 2008, Congress repeatedly voted to appropriate funds for UNFPA, but the Bush administration blocked the release of the funds, totaling \$244 million, because of UNFPA's work in the area of reproductive health.

In an official statement, the President said "By resuming funding for UNFPA, the U.S. will be joining 180 other donor nations working collaboratively to reduce poverty, improve the health of women and children, prevent HIV/AIDS and provide family planning assistance to women in 154 countries."



TAP PROJECT®

Help UNICEF Provide Clean, Safe Drinking Water

- Join the UNAUSA/OC team (training provided) contacting restaurants in the area to take part in the TAP Project during World Water Week March 24 – 28, 2009.
- Participating restaurants will have promotional materials requesting patrons to donate \$1 or more for the tap water they usually get free.
- Restaurants will have their names included in local and national publicity.
- Eat out at one of the participating restaurants that week.
- Contribute directly to UNICEF – <http://www.taproject.org> Why? 4,200 children die every day of water-related diseases!



...AND NEWS FROM UNAUSA by Barb Tye

UNA members will want to be aware that UNA-USA is in discussions with the United Nations Foundation about a possible merger of the two organizations.

For this reason the UNA National Conference, originally scheduled for March, has been postponed until June. It is hoped that by that time the structure of the integrated organization will have been settled and that delegates can return to their Divisions and chapters with a clear understanding of any changes that are planned.

The United Nations Foundation is a public charity created in 1998 with entrepreneur Ted Turner's historic \$1 billion gift to support the work of the U.N. It builds and implements public/private partnerships to address the world's most pressing problems, and works to broaden support for the U.N. through advocacy and public outreach. While it would seem to be a good match as a partner for the UNA, the details are still being hammered out. Stay tuned—we will provide an update in a future newsletter. Information may also be available on the UNA website, at www.una-usa.org

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