

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION *of the United States of America*

Summer/Fall 2011



ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER
of the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVISION

P.O. Box 16067 Irvine, CA 92625-6067 (714) 538-5689
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SECOND ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL TO FEATURE U.S. & GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES



The success of last year's human rights film festival, which focused on children's issues around the world, has prompted members of the Orange County UNA chapter to plan a second festival. This year's theme will be women's issues of concern to men and women of all ages. Church groups, high school groups, and MUN clubs are especially welcome.

An ad hoc selection committee met on July 16 to preview eight films submitted for consideration. Of those, four—from Ethiopia, Ghana, Nepal, and the US—were selected. Festival coordinator Jaclene Roshan is actively seeking additional submissions, and by the time this newsletter goes to press it is expected that a good variety of films will have been scheduled.

The 2011 festival is again being hosted by the Dodge College of Film & Media Arts, at Chapman University. The Folino Theatre, at 283 N. Cypress Street in Orange, is a perfect venue for this event. Our thanks to Dean Bob Bassett and his faculty and staff for their support.

The doors to the Folino Theatre will open at 12:15, and the first screening will begin at 1:00. The event will conclude at approximately 5:30. Free parking is available in the lot behind the film school building and on adjacent streets.

Additional details, including the starting time for each film, will be posted on the chapter website by September 25: go to www.una-oc.org

Other festival highlights

- ❖ The directors will be invited to be present for short Q&A sessions following the screening of their films. This feature was popular last year, and we are hoping that many if not all of the filmmakers will accept.
- ❖ Local merchants are again being asked to donate snack foods and drinks, which will be available in the lobby before the first film and during the intermission. Income from both snack and ticket sales will help the chapter continue its work in 2012.
- ❖ Interns Casey Webb and Stephanie Jansen will visit eateries on the Orange Plaza to arrange meal discounts for festival attendees who choose to have dinner at one of the participating restaurants after the final film screening. A list of participating restaurants and a map of the Plaza showing their locations will be available at the ticket pick-up table in the lobby.
- ❖ A UNA display table will be set up in the lobby, and a Board member will be available to answer questions about the work of the chapter in supporting the United Nations.

Festival tickets: advance purchase recommended

Tickets for the film festival are priced as follows: \$15 for the first adult; \$25 for two; and \$10 for each additional adult. Students and seniors: \$10 each. Send the registration form on page 8, with a check made out to UNA-OC, to: UNA-Orange County, P.O. Box 16067, Irvine, CA 92625.

A PayPal option may be available on our website during September: check it out at www.una-oc.org
All tickets will be held for pickup at the door. Order by Sept. 25 to be sure they are waiting for you!

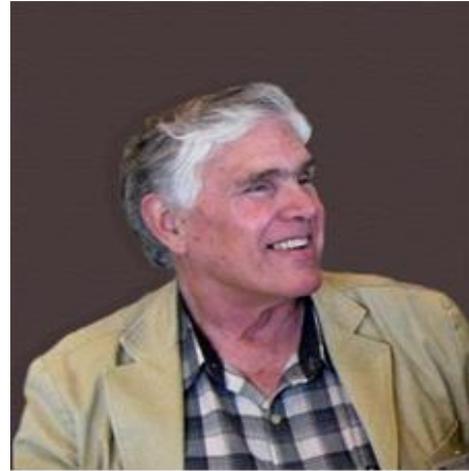
Challenging talk part of summer membership event

Thirty-six members and friends of the OC chapter gathered at the Heritage Park Library in Irvine on June 25 to hear a dynamic presentation by Jim Stanbery, Professor of History and Political Science at Harbor College. Offering a political analysis of American and international laws that support the United Nations, he suggested that the U.S., over the past thirty or so years and for a variety of reasons, is no longer the primary moral authority in the world. Instead, public opinion in other countries tends to see the U.N. as the most respected moral force at the present time and for the foreseeable future.

Stanbery predicted that, in our lifetimes, just as the U.S. Constitution serves to restrain abuses of power on the domestic level, we will also see the U.S. Supreme Court begin to support the notion that certain Constitutional provisions can be applied in the international arena. World realities will bring this to pass, he maintained, whether or not the American public supports it at first.



The future will see incremental departures from current practice and reinterpretations of the language in the United Nations Charter in such a way that the U.N. will slowly but surely become the hub of a world con-



federation of independent member states.

“The process is stronger than any individual nation,” Stanbery said, adding as one example that the International Court of Justice is doing just fine without the participation of the U.S.

Members of the audience were intrigued by his closing observation that, since progress is a spiral rather than a straight line, sometimes it may feel as if we are going backward—but we’re not; we’re just curving around the spiral to further progress.

UNA-OC Board votes to support local teen initiative

Taylor Capretz, a student at Santa Margarita High School, has an unusual goal. Having done some research and learned that the United States—unlike many other countries—does not have a student representative to the third committee of the UN General Assembly, she has made it her mission to change this situation. At the May meeting of the UNA-OC Board, Taylor presented her proposal to have a young person (age 18-24) to be a Youth Delegate in the US mission to the UN. Among other responsibilities, such a delegate would visit colleges and universities to seek input from youth across the country on issues before the United Nations; take opinions back to the US mission at the UN in the form of input papers attached to specific resolutions; and report back to the youth constituency.

Following discussion, the Board voted unanimously to sponsor Ms. Capretz’ proposal. Board members Carl Mariz and Joy Adams took the proposal to the national UNA convention in Washington in June, where it generated a good deal of positive support. We’ll keep our members informed about Taylor’s project in future newsletters.

Heads up: Chapter to launch O.C. Council of Organizations

UNA Board member Joy Adams is taking the lead in organizing a Council of Organizations for Orange County. 90 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participate in the national Council, and local chapters of these groups will be invited to send representatives to the OC Council. “I see real value in groups with similar

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goals having a central structure that allows for easy networking and collaboration,” said UNA-OC chapter president Gerri McNenny after the Board approved Joy’s proposal at its July 16 meeting. “Getting the OC-COO up and running may take the better part of a year, but will be well worth it.” Additional information will be provided in future issues of the chapter newsletter, and on our website.

Message from the President...

Gerri McNenny

When I talk to people about my involvement with the United Nations Association, I often get a blank stare. Why the United Nations? Isn’t that some distant, abstract organization out there? And I must admit that before I got involved, I thought the same thing. But now, to my mind, the United Nations has proven itself to be vitally important to our future on the planet. It is a visionary organization, one that proved itself capable of bringing together the world’s experts and top scientists on climate change to forge a consensus on the actions we need to take as a whole.

Through its many initiatives, it has promoted global understanding that far surpasses any other organization. For me, those efforts have been world-changing. It would not be an overstatement to say that the UN has forever altered the way you and I understand our place in the world.

Starting with the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, taken up again by the World Commission on the Environment and Development in 1983, and going all the way to the Copenhagen Climate Talks of 2009 and the Cancun Climate Summit in 2010, the UN has played a pivotal role in uniting scientists and environmental experts from around the globe in an effort to address anthropogenic climate change. Several key panels have emerged from the UN, including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA). Initiated by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000, the MEA sought “...to assess the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and the scientific basis for action needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of those systems and their contribution to human well-being.” The reports issued proved conclusively that we are living beyond our means, depleting our natural resources faster than they can replenish themselves. Another key panel organized by the UN is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which, together with Al Gore, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

All these and many more UN initiatives testify to the vital role that the UN plays in facilitating a global dialogue on resource use that inevitably affects the quality of life for every living thing on earth. We know from the many studies conducted by these panels that now, at this time, we have truly entered the planetary era—a time when we as a species must come together to understand the role we play in safeguarding the earth’s ecosystems and in accepting our roles as stewards of our planet. And it is the United Nations we can thank for its visionary efforts to create that forum of understanding and consensus. Now, more than ever, the United Nations deserves our support.



New intern for 2011: Stephanie Jansen



Following a spring semester in Barcelona, Spain, UC Irvine international studies major Stephanie Jansen joined the OC chapter as a student intern for summer and fall, 2011.

While in Spain, Stephanie was an active volunteer in an organization called *Proyecto Save the Children*, which helps

children who are at risk of social exclusion, primarily Moroccan immigrants.

She lived with a local family, worked on improving her Spanish, took coursework on the history and politics of the European Union, and traveled to many Western European countries and Morocco.

At UCI, Stephanie currently works two part-time jobs: as an Activities leader in the ESL Office and as a clerical assistant in the Office of Financial Aid.

As part of her UNA internship, Stephanie will be assisting Jaclene Roshan with many aspects of the upcoming human rights film festival, and has offered to help with the planned chapter membership-building campaign as well.

Stephanie’s career goals are either to work within the international law arena for the U.S. government, or to serve in the diplomatic corps.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

An advocacy column by Jaclene Roshan

Did you ever feel that you wanted to let your Congressional representative know your views on an issue, but you let it slide because you weren't sure how to do it? Don't let it happen again! Copy your rep's local address from the list below, and put it on your refrigerator door so it will be handy when you want it. Make your voice heard!

Ed Royce (R) 40th District
1110 E. Chapman #207
Orange, CA 92866
(714) 744-4130

Gary Miller (R) 42nd District
1800 E. Lambert Rd, #150
Brea, CA 92821
(714) 257-1142

Ken Calvert (R) 44th District
26111 Antonio Parkway #300
Las Flores, CA 92688
(949) 888-8498

Dana Rohrabacher (R) 46th District
101 Main St #380
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
(714) 960-6483

Loretta Sanchez (D) 47th District
12397 Lewis St #101
Garden Grove, CA 92840
(714) 621-0102

John Campbell (R) 48th District
610 Newport Center Dr #330
Newport Beach, CA 92660
(949) 756-2244

The UNA-USA advocacy agenda for 2011 includes the following issues about which you might wish to express your views:

- ✓ Continued support for the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals;
- ✓ Support for U.S. engagement at the Human Rights Council;
- ✓ Continued support for full funding of the U.S. contribution to the U.N. budget; and
- ✓ Encourage U.S. Senate ratification of key international treaties:
 - The Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
 - The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

National poll shows continuing bipartisan support for the UN

National research conducted from April 27 to May 2 by Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research shows that 85% of American voters believe that the United Nations is an important organization in which the United States should continue to play an active role.

"The United Nations today is on the front lines of some of the most critical places in the world. From reconstruction in Haiti to protecting civilians in Libya, from environmental security in Japan to peace in Sudan, Americans understand that working together with our partners to solve global problems is more effective than going it alone," said Timothy E. Wirth, President of the United Nations Foundation.

"Anyone who wants to perpetuate myths about negative American perceptions about the UN is ignoring the data," said Peter Yeo, Vice President of the UN Foundation. "American voters want the U.S. to take a lead role in addressing the world's toughest challenges, and they know that leadership starts with a purposeful, strong presence at the UN."

Read the executive summary and view the polling data at: <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/may2011poll>

UNA/UNF MERGER: IT'S A WIN-WIN CHANGE

by Joy Adams



The United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) 2011 Annual Meeting was held June 12-14 in Washington, D.C. This was the first meeting for UNA as part of the UN Foundation and included an official Chapter Charter Signing Ceremony. About 125 attended; 62 chapters from across the nation sent representatives. The OC chapter was represented by Board members Joy Adams and Carl Mariz.

The gathering was honored with a prestigious group of keynote speakers including: UN Ambassador Susan Rice; Timothy Wirth, President of UN Foundation and Better World Fund; Kathy Bushkin Calvin, Chief Executive Officer of the UN Foundation; and Patrick Madden, UNA-USA Executive Director. All expressed appreciation for the UNA and its value to the United Nations. It was also noted that Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon was aware of and inquired about UNA-USA.

Presentations were made on two major UNF campaigns, NOTHING BUT NETS and GIRL UP. UNF campaigns are very focused on specific major needs and the creation of partnerships for a common cause. Young Professionals (21-40), Model UN, Global Classroom and Internships were discussed as important programs to engage and mentor our future leaders. Concurrent sessions for policy, programs, skill building and training provided attendees opportunities to learn tools and methods and exchange experiences.

Day four of the meeting was a day on the Hill. Appointments had been set for each attendee to meet with his/her US Representative and US Senator or their foreign affairs staff to present the four advocacy concerns (see the list in the advocacy column, on p. 4 of this newsletter)

The new UNA-USA and UNF strategic alliance created the single largest advocates and supporters of the United Nations in the world. UNA-USA's grassroots membership includes over 125 chapters and more than twelve thousand members nationwide. For decades the UNA has played an important role to promote UN-US relations through public education and advocacy. The partnership with UNF will provide tools and resources to build on our past successes.

Some UNA members had expressed concern about the new organization. However, this can be a change that is good for UNA-USA, good for the UN Foundation, good for the UN and ultimately good for the people of the world. For more information, please see www.unausa.org

LETTER FROM HAIFA

by Nicole Tellier*



Initially I was nervous about traveling to a new country where I didn't know anyone personally and where I couldn't speak either of the two official languages. I left my family, friends, and a good summer job in Los Angeles to serve as a volunteer for the Galilee Society, an NGO that supports the environmental and health rights of Palestinians in Israel.

But not a fiber of my being regrets my choice to travel here. I am writing to offer my observations as a female, American English-speaker who entered a predominantly Jewish society, but is living and volunteering among its Arab minority.

One Wednesday after work, I took a 2 ½ hour bus ride to Jerusalem, in preparation for a tour of the South Hebron hills which my boss had arranged for me on the following day. The tour was organized by "Breaking the Silence," a non-profit organization founded in 2004 by veteran IDF (Israeli Defense Force) combatants who have served in the Israeli military since the start of the Second Intifada, but who have witnessed or participated in military actions that radically

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changed them and their outlook on the occupation. Upon returning to civilian life, many discovered a disconnect between the reality they encountered in the Occupied Territories, and the silence surrounding this reality at home.

Our guide was raised in an Orthodox religious and nationalist family, and from 2004-2007 he served in the Southern Hebron hills as a paratrooper for Israel's special operations force. Today he resides in Tel-Aviv, and conducts tours of Hebron and the Southern Hebron hills in order to show both Israeli society and the international community exactly what IDF forces are doing in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Our guide said that it is not easy for Israeli society to hear the testimony of soldiers like himself, largely because many either don't know what is happening, or refuse to believe it. IDF soldiers have testified to abusing, looting and destroying the property of Palestinians in the West Bank, saying that they were just following orders and obeying social norms. Many think that the work such former soldiers do in exposing these practices is dangerous but important, as the occupation has made the lives of Palestinians in the South Hebron hills unbearable. They are threatened with the demolition of their homes, expelled from their land, denied basic freedom of movement, and constantly harassed by settlers.

Hebron is the largest city in the West Bank, most notable for containing the traditional burial site of biblical patriarchs and matriarchs. It is the second-holiest city in Judaism after Jerusalem, and is also one of the four holy cities of Islam. Although Hebron is located within accepted Palestinian territory, the southern West Bank is entirely occupied by IDF forces. Therefore, the movement of Palestinians is heavily restricted, and as a result many of their shops have gone out of business. Palestinians are not allowed to use the principal street of the city, and must obtain permits to approach land near Israeli settlements.

An Israeli settlement is a Jewish civilian community built on occupied territory. The international community sees all settlements as illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention which states, "*The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its civilian population into the territory it occupies.*" The International Court of Justice (ICJ) also maintains that Israel is violating basic human rights by impeding Palestinian liberty of movement and the inhabitants' right to health, education and an adequate standard of living.

** Nicole Tellier is a former UNA-OC intern who graduated from Chapman University in May. The above is an edited excerpt from a longer letter, which can be seen in its entirety on the UNA-OC website: www.una-oc.org Look for the link: Tellier letter.*

NEWS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS...



VOTE ON PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD NEARS

The UN General Assembly will vote in September on a proposal to recognize the State of Palestine and admit it to membership in the United Nations. The Palestinian Authority already has embassies and missions in over 100 countries, and the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the European Union have indicated that Palestinian institutions have been developed to the point where statehood is feasible. Although both the Bush and Obama administrations have acknowledged in the past that such a two-state solution is a desirable goal, the Obama administration does not plan to support the resolution. ***Watch for this unfolding story in the news next month.***

Stay connected and informed--check UNA-USA's online publications:

- The World Bulletin <www.unausa.org/newsletter>
- The InterDependent <www.theinterdependent.co>



Charles P. Greening (1921-2011)

Members were saddened to learn of the passing of long-time member and former chapter president Charles Greening in Fullerton on June 18. A 1943 engineering and physics graduate of Carnegie Tech, Dr. Greening was involved

with the Manhattan Project during WW II, but changed direction after the war, completing a PhD in Psychology at UC Berkeley. In addition to his work with the UNA, Charles was also a committed environmentalist, community activist, and educator. He will be sincerely missed.

PLANNING AHEAD – PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

✓ 5-K walk on the beach to end hunger and child obesity: September 25

UNA-USA Orange County Chapter is joining with a new OC nonprofit organization, FANA, to co-sponsor a beach walk demonstrating support for action to end world hunger and (it may seem counter-intuitive, but there *is* a connection) childhood obesity. Join the parents and students of Oak View Elementary School, UNA members, and other supporters at 8:00 a.m. on the beach across from the Hyatt Regency in Huntington Beach. Get some good exercise, enjoy the company of others, and support this worthy cause. \$25 advance registration.

For more information, log on to www.fanaglobal.org/App_Files/Projects/5kregflyer_English.pdf

✓ UN Day event in Mission Viejo: October 23

Supporting the UN mandate for a culture of peace and nonviolence among the children of the world, a festival for children and their families will feature Art Miles murals and Shoes of Hope painting projects. Located on the Village Green in Mission Viejo, the event will also include a visit by Ally Woodward, the girl who started Shoes of Hope, a project that has provided over 37,000 pairs of shoes to children in developing countries around the world. Check our website in early October for details of this fun event: www.una-oc.org

Are you on our list--?

If you do not currently receive our Constant Contact e-mail reminders of upcoming UNA events, send an e-mail to tye@chapman.edu, and you will be added to the list. We promise not to bombard you with UNA messages, but members are finding that these occasional notes in the in-box can be useful.

Board meetings are always open

Members & supporters are always welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the UNA-OC Board of Directors. They are held from 9:30-11:30 on the 3rd Saturday of each month on the Sisters of St. Joseph community campus, 480 S. Batavia, In Orange. For more information, leave a phone message at (714) 538-5689 and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Please join or renew today, by mailing a check to UNA-OC, P.O. Box 16067, Irvine, CA 92623-6067,

or go online to: www.unausa.org/membership

Be sure to specify that you are joining the Orange County, CA chapter.

Annual dues are \$25 Introductory, \$50 regular individual/family, \$10 Student, and \$100 Sponsor.

Reserve tickets for the second annual UNA-OC film festival now!

Send this registration form, with a check made out to UNA-OC, to:
UNA-Orange County, P.O. Box 16067, Irvine, CA 92625

or...

(A PayPal option may be available on our website during September: check it out at www.una-oc.org)

Your name: _____

Address: _____

_____ (zip) _____

Phone: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Please hold the following tickets for me at the door:

_____ one adult at \$15 or two for \$25

_____ additional adults \$10 each

_____ students or seniors \$10 each

A check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Note: All tickets will be held for pick-up at the door.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION-USA
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Change Order Requested

Reserve your seats now for the
2nd annual UNA-OC
human rights film festival:
October 9, 1:00-5:30 pm