



Southern California Division

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Newsletter

October 2007

President's Report

In my role as President of the Division, these past four years, I have been honored by the opportunity to work with all of you in our mission to keep lit, the age-old torch that lights the path to peace, achieved through justice not war. For taking small steps in that direction, I thank you, the honorable members of the UNA-USA, Southern California Division.

In a region that increasingly resembles the cultural diversity of the globe, we have had the opportunity to learn, discuss, and lead on issues of local to global importance. Your willingness and support to make a difference through education, has been the greatest reward I have received as President of the Division for which I am very grateful. In particular, my sincere thanks to the indefatigable energy you have shown as Division Officers, Committee Chairs, our National representatives and Chapter leaders.

Our accomplishments during my Presidency, have included the forming of Division-wide Standing Committees on advocacy issues, communications, programs, resource development, and increased membership.

Respect for Human Rights, Environmental Sustainability and promoting the use of Renewable Energy are issues I will continue to support in line with the Mission and the Vision of the UNA-USA.

Thank you for your support of the past four years and your continuous commitment to world peace.

Most Respectfully,
Ardishir Rashidi-Kalhur.

2007 UNA-USA Southern California Division
Annual Meeting Saturday, November 10, 2007

CRISIS IN IRAQ: Understanding the role of the United Nations in International Conflict

CHAPTER AND LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Annual Meeting Tribute Book!

The Southern California Division UNA-USA Members and Friends of the Southern California Division are invited to add a tribute, memorial, advertisement or event notice to the **2007 Annual Meeting Tribute Book**.

To honor each tribute recipient will be held during the Annual meeting. A full page is \$100, and one-half page is \$50. We recommend each UNA chapter support of this fund-raising effort. Please send information to:

Diane Gonzales
32981 Buccaneer St.
Dana Point, CA 92629
Cell: (969) 290-1738,
Email: dianescduna@yahoo.com

Please send check or money order for the tribute book along with \$40.00 cost of admission to the meeting to:

Jim Stanbery,
SCD-UNA Treasurer,
P.O. Box 172,
San Pedro, CA 90733

San Diego Chapter

In 2007 UNA-San Diego established internal procedures to better meet the planning needs required for our programs. In April, we launched a brand new, website, newsletter, and marketing brochure, including a UN Millennium Project poster series exhibited at UN Headquarters in NY. President Katharine Kubichan was invited to the WFUNA luncheon in May to welcome the new Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. In June, she helped lead an Art Miles team that planned an exhibition of over 1,000 shoes, donated to Art Miles Shoes of hope by New York Knicks Star Point Guard, Stephon Marbury, at the UN headquarters' plaza in Observance of World Environment Day.

The event was a tremendous success and gave Kubichan the opportunity to also meet with UNA-USA in NY.

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NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT SLATE OF OFFICERS TO SERVE 2008-2009

- 1) **President: Carl Mariz**
- 2) **Secretary: TB Announced**
- 3) **VP Communications: TB Announced**

Ex-Officio: Ardishir Rashidi-Kalhur

- To Continue Serving Through 2008**
- 4) **Diane Gonzales: VP Program**
- 5) **Richard Harris: VP Membership**
- 6) **Rome Friesen: VP Resource Development**
- 7) **Jim Stanbery: Treasurer**

San Diego Report Continued...

San Diego's YPIC, Speakers Bureau, and Legislative committees set aggressive agendas to appeal to a broader young professional audience. This new approach has successfully increased interest and attendance. We carefully assessed how we manage events and how we could increase resources and funds to support our educational programs. We hosted or participated in over 30 events including: International Women's Day, International Career Day, UN Charter Day, Water For Life, Earth Day, and World Peace Day. We also streamlined better collaboration with our UNA Gift Shop. MUN, our Global Classroom, and our \$10,000 Scholarship program remain strong.

For Advance Meeting Reservation

Contact Diane Gonzales At:
dianescduna@yahoo.com

Santa Barbara Chapter

The Santa Barbara Chapter of UNA-USA UN Day will be titled Creating a Safer World: Empowering Communities to Address Youth Violence on a Local and Global Scale. Our Keynote speaker will be Kimmie Weeks, once a ten year-old survivor of the Liberian civil war and now an acclaimed international youth activist. Kimmie is the founder and director of Youth Action International, a nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding communities in African Countries. In addition, a panel of international and local experts will address the issues. After the event, breakout sessions will be featured for high school students to interact with each speaker, lunch included. There will be one breakout session with a local expert for Parents and Adults. The UN Day will be held on November 10, 2007 at the Garvin Theatre and admission is free. Other events throughout the year have included our Annual Meeting in January 2007 featuring "everyday ghandis" and our Spring Brown Bag Lunch with Carolyn Anderson from Global Family.

SCD UNA-USA Annual Meeting CRISIS IN IRAQ: Understanding the role of the U.N. in International Conflict

Pasadena Chapter By: Sherry Simpson Dean

2007 has been an extraordinary year for the Pasadena Chapter. Presidents Judith Harris and Esther Gillies kicked off the year with a special orientation for Board Members that set the stage for a very productive year. Environmental Sustainability, Millennium Development Goal #7 has been at the heart of our Chapter's work all year. Given that our city's new **Green City Action Plan** is based on the UN Urban Environmental Accords, our chapter got behind our Mayor and his new Environmental Action Committee to involve our city in the campaign to become sustainable by 2012. Our efforts included a **"Gong Green "celebration honoring Mayor Bill Bogaard** and the Action Plan, that was held in June. Our **UNA Earth Day booth** in the Center of town engaged over 200 individuals and children. The children made fruit and flower creations while parents learned more about the MDGS and sustainability. Board Member Carol Chenoweth is a regular participant in the Environmental Commission meetings. She along with Executive Director Sherry Simpson Dean presented the Green City Action Plan at the UNA Biennial Convention in NY. Our "Green Initiative" will culminate this year with UN DAY, "One World, One Environment" on October 27, 2007. UN Foundation Senior Adviser, Gillian Sorensen joins us to address the reality of the global water shortage. Our Coffee Talks speaker's series continues monthly with varied global and local speakers including the Hunger Project's Joanna Ryder, and the new philanthropic web team, IT Magazine. Our Advocacy Committee has strengthened our relationship with our local Congressman, Adam Schiff, as well as developed a new internet component at our website unapasadena.org. The feature allows website visitors to instantly weigh in on issues and to generate letters to elected officials on issues of global concern. Ecommunication has helped our "Pasadena Renaissance" to take shape, as our new Enewsletter currently reaches nearly 2000 interested members and friends of the UNA monthly! Please stay tuned for information on our latest project, Adopt a School, that matches schools in need globally, with partner-schools in our area

Pomona Valley UNA— Mel Boynton, Pres.

Upcoming highlights from the Pomona Valley Chapter. Programs sponsored by the Pomona Valley Chapter are held the third Tuesday of each month, 5:30 PM at Porter Hall at Pilgrim Place in Claremont. All meetings are open to the public and refreshments are served. October 16th, Dr. Sally Seven, Board member Los Angeles County League of Women others, will speak on "Population Impacts on a Sustainable Future" Thursday, October 25th, at 11:45 AM, "United Nations Day" at International Place, 390 East 9th Street, Claremont. Lunch (\$6 at the door) at 11:45 and the program begins at 12:15. This year's UN Day national focus is on Millennium Development Goal #6 "Combating HIV/Aids, Malaria and Other Diseases" For information, call 621-8344.

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San Fernando Valley Chapter

Our chapter held a joint fundraising Gala with Rotary International to send a modern 21st Century state-of-the art dental lab to Kabul, Afghanistan—the first time the people in this region have ever had modern dental care. In cooperation with UNA-USA National, we have arranged for the UNA-USA Seals/LOGO to be jointly placed on the cargo container with Rotary. We joined with Rotary to jointly honor Rick Kouchi, one of the 2 lifesavers who pulled chapter board member Betty Jo Moor out of her car before it exploded after the accelerator pedal was stuck on the freeway and her car hit a post. We have been advocating to our elected officials to continue funding in the Farm Bill for school lunch programs for children in impoverished countries. We participated with Pacific/LA in the World Prayer Day ceremony that included a candlelight vigil and Yom Kippur remembrance at Poinsettia Park. The chapters' general meeting was a lecture at Pierce College on Debunking Myths of the Constitution & UN Charter.

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New Project for Coastal Alliance

The Coastal Alliance chapters; Harbor; Long Beach and Coastline, have put together a proposal to start a policy institute devoted to writing and promoting legislation to combat global warming and promote other environmentally beneficial projects. The policy institute is envisioned to function chiefly in the United States and devote itself to US national, state and local projects but, if we are successful in getting the institute started, we expect the institute would also cooperate in promoting international projects. Our Executive Director Diane Gonzales is speaking Wednesday, Sep 19, with Professor Barbara Doshier, Dean of the University of California at Irvine (UCI) School of Social Science to see if UCI is interested in providing backing for such an institution. The Coastal Alliance will solicit the funding for operating the Institute but will draw on the UCI faculty, especially those of the School of Social Science, to provide the background information for supporting the legislative proposals. The Institute will also draw from the ranks of scientists and legislators and legislative staff in formulating the legislative proposals. Such an institute is directly associated with the UN Millennium goal of Sustainable Development. If we are successful in starting the Institute at UCI, it will be named for UCI Nobel Laureate Dr. Sher-wood Rowland.

Carl Mariz, Pres., Coastline Ch. UNA-USA Coastal Alliance (Harbor, Coastline and Long Beach Chapters) News: We are in the planning stages of a Human Rights Day event, featuring former UN Ambassador Bill Richardson at the Museum of Latin America Art in Long Beach. Tentative date is December 2. We've also been exploring a policy institute with the University of California at Irvine to create legislation on climate change and global warming. We are continuing to search for a site in Long Beach for a series of programs on current affairs. Two shipments of children's books have been made to our adopted school in Baja, Mexico, and the first stage of the Garden Classroom project has been completed. Volunteers are working on the translation of a cross-curriculum handbook to use the experiences children receive in the garden to apply to lessons in reading, writing, and math, and science. Now that school is underway, we will be searching for a partner school in San Pedro or Long Beach to create a cultural exchange program.

The Nativity Show at the Global Gift Shop in San Pedro (Harbor Chapter) on November 3, 10:00a.m. It's a major show with collectors coming from all over the country. Address: 529 West 7th St. San Pedro, CA 90731 (310) 548-1762.

Pomona Valley UNA- Continued from page 2

November 20th, Claremont McKenna Prof. Edward Haley will present "How to End the Iraq War" December 18th, Pitzer Prof. Lako Tongun presenting, "An Update on Darfur and Sudan." January 15th, 2008, Rizek Abusharr will speak on "The Palestine and Israel Issue from inside Jerusalem." Sunday, January 28th, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Potluck Annual Meeting of Pomona Valley Chapter of the UNA-USA in Decker Hall, Pilgrim Place. Our H.S. Essay Contest winners will be presented with cash awards and our featured speaker will be Cyndi Torres "Program Highlights at Pomona Valley Habitat for Humanity". February 19th, Imam Ali Siddiqui will present "What America Needs to Know About Islam." March 18th, Charlene Martin will present "My Years at International Place".

SCD-UNA Annual Meeting, Nov. 10, 2007, Mission Valley Resort Hotel, San Diego, CA

San Fernando Chapter and YPIC- Report .. Cont..

In Oct. we joined hundreds of NGOs as part of the Aga Khan Foundation's 2007 Partnership Walk at the LA Memorial Coliseum to raise funds to alleviate work poverty and educating on intl. development.

YPIC groups across the division are engaged in several activities and projects. In Association with Student Alliance & CSUN, SFV Chap. YPIC invited former UN Assistant Secretary General Robert Mueller to speak at Cal State Northridge on A Life of Humanitarian Service. Mueller played Ode To Joy on his harmonica to a standing ovation. Mueller praised YPIC and Student Alliance members as the future leaders in the US and the World. Pacific/LA Chap. YPIC participated with Pacific/LA in the World Prayer Day ceremony and candlelight vigil at Poinsettia Park in Los Angeles. YPIC chairs across the division have representatives serving on the YPIC National Leadership Council and are actively engaging young professionals in the mission of the UNA-USA. YPIC activities also include participation in the 2007 Partnership Walk, an international festival of food, music and education on international development issues and charity walk to benefit several development programs around the world.

Global Health Committee By: Margaret L. Soderberg, M.D.

This year the theme for United Nations Day 2007 is "Global Health: A Critical Component to Development". Millennium Development Goal 6 seeks to halt and reverse the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases such as TB and polio. In the 2007 UN Report on the 8 MDG's, progress had been made in almost all areas but AIDS. The deaths from AIDS have increased, leaving over 15 million children without one or both parents (2005 data). The Oslo ministerial Declaration (The Lancet, March 20, 2007) declared Global Health to be a pressing foreign policy issue of our time. MDG 6 is vital to development "as the health of a nation's citizens affects its social, economic, and political interests." In 2007 we are at the half-way point of the 2015 target with much work left to be done. In the past our Southern California UNA has held a successful Global Health Conference with the sponsorship of Kaiser Permanente to bring awareness on the above topics and other emerging global health issues. This year the Global Health Committee has started planning for the next Conference to be held in May of 2008. In addition to infectious diseases, topics such as air pollution induced asthma, children and women's health issues will be addressed at this conference. A tentative title of the conference is "The Global Burden of Disease—Not Just In Undeveloped Countries." The committee is meeting monthly, and we encourage those of you interested to be a part of the organizing team to contact the Committee Chair:

**Margaret L. Soderberg, M.D. at mlsoderberg@aol.com
Global Health Committee Chair, Southern California Division, UNA-USA**

**To join the Committee, please contact
Committee Chair, Dr. Soderberg**



United Nations Association-USA

Southern California Division

620 Plymouth Rd. #1

Claremont, CA 91711

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Mission Valley Resort Hotel, San Diego , Registration and coffee: 9:30am ,Business meeting: 10-12:00 noon
Luncheon Program 12:00-1:15pm
IRAQ Crisis Simulation: 1:30-3:30pm
For reservation, please mail check for \$40 to:
Jim Stanbery, PO box 172, San Pedro, CA 90733
Morning program celebrates Chapter Tributes and Election of officers.

**For more information Contact:
Diane Gonzales @ 949 290-1738 or**

**Direction:
From Los Angeles: Take Interstate 5 South toward San Diego, then Interstate-8 Eastbound: Exit Hotel Circle off-ramp - the Mission Valley Resort is directly in front of you.**

Membership Application/Renewal

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Annual Membership (Please Select One)
Introductory Individual ___\$25 Student ___\$10 Patron ___\$500
Individual Renewal ___\$35 Organization ___\$40 Lifetime ___\$1,000
Family ___\$40 Sponsor ___\$100

**Yes! I want to make a donation of \$_____ to help the work of UNA-USA.
All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to:→**

**UNA-USA
801 Second Avenue, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10017**

UNA-SCD Education Committee Report : Dr. Mary M. McKenzie, Chair

The UNA-SCD Education Committee seeks continually to improve the reach and impact of our many education programs. First and foremost, UNA-SCD seeks to increase local school involvement in Model UN. With the MUN Committee, we strive to broaden the MUN opportunities throughout Southern California. MUN teaches students about the UN and international affairs, but it also improves such vital skills as researching and writing, public speaking, and conflict resolution. If you are interested in learning more about MUN opportunities, please contact Stevan Lunich at slunich@sbcglobal.net. We are also committed to increasing participation in the UNA-USA High School Essay Contest. Each year, UNA USA offers three monetary awards and one opportunity to visit the United Nations in New York. The contest is open to all high school students. Participating chapters have recommended giving the chapter's winner a chapter award as well, to increase participation in the contest. This year's topic is Millennium Development Goal Number Six, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The national due date for the essay is early January 2008. Details are available on the UNA-USA website. This year, all submissions will be sent directly to UNA-USA and then distributed to participating chapters. If you have not already notified UNA-USA of your chapter's contact for the Essay Contest, please contact Liuba Grechen at lgrechen@unausa.org. Otherwise, the essays will be judged at the national level. You are invited to the 4th Annual Southern California MUN Training Day, scheduled for October 13, at the University of San Diego School of Law. MUN Training Day provides workshops for MUNers on all levels. We invite participation from throughout the Division. Please invite your chapter MUNs to attend. Contact Dr. Mary McKenzie for more information. We are seeking to put together two databases for our education outreach: 1) MUN programs in your area. Any contact information for schools and/or advisors will be used to promote our Division-wide activities; and 2) a list of chapters participating in the UNA-USA National High School Essay Contest. Please send to Mary at mun@unasd.org. The Committee includes Mary McKenzie, Stevan Lunich, Ardi Rashidi, Diane Gonzales, Jim Stanbery, Mel Boynton, and Brice Harris. New members are always welcome!