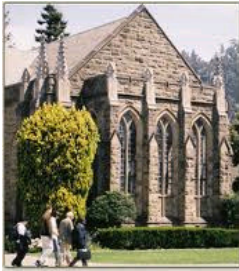


Annual Meeting:
Pacific School of Religion, January 23rd.



UNA-USA EAST BAY

Volume 10, Number 4

January 2011, UNA-USA East Bay

President's Column **BY HERB BEHRSTOCK**

Multilateralism and the UN: **More Challenges Ahead?**

Hypothesis #1: *Multilateralism isn't perfect. But it's a lot better than unilateralism which fails more frequently, and places the burden of responsibility (and sometimes the heaviest cost) on one nation.*

Hypothesis #2: *Despite frequent criticism, the United Nations is at least as effective and successful as the major institutions of US governance.*

Assertion: The strategic alliance agreed in 2010 and now becoming operational between the UNA-USA and the UN Foundation and its Better World Campaign establishes the largest national network and strongest basis to promote multilateralism and support for an even more effective United Nations.

Americans' Attitudes of the UN

Recent surveys reveal that Americans believe that the UN's role and functions are important (or very important) to resolve a dozen major global problems – ranging from 90-95% for challenges like resolving deadly conflicts, ensuring access to water and sanitation, improving the educational levels and human rights of girls. Strong support for the UN's important role (about 2/3 to 3/4) is also registered for combating climate change, lowering global poverty and hunger, strengthening the framework of international law.

Moreover, polls conclude that international cooperation and the United Nations should be supported as a priority of US foreign policy. Majorities surveyed conclude that the US needs partners to resolve complex problems, that American interests can best be met by partnering with other countries, and that the US can't afford to 'go it alone.' Nonetheless, many influential voices deride the UN, chiding it for failures and shortcomings.

Continued on page 3

UN Association and **UN Foundation Partnership**

At the United Nations Association's Global Leadership Dinner held in New York on November 18, the UN Association and the United Nations Foundation officially announced their strategic alliance. This decision, following more than a year of negotiations, forms the nation's largest organization to support the vital work of the United Nations.

Attendees at this annual dinner (a 52-year UNA traditional gathering) filled the ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel for the celebrations and to honor special guests including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and John Kerry, Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.

Continued on page 2

PROFESSOR DITTMER TO SPEAK **ON CHINA AT ANNUAL MEETING**



The keynote address at this year's annual meeting at the Pacific School of Religion on January 23rd will be presented by UCB Professor of Political Science Lowell Dittmer. He will draw upon his recent publication **China, the Developing World, and the New Global Dynamic**, (the same title of his UNA talk) addressing China's ascendancy as a major player in international affairs, and the complexities of its relationships with UN member countries. Professor Dittmer is associated with the University's Institute of East Asian Studies and serves as Editor of the *Asian Survey*. Schedule on page 8.

UN Association and UN Foundation Partnership, continued from page 1

Both leaders praised the ongoing activities of UNA and UNF as well as their new alliance.

Kerry said he was “proud to



Senator John Kerry

Senator asserted the importance of a more knowledgeable and active constituent base in the US to help overcome the politics of Congress which he said have been impeding international cooperation.

As examples of his concerns, Kerry cited with noticeable conviction the need to reduce the deployment and spread of weapons of mass destruction, combat terrorism, halt the criti-

cal risks of climate change, alleviate hunger, illness and poverty. He emphasized that the United States cannot shoulder such global challenges without cooperation, international agreements, joint financing, and a more effective United Nations.



Secretary General-Ban-Ki Moon

Ban, in congratulating the new UNA-UNF alliance, elaborated about how crucial United States’ support is in influencing the effectiveness of the UN and international cooperation.

The New UNA

The partnership of UNA with the UNF and its sister The Better World Campaign is the culmination of more than a year of extensive consultations. The process to formulate it, the complementarity of the organizations, and follow-up implications were reported as the lead story in this newsletter’s most recent edition (see www.UNAUSAUSA.org, and also www.UNA.org, and www.UNFoundation.org for more information).

As of January 2011, legal arrangements to establish the ‘new UNA-USA’ as an integral partner with the UNF and its sister, the Better World Campaign are nearing completion. Meanwhile, operational collaboration is already advancing. UNA-USA has merged its headquarters personnel, computer and other systems with UNF’s. Collaboration has begun on activities such as advocacy, public information and media relations. Much more is expected to occur in stages during 2011.

Following our own local deliberations, the East Bay chapter is ready to formally affiliate with the alliance along with other UNA chapters, while retaining the freedom and flexibility to offer our own activities and serve local members in the East Bay community.

Special Request!

UNA East Bay Chapter seeks member assistance.

Help us find 800 sq.ft. space near downtown Berkeley for UNICEF/Fair Trade gift shop and gathering place for members and interns.

Call or e-mail Suzanne Llewellyn at 925-935-6621 or llewzanne@gmail.com

International Criminal Court Dinner-Forum

The December 2010 Dinner-Forum featured Dr. Rita Maran, Vice-President of UNA-USA East Bay, speaking on the “International Criminal Court and New Moves by the Obama Administration”. It was a well attended event. See page 8 for forthcoming dinner-forums.

Multilateralism and the UN, continued from page 1

Interestingly, widely-reported surveys measuring public confidence about United States institutions of governance, results are depressingly low - for the US Senate and House, most state and city governments, and public services such as for education. That negative impression encompasses perceptions about achievement, procedures, and efficient use of tax dollars.

Skepticism flourishes about all forms of governance and most all kinds of organizations. Without doubt, neither US governance and services nor the UN system and its mandates certainly are perfect. Both require reform and improvement, and the means to fulfill their respective priorities and mandates uniquely suited to their guiding parameters.

Four Challenges

Focusing on the UN and US-UN relations, especially following November elections, strongly suggests that prospects for multilateralism and the UN's role are being badly stymied.

Four examples for which prospects seem dimmer:

- controlling climate change (ref: the UN-facilitated follow up to improve on the Kyoto protocols);
- contributing robust funding that's required to slash poverty and the preventable deaths that result from hunger and diseases (ref: the unanimously-approved UN Millennium Development Goals);
- despite Senate ratification in December of the New START treaty to reduce some nuclear arms, reducing investment in upgrading nuclear weapons in the US and among other nuclear powers, and preventing proliferation elsewhere, e.g. North Korea and Iran;
- ratifying international agreements about children's and women's rights that would bring the US in accord with 185+ other countries (ref: two of several UN Conventions protecting human rights).

This is a distressing conclusion when contemplating prospects how to make the world more peaceful and secure, more just, and more hopeful for us and our grandchildren's generation.

UNA-USA Advocacy – clear and stronger

Public support and civil society advocacy have played an influential role since the mid-1940's when Eleanor Roosevelt provided extraordinary vision and persuasiveness to create the grassroots movement that influenced the American people and the US Government to support the establishment of the UN and then in 1948 the leadership that created the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The popular movement and organization that affected the debate was the antecedent of what became the United Nations Association-USA.

2010 was highlighted by UNA-USA's new strategic alliance with the UN Foundation and its Better World Campaign. This strengthens UNA-USA and the underpinnings of grassroots support for multilateralism and the UN – potentially like never before.

Fast-forward, leadership of the new UNA-UNF partnership, meeting in New York, agreed that advocacy activities must receive renewed efforts to deal with potentially even stronger challenges. Four themes have been given priority for our advocacy agenda in 2011 – US support for the UN including payment of US's share of dues, continued support for the MDGs, international agreements (including about nuclear arms, CEDAW, and climate change), and human rights. The new Congress needs to hear from "We the People."

We hope you'll join us in the new, improved UNA by participating in advocacy/informational events, petitioning and visiting local and even Washington offices of our elected officials, and in sharing the message of multilateralism to the generation that will take over the reins of American and international leadership.

CANDIDATES, UNA-USA-EB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee and Board of Directors propose the candidacy of ten individuals for the 2011 elections. In accordance with Chapter Bylaws, the current board has endorsed these candidates and submitted them for election at the Annual Meeting. The Board consists of 24 persons, with terms staggered so that one-third of the Directors' service ends in successive years. Eight candidates are nominated for three-year terms ending in 2014; and two others for terms of one-year duration to fill vacancies through the end of 2012. Of the eight with terms ending in 2014, we nominate three candidates for re-election to assure continuity in the guidance and administration of the Chapter. We propose five new candidates for 3-year terms ending in 2014. Since the Chapter's student representative will graduate, we nominate a student to fill a term to expire in 2012, and a second 1-year term will be filled by an existing board member, with both 1-year terms to be renewable.

ISMAHAN EL-FRIH: Extensive volunteering and fund raising experience both in this country and abroad with a number of NGOs, including the International Rescue Committee and UNA Center in Berkeley. Ismahan is multi-lingual and currently studies law and plans to build support for the UN's MDGs, and on programs in support of women and of peacekeeping.



LILIANE KOZIOL: For 20 years, and currently, Director of Programs at International House, UC Berkeley. She has held such local, national and international key senior leadership positions as Deputy Honorary Consul of Madagascar, as Rotarian, and in Fulbright Enrichment Program; faculty member and Chair of Modern Languages, the University of Madagascar. A close collaborator with the UNA chapter including UN Day, she looks forward to further collaboration and other outreach activities.



JOANNE KIM: A recent graduate of UC Berkeley in Political Science and Japanese Studies. She provides administrative leadership for her church's youth programs, and has led development projects in Nicaragua. She volunteers at UNA Center and assists with our monthly dinner programs. She wants to increase support for the principles and work of the United Nations.

BARRY SCHUTZ: Currently Visiting Scholar, Center for African Studies, Stanford University, and on faculty at Stanford Continuing Studies Program. Broad experience in the U.S. and overseas as research scholar, academic teacher and program manager, government policy and research officer, senior intelligence analyst, and government-linked academic. Has been an active member of chapter's Advisory Council; interested to extend his support of UNA's educational programming.

CAROLE PIÑA: Has lived and worked abroad for more than half her life. Formerly a long-serving official with the United Nations, with the Food and Agricultural Organization, in developing countries followed by posts in Rome, Italy. Served for 20+ yrs with the International Labor Office, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and subsequently, various NGO leadership and consulting work in Geneva. Goals for work with UNA include programs to promote better understanding about the UN system, and helping develop an effective relationship and involvement in UNA-USA's alliance with the UN Foundation and Better World Foundation.

MARY STEINER. Mary has worked on many international exchanges, and attended a number of global conferences. She has chaired associations and arranged student internships. Involved for more than a year as an organizer of chapter's Dinner Forum, she would continue to implement programs and enhance outreach activities in the community.



JORDAN CHAN: A UC Berkeley freshman, an honor student who participated actively on a debate team, Jordan is nominated for a renewable 1-year term as our student representative. A member of the Berkeley Model UN, he taught international politics and basic functions of the UN to high school students and facilitated discussion amongst them.

BOARD MEMBERS NOMINATED TO NEW TERMS

HERB BEHRSTOCK: proposed for a third 3-year term and nominated again as President;
PHYLLIS BISCHOF: proposed to extend her prior 3-year term with a vacant 1-year term that can be renewed. Will continue as Chair of Nominating Committee and member of Advocacy Committee;
BLERTA KUMBARO: completed a 2-year term and served as co-Secretary during 2010, proposed for a 3-year term, to continue volunteering at Center and to Co-Chair the Run for Peace.

RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES FOR POSITIONS AS OFFICERS

HERB BEHRSTOCK: *President.* Nominated for one-year term after serving five years; to facilitate the alliance of UNA with the UN Foundation. Mid-Pacific Regional Representative on Steering Committee of UNA-USA's national Council of Chapters and Divisions.



RITA MARAN: *First Vice President.* Nominated for a one-year extension having served previously as chapter President and now VP for five years. Chair of Advocacy Committee; responsible for national and UN-related advocacy with elected officials, UNA-USA, and other NGOs; and serves as VP of Advocacy.

JERRY WEBER: *Second Vice President.* Nominated for two-year term. Responsible for communications, membership, marketing, and internal relations. In two years on the Board, active in chapter programs, Dinner-Forum series, marketing and communications activities.



KEVIN MANN: *Treasurer.* Nominated for two-year term. Will work closely with Richard Luhning, current Treasurer, who is term-limited according to chapter By-laws.

JOANNE KIM: *Secretary.* Chair. Nominating Committee. See previous biography.

PHYLLIS BISCHOF: *Chair, Nominating Committee.* Nominated for additional year to assist with Board development. Has been active with Executive Committee and other activities.



Berkeley High Celebrates Declaration of Human Rights with UNA-USA East Bay Board Members



Eleanor Roosevelt reads UDHR articles

To celebrate the 62nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), five board members from the UNA-East Bay partnered with teachers from Berkeley High School (BHS) to organize a second annual UDHR presentation at the school. Looking to repeat their successful presentation from last year, Board Members Stephen Murphy and Rita Maran once again called upon BHS' Miranda Thorman to welcome UNA-EB into the school. With the additional guidance of Board Members Clare Fisher and Alexander Labinov, as well as UNA-EB volunteer Vitoria Wu, the UDHR committee completely revamped last year's presentation to incorporate an interactive activity, background on a pressing current human rights issue in China, and instruction on how to become involved with the UNA-EB.

Rita Maran opened each of three sessions with a speech on the origin of the UDHR and how it is truly, as Eleanor Roosevelt stated, "the international Magna Carta of all mankind." Students identified

with this notion, recognizing what they have in common with adolescents of their age in other countries and how the UDHR, in one of its many roles, seeks to protect the rights of those individuals. Victoria Wu, a current senior at UC-Berkeley, shared with the students her concern of how Article 19 -freedom of opinion and expression –and Article 21- the right to take part in one's government, are not respected in China. Victoria's observations were based on her experience where she served as a teacher in a rural district for two years. She referred to the example of recent Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiao bo, who remains imprisoned (after 11 years) for demanding a more democratic election process. Alexander Labinov, to complete the presentation, led an interactive activity encouraging students to internalize real life identities of those whose rights were violated. Students read a descriptive statement and literally *stood up* in defense of each identity's right upon the reading the relevant UDHR article. Approximately 150 students participated in one of the three sessions and was well-received by the students and teachers. The high school's library, decorated with reproductions from artist Folon's illustration of the UN publication of the Articles, enhanced the presentation. Students left each presentation with a copy of the UDHR and some answers to questions generated by the event.

Honoring East Bay Global Citizens at the United Nations 65th Anniversary Celebration

BY JERRY WEBER

UNA-USA East Bay Chapter co-sponsored the Anniversary Celebration and Banquet with UC Berkeley's International House on October 24. More than 225 persons were present to enjoy the wonderful dinner and meaningful ceremony. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 5th annual Global Citizens Awards. Since 2006 the Chapter has recognized East Bay residents, non-profit organizations and private sector businesses whose activities have made a significant impact on achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This year five diverse organizations and individuals were honored for achievement related to MDG #1's targeted goal "To Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger":

The Alameda County Community Food Bank: is the county's largest provider of food assistance – now impacting each week the health and well-being of almost 50,000 children and adults.

Food First: is an Oakland-based think tank that produces information and

analysis regarding the root causes of hunger, poverty and environmental destruction.

The University of California Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics that has been ranked as the country's best program in its field, offering an effective and diverse range of academic and educational programs. **Frederick Shaw DrPH and his NGO Developing Indigenous Resource** have worked with economically depressed communities in developing countries of communities so the residents are empowered to solve their own most serious problems. The final recipient was

PEET'S COFFEE & TEA: Peet's declared mission to offer customers quality coffee has increasingly been blended with policies and practices that define a "private sector solution to poverty" enabling rural families to escape subsistence farming, deprivation and undernourishment.

Allan Jury, Director of U.S. Relations for the UN World Food Program, was this year's speaker. He reviewed activities of the WFP in the context of achieving the challenging goal of MDG #1 by 2015. Following his presentation, with High Energy Biscuits provided with WFP's assistance in every participant's hands, an appeal was made by UNA for further support for WFP's programs, resulting in more than \$700 of contributions received.

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*"We the peoples of the United Nations are determined to practice tolerance
and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors..."*

— United Nations Charter, 1945

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN UNA-USA EAST BAY TODAY!

Email: UNAUSAEBAY@SBCGLOBAL.NET and Join at <http://www.unausaeastbay.org/>

Upcoming Events

MONTHLY DINNER-FORUM

Wednesday, February 23
6:30 - 9:00pm
Location: TBA

"Tibetan Elders Record Life Histories"
Speaker: Marcy Adamsky, Founder, Tibet
Oral History Project

Cost: \$20 (Students and new members \$10)

Reserve at UNAdinner@sbcglobal.net or
leave message at 510-849-1752

Women's History Month, DINNER-FORUM

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Location: TBA

AND

International Women's Day Celebration, TBA

Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday, January 23, 2011

Time: 2-4:45pm

Location: Pacific School of Religion, Chapel
1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley

Registration and beverages: 1:45pm

Annual Meeting: 2:00pm

- Report of past year: UN and the UNA-USA East Bay Chapter
- Priorities for 2011 and adoption of operational budget
- Election of Board and Officers for 2011

Refreshments and check-in of public: 3:00pm

Annual Keynote Presentation: 3:30pm

Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Lowell Dittmer

"China, the Developing World, and the New Global Dynamic" followed by Q&A.

Adjourn: 4:45pm