



UNA-USA East Bay

"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, 24 October 1945

www.unausaeastbay.org

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2006

(510) 849-1752

President's Message

UN Successes and Transition: SG Kofi Annan's Legacy

Public support for the United Nations has fallen during the last 5 years in the United States. However, according to surveys, surprisingly many leaders, the media and the general public do not realize that the majority of Americans continue to see the UN as "the world's best hope." Most people indicate that they want the United States to be a constructive partner to address global needs and common interests through the UN.

As UN Day approaches on October 24th, the global community of 192 governments and "We the People..." may share concerns; however, we have much to celebrate about the UN. Three items:

First to celebrate is Secretary General Kofi Annan, and the UN's accomplishments during his two five-year terms that come to an end in December. Votes are aligned to elect the Korean Foreign Minister, Ban Ki-moon as the new SG.

Annan will leave a rich legacy, with 'big shoes to fill.' The departing SG brought exceptional knowledge of the strengths and shortcomings of the UN, having experienced increasing responsibilities in UN humanitarian and peace-keeping operations. He demonstrated his intelligence and forthrightness as a principled leader. He has been an initiator and champion of reforms to en-

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United Nations 61st Anniversary Celebrations

Oct 22nd: East Bay's UN Day Flag-raising and Lunch, Jack London Square

Oakland's Jack London Square has proudly flown the United Nations flag for decades. In what's been a traditional ceremony for almost as long, the UN and its flag will be honored following a flag-of-nations parade. The event is scheduled to begin at 11:00 on a Sunday market day at the Square, where last year 100's of people of all ages witnessed the event and the release of 60 peace doves in honor of the UN's 60 anniversary. *An insert is enclosed; please register now to reserve lunch at Scott's Restaurant after the ceremonies.*

OCT 24th: Make Poverty History! Taking Action on the UN's Millennium Goals

Come join together on United Nations Day, October 24th for a celebration and recognition banquet at the International-House, University of California at Berkeley. You're invited to join in the festivities, to learn more about what others have done, and what each of us can do to "make a difference!" – individually and through local organizations. To affirm the prospects for action, UNA-USA East Bay will present Global Citizen Awards for exemplary

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A FAREWELL TO ENVER
Enver Rahmanov, Center Director for two years (standing in back row), surrounded by peace doves overhead and several longtime UNA-USA volunteers, Presidents and Board members, including Mary Lee Trampleasure (front-row, right), current manager of the Center and long-time leader and Board member. Seated from right next to Mary Lee: Beth Glick-Rieman, Pat Daniels, Ingeborg Nienhold. Standing from right: Beth Sibley, Bill Trampleasure, Enver, Herb Behrstock, and Rita Maran. See story, Page 2.

UNA-USA East Bay Inaugurates Global Citizen Awards

On UN Day, October 24th, the first Global Citizen Awards will be presented to individuals and organizations in the East Bay. The awards – apparently a unique initiative within UNA – will recognize people whose activities have made a significant impact on achievement of the United Nations Millen-

nium Development Goals (MDGs).

A special inaugural Global Citizen Award will honor Dr Larry Brilliant, a founder and leader of the Berkeley-based Seva Foundation known for immunization campaigns and treating blindness, and as a former

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United Nations/UNICEF Information and Gift Center: Open for You!

Friends of the Center and visitors alike know that the UN and UNA-USA's special presence in the East Bay remains fully functioning as a gift shop, an information center, and as the hub of chapter outreach activities. The chapter's Board determined to sustain the Center and these functions despite recent difficulties that were widely shared in a June mailing

with members of the East Bay chapter.

First, UNICEF cards and gift items were without warning terminated in January 2006 by the US Fund for UNICEF (not UNICEF itself). An exclusive arrangement was made to market UNICEF products in the United States through Hallmark. The questions and then constructive appeals of the Center Director, Enver Rahmanov, in conjunction with other UNICEF centers and outlets, were dismissed. At least some centers have closed. Currently, our East Bay Center has a dwindling but good stock of such wonderful cards, books and gifts.

Second, Enver, the highly-regarded, devoted, effective and inspiring Center Director for the past two years, decided to pursue other career goals following completion of an advanced degree in Berkeley. Additionally, with Center expenses already running higher than the costs of providing its many services, and with relatively modest UNA-USA East Bay chapter income already drawing on financial reserves to cover costs, the Board's committee recommended that it was not feasible for the chapter to offer the Director a salary commensurate with his commitment.

Enver's departure from the Center on July 1st resulted in reliance again on

volunteers (as reported in the mailing on June 20). Volunteer support has been the norm for most years during the decades when the Center was located on Shattuck and at the Co-op, as well as at its current location on Addison Street. Mary Lee Trampleasure especially – ever loyal to the Center and what it represents – joined by other 'regulars' and new-comers, have maintained the Center. Needless to repeat, other volunteers and support are invited. The future of the Center beyond year-end is under review. Our ability to keep the Center open past December will depend upon the generosity of volunteers and on our ability to raise the necessary funds. I urge you to make a special effort to drop by the Center to pick up cards for all occasions, gifts, and educational materials.

Friends, volunteers and Board members assembled twice at summer events to thank and honor Enver (and at his insistence, to recognize other highly-appreciated volunteers at a lunch). This Newsletter offers the opportunity once again to extend deeply-felt gratitude for Enver's leadership, service and friendship. And to thank Mary Lee and others who have stepped up with their own devotion.

— Herb Behrstock

United Nations 61st Anniversary Celebrations

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actions, and initiate a project to assist African AIDS orphans and vulnerable children (through UNA-USA's HERO campaign).

Chairpersons of the event include Congresswoman Barbara Lee (who will address the event), as well as Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, and Assemblywoman Loni Hancock.

See the insert about participation and register now for an inexpensive banquet at I-House from 6-9 PM on UN Day.

COME TO THE CENTER FOR YOUR HOLIDAY CARDS AND GIFTS!

Educational Toys! • Fair trade items! • Books and information!
Excellent inventory. Come early to get supplies of UNICEF cards and goods while they last!

YEAR-END SALES

up to 30% on almost everything in stock (even higher specials on larger items)!

New Center hours til year-end: Tuesday to Saturday, noon til 5PM.

1403 B Addison Street, Berkeley • 510-849-1752

UNA-USA East Bay Chapter President's Message

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able the UN to fulfill its complex and varied purposes.

Our UNA-USA Chapter's Annual Meeting on January 21st will feature a presentation about Annan's term, perspectives and politics about the new SG's challenges.

Second item worthy to celebrate: SG Annan presided over efforts leading to the Millennium Summit in 2000 – a moment in history that was seized upon, not squandered. UN member states and governments unanimously adopted the *Millennium Development Goals*. This historic agreement unites all countries and touches the life of virtually every human being in a globally unprecedented vision – what has been digested as “Make Poverty History.” The MDGs identify

eight goals and their respective practical targets, most all aimed at significant achievements by 2015. Adopted late in President Clinton's term, the MDGs were reaffirmed by President Bush and other heads of state during the past year. Progress is being made – something to celebrate! However, it's uneven, with Africa lagging other continents. Collective actions and cooperative partnerships are required in order to meet the enormous challenges that were universally agreed to.

Third to celebrate: the UN's potential to act effectively. Take the UN's role in the recent tragedies involving Lebanon and Israel: when finally, finally (sic!) supported by the ‘Big Five’ and others concerned, the Security Council proved again it could facilitate an acceptable arrangement to foster the return to peace and stability, to introduce peace-keepers, and to lead in urgent humanitarian assistance. Peace-keepers are quietly fulfilling their task, even though

much more collective action and compromise are required in the region. Lebanon is but one example of dozens since 1945, and especially during Kofi Annan's 10-year term, when UN members have demonstrated that they can act collectively. Or they can delay. Member governments can reach agreements, provide resources

Our UNA-USA Chapter adopted the MDGs as the over-arching program theme for two years. UN Day Celebrations on October 24th feature this theme – see the adjoining column and the flyers inserted in this Newsletter.

and pay their assessed contributions in order to attain practical objectives. Or they can handicap any goal. We can celebrate when nations utilize the UN mechanisms and facilitation for peace-keeping, which analysis shows has been successful to secure the peace in the large majority of instances.

— Herb Behrstock

UNA-USA East Bay Inaugurates Global Citizen Awards

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WHO official and recently-named first executive director of the Google Foundation. Other awardees from the East Bay region are being selected by a panel of jurors from among nominations submitted. (Winners' names are not announced as this Newsletter is printed. So come learn about who won on October 24th!).

For most people, the UN Millennium Development Goals seem remote or unknown. This is perhaps best understood because it was UN member governments that unanimously pledged to implement the eight MDG targets.

Yet, the MDGs constitute the basis for everyone – rich or poor, well-endowed by history and resources or not – to engage in a mammoth 15-year effort begun at the turn of the Millennium in 2000.

Civil society has been key. NGOs' ongoing efforts have expanded, often with innovation, impact and remarkable catalytic results to address the MDGs: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by half, achieve universal primary education for girls and boys, reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and

other communicable diseases, utilize water and other natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner – all by 2015.

Not only are extraordinary private philanthropists making an impact (Gates, Buffet, Turner, and most recently Branson who have grabbed

An effort to validate work that helps to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

headlines with their global visions and generosity). Here in the 35-40 cities of the East Bay, many people and organizations are engaged, seeking opportunities to serve, volunteering their time or funds, and making an impact to help others, not only in our communities but internationally.

The East Bay chapter of UNA-USA therefore hopes to validate the often-unrecognized efforts of Global Citizen honorees, make their successes more visible to the general public, and inspire others to emulate their action to help “Make Poverty History.”

UNA-USA East Bay Mission: To educate, mobilize and inspire people to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations, to strengthen the United Nations system, and to press for constructive United States policies and activities in that system.

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Newsletter

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **OCTOBER 22:** UN Day Celebrations at Jack London Square, with luncheon
- **OCTOBER 24:** UN Day Celebrations and Recognition Banquet, at I-House
- **DECEMBER 10:** Human Rights Day event
- **MID-JANUARY:** National UNA-USA High School essay contest
- **JANUARY 21:** Annual General Meeting with presentation about UN and new SG
- **FEBRUARY 12:** UNA Film Festival

Visit www.unausaeastbay.org for updated information

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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- | | | | |
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| <input type="radio"/> Student | \$10 | <input type="radio"/> Sponsor | \$100 |
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| <input type="radio"/> Limited Income | \$25 | <input type="radio"/> Lifetime | \$1,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Member | \$40 | | |
- New Renewal

In addition to my membership dues, I would like to make the following contribution to:

- UNA-USA National Programs
- My East Bay Chapter

Contributions are tax-deductible

Please return this form with your check payable to UNA-USA to:

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1403-B Addison St., Berkeley CA 94702
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