



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

UNA-USA Newsletter - Nashville Chapter

P.O. Box 121745, Nashville, TN 37212 [www.una-nashville.org]

Summer 2009

(615) 870-8446

President

Mary Pat Silveira

Vice-Presidents

Edwin S. Gleaves

Andrea Maneschi

Secretary

Frances Duvall

Fran Mazzaferro

Treasurer

Stephen Mallett

Immediate Past President

John Miglietta

Board of Directors

Dorothy Anderson

Gashawbeza W. Bekele

Jessica Files

Connie Flood

Cathy Folk

Henry Foster

Rebecca Freeman

Carrie Gentry

Doris Ann Hendrix

Jeri D. Hilt

Greg Horne

Betty K. Johnson

Stephen L. Meyer

Jim Pattison

Don Peterson

David Pritchard

Joe Sills

Michelle Thompson

John Williamson

Brenda Wynn

Bill Zechman

Committee Chairs

Communications

Rebecca Freeman

Education

David Pritchard

Jessica Files

Finance

Dick Duvall

Government Relations

Joe Sills

Bill Zechman

Hospitality

Francis Duvall

Membership

Dorothy Anderson

Connie Flood

Program

Edwin S. Gleaves

Andrea Maneschi

Summer Meeting and Luncheon

Saturday, August 22, 2009

11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

“Colombia and Human Rights”

Featuring

Dr. Lesley Gill

Chair, Vanderbilt University Anthropology Department

Belmont United Methodist Church

21st Avenue South at Acklen in

Hillsboro Village

Reception 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon 12 noon

Program 1 p.m.

Reservation Required

Call (615) 870-8446 or email una-event@bellsouth.net

by noon, Friday August 14th

(Please specify if vegetarian meal preferred)

Cost: \$16.00 for adults and \$12.00 for students

(Note: persons canceling after Aug. 14 are liable for the costs of their meals)

(Program only is free))

Dr. Leslie Gill will discuss the changing face of human rights in Colombia. She has researched and written extensively on human rights, political violence, global economic restructuring and changes in class, gender and ethnic relations, particularly in Colombia, Bolivia and the United States. She is the author of three books that focus on changing economic reforms, political violence and their effects on collective action and the inequality of peoples. Among her publications are: *The School of the Americas: Military Training and Political Violence*; *Teetering on the Rim: Global Restructuring, Daily Life and the Armed Retreat of the Bolivian State* and *Precarious Dependencies: Gender, Class and Domestic Service*. Dr. Gill earned her PhD from Columbia University in 1984.

President's Corner

These have been exciting months. The Nashville Chapter held its annual elections in June, and the National UNA-USA held biennial elections for its Board and for its regional representation. Ambassador William Luers stepped down as President of the national UNA-USA, and Ambassador Thomas Miller was chosen to succeed him.

The greatest excitement, however, has been at the national political level. In June, President Obama signed legislation authorizing payment to the United Nations of all debt that it has owed since 1999. Also in June, the United States participated for the first time in the United Nations Human Rights Council, after having been elected to the Council in May.

Both of these decisions underscore the commitment of the Administration and of Congress to the United Nations and to executing its foreign policy, to the extent possible, through multilateral dialogue, cooperation and concerted action. Participation in the Human Rights Council also emphasizes the importance that the US is placing on human rights. In congratulating the US Government on its election to the Council, UNA-USA President Miller noted that this "is an important step forward in our country's recommitment to the promotion of ideals first championed by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in her groundbreaking effort to secure General Assembly adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights more than 60 years ago."

Here at our Nashville Chapter, we are continuing our focus on human rights as well. Last October, at our Fall Dinner, we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This summer, at our annual Luncheon, on August 22, we have the honor of welcoming Dr. Lesley Gill, who will speak on the subject of Colombia and Human Rights. Dr. Gill has spent many years researching human rights in Latin America. Among her many notable achievements is her 2004 book, *School of the Americas: Military Training and Political Violence* (Duke University Press), which investigates the U.S. Army's center for counter-insurgency and combat training at the School of the Americas (now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Please join us at the Summer Luncheon on August 22, as we welcome Dr. Gill.

Best Wishes,

Mary Pat Silveira

APPOINTMENT OF NEW UNA-USA PRESIDENT

Effective May 11, 2009 Ambassador Thomas J. Miller became the new president of the national UNA-USA, succeeding Mr. William H. Luers. Ambassador Miller has worked as a career diplomat in the US Foreign Service for 29 years, including as ambassador to Greece and to Bosnia-Herzegovina and as a Cyprus negotiator. Most recently, Miller served as the chief executive of Plan International, a \$650 million, 72-year-old international agency that focuses on improving children's lives in developing countries.

Nashville UNA Elects Officers, Board Members

The Nashville Chapter of the UNA elected officers and board members for the 2009-2010 term at its Spring Dinner and Plenary held in May.

The body elected **Mary Pat Silveira** to serve a second term as the organization's president. Also elected were **Andrea Maneschi** and **Edwin Gleaves** to serve as co-vice presidents; **Frances Duval** and **Fran Mazzaferro** as co-secretaries; and **Stephen Mallett** for a second term as chapter treasurer.

New members elected to their first term on the board include **Doris Ann Hendrix**, **Greg Horne**, **Jim Pattison**, **Michelle Thompson** and **Brenda Wynn**.

Board members elected to a second term include **Dot Anderson**, **David Pritchard**, **Connie Flood**, **Ed Gleaves**, **Betty Johnson**, **Joe Sills**, **Bill Zechman** and **Jessica Files**.

Members continuing the second year of their term are **Gashawbeza Bekele** (1st), **Henry Foster** (2nd), **Rebecca Freeman** (2nd), **Carrie Gentry** (2nd), **Jeri Hilt** (1st), **Steven Meyer** (1st), **Don Peterson** (1st), and **John Williamson** (2nd).

John Miglietta, as past chapter president, remains on the Board, as does **Cathy Folk**, former vice-president.

The Board Organizes its Committees

At its first meeting of the new term, the Board constituted seven working committees, as follows:

- Communications and Public Relations
- Education
- Hospitality
- Finance
- Government Relations
- Membership
- Program

All of these committees welcome interested members. If you are willing to give a little time, effort and enthusiasm, please contact the Nashville Chapter by email, at info@una-nashville.org, or by phone, at (615) 870-8446.

UNITED STATES JOINS THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Obama administration decided at the end of March to seek a seat on the U.N. Human Rights Council, reversing a decision by the Bush administration. "Human rights are an essential element of American global foreign policy," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement. "With others, we will engage in the work of improving the U.N. human rights system . . . We believe every nation must live by and help shape global rules that ensure people enjoy the right to live freely and participate fully in their societies."

On May 13th, the U. N. General Assembly elected the U. S. to a three-year term on the Council. When the Human Rights Council opened its session in Geneva on June 19th, the U. S. officially became a full member.

The U.S. is being represented on the Human Rights Council by Chargé d'Affaires Mark C. Storella, temporary representative of the U.S. to the U. N. Offices at Geneva, where the Council is based. In his first statement to the Council, he said: "The U. S. assumes its seat on the council with gratitude, humility and in the spirit of cooperation," and he called for all states to work together to provide a fair and credible forum for the advancement of human rights issues.

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the U.N. system made up of 47 elected members whose mission is to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights globally.

U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS

President Obama signed legislation on June 24th that will enact a FY 2009 emergency supplemental appropriations bill. This bill provides up to \$837 million for U.N. peacekeeping and allows the U.S. to pay off all debt that it owes the U.N. going back to 1999. Both Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker as well as Representative Jim Cooper supported the legislation.

The President's FY 2010 Budget Request provides for full-payment of U.S. dues (\$1.79 billion total), including the U.N. regular budget (\$597 million) and specialized agencies and U.N. peacekeeping (\$2.26 billion). The request also provides voluntary contributions to U.N. funds and programs (\$356 million).

To ask your members of Congress to support the President's full FY 2010 Budget Request, go to one or both of two sites:

- The UN Foundation Better World Campaign, at <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/> (click on "Protect the FY10 Budget")
- UNA-USA E-action alerts, at <http://capwiz.com/unausa/home/>

FIRST ANNUAL GLOBAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

The United Nations Department of Public Information is organizing the first annual Global Model United Nations Conference, in Geneva, Switzerland, from August 5-7, 2009. The theme of the 2009 conference is "The Millennium Development Goals: Lifting the Bottom Billion out of Poverty."

More than 1,000 university-level students, ages 18 to 24, have been invited to participate from approximately 70 Member States where Model United Nations programs are currently organized. Youth represent a top priority for the United Nations and a new generation of support.

An estimated one million students, from primary school to university, participate worldwide in Model United Nations simulations each year. Many of today's leaders in law, government, business and the arts participated in Model UN programs during their youth.

Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, noted that: "Forty years ago, my participation in a Model UN conference in Kyoto, Japan, inspired me to work on global affairs and try to make a difference in the world. It is our hope that the Global Model UN conference will build on past accomplishments to increase support of the UN's efforts to make the world a better place in which to live."

The annual conference will rotate annually to major UN duty stations, particularly in developing countries. More information on this global event is available at <http://www.un.org/gmun/>

Information on many Model United Nations Conferences organized around the world is available on the UNA-USA web site, at <http://www.unausa.org/muncalendar>

UNA-USA Website Updates:

Join - www.unausa.org/join

Donate - www.unausa.org/donate

About Us - www.unausa.org/aboutus

Advocacy Alerts - <http://capwiz.com/unausa/home/>

Toolkit for Members - www.unausa.org/toolkit

Washington Report - www.unausa.org/washingtonreport

Advocacy Tips - www.unausa.org/advocacytips

Featured Legislations and Bill Search -

<http://capwiz.com/unausa/issues/bills/>

Chapter and Division Page- www.unausa.org/chapters

2009 Advocacy Agenda - www.unausa.org/advocacyagenda/

Chapter Directory - www.unausa.org/chapterdirectory

Blog - www.unausa.org/blog

E-Newsletter/UNA-USA World Bulletin -

www.unausa.org/eneews

Model UN - www.unausa.org/modelun

UN Association Seminars

Please note the change in location for these interesting and informative foreign affairs seminars, another educational service of the Nashville Chapter, UNA-USA:

September 17, 2009

Professor John Miglietta and students of Tennessee State University will discuss their recent participation in the Model United Nations in New York. **Green Hills Public Library, at 4:30 p.m.**

November 19, 2009

Dr. Raymond White will speak on the role of Project C.U.R.E. in fulfilling the objectives of the World Health Organization. **Green Hills Public Library, at 4:30 p.m.**

Scheduling of winter seminars is now underway. If you are interested in giving a seminar, please contact us at 615-870-8446 or by email, at info@una-nashville.org.

All Seminars are free and open to the public. Please check our website, www.una-nashville.org for the latest information on location and times.

United Nations Association
Nashville Chapter
P.O. Box 121745
Nashville, TN 37212

In Memoriam

The Nashville Chapter of the UNA-USA mourns the passing on April 13, 2009 of Board member [Kenneth Marcom](#). We extend our condolences to his family.

Save a Tree!

If you'd like to receive the UNA Newsletter via e-mail rather than via regular mail, please contact Tim Stewart, tim.stewart@belmont.edu

Thanks!

Your Support is Appreciated!

Please be sure and renew your membership when it comes due, or consider joining the UNA if you haven't already. You can join at our website, <http://www.una-nashville.org>, or contact our office at 615-870-8466 and we will send you a brochure. Our main sources of income are a portion of each member's dues, and annual contributions from our members and friends.

NON- PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1968
Nashville, TN