

THE UNITED NATIONS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

by April Tilley, MPA

The first seven months of 2017 have been complicated as multiple security concerns, refugee crises, human rights violations, and changes in international posturing have occurred across the world. Secretary-General António Guterres has sought to encourage international cooperation and response to the very serious matters brought to the United Nations this year. The involvement or lack thereof by the United States plays a significant role in the trajectory of various international actions undertaken by the United Nations.

Donald Trump assumed office as the 45th President of the United States on January 20, 2017. As with any change in administration, the approach of the United States to the United Nations has undergone changes. The Trump administration's "America First" agenda has called for decreased financial involvement by the United States in the missions undertaken by the United Nations.

Decreased funding to the United Nations directly affects the ability of the UN to be effective in its peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, education, disarmament, and health missions. The United Nations Association of the United States of America asks its members to learn more and get involved in support of the United Nations in the following campaigns:

- Tell Congress to Reject the President's Proposed UN Budget Cuts
- Support Bold U.S. Leadership on Climate Action
- Stand #WithRefugees
- Protect Women's Health and Rights Worldwide

To learn more and discover ways to help visit:

<http://www.unausa.org/advocacy/>

Decreased funding affects UN peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, education, disarmament, and health missions.

NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE UN

On October 13, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly voted to confirm António Guterres as the ninth UN Secretary-General. Mr. Guterres will serve a five-year period between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2021. A former Prime Minister of Portugal, Mr. Guterres went on to serve as UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005 to 2015. During his tenure at UNHCR, which coincided with the largest refugee surge since World War II, he won praise from Member States and NGOs for his work to ameliorate the crisis. Mr. Guterres also cultivated close ties with the U.S. under both the Bush and Obama Administrations and led efforts to reform the organization's operations, shrinking the size of headquarters, putting more staff and resources into the field, steering the agency towards greater transparency and accountability, enhancing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, and strengthening gender and diversity policies.



António Guterres UN
Secretary-General

"The UN is the institutional expression of the international community, the cornerstone of our international system and the key actor of effective multilateralism. It is the essential instrument of Member States to confront common challenges, manage shared responsibilities and exercise collective action, in an enduring quest for a peaceful, inclusive and sustainably developed world, in which international law and the dignity and worth of the human person are fully pursued." – from the Vision Statement of Secretary-General Guterres, April 2016

Message from the President

Dear UNA-MB Colleagues,

It's been a full year since we last distributed a United Nations Association, Monterey Bay Chapter newsletter. One year truly does fly by so quickly. To say that much has happened during the past year is a profound understatement.

Others here will write about our recent and upcoming events, and ways the UN and your Chapter would appreciate your help. I would like to talk about two things: the esprit de corps of the board, and accession of new board members—neither of which can be divorced from the other.

Four of our vital members from the 2015-2016 board have gone on to continue their advocacies in other capacities (while of course remaining as members of the UNA). They were all active, dynamic individuals who contributed mightily to the work of the chapter. We will sorely miss: Jane Bell, who served as secretary; Denyse Frischmuth; Masha Serttunc; and Gabriele Simbriger-Williams—all who chaired or were key members of various committees. Denyse and Gabriele in particular served for several terms.

The seats these wonderful people occupied have been filled (figuratively if not yet in contribution) by five new members who have already made their mark. Let us all welcome: Melissa Ault-Ricci, returning to the board after a brief absence; Joe Fullop; Ron Nelson; Meghan Rasmussen; and Satu Terian, who enthusiastically embraced the challenging position of secretary. I wish there were space to share biographical information on all of them; this is a mature, experienced and talented group of individuals. AND . . . young (at least collectively). That is to say, even though our coterie of sexagenarians, septuagenarians, octogenarians and nonagenarians are a spritely group, the new board members have quantitatively lowered our average age.

The esprit de corps of the board, now at 15 members, is strong. The board is a harmonious, efficiently functioning group committed to the ideals and advocacies of the United Nations. But, unavoidably, some board members will from time to time resign and new positions will open up. If you have been a Chapter member and a volunteer for a while and are eager to take on more responsibility, please consider service on the board.

Be sure to follow the news about our upcoming events—UN Day (October 24th), the International Documentary Film Festival (November 3–4) and the Human Rights Day Luncheon (December 9). Thank you, as always, for your support of the United Nations and the work of our Monterey Bay Chapter.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Fuller — Chapter President

The UN in Action: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Adopted

After a seven-year process of consultations, working group sessions and negotiations, 122 UN member states passed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on July 7th at the UN in New York. The Treaty furthers a world where nuclear weapons' possession, development, and possible use will be stigmatized and "delegitimized."

The effort came from a 2010 conference to review the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), due to a renewed recognition of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons use, the rising risk of accidental or intentional nuclear use, and a growing sense of frustration that key nuclear disarmament commitments made by the nuclear-weapon states were not being fulfilled.

About 130 governments, and dozens of civil society organizations participated in the multi-year process. The president of the negotiations, Costa Rica's UN

Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gomez, compiled states' opinions into the draft convention that was adopted.

Nine nuclear-weapon states, including the United States, opposed the initiative. They contend that the treaty could undermine the NPT and its extensive safeguard provisions by giving states the option to choose between the two treaties.

Supporters argue that it will close a "legal gap" that exists regarding nuclear weapons, which are not expressly outlawed by the NPT, and help prompt more urgent action to reduce nuclear risk and promote disarmament.

Source: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nuclearprohibition>

Note: A proposed panel discussion on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Treaty is being planned for this fall; co-sponsored by several local groups including UNAMB. More details to follow on our website and by e-blasts.

UNA Monterey Bay Chapter Membership Renewal

New Member Renewal

NAME _____

Check enclosed \$ _____

Charge my payment of \$ _____ (select a card)

EMAIL (Important — most communication occurs via email.) _____

Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

MAILING ADDRESS

Please select a membership level:

\$25 Introductory -or- Limited Income

\$50 Individual; Family; Organization; or Business

Free for Full-time Students

School: _____

\$100 UNA Sponsor

\$500 UNA Patron

\$1000 UNA Life Member

Additional Donation to Chapter: \$ _____

Signature _____

Name on Card _____

If mailing, please send form and payment to:

UNA - USA Monterey Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 4114
Monterey, CA 93942

You may also submit payment online at: <http://unausa.org/membership>

Monterey Bay UNA Board of Directors 2017-2018

President: Charles Fuller

Vice-President: Lisa Wartinger

Treasurer: Joan Condon

Secretary: Satu Terian

Board Members:

Melissa Ault-Ricci Debra Baker

Jonathan Berkey Dr. Jan Black

Narendra Desai Lorita Fisher

Mary Fisk Joe Fullop

Ron Nelson Meghan Rasmussen

April Tilley

Committee Chairs

Youth Education: Jonathan Berkey

Advocacy: Lorita Fisher

Membership: Lisa Wartinger

Film Festival: Debra Baker

About UNA-USA and the Monterey Bay Chapter:

The United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) is a 50-state grassroots organization dedicated to inform, inspire, and mobilize the American people to support the ideals and vital work of the United Nations. For more than 70 years, UNA-USA has worked to accomplish its mission through its national network of Chapters, youth engagement, advocacy efforts, education programs, and public events. UNA-USA is a program of the United Nations Foundation.

UNA-USA has active members in over 180 chapters and divisions across the country. The Monterey Bay chapter is part of the Northern California (Nor-Cal) Division along with 10 other chapters.

Annual dues include membership in both the local chapter and national UNA-USA. We encourage members to become actively involved in carrying out our activities, including as volunteers, committee members, and board members.

Your membership is important to us!
Check the address label for your
membership expiration date
and please renew!

UNA-USA:
a national grassroots organization
committed to helping the United Nations
help the world.



United Nations Association
of the United States of America
MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
PO Box 4114
Monterey, CA 93942

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us at these fall events!

October 7th — Inter-Generational Model UN – UC Berkeley

Participate in this engaging, all-ages event that replicates the UN in action.
No experience necessary!

See www.igmun.org for more information and to register

October 24 — UN Day — Reception and Presentation

Marina Public Library Community Room — 6:30–8 pm

November 3rd & 4th — 18th Annual International Documentary Film Festival

Two evenings of diverse and inspiring recent global films. Not to be missed!!

NOTE NEW VENUE! World Theater at CSUMB — Starting at 7 pm

December 9th — Human Rights Day luncheon & Baha'i Human Rights Award

70th Anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights

Rancho Cañada, Merienda Room, 4860 Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

See www.unamontereybay for more information

Now is the Time to Advocate for the United Nations!

Contact your legislators, and share with your friends and colleagues.

Here are five key points.

* UNA-USA supports the vital work of the United Nations and is deeply concerned about the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request, which severely cuts or outright eliminates U.S. contributions to several critical UN agencies and programs. Additionally, the President's proposed cuts would drastically affect the 16 UN Peacekeeping Missions working to bring stability to some of the world's most remote and dangerous locations.

* UNA-USA believes a strong U.S.-UN partnership is essential to our long-term national interests. We're asking Congress to fully fund our UN peacekeeping and regular budget dues and maintain robust U.S. support for vital UN agencies and programs. The UN's efforts to promote peace and security, coordinate responses to global pandemics and diseases, establish international business norms, and deliver lifesaving humanitarian aid ensure that the United States doesn't have to go it alone. It matters now more than ever that we keep our seat at the UN's table and fully fund our UN dues. If we forfeit our seat, we forfeit our influence.

* UNA members are not alone in our overwhelming support for the UN. A bipartisan poll conducted after the 2016 election found that 88 percent of Americans believe it is important for the U.S. to maintain an active role at the UN. The nationwide poll of 800 registered voters was conducted December 7-12 by the bipartisan research team of Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates with a margin of error of ± 3.46 percent. Respondents were equally split between Republican and Democrat voters and those who supported Donald J. Trump and Hillary Clinton for president.

* UNA-USA believes that U.S. leadership is essential to addressing the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Half of the 65 million refugees and internally displaced people worldwide are children. We're asking Congress to ensure continued financial support for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

* UNA-USA believes the U.S. should work with the UN to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, 17 priorities for lifting a billion people out of poverty, ending human trafficking, addressing climate change, and meeting other pressing challenges vital to America interests and the world. The goals were adopted unanimously by all 193 UN member nations in 2015. They were created with strong U.S. leadership, including the input of over 70,000 Americans, reflect bipartisan priorities, and are built on the successes the prior Millennium Development Goals achieved in public health and other areas.

The United Nations

- Provides food and assistance to 80 million people in 80 countries
- Supplies vaccines to 45% of the world's children, helping save 3 million lives a year
- Assists and protects 65.3 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution
- Works with 195 nations to hold the rise in global temperature below 2°C/3.6°F
- Keeps peace with 117,000 peacekeepers in 15 operations on 4 continents
- Fights extreme poverty, helping improve the lives of more than 1.1 billion people
- Protects and promotes human rights globally and through 80 treaties/declarations
- Coordinates US\$22.5 billion appeal for the humanitarian needs of 93.5 million people
- Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict: assists some 67 countries a year with their elections
- Supports maternal health, helping over 1 million women a month overcome pregnancy risks

Spring Programs Report

International Women's Day

On March 18th, UNAMB chapter members and friends celebrated International Women's Day with a potluck and speaker program at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula. International Women's Day is celebrated around the world every year on March 8th, focused on women's achievements and contributions to economic, political and social efforts.

A special focus of this event was on refugee children. We were pleased to host two presenters, Ms. Chandni Jain from the US Fund for UNICEF, and photographer Sumaya Agha, who has documented conditions at refugee camps worldwide for the humanitarian agency Mercy Corps. UNICEF is the world's largest humanitarian organization for children, working in over 190 countries to save and protect children's lives. Ms. Jain shed light on the particular challenges facing girls worldwide, such as forced marriage, lack of education and trafficking, and shared some of the efforts UNICEF is making to ensure that all vulnerable children have a future.

Sumaya Agha shared a selection of her poignant photographs chronicling life in the Saterie refugee camp in Jordan, home to about 80 thousand refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. She also shared photographs from Macedonia documenting refugees crossing Eastern Europe in January 2016, and answered questions related to her work.

The event featured a raffle to raise funds for UNA-USA's "Adopt A Future" campaign. Thanks to everyone who participated! If you're interested in helping us organize next year's International Women's Day event, please contact unamontereybay@gmail.com.

UNA-USA Northern California Division Raises \$30,000 for Adopt-A-Future

There are more than 65 million forcibly displaced people in the world today, and the majority are children. Of these children, less than half have access to education. Besides losing critical ground in learning, a refugee child that is not in school is at risk of being harmed, trafficked, or radicalized by extremist groups. The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) provides critical emergency and long term aid to refugees, including resources to educate children in refugee camps. Last fall, the national UNA-USA launched the Adopt-A-Future initiative to focus empathy, advocacy, and most importantly critical funding for the UNHCR's work. In 2017, Adopt-A-Future is supporting schools in two UNHCR camps in Kenya, Dadaab and Kakuma.

The UNA-USA NorCal Division is supporting a classroom for 40 students in the Undugu School at the Dadaab camp. Undugu, which means familyhood, brotherhood, sisterhood in Swahili, is a primary and secondary school with approximately 954 girls and 1813 boys. The Monterey Bay Chapter has contributed over \$2,000 to date towards the Division's initial goal of \$30,000, and we will continue to support Adopt A Future in the coming year. Your donations and membership dues are the key to making this possible!

For more information on Adopt-A-Future, see: www.unausa.org/programs/adopt-a-future

Earth Day Climate Summit and March for Science

By Jonathan Berkey, Chair: UNA Youth Education Committee, Board President: International School-to-School Partnerships

The first annual Climate Summit at MIIS featured local marine scientists: John Pearse, Professor Emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at UC Santa Cruz; Tierney Thys, marine biologist, science educator, and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence; Ken Johnson, Senior Scientist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute; and Daniel Fernandez, Professor at CSUMB, teaching science/physics in the Environmental Studies Program. The event was co-hosted by the UNA Monterey Bay Chapter, the MIIS UN Club, and International School-to-School Partnerships.

Climate issues presented by the speakers covered the alarming shifts in ocean chemistry, recent ocean monitoring and data collection technologies, and the need for better science communication outreach strategies. The Summit concluded with the topic of how to embrace a

lifestyle of sustainability, to live more in harmony with the natural world.

The morning Climate Summit was followed by the March for Science, hosted by the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Hundreds of local citizens and scientists formed an enormous parade from Colton Hall through downtown Monterey to the Window on the Bay. In honor of Earth Day, and in strong support of the March and science research, keynote speakers at the beach included Senator Bill Monning, CSUMB Professor Arlene Haffa, and Monterey Bay Aquarium Science Communicator Rachel Sa.

The Monterey Bay area is quickly becoming recognized as a global center for marine studies. The UNA Monterey Bay Chapter shares a clear mission to educate and foster informed global decisions, to reduce the scale of climate damage.