

UNA-SF Courier



The Voice of the United Nations Association of San Francisco • una-sf.org • Fall 2003

SAVE THE DATE!

UN Day Celebration

Fri., Oct. 24, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

St. Francis Hotel, Union Square, San Francisco

Reception Honoring Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

UNA-SF will honor Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi for her support of the United Nations at a special reception on United Nations Day. More Later!

UNA Information Night

Thurs., Sept. 25, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

3220 Sacramento Street, San Francisco

UNA-SF invites you to join us for a brand new series of events. This is the beginning of an informal monthly information meeting where you can meet other UNA members and have your questions answered about the United Nations and The United Nations Association.

The United Nations was founded on many of the basic principles that are the bedrock of the United States of America. If there was ever a time to learn more about the critical work of the United Nations, now is the time. We hope to meet you there!

There is no charge to attend. For questions, please call Brent Hunter at 510-261-7878 or e-mail brent@una-sf.org.

The United Nations International Day of Peace

Sun., Sept. 21, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Union Square, San Francisco

Presented by the Artists' Guild of San Francisco as part of their annual ARTOPIA Music and Art Festival, the event will open with a moment of silence for world peace. The keynote address will be given by Kim Weichel, Executive Director of Pathways To Peace, the International Secretariat for the UN's International Day of Peace.

The celebration features a performance by the Presidio Children's Dance Theatre, with more than fifty children dressed in elaborate ethnic costumes, performing an array of ethnic folk dances from around the world under the direction of prominent Russian choreographer, Vassilli Mountian.

Some of the Bay Area's top world-music groups are scheduled to perform, including: Ancient Future, The Snake Band (featuring members of Wild Mango), and The Nigerian Brothers. The program will also include a performance by the folk-rock group, United Soul.

The event will include an Outdoor Art Exhibit by the Artists' Guild of San Francisco beginning at 9:00 pm and continuing to 5:30 pm. The Artists' Guild of San Francisco is the City's oldest independent arts organization, which exhibits original, gallery quality art in San Francisco parks and other outdoor venues for free. The Artists' Guild is a public benefit non-profit organization which sponsors an Artist in the Schools Program and other public programs.

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Minesweepers® — *Running to Clear* for a landmine free world

By Michael Becker, MettaTech



Over 26,000 people are injured or killed annually by the 60-70 million landmines in over 70 countries around the world. According to the United Nations, it costs as little as \$3.00 to produce a

landmine and upwards of \$1,000 to remove one. This is a huge global problem.

Minesweepers®, a project of UNA–USA and the Young Professionals Group of UNA–SF, is a running charity dedicated to raising funds to help clear minefields around the world. As runners, we appreciate the freedom we have to run freely without worrying about landmines in our path. Also, it pains us to see so many victims of these terrible weapons who have lost a limb and will never enjoy the freedom of movement and flexibility that we have.

Our second team is training for the Marine Corps Marathon October 26, 2003, in Washington DC, and funds raised will be used to clear a minefield in Vietnam. Over 180 Vietnamese are injured or killed every month by the approximately 3.5 million landmines in Vietnam. There are 12 of us running on this year's team, and we're targeting to raise \$28,000 dollars with this run. Every dollar raised goes to the United Nations with over 97% of the contributions going directly to the field for mine clearing. Bay Area runners include

Michael Becker, J. Fernando Corredor, Paula Dallas, Kathleen Irvin, Dana Kennedy, Christine Kennelly, Kerry Kennelly, Susan Lange, Dennis McMahon, Julie Megorden and Marianna Tubman

Minesweepers® will be formally launched at Sir Paul McCartney's third annual Adopt-a-Minefield® Benefit Gala at the end of September.

McCartney and his wife Heather Mills McCartney are Goodwill Ambassadors for the Adopt-a-Minefield campaign. Visit www.landmines.org to learn more.



In the coming months Minesweepers is also planning to expand its activities to include smaller runs and triathlons, in addition to marathons. If you are interested in running with us, contributing to the campaign or becoming a sponsor please visit: www.runningtoclear.org or www.una-sf.org.

UNA–SF's Young Professionals Group is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator and a Programs Chair. Anyone interested please contact Fernando Corredor at fernando@hellogoodtimes.com. The next YPG event will be in September; please visit www.una-sf.org for updates.

The UN Day Of Peace < p. 1

The Celebration of the International Day of Peace is produced by Unity Foundation, a San Francisco-based non-profit organization with a 28 year history of promoting world peace, cooperation and unity through special cultural and educational events, television programming, and media campaigns.

The event is free to the public. Donations will benefit Music in Schools Today.

Effie Robinson, 1920 – 2003: Remembering a Legend

With great sadness, we observe the death of beloved friend and long-time board member Effie Robinson. She passed away at her home on Friday May 23.

A model of selfless devotion to the plight of others, Effie Robinson had dedicated her life to the bettering of all around her. She believed in the strength of the individual and gave her heart to our community, making it a better place with each tireless endeavor.

Born in Healdsburg in 1920 to Jessie Robinson and Elzora Harper, Effie Robinson grew up in a large black family in a rural, small white town. She attended Healdsburg elementary and high schools and continued on to Santa Rosa Junior College. In 1943, she moved to San Francisco and attended San Francisco State University where she graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1943. As a Rosenberg Scholar, she attended the University of California School of Social Welfare and graduated with a Masters in Social Welfare in 1945.

With this knowledge, Effie would begin her lifelong devotion to serving the community. In 1945 she joined the Family Service Agency of San Francisco as a casework supervisor, tackling parent-child difficulties and marital problems. In 1954, through the auspices of her membership in the Bay Area Service League, a black women's civic group, Effie led a cooperative effort of service organizations and adoption agencies to educate San Franciscans about the desperate need for adoptive homes for minority children.

In 1956 Miss Robinson became the acting Director at the Agency. In 1961 she sought to stimulate teenage students academically and culturally, as a member of Links, Inc., a black women's service organization. She created the Junior Leaders Program at Benjamin Franklin Junior High School. In 1961 she was also recognized by the *San Francisco Examiner* as being among the Ten Most Distinguished Women in San Francisco, the first of many honorable distinctions she would receive throughout her life.

Effie was appointed as Director of Human Relations and Tenant Services in 1964, where she developed human relations programs to facilitate the integration of the housing projects, and to promote the general welfare of the tenants. In 1973 she became the Director of Senior Programs and Social Services. Under



her direction, she designed programs encouraging seniors to learn, grow and helped them participate in self-government with equal opportunity and leadership training. In 1967, Miss Robinson was named to the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Commission and as an advisor to the Curriculum Committee of the San Francisco Board of Education. In 1960 and in 1970 she was invited to attend the White House Conference on Children and Youth. In 1975 she was awarded the Koshland Award by the San Francisco Foundation for "Outstanding Administrator of Social Services in California" for her contribution

to family and senior programs in public housing. Throughout the 1980's, Effie continued her work in helping low-income families and senior citizen housings, with a significant achievement being the transformation of The Pink Palace into senior apartments, which were later to be renamed "Rosa Parks". In her work with seniors, Ms. Robinson was twice elected to the Senior Legislature as Assemblywoman.

After retirement she took on a more international scope and joined UNA-SF in 1994. As a Board member, she developed and directed a program for the San Francisco School District, an initiative aimed at expanding the world for teenage children. As Education Chair, Effie approached the curriculum staff of the San Francisco Unified School District with a program to include essay contests for middle and high school kids. She created an exceptional program that featured many prominent speakers who enriched kids in classrooms in the Bay Area.

When Miss Robinson joined the UNA-SF board, members told her how much they wanted a program in the public schools, but had been unable to gain access. Effie's commitment to children, particularly minority children, has always been a cornerstone of her commitment to the family. Her work fostered the leadership potential in children and succeeded in creating a greater feeling of self-worth, along with providing opportunities for families to grow together.

She was the leader of the Education Committee where she headed a Model UN Club at Lowell High School and also led the essay contest where students from Lowell and other high schools won significant

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UNA–SF at the UNA–USA National Forum on the United Nations, Washington, DC

By Bill McCarthy



UNA–SF members in Washinton, left to right: Lyndie Kahanek, Bill McCarthy, Vinit Allen, Nancy L. Peterson, Brent Hunter, Grace Collins, Fernando Corredor, Barbara Christensen, and Unidentified.

On June 26 a UN Charter Day Commemoration was presented during the Opening Gala Dinner for the UNA–USA National Forum on the United Nations in Washington, DC.

The Commemoration featured a special UN Charter Day historical video presentation commissioned by the UNA's Northern California Division, with an introduction by UNA–USA President and CEO, William Luers. The video presentation was produced by Unity Foundation.

Nancy Peterson, President of UNA–SF, led the dinner guests in a group reading of the Preamble of the UN Charter and a rededication to the principles upon which the United Nations was founded in San Francisco in 1945. Larry Levine, President of UNA–Monterey Bay

and member of the National Board of Directors of UNA–USA led the guests in a toast to the United Nations Year of Pure Water.

During the dinner, Sally Kiester, former President of the UNA–Midpeninsula Chapter, UNA–USA Chapter and Division (CCD) Steering Committee Member and Chair of the Council of Organizations Committee for the CCD, was recognized for being the Recipient of the 2003 Arnold Goodman Award.

Bill McCarthy, President of Unity Foundation served as the emcee for the Commemoration. The UN Charter Day Commemoration was produced by the UNA–Northern California Division and Unity Foundation in association with UNA–SF.

The United Nations in Iraq: What Does the UN Do Now?

By Katy Hansen, Executive Director, UNA-Iowa

The United States went to war with Iraq without the blessing of the United Nations. Since the war broke out, anti-U.N. feeling has been expressed on the editorial pages of our newspapers. The U.N. is being accused of ineffectiveness and standing in the way of a just and necessary war.

In reality, the United Nations has been doing its job. In spite of the battering it is receiving in the United States, the United Nations remains THE credible international institution in the rest of the world. The United Nations is where nations can come together with mutual respect to work on their common problems. Even with the Iraq war, the U.N. has had major successes, and we need to celebrate them as progress toward a more peaceful world.

Worldwide Discussions

Before the war, the world had months of discussions over the possibility of war. It was the first time in history when whether to go to war or not was discussed worldwide. This in itself is a major success of the Security Council deliberations. It brought together not only nations to talk about war and peace issues, it brought the world's people together to talk and demonstrate as never before.

Although the U.S. went ahead with the war, Will Swaim (Editor, OC Weekly) contends the anti-war activists may well have averted a world war. Questions were raised. Principles were articulated. And now after the war, accountability is demanded.

No Legitimacy for War

The United States came to the U.N. to gain legitimacy for the war. That legitimacy was never given. And withholding legitimacy was probably the right decision considering the lack of evidence of weapons of mass destruction or of an eminent danger from Iraq. The Security Council did its job even though the Bush Administration was unwilling to listen.

The Occupation

After the war, the U.S. returned to the United Nations to gain legitimacy for the occupation of Iraq. The United States and the United Kingdom have been named the occupying powers, but this designation carries with it responsibilities dictated by the treaties to which the United States is a party. It remains to be seen whether the United States is capable of carrying out these responsibilities without the help of the world community.

The Relevance of the UN

The relevance of the UN lies in the discussions in the Security Council, in the General Assembly, and among the peoples of the world. These discussions help us understand global issues. [p. 6 >](#)

Effie Robinson

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prizes and had their essays entered in the national essay contest.

Effie's life serves to remind us that no matter how disadvantaged you are, success will come if we only try harder to be a better person. She built her career in roles that focused on the caring and support for individuals, giving them the direction by which in turn they could provide for their loved ones. The heart of Effie's work has been people.

Upon her death, Mayor Willie Brown issued a statement, "Effie Robinson was a giant in the African American Community, a true San Franciscan whose passion was helping people and constantly improving the city she loved." Former Mayor Art Agnos also said, "She was just a brilliant woman who combined her extraordinary intellect with a kind of street understanding. She was a genteel, beautifully spoken ... powerhouse ... She knew when to talk and when to listen".

A memorial service was held July 12 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in San Francisco.

** Thanks to George Geevargis at San Francisco World Television for content contribution*

Reflections on the UNA–USA Washington Forum

By Linda Lazzeretti, Corresponding Secretary, UNA–East Bay

As a first time visitor to Washington, my thoughts were awhirl with the sights both outside and inside the Forum. The UNA event began with a full-scale day of walking the hill talking to law-makers, and it finished with the opening session of the Forum.

While there is much that is discouraging about current US policy, there are many hopeful signs. Groups, coalitions and individuals from all walks of life in DC are developing new approaches, policies and resolutions to settle problems without resorting to war.

The meeting with Congressman Pete Stark's aide was interesting, especially when UNA President Bill Luers appeared in the middle of it!

Ambassador Luers had many interesting comments to make on the Iraq situation including the increasing burden it is placing on Bush, and the need for Congress to push for a clear delineation of a plan, timelines and costs for the reconstruction.

John Dean of the UNA–USA Task Force on Peace and Security thinks the cost is already too great for the US to do such a unilateral action again.

Other talking points for our meetings with Congresspersons included the U.S. International Leadership Act (HR 1950) to organize a Democracy Caucus at the UN, and UN financing issues.

The many breakout sessions at the Forum were interesting and too many to cover at once. Here are some I attended:

The “hug of death” issues surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were the focal points of the first session. Specifically, the Bush administration's Road Map to Peace was examined from all sides. I was particularly struck by the AFSC panelist's comments on terminology. By the Bush administration's choosing to use the term “war” against terrorism, instead of calling it what it was – a criminal act, it has set in motion a big hammer approach that makes every problem look like a nail to be hit. The result is a lot of unnecessary energy, waste, death and destruction when “rule of law” terminology could have been far more effective and less costly.

Other sessions I attended involved the ICC and its development of the Victim's Trust Fund to support the new court's true purpose and assist in restorative justice to heal communities. David Scheffer, Secretary of State Albright's War Crimes Ambassador and UNA-

USA Senior Vice President who is leaving UNA to teach at Georgetown University, was always a great, clear, solid presence moving the ICC along to permanence on the world stage.

The environment issues session was well highlighted in the legal sense by Bill Futrell from the Environment Law Institute.

Several of the Johannesburg NGOs commented as well, and whatever else the Johannesburg Conference on Sustainable Development did or didn't do, it did put the NGOs to networking which seems to be creating fresh ventures and opportunities among them. I thought Mr. Futrell's definition sustainability was simple and well stated, “the capacity for self-renewal.” This Forum was that for me as well as a challenge to get back to work to ‘renew’ our trust and faith in the UN and UNA's efforts to make out world a more just and sustainable place. Sometimes the darkest hour is just before dawn, and I saw hints of light on the horizon.

The UN in Iraq

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It brings to the table the alternatives and the possible solutions seen from the various perspectives of the world's nations. The disclosure and transparency of the actions of the United Nations and its members states will provide the accountability needed to change the actions of nations, actions that go against the principles of international justice.

The Reality

The United Nations is a process – a process whereby nations come together to talk and decide how to proceed. It will survive because nations must come together to talk, even if they do not agree.

The United Nations is trusted by nations around the world; the United States is not. In order for war to have legitimacy, it must be approved through the processes of the U.N. The reality is, force does not always solve problems, and the United States cannot solve the world's problems alone. The U.N., with its imperfections, is the only place where the world can come together to collaborate on issues and share responsibility for solutions. The U.N. provides a place for dialogue, deliberation, and diplomacy.

Communications, Membership And Technology Corner by Brent Hunter

UNA-SF announces the appointment of Linda Morrow as its Volunteer Coordinator.

This appointment recognizes Linda's past performance as a UNA-SF volunteer and her interest in working with people. In this role she will be coordinating the efforts of volunteers and helping to ensure that volunteers are well cared for. We're glad you're here Linda!

Please send us your e-mail address. We are updating our membership database with e-mail addresses and fax numbers. This will allow us to communicate with our UNA-SF chapter members more regularly because the cost is much less than that of postal mailing of program notices and newsletters.

If you have an e-mail or fax address, please contact Brent (510-261-7878 or brent@una-sf.org) and leave this information so we can keep in touch with you in the future.

We need you and your friends! If there was ever a critical time to support the important work of the United Nations, this is it! As you know, the purpose of the UNA is to support and strengthen the UN. The more members we have, the more effective our lobbying efforts in Washington can be, and the more people can be informed about the UN and the UNA. Please invite at least one of your friends or colleagues in the next month to become a member of the UNA-SF. *It's important.*

Membership Application

[Membership in UNA-USA and UNA-SF includes a subscription to *UNA-SF Courier*, the national UNA-USA newspaper *The InterDependent*, invitations to special events in the Bay Area, and other benefits.]

Enclosed are my tax-deductible membership dues and contributions for twelve months:

- New membership Renewal
- Individual membership, \$35
- Family or organization membership, \$40
- Student membership, \$10
- Limited income individual, \$20, or family, \$25
- Sponsor, \$100 Patron, \$500
- Additional contribution to support
 - UNA-SF chapter activities, \$ _____
 - UNA-USA national programs, \$ _____
- I would like to volunteer my services.

Special abilities: _____

(Send a copy of this part to UNA-SF)

Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City, state, zip _____
Telephone _____
Fax; e-mail _____
Amount paid _____
Signature _____

[Please send a copy of this form with a check to UNA-USA, 801 Second Avenue; New York, NY 10017. See also <http://www.unausa.org> or call 212-907-1342.]

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United Nations Association of San Francisco



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The United Nations Association of San Francisco (UNA–SF) is the San Francisco chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA–USA), a national, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing US participation in the United Nations system and to strengthening that system as it seeks to define and carry out its mission.

UNA–USA, based in New York City, carries out its action agenda through a unique combination of public outreach, policy analysis, and international dialogue.

UNA–USA is the largest foreign policy association in the nation. Its nationwide network of chapters and divisions reaches a broad cross-section of the American public.

UNA–USA provides information and educational services on the work of the UN and on global issues for students, scholars, Congress, and the media. Its publications, including *The InterDependent* are available from its web site www.unausa.org. Each year UNA–USA coordinates the observance of United Nations Day (October 24) in hundreds of communities across the nation.