



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

Nashville Chapter
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61st Annual Dinner and Plenary Meeting

Peace in Israel and Palestine: Is it possible?

Featuring a Panel from Moderate Voices for Progress,
a Multi-Faith Group from the Jerusalem YMCA

Belmont United Methodist Church
(Corner of Acklen Avenue and 21st Ave. South,
Hillsboro Village)

Tuesday March 14, 2006

Reception 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Program 7:00 p.m.

(no charge for program only)

Price: \$16

Student Price: \$12

(scholarships available)

RSVP by Friday, March 10 to the UNA Office, 615-321-1200.

(Vegetarian meals available upon request when making a reservation.)

Please note – We purchase food based on the number of reservations.

***If you are unable to attend at the last minute,
a donation to cover our costs is appreciated.)***

The Moderate Voices for Progress (MVP) program is designed around three specific seminars, participation in religious services celebrating the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith traditions, facilitated dialogue at organized community events, living with host families and engaging in certain organized tourist and social activities.

A guiding principle for all activities is that issues of race and ethnicity, religion and politics will often form the basis of discussion, but the goal of the program is to focus on preparing each participant with the readiness and skills needed to act as a moderate voice for progress upon their return to the Middle East.

President's Corner

TSU TO REPRESENT THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AT NATIONALS

Tennessee State University anticipates sending 11 students to the upcoming National Model United Nations Conference in New York City April 11-15, 2006. TSU will be representing The Solomon Islands. The students do most of their work at the conference in committees. The Solomon Islands participate in the following committees:

- General Assembly Plenary
- All General Assembly Committees
- The World Trade Organization
- The Group of 77
- The Conference Committee on Disaster Relief

Among the issues the students will be dealing with are: nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, transparency in the WTO, global debt, developing countries and UN reform, illicit fund transfers, human rights, and disaster early warning, among other issues. A highlight of the conference is the mission briefing the students will have with the diplomats from the country they are representing. This allows the students the opportunities to ask questions and learn about politics in The Solomon Islands. In the past the students have met representatives from Eritrea, Libya, Colombia, Kazakhstan, and Malta. In the case of Libya and Kazakhstan their mission briefings were given by the respective UN ambassadors from those countries. Another highlight of the conference is the plenary session, which takes place Sat. April 15, at the UN. Students sit in the General Assembly hall debate and vote on the resolutions and reports they have passed during the week.

Participation at the conference allows students to learn how to do research on international issues and learn more about various countries of the world, as well as the UN system. In addition they are able to meet and interact with other students from all over the U.S. as well as many other countries.

If you would like more information about the TSU Model UN program contact Dr. John Miglietta, Faculty Advisor, 963-5515, jmiglietta@tnstate.edu

John Miglietta
President
UNA-USA, Nashville Chapter

Meet the Group from Moderate Voices for Progress (MVP)

The UNA Nashville Chapter is pleased to welcome this group, hosted from March 5 – 22 by the YMCA of Middle TN, to our Annual Meeting on March 14 and our Third Thursday Brown Bag on March 16. The program on the 16th will give even more opportunity for questions and discussion with our guests. The following young people, ranging in age from 23 to 31, will be our guests for both programs:

Abd Almajid Iriqat, Lawyer, *Male / Muslim*

Nehaya Awida, Research Assistant, youth counselor, *Female / Muslim*

Marko Marziano, Teacher, interested in meeting with an academic sociologist, *Male / Jewish*

Adnan Tutunji, Special Ed. Teacher, *Male / Muslim*

Nehaya Magdoub, Works at the Hotline for the Rights of the Individual, *Female / Muslim*

Oren Thaler, Counselor for children with emotional problems, *Male / Jewish*

Dina Zreineh, Accountant, *Female / Christian*

Gili Kugler, Teacher - Jewish studies, *Female / Jewish*

Batsheva Chernitsky, Works as a translator at the Research Institute for Arab Communication, *Female / Jewish*

Julia Solomon, Rabbinical Student - Conservative movement, *Female / Jewish*

Gabriela (Gabi) Kolozvary, Works at the Hebrew Univ. library, studying history of art, *Female / Jewish*

Salameh Salameh, Student - MA program – accounting and economics, *Male / Christian*

Muhammad Turk, (Group Peer Leader Junior high school teacher (history and civics), studying for MA, works at Public Committee Against Torture, *Male / Muslim*

Press Freedom and the UN

Joe Sills, UNA Nashville Chapter Government Relations Co-Chair

The continuing uproar over the Danish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad is just the latest episode in the never-ending debate over press freedom vs. press responsibility. In the past, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) debated extensively the concept of a "New World Information Order" which included, among commendable provisions seeking to improve the information capacities of developing countries, an ill-conceived plan to require, or at least condone, registration and other limitations on the media, ostensibly to protect them, but actually to control them. This effort was the major reason for the withdrawal of the United States from UNESCO. The fact that UNESCO has abandoned this program and realigned itself strongly as a supporter of press freedom was largely responsible for the decision of the current administration to rejoin UNESCO, which has now been done.

The UN has recently completed a series of meetings on the information society, culminating in a world conference in Tunis. These have included a series on "Unlearning Intolerance" which discussed the effects of "hate" media and how the media could educate people through reporting and confronting manifestations of intolerance around the world. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has called attention to the growing number of journalists working in dangerous areas of the world who are persecuted, attacked, imprisoned and killed while doing their jobs.

Another issue is the "underreported stories," such as progress in Somalia toward a fragile peace; obstetric fistulas; the humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda; violence against women; disarmament of former combatants in Sierra Leone; and the need for environmental preservation to safeguard potential cures for infectious diseases. In these and many, many other areas, the UN is working to improve things.

It is reasonable and fair that freedom of the press not be viewed solely as the freedom of journalists to report and comment, but that this be correlated with the public's right to knowledge and information. But this must be accomplished through voluntary codes of conduct and mechanisms of self-regulation within the journalistic profession. An essential part of good governance is to provide a functioning legal infrastructure which encourages independent and pluralistic media to flourish. The UN is working with a number of developing countries to help them create such an infrastructure. This is a role the UN can and should be playing.

One other thing; contrary to the rantings of some right-wing UN haters, the Secretary-General has made it perfectly clear that the UN has no interest in taking over or controlling the Internet. The UN's concern is helping more people, especially in the developing world, have affordable access to it.

Brown Bag Luncheon Series

Pack a light lunch and join us for these “brown bag” foreign affairs seminars, another educational service of your Nashville Chapter, UNA-USA:

March 16, 2006

Panel Discussion with Members of Moderate Voices for Progress (see notice about Annual Meeting and article on Page Two)

April 20, 2006

TBA

May 18, 2006

TBA

All Luncheons are free and open to the public at the Nashville Peace & Justice Center, 1016 18th Ave. South, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.. Parking is available at the Scarritt-Bennett Center directly across 18th Ave.

Check Out These Websites for More Info !

<http://www.una-nashville.org>

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

<http://www.un.org>

Your Support is Appreciated!

Thanks to our many friends and members for your generous support. Dozens of you serve on boards and committees, volunteer to staff our offices, organize our programs, and provide ongoing financial assistance to help make everything possible. We couldn't do it without you!

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 615-321-1200 and we'll 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.

As always, we welcome donations any time throughout the year. Please send your contribution directly to the UNA, P.O. Box 121745, Nashville, TN 37212. Do not send a gift for our Nashville Chapter with your dues to New York. Thanks to everyone who is supporting us in this way.

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