



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]

Fall 2008

(615) 837-3581

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## Celebration of United Nations Day

*October 23, 2008*

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

“Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights”

*Featuring*

**Professor William F. Felice**

**Appleton Room, Jubilee Hall  
Fisk University**

Directions from Downtown Nashville:

West on Charlotte, right on D.B. Todd, right on Jackson,  
left on 16<sup>th</sup>, left on Meharry.  
Park on Meharry or in lot on left.

Reception: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Program: 7:00 p.m.

### Reservation Required

Call (615) 837-3581 or email [una-event@bellsouth.net](mailto:una-event@bellsouth.net)  
by Thursday noon, October 16th  
(Vegetarian plates available)

Cost: \$18.00 for adults and \$12.00 for students  
(Program only is free))

Dr. William Felice is Professor of Political Science at Eckherd College, St Petersburg, Florida where, among other courses, he teaches Ethics and International Relations, International Political Economy, Quest for Meaning, Human Rights and International Law. In 2006, he was named Florida Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Felice is the author of two books: *Taking Suffering Seriously* (1996) and *The Global New Deal* (2003). He has also published numerous articles and academic papers.

## President's Corner

On December 10, 1948, the international community came together through the United Nations and adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This year the United Nations is celebrating the UDHR's sixtieth anniversary worldwide, and we, here in Nashville, are joining in that celebration.

Reacting to the atrocities of the Second World War, the UN General Assembly decided at its very first session, in 1946, to complement the United Nations Charter with an agreement to guarantee the rights of every individual everywhere. Drafting of the UDHR began in 1947. In 1948 the final draft was agreed to and the UDHR was adopted. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, chaired the drafting committee and has been recognized as the driving force for the Declaration's adoption.

On Thursday evening, October 23rd, we will pay tribute to this landmark agreement at our annual fall dinner. Professor Felice, an expert in human rights and international law, has graciously agreed to address us on this occasion. I most sincerely hope that you will all join us as we commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mary Pat Silveira  
Nashville, Tennessee

### UNA-USA E-Action Network

UNA-USA uses the E-Action Network to alert members and other UN supporters via e-mail when action is needed on important UN issues.

To join the E-Action Network, visit the UNA-USA website at

<http://www.unausa.org/site/apps/ka/ct/contactus.asp?c=fvKRI8MPJpF&b=1633303&en=glLGLSOvH5JKI4OvE5LPKXNrH7KELTPAIIIXIaI>

Current Action Items include:

[Support the Treaty for the Rights of Women!](#)

The United States stands nearly alone in its failure to ratify the UN Treaty for the Rights of Women (CEDAW). Take a minute to help strengthen US international leadership in the fight to end discrimination and violence against women.

## What is the UDHR?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is generally agreed to be the foundation of international human rights law. It represents the universal recognition that basic rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to all human beings, inalienable and equally applicable to everyone, and that every one of us is born free and equal in dignity and rights. Whatever our nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language or any other status, the international community on December 10, 1948 make a commitment to upholding dignity and justice for all.

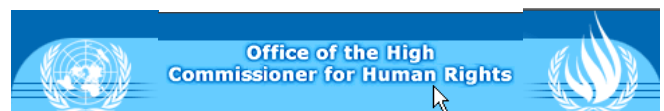
Over the years, the commitment has been translated into law, including treaties, customary international law, general principles, regional agreements and domestic law through which human rights are expressed and guaranteed. It has inspired more than 80 international human rights treaties and declarations, a great number of regional human rights conventions, domestic human rights bills and constitutional provisions, which together constitute a comprehensive legally binding system for promotion and protection of human rights.

Although the UDHR is not itself legally binding, two International Covenants were adopted and entered into force in 1976: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Taken together, these two make most of the provisions of the UDHR legally binding.

To help ensure that people worldwide are aware of their human rights, the UDHR has been translated into and made available in over 360 languages. It is the most translated document in the world.

Additional information about the UDHR can be found on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' website,

<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/>



**September 16, 2008**

**Memorandum: To Members, Friends and Supporters of UNA-USA**

**From: William H. Luers, President of the United Nations Association of the United States of America**

At its regular fall meeting on September 15, 2008, the Board of Directors of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) decided on a restructuring of operations and programs. The Board took this initiative now to ensure the continuing vitality of our core mission.

We will concentrate on building our core programs that have been at the heart of UNA-USA for many years. We will enhance our much-respected education initiatives, such as the successful Global Classrooms program for public high schools, now in 23 cities and reaching tens of thousands of students, and our close partnership with the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Affairs at Seton Hall University.

This school began with a few dozen students in 1998 and now has more than 500 graduate and undergraduate students. We will continue to strengthen our chapters and membership across the US and expand our advocacy work on UN issues as well, particularly during this election year and after the new administration takes office.

We look forward to working with many partners in this endeavor, including our Young Professionals for International Cooperation, our Council of Organizations and our National Council. We will expand our efforts to promote the rule of law through a new public program on human rights, and we will lead our American NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court to encourage active US government participation in the Court.

We will also continue our policy programs, most particularly our dialogue with Iran. We are upgrading UNA-USA's Web site and improving our communications capacity through the Internet. Our major emphasis will be to reach younger generations with our story about the UN and global issues.

This restructuring will also result in downsizing our two signature humanitarian campaigns, Adopt-A-Minefield and HERO. These humanitarian programs have been highly successful in attracting a new generation to the work of our organization and to understanding the work of the UN. Through AAM, UNA-USA became the largest nongovernmental donor to mine action in the world and a valued partner to the UN, having raised \$35 million for mine clearance, survivor assistance and education programs on landmines. Through our HERO campaign and its Young Ambassadors (YA) program, a new generation of young Americans learned directly about the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa and how they can help alleviate some of the problems faced by African children as a result of the epidemic. Through our YA program, the Millennium Development Goals have become alive for over six million teenage television and Web viewers in the US and Europe.

An important and valuable component of the restructuring will be the downsizing of our management and overhead costs, a reduction in personnel and the consolidation of our rented office space. Staff cuts are never easy, and we will make a concerted effort to recognize the good work of those who will be leaving and agree to support their efforts to find new employment.

This restructuring will result in a significant reduction of expenditures for the 2009 budget, thereby assuring a responsible approach to UNA-USA's position during the difficult months facing the US economy. Taking UNA-USA "back to basics" was also, in part, the Board's response to the adverse economic conditions affecting philanthropy, which has impacted our organization and will continue to affect us and other nonprofit organizations for the foreseeable future.

In the next decade, we anticipate greater opportunities for this organization to have an impact on the attitudes of the American public and on the policies of a new US administration regarding the vital role of the UN. The Board believes that now is the time to position UNA-USA for an era in which the most serious threats to humanity – climate change, non-proliferation, the threat from pandemics, peacekeeping and poverty, to name a few -- can be dealt with only through global cooperation among member states through the United Nations.

UNA-USA's many thousands of members, friends and supporters can be confident that this organization will be stronger after this restructuring. For over 60 years, the United Nations Association of the USA has been a respected and effective organization seeking greater United States support for the UN and the strengthening of the UN. The decisions that we have taken today will assure the continuation of UNA-USA's historic role as the leading advocate for the United Nations in the US.



## UN Association Seminars

*Be on the look-out for announcements of our upcoming UN Association Seminars*, another educational service of the Nashville Chapter, UNA-USA:

**November 20, 2008**

TBA

**December 18, 2008**

TBA

All Seminars are free and open to the public. Please check our website, [www.una-nashville.org](http://www.una-nashville.org) for the latest information on location and times.

### Save a Tree!

If you'd like to receive the UNA Newsletter via e-mail rather than via regular mail, please contact us at, [info@una-nashville.org](mailto:info@una-nashville.org).

Thanks!

## 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 office, 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 615-837-3581 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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