



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

UNA-USA Newsletter-Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter

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

Fall 2010

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Celebration of United Nations Day

October 26, 2010

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**“How Your Neighbors Contribute to the United Nations
Millennium Development Goals”
(and how you can, too!)**

Featuring

José González

Pamela Kidd

and

Reverend Ann Walling

Belmont United Methodist Church

21st Avenue South at Acklen in

Hillsboro Village

Reception: 5:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Program 7:00 p.m.

Reservation Required

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

by noon, Friday, October 22

Cost: \$20.00 (student scholarships available)

(Note: persons canceling after Oct. 22 are liable for the costs of their meals)

(Program only is free)

Our three speakers will each talk about the MDG-related projects they have initiated: José González, *Rumba Roast* (Guatemala); Pamela Kidd, *Village Hope* (Zimbabwe); and Ann Walling, *Mekong Blue Silk* (Cambodia). More information about the speakers follows on pages 4 and 5.

President's Corner

Last month, the United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concluded in New York with the adoption of a global action plan to achieve the eight anti-poverty goals by their 2015 target date and the announcement of major new commitments for women's and children's health and other initiatives against poverty, hunger and disease.

In a major push to accelerate progress, a number of Heads of State and Government, along with the private sector, foundations, international organizations, civil society and research organizations, pledged over \$40 billion in resources over the next five years.

We, however, do not have to look to New York or other international capitals to find people who are committed to achieving these same goals. The lives of people - whether homeless or HIV-infected children, women rescued from the sex trade, farmers without seed corn or students without food- can be transformed with more modest resources when combined with commitment, love and concern for others.

Many of our neighbors here in Nashville give testimony to this. We will hear from three of them at our UN Day Dinner - José González will talk about meeting goals 1, 7 and 8 with his Rumba Roast project in Guatemala; Pamela Kidd's Village Hope in Zimbabwe addresses virtually all of the eight MDGs, as does Reverend Ann Walling's Mekong Blue Silk project in Cambodia.

Read their stories on pages 4 and 5 and then come to listen to them on October 26. They have changed many lives. Yours might be one of them.

Mary Pat Silveira
Nashville, Tennessee



UN Starts \$40 Billion Health Drive

During the MDG Summit last month, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced a \$40 billion dollar drive to improve the health of women and children. Ban estimated that his Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health could save 16 million lives by 2015.

Of the eight key development targets set a decade ago, cutting deaths of women during pregnancy and childbirth and those of children younger than five have seen the least progress.

For more information on the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, see www.un.org/sg/globalstrategy

The Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality
- Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Goal 8: Global Partnership for Development

For more information on the Summit, go to: www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010

Would You Like to Contribute to the MDGs?

You can donate any amount of money to these important campaigns simply by going to: <http://www.unfoundation.org/donate/>

Nothing But Nets: Send a malaria-preventing bed net to the Central African Republic

Girl Up: Network American girls with adolescent girls in the world's poorest countries

Eradicate polio: Help create a polio-free world for the children of the 21st century and future generations

End fistula with this generation

President Obama at the MDG Summit

[In his address to the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, on September 22, 2010, President Obama reminds us that development aid is not charity, that we are all connected economically and morally and through our mutual security. Following are excerpts from his speech. The full text is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/22/remarks-president-millennium-development-goals-summit-new-york-new-york>]

“In the Charter of this United Nations, our countries pledged to work for ‘the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.’ In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we recognized the inherent dignity and rights of every individual, including the right to a decent standard of living. And a decade ago, at the dawn of a new millennium, we set concrete goals to free our fellow men, women and children from the injustice of extreme poverty. These are the standards we set. Today, we must ask – are we living up to our mutual responsibilities?”

“I suspect that some in wealthier countries may ask – with our economies struggling... why a summit on development? The answer is simple. In our global economy, progress in even the poorest countries can advance the prosperity and security of people far beyond their borders, including my fellow Americans.

“When a child dies from a preventable disease, it shocks our conscience. When a girl is deprived of an education or her mother is denied equal rights, it undermines the prosperity of their nation. When a young entrepreneur can’t start a new business, it stymies the creation of new jobs and markets – in his country and in ours. When millions of fathers cannot provide for their families, it feeds the despair that can fuel instability and violent extremism. When a disease goes unchecked, it can endanger the health of millions around the world.

“So let’s put to rest the old myth that development is mere charity that does not serve our interests. And let’s reject the cynicism that says certain countries are condemned to perpetual poverty. For the past half century has witnessed more gains in human development than at any time in history...From Latin America to Africa to Asia, developing nations have transformed into leaders in the global economy.”

US Recognizes Value of Human Rights Council

On September 30, the United Nations created a special investigator to examine the right of freedom of assembly around the world. The U.S.-backed resolution passed without the need for a vote in the UN Human Rights Council.

Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe, the US ambassador at the 47-nation council, told reporters after the vote that the post was “exactly the type of issue” for which Washington joined the Human Rights Council.

Earlier in the week, the United States welcomed the Council’s engagement on the issue of mass rapes that occurred in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) between July 30 and August 2. Ambassador Chamberlain noted that this demonstrated that “the Council can react to events in real time.”

The fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council concluded its two-week meeting in Geneva on October 1. The draft report is available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/15session/A.HRC.15.L.10.pdf>

Senate Committee Approves New START Treaty

President Obama’s arms control treaty with Russia advanced to the Senate floor with bipartisan support on September 16, giving it a major boost toward ratification.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 14 to 4 to approve the treaty known as New Start, with three Republicans, including Tennessee Senator Corker, joining the Democrats. Thanks to those of you who urged Senator Corker to support the treaty.

Your action is needed again!

Urge Senator Corker to vote to send the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to the Senate floor.

Write to Senator Corker or go to http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/1920/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=3149 to send him an electronic message.

Meet Our UN Day Speakers

Mr. José González's projects have grown out of his strong entrepreneurial background, his commitment to Hispanic communities here and abroad and his work both with Conexión Américas, <http://www.conamericas.com/>, which he co-founded in 2002, and Belmont University, whose faculty he joined in 2007 as an Instructor of Entrepreneurship and management.

While serving as Executive Director of Conexión Américas, he established the *Rumba Roast*, <http://www.conamericas.com/rumbaroast.aspx>, project, and he continues to pioneer entrepreneurship projects for economic development, including those working with fair trade coffee and honey farmers in Chajul, Guatemala. Recently he led a group of students to northern Guatemala, and his team of students is working with Asociación Chajulense, <http://asociacionchajulense.org/index/>, on micro-lending and other economic development endeavors.

The *Rumba Roast* project was born from an alliance between Bongo Java and Belmont University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). The organic coffee beans are roasted in Nashville by the Bongo Java Roasting Company. Bongo Java purchases the beans at Fair Trade prices, which means coffee bean farmers in Latin America are paid a sustainable price for their product. This allows them to better support their businesses and families.

Part of the proceeds also filters into the local community by supporting Conexión Américas' mission of helping Latino families in Middle Tennessee fulfill their aspirations for economic and social advancement.

Mr. Gonzalez serves on the Boards of Directors of a couple of private firms in town, and is on the Community Advisory Board for First Tennessee Bank. He is actively involved in Nashville's civic community.

He was recognized as one of a total of 50 most influential individuals leading and shaping Nashville's future, Nashville's Forward Fifty, in 2007. *The Tennessean*, named him as one of Nashville's "Top 40 under [the age of] 40" individuals, for service and commitment to improving the lives of individuals in Middle Tennessee.

Ms. Pamela Kidd is a freelance writer, community activist and coordinator of projects providing homes and other services for those in need, and an affiliate real estate broker at Fridrich & Clark Realty, LLC.

Over the years, Ms. Kidd has organized and directed projects to relocate refugees and to build low-income housing for the poor. She has volunteered extensively in the public school system and has taught creative writing classes to at-risk children.

In 1999, she traveled to Zimbabwe to write about the street children. There she met a near destitute woman who was feeding homeless children on the streets of Harare. To help support her efforts, Ms. Kidd and her daughter, Keri Cannon, founded the Children of Zimbabwe Fund and, eventually, with help from private donations and support from their church, they bought a three-building compound in Harare and established *Home of Hope*, which distributes food and clothing to homeless children, pays school fees and provides minor medical care, and offers classes for street women.

Village Hope sprang from the first project. With the help of Paddington, another local Zimbabwean, they bought a farm where they take in AIDS' orphans, integrating them into family life and ensuring their education. This project has led to still another – a *feeding program* at two nearby rural schools where over half the children had nothing to eat throughout the school day. They now feed 900 school children every day as well as hundreds of people from surrounding villages.

Each project leads to another. They discovered that people in the rural areas surrounding *Village Hope* were getting sick from eating seeds meant for planting that were coated in pesticide. In response, Pam started *Seeds to Sadza* in 2008. Paddington trains villagers on how to plant the government seeds and harvest the crops. In the meantime, families are given sadza – a cornmeal staple – to consume until the crops may be harvested. With this in place, they started *Pass It On*, a program that gives needy families a goat or a cow,

Most recently, they helped launch a *dental clinic* and are training locals to provide basic dental care.

Meet Our UN Day Speakers (continued)

The **Reverend Ann Walling** is a retired Episcopal priest in Nashville who wanted to help keep Cambodian women from being drawn into the sex trade. She served as assistant to the Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church until 2010.

In 2001, her mother, Olivia Boulton, set up a family foundation, the Allen Foundation to address a poverty related issue among the poorest of the poor. That place turned into a spot in a remote part of Cambodia called Stung Treng. The issue that turned the heart of the family was the plight of women and girls where a woman named Nguon Chantha was trying to set up a hospice for HIV/AIDS victims. She was having difficulty getting funding.

Girls were rarely sent to school and, consequently, reached adulthood illiterate and with no marketable skills. Often their only option was the sex trade. Chantha knew the ancient Cambodian art of silk weaving. In partnership with the Allen Foundation, and other NGOs, a small silk weaving business was set up to train and employ these illiterate, desperate young women. If they could stay home and weave silk, they could earn a living wage, support their families and enrich their communities. That silk weaving project became the *Stung Treng Women's Development Center*, maker of *Mekong Blue Silk*. A year ago a US market for Mekong Blue Silk was set up with an online store, www.BlueSilk.org.

The *Stung Treng Women's Development Center* (SWDC) has grown to 40 looms and 100 plus women. All women entering the program participate in the SWDC initiatives which include: a kindergarten facility for the children of the SWDC worker; sponsorships for more than 40 girls in the Stung Treng public school system; a consumer business called *Mekong Blue*, through which young women create and sell a line of silk products while being trained in ethical and sustainable business practices; vocational training courses that instruct young women in weaving, sewing, cooking computer literacy, management and design.

More than 400 women and 395 children have been directly supported by the SWDC through education, vocational training and employment, and this number continues to grow. The project has been so successful that it is now very close to being self-sustaining.

Celebrate Human Rights Day 2010

Each year we celebrate Human Rights Day, the anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

This year, the Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter is partnering with the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, Metro Human Relations Commission and a number of non-governmental organizations in Middle Tennessee to mark the day.

The event, which will be held on Thursday, December 9, will begin with a panel moderated by UNA Chapter President Mary Pat Silveira, followed by a key celebrity speaker active in human rights. Two adults will be awarded for their lifetime achievements in human rights, and one of them is our own Don Beisswenger. A reception will conclude the program.

A call has been made to high school students throughout the area to create and submit a work of art that depicts one or more of the human rights identified in the UDHR. This art will be displayed throughout the evening and later compiled and printed in a book. High school students (including home schooled students) who would like to contribute a work of art may find all necessary details at www.nashvillehumanrights.org. Educators and students may also email info@nashvillehumanrights.org with questions.

Former Chilean President to Lead New UN Agency

Michelle Bachelet, the first woman elected president of Chile, has been chosen by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to head the new global UN agency created to advance women's rights

Ms. Bachelet comes with a "wealth of experience, global leadership, and global stature," Mr. Ban said, and will bring to the post a "real force to meet the expectations of many women and girls and children around the world."

The new agency was set up in July of this year. Given the rather long name of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, it is more frequently referred to as "Gender Entity."

Upcoming Events

October 14

“Human Rights and the Invisible American Muslim” - Dr. Hana Kahn is a native of Pakistan who was brought up in Saudi Arabia. She is a graduate of the Fatima Jinnah Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan. She has lived in the United States for the past 12 years where she works in medical practice management. Dr. Khan is also the author of a book of Urdu poetry, “Istearah Shaam Ka” (a symbol of a beautiful evening). She is married and has two children. - **Belmont United Methodist Church, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.**

October 26

UN Day Dinner - Details on page 1 - **Belmont United Methodist Church, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

December 9

Human Rights Day Celebration - (details forthcoming)

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.

Save a Tree!

For those with email, we are moving to an electronic version of this newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving the printed version, please contact Mary Pat Silveira at mpsilveira@usa.net. Thanks!

Your Support is Appreciated!

Please renew your membership when it comes due, or consider joining the UNA if you have not yet done so. We also welcome your contribution in any amount. All funds provided UNA-USA are tax deductible.

You can join at our website by going to <http://www.una-nashville.org/contact.html>. You may also contact our office at (615) 870-8446 and we will send you a brochure. Our main sources of income are a portion of members' dues, and contributions from our members and friends.

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