



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter
Fall 2011 Newsletter

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President

Mary Pat Silveira

Vice-Presidents

Rebecca Freeman

John Williamson

Celebrate the UN's 66th Birthday With GirlUp

Special appearance by Mayor Karl Dean

- **Melissa Hillebrenner of GirlUp**
- **HAYAIA West African Dance Groupe**
- **Actors Bridge Ensemble: Act Like a GRRRL**
- **Country Music Star Marlee Scott performing her latest hit, "Beautiful Maybe"**
- **International dessert and coffee bar**

Sunday, October 23, 2011

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Parthenon

Secretary

JEben Cathey
Doris Ann Hendrix

Treasurer

Jerry Harder

Board of Directors

Klint Alexander
Gashawbeza W. Bekele
Pat Bentrup
Charles R. (Dick) Bowers
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Greg Hinote
Greg Horne
Susan Jellissen
Hana Khan
Andrea Maneschi
Stephen L. Meyer
Dan Rosemergy
Rebecca Scarpati
Robin Peeler Wooten

Committee Chairs

Communications

Cathy Folk

Centennial Park
Nashville

Reservation Required

Call (615) 870-8446 or email unausa-event@usa.net

Adults: \$15.00
Students: 10.00
Ages 12 & under: 5.00

The GirlUp Campaign was established by the United Nations Foundation to address the needs of adolescent girls in developing countries. It mobilizes American girls to raise awareness and funds for programs of the United Nations that help some of the world's hardest-to-reach adolescent girls. Through GirlUp's support, girls have the opportunity to become educated, healthy, safe, counted and positioned to be the next generation of leaders.

President's Corner

We all know the cost of our national recession. Too many members of our community -- and perhaps even our own families -- are without employment, losing their homes and struggling to meet even basic human needs. This drama is playing out across not only the state but also the entire country.

There is another cost as well, one that may impact on the lives and livelihoods of millions more. In early September, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduced [anti-UN legislation](#) (H.R. 2829) in Congress that would threaten vital funding to the UN and Sanofi.

Rebecca Freeman

Education

Jessica Files

Finance

Doris Ann Hendrix

Government Relations

Greg Hinote

Hospitality

Cathy Folk

Membership

Dorothy Anderson

Connie Matthews

Program

Rebecca Freeman

John Williamson

Congress that would threaten vital funding to the UN and threaten American leadership at the United Nations.

As the U.S. and the UN tackle serious security and political crises in places like Libya, Sudan, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and deliver critical humanitarian aid to those affected by natural catastrophes in the Horn of Africa, Haiti and Japan, it is irresponsible to cut off U.S. support for UN peacekeeping and for UN operations. The UN is playing a greater role in promoting American interests than ever before.

I ask you, please, contact your senators and representative and tell them not to jeopardize US leadership, US security and the valuable work of the United Nations (including, e.g., UNICEF and the World Food Programme) by voting to reduce funding or making US contributions to the UN voluntary.

Join “Let U.S. Lead”, a grassroots campaign to educate and engage American voters about the consequences of H.R. 2829’s dangerous approach to cutting UN funding.

Thank you!

Mary Pat Silveira
Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter
Nashville, Tennessee

U.S. Goals and Priorities at the UN

The following comments are excerpted from the speech of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Esther Brimmer to the Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, in which she sets out U.S. goals and priorities before the opening of the 66th United Nations' General Assembly.

"We [the United States] will work with the international community on the next steps for assistance to the transition in Libya. We will address the mounting humanitarian crisis on the Horn of Africa, and we will discuss peace and security in Sudan

and South Sudan. We will devote high-level attention to the urgent global public health challenges posed by non-communicable diseases. And on the sidelines of the General Assembly, we will co-host with Brazil the first head of state-level meeting of the Open Government Partnership.”

Many of the threats we face are shared by the global community, and their solutions will require global cooperation. "Nuclear proliferation endangers the security of us all, regardless of nationality. If not checked, the impact of climate change will further accelerate across the globe. Attacks on freedom and universal human rights anywhere stain our collective conscience. Terrorism and transnational crime do not respect national borders.

Pandemic disease requires no passport to move quickly from one country to another. We know all too well that conflict and instability, even when they fall within a single country halfway around the world, can unleash these and other dangers.”

The most valuable role the United Nations plays is preventive diplomacy -- in staunching conflicts before they start or worsen. "From the 'good offices' of the Secretary-General to the dispatch of special envoys, high-level United Nations involvement has saved countless lives by preventing violence or halting its escalation," she concluded. "Though many of these 'quiet diplomacy' efforts by necessity go unheralded, the human and financial costs of violent conflict make these among the smartest investments the international community can make in our shared security."

GirlUp

What is GirlUp and why do we give it so much prominence?

GirlUp is a campaign of the United Nations Foundation that gives American girls the opportunity to become global leaders in helping some of the world’s hardest-to-reach adolescent girls. It envisions a world where all girls around the world have the opportunity to become educated, healthy, safe, counted and positioned to be the next generation of leaders.

There are more than 500 million adolescent girls living in developing countries today. These girls are bright, talented and full of dreams, but are often unable to reach their full potential. Many of them struggle for the opportunity to go to school, see a doctor or be included in their communities. This has serious consequences including low levels of enrollment in school, high levels of child marriage and way too many girls facing health risks from pregnancy and early childbirth.

Girl Up believes that American girls are a part of the solution. They care about global issues and the challenges facing girls around the world.

Did You Know?

- Less than half a cent of every development dollar goes to programs specifically for girls, particularly those ages 10-14.
- When it comes to funding a vast majority of youth assistance bypasses girls.
- One in 7 girls in the developing world gets married before the age of 15.
- Girls who receive an education marry later, have fewer children and are more likely to seek healthcare for themselves and their children.
- Violence kills and disables as many women between the ages of 15 and 44 as does cancer.
- Younger women are at higher risk of physical or sexual abuse than older ones. Nearly 50% of all sexual assaults are against girls 15 years or younger.
- Educated women are more likely to resist abuses such as domestic violence, traditions like female genital cutting and discrimination at home, in the community and at the workplace.
- Providing girls with leadership skills and including them in the decision-making process is one of the major tools to spark economic and social change.
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Be a part of the solution. Support GirlUp! To learn more about how you can do this, go to <http://www.girlup.org/>

Meet Our UN Day Guests and Performers

Karl Dean is the sixth mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County currently serving his second consecutive term in office. During his tenure, Dean has led Nashville through two big challenges – a deep national recession and a 1,000-year flood –while still attending to his priorities: education, public safety and economic development as well as making Nashville “the greenest city in the Southeast.” Dean first held public office when he was elected as Nashville’s Public Defender in 1990 and later served as Metro Law Director.

Melissa Hillebrenner was recently appointed Deputy Director for GirlUp at the United Nations Foundation. Prior to joining GirlUp she worked as a National Event Production Director for OP3 and as a member of the E-Team for Eventage. She received a BA degree in Strategic Communication from the University of Missouri (Columbia) in May 2003.

The HAYAIA Dance Troupe is a program of the [Global Education Center](#), a nonprofit arts education center in the area of multicultural, anti-bias education. Founded in 1977, the Center uses the arts as a pathway to understanding the various cultural, ethnic and religious groups residing in our community. It presents ongoing classes, workshops, lecture-demonstrations and performances to promote cross-cultural understanding and respect. The overall goal is to highlight the commonalities of all people while creating experiences in the arts that aid in dispelling myths, dismantling stereotypes and unlearning biases.

[Act Like a GRRRL](#) promotes GRRRLs that are strong, independent and creative young women, ages 12 to 17. GRRRLs express their thoughts and feelings on the page and then take it to the stage. They listen to what other GRRRLs have to say, dream

big and take action together to change their world for the better. The program revolves around writing, but it also uses lots of creative practices for girls, to express who they are and what they think. Girls also participate in discussions about healthy living, personal style and relationships led by “very cool adult women” from wide ranging backgrounds.

Marlee Scott was born January 1, 1986, in Ontario, Canada and spent her childhood and early teenage years learning guitar and taking vocal lessons. Country music was always a part of her life, but it was around the age of 16 that she began writing and recording her own music. Marlee’s first album, *Souvenir*, was released in Canada in 2005. By 2007, she had moved to Nashville. In 2010 Marlee’s second album earned a coveted nomination in the Rising Star Award category at the Canadian Country Music Awards and a nomination at the Canadian Radio Music Awards. Marlee records with Leiske’s BigRide Records in Nashville. Her latest hit single, released this summer, is “Beautiful Maybe.” The full album is scheduled for release later this year

UN World Food Day

To mark the annual World Food Day, which falls on Sunday, October 16, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) chose the theme of "Food Prices -- From Crisis to Stability" in order to shed light on what could be done to mitigate its impact on the most vulnerable. FAO noted that price fluctuations, especially upswings, are a major threat to food security in developing countries, where the poor are particularly hard hit. It cited World Bank data indicating that rising food costs pushed nearly 70 million people into extreme poverty in 2010-2011.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) also launched an initiative, called “Feed a Child, Feed a Dream” to provide a glimpse into the lives and aspirations of some of the children around the world who are receiving food from the agency and to demonstrate how easy it is to help. [Continue reading....](#)

UN Women's Fund Invites Proposals

16 October 2011 – The United Nations Women's Fund for Gender Equality on Sunday , October 16, invited organizations and government agencies to apply for grants, adding that first phase of its 2011 funding cycle will give priority to proposals that seek to empower women and their communities in Arab countries.

“UN Women supports the participation and rights of women in the Arab States, and the Fund for Gender Equality can bolster women's empowerment and participation during this time of transition,” said Michelle Bachelet, the Executive Director of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). “We hope that these grants support women in their quest for democracy, equality and political participation,” she said in the statement calling for submission of proposals to be considered for funding.

The Fund has set aside \$16 million for its 2011 grants cycle, with \$4 million earmarked for projects in Arab States, with more support available if contributions to the Fund increase. Grants will start at \$200,000 for initiatives that make tangible improvements in the lives of women and girls.

Applicants may download the Call for Proposals and Grant Application at <http://www.unwomen.org/fge/application-guidelines>.

MDG Advocacy Group to Pursue Concrete Initiatives

Meeting at UN Headquarters on September 21 against the backdrop of the opening of the 66th General Assembly session, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's MDG Advocates – eminent personalities from the private sector, academia, governments and civil society – agreed to lead a series of concrete, targeted actions in the fields of food security, environment, health, education and the empowerment of women, part of a concerted effort to boost

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the 2015 target date.

The MDG Advocates Group, co-chaired by Presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of Spain, endorsed an Action Plan that calls upon each Advocate to champion at least one of the specific MDG initiatives that are grouped in two thematic clusters: “Food Security and Sustainable Growth” and “Education and Health.” Gender equality and global partnerships for development are cross-cutting themes. Through these initiatives, the MDG Advocates aim to generate further momentum towards MDG achievement as the 2015 deadline for meeting the Goals approaches rapidly. For more information, please visit: www.un.org/millenniumgoals/advocates

In Memoriam

Our friend and colleague Joe Sills died in Nashville on September 25, 2011. Joe received his B.A. at Vanderbilt University, Magna Cum Laude, and his M.A. degree at the American University of Beirut. His winning debate record during both high school and college led to his participation with the UNA Model UN program, first in Tennessee and subsequently at UNA-USA headquarters in New York, where he served as Vice-President before joining the United Nations.

Joe began his UN career as Director in the Department of Public Information. During the tenure of two Secretaries-General -- Perez de Cuellar and Boutros-Ghali -- Joe was elevated first to Deputy Spokesperson and then to Spokesperson for the Secretary-General. During his last years with the UN, he moved to Washington as Director of the UN Information Centre.

Following retirement, Joe continued as a consultant to several UN programs and served as an instructor for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of Vanderbilt. He also remained committed to the Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter of the UNA-USA, where he served on its Board of Directors and as Historian.

Joe is survived by his wife of 48 years, Dorothy Sills, his children, Joe Byrns Sills III and Clea Morehart and his grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent either to the Centennial Dog Park Fund or to the Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter UNA-USA.

Letter From the UN Secretary-General

Dear Ms. Sills,

I write to express my condolences on the death of your husband, who served my predecessors with great distinction and was a much-admired colleague throughout his service with the United Nations.

Whether facing the daily barrage of questions from journalists or working more strategically to tell the United Nations story to the global public, Joe showed tremendous skills, earning the trust that is any spokesperson's highest accolade. Colleagues who had the pleasure of working with him in New York, Washington, Geneva and elsewhere remember not only his contributions, but his collegial presence. His commitment to the United Nations was also made clear through the active advocacy he did even after his retirement.

Your husband made an important and lasting imprint on the United Nations during one of the most challenging periods in the Organization's history. At this time of sorrow, I hope it will offer some solace to know that the United Nations family mourns with you.

Yours sincerely,
BAN Ki-moon

*Letter of condolence written to Ms. Dottie Sills, reprinted with her permission.

Membership Update

The Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter is happy to welcome new members Suha Ahmad-Alsyoufi, Will Carpenter, Perry McClew, Beyzar Omer, Jasmine Penaacheverria, and Tiffany Ireme Smoot.

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 us on our [website](#). You may also contact our office at (615) 870-8446. Our main sources of income are a portion of members' dues and contributions from our members and friends.

Upcoming Events

United Nations Day Celebration: GirlUp

Sunday, October 23, 2011

2:00 to 4:30 p.m.

The Parthenon in Centennial Park

MTSU Student Alliance UN Day Celebration

"Little Town of Bethlehem"

Monday, October 24, 2011

Middle Tennessee State University

Young Professionals Dinner Discussion

"The Caucasus Region"

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Sylvan Park area

(Young Professionals interested should contact the YP Coordinator, Jessica Files through email: unausa-event@usa.org)

Thomas Lippman: The US, Iran and the Middle East

Monday, November 7, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Frist Lecture Hall (4th Floor), Inman Building
Belmont University
900 Belmont Blvd
Nashville, TN

Seminar (Topic to be announced)

Thursday, November 17, 2011

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Green Hill Public Library

3701 Benthan Avenue

Nashville, TN

(Tentative: Please check website for more information)

International Human Rights Day Celebration

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Time and venue to be announced

More details on these events are available on our [website](#).