



# Chapter News

**Wake County Chapter  
United Nations Association of the United States of America**

Raleigh, North Carolina

November 16, 2006

## Recent Events

**September program meeting** Ms Mwila Chigaga, an attorney with the Zambian government and a 2005-06 Rotary Scholar at Duke/UNC, spoke at our dinner meeting in the Oak Room at Meredith College on September 19. Ms Chigaga is a member of the board of Widows With Strength International ( WWSI) and she spoke about the work that this organization is doing to assist women around the world who have been made widows by wars, HIV/AIDS, and other causes. Our chapter's board of directors voted during the summer to solicit donations for WWSI from chapter members; and in response, the Chapter presented WWSI with a check for \$500 at its annual dinner on October 26.

**Annual dinner** On the evening of October 26, over 160 people gathered at the NC State University Faculty Club for the Chapter's annual dinner. This year's festivity was in part a celebration of the UNA Wake Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Guests were treated to a menu of delectable international fare and to an impressive, thought provoking after-dinner speech by Jon Sawyer, Director of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting in Washington, D.C.

Mr Sawyer spoke on the crisis that he sees in the way American journalists report major news events. As a reporter himself who has visited nearly all of the countries involved in current world crises, Mr Sawyer observes that journalists distort and confuse issues more often than they clarify and explain them. Worse yet, they tend to follow the official government line rather than challenge it and they miss important stories that should be told. It is the aim of The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to counter this trend. They do it in part by paying travel expenses for independent journalists to visit critical areas and by finding outlets for their reports in the news media.

The dinner was also the occasion for the presentation of the Dag Hammarskjold Award. This year the prize went to Charles Blanchard and Polly Williams who, along with the late Beatrice Anderson, formed the Wake chapter of UNA in 1956.

The chapter is indebted to Sally Cook for another outstanding job arranging and coordinating the annual dinner. Sally wishes to thank all those who helped her in this effort: Ed and Ruth Klemmer, Wayne and Anita Bare, Peggy Nance Lyle, Glen Davenport, Vivian Lamb, Piya Gunsalus, Hanna Ridgeway, Joan Robertson, Charlotte Conner, Mary Tillinghast, and Dorothy and Richard May.

**International Festival** Raleigh held its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual International Festival November 4-5 in the Dorton Arena of the NC State Fairgrounds. The theme this year was "Explore the World Without Leaving the City". The bazaars, cultural booths, sidewalk cafes, and dance presentations were evidence of the international flavor of Raleigh and the Triangle. Many thanks to the UNA Wake Chapter members who worked this 2-day event: Ed and Ruth Klemmer, Beth Dehgan, Priscilla Richtmeyer, I.T.Littleton, Leo and Judy Klohr, Cy and Carolyn King, Joy Johnson, Bonnie Kuhr, Peggy Lyle, Wayne and Anita Bare, and Hanna Ridgeway.

## Upcoming Events

**November 17** Dr Dan Figgins will give a talk entitled "Are Populism and Human Rights Compatible? Observations from Venezuela in 2006". He will report with the aid of photos things that he learned from briefings and private conversations held with a wide range of Venezuelan groups and with the US Embassy in Caracas. Dan is a professor in the NCSU School of Public and International Affairs. He is also a lecturer in the Encore program and a longstanding member of our chapter. Before coming to North Carolina, Dan was a foreign service officer for 25 years with the US Department of State. The dinner/lecture will be held in the Oak Room of Meredith College from 6 to 8pm; cost is \$10. Make reservations by contacting Wayne Bare at 772-5165 or email: [wayneb@nc.rr.com](mailto:wayneb@nc.rr.com).

**December 12** The Chapter's annual meeting will be held in the Oak Room on the Meredith College Campus from 6 to 8pm. New officers will be elected at this meeting so please make plans to attend. (The slate is given in the report of the Nominating Committee below.) Following the business meeting and supper, Ms Gail S Phares will present a talk entitled "Human Rights in the Americas".

Ms Phares, who holds a MA in Latin American Studies from the America University in Washington, D.C., is the founder of three human rights organizations: Witness for Peace, The National Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, and the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America. She won the International Human Rights Award in 1996. Ms Phare's activism landed her in a Federal prison for 90 days this year for civil disobedience at the US Army School of the Americas.

Please make reservations so that arrangements can be made for the food. Send a check for \$10 made payable to UNA-Wake to H.Wayne Bare, 1307 Sycamore Dr., Garner, NC 27529.

**April 14, 2007** The Wake and West Triangle chapters of the UNA will host jointly a Spring 2007 Conference entitled "Human Rights, An Endangered Concept: The United Nations and the Advancement of Human Rights". The conference will be held at the McKimmon Center, NC State University, Raleigh, NC.

## Announcements

**Phone** You can now reach the UNA-Wake Chapter by phone at (919) 832-7099. Messages left there will receive a timely response. If you are a current member and know the person you wish to contact, please call or email that person rather than use this number.

**Nominating Committee report** The 2006 Nominating Committee consisting of Peggy Nance Lyle (Chair), Margaret Toman, Cy King, Hector Javier, Robert Lamb, and Glen Davenport, offer the following slate of candidates for president, vice president, and secretary :

**President:** John Everette Noland, Jr.

Everette is a 1962 graduate of Emory University and received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1965. He has been admitted to the bars of NC and U.S. District Court, Eastern District, U.S. Court of Appeals, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court. He has served as an Inspector of Native Courts in Northern Nigeria, Assistant Prosecutor in Wake County, NC, Assistant in the NC Attorney General's Office and as Enrolling Clerk for the NC General Assembly. Currently, Everette Noland is in a private law practice

**Vice President:** Joy Johnson

Joy joined UNA-Wake in 2005. Joy presented the February 28, 2006 program titled: Reflections from the Holy Land: Obtaining a Just Peace between Israel and Palestine. She represented the chapter in NYC April 1, 2006 for UN Day and at the National UNA-USA meeting in Washington, D.C. June 8—10, 2006. She was elected by the UNA-Wake Board to a seat during mid-2006.

**Secretary:** Bonnie Kuhr

Bonnie is the current chapter secretary, a position that she has served with great skill. She has also served generously on the UN60 Committee and is currently serving on the April 14, 2007 Conference Committee.

Candidates for UNA-Wake Board

Beth Dehghan served on the UNA-Wake Board for the term of 2005—2006 and is eligible for a second consecutive term for 2007—2008. Beth was the co-chair of the UN60 Conference held September 10, 2005 at Exploris and is currently co-chair of the April 14, 2007 Conference on Advancing Human Rights to be held at the NCSU McKimmon Center (a joint project with West Triangle).

Robert Lamb is the editor of the UNA-Wake Chapter News. Robert was elected by the current board of directors to a seat in mid-2006. Robert and Vivian Lamb were chapter contributors/sponsors for UN60.

Glenn Davenport is in charge of Listserv Communications for the UNA-Wake Chapter. Glen was on the UN60 Conference Committee in 2005, and he currently serves on the Spring 2007 Conference Committee (Advancing Human Rights). Glen also participated in with the Annual Dinner Committee for 2006. He was elected to the board in mid-2006 by the current board of directors.

Piyarat (Piya) Gunsalusi serves on the Chapter's Education Committee. She is also interim chair for Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC). Piya represented our chapter at the National Conference in Washington, DC in June. Piya was elected to the board in mid-2006.

The 2006 Nominating Committee thanks all the above candidates who have so generously come forward to serve the UNA-Wake Chapter. Also, the Nominating Committee welcomes any members who would like to be considered for office or a board position to contact Peggy Lyle at [pnlyle001@aol.com](mailto:pnlyle001@aol.com) or write to Peggy at P.O. Box 91146, Raleigh, NC 27675—1146.

**Election of officers and board members** will take place at the December chapter meeting. The list of nominees is given in the Nominating Committee Report above. The time and place of this meeting will be announced by a Listserv mailing.

**Membership** If you are not certain that your membership is up to date, check with Wayne Bare at [wayneb@nc.rr.com](mailto:wayneb@nc.rr.com) or Chuck Howe at [Revcahowe@aol.com](mailto:Revcahowe@aol.com) for confirmation.

**Congratulations** to Joy Johnson on the occasion of her marriage to Joseph Craig on October 21, 2006.

**UNA National High School Essay Contest:** the topic for 2007 will be "What can the United States do to help improve maternal health around the world?" This topic is derived from the fifth Millennium Goal.

## FYI

**The Nobel Peace Prize** was awarded to Muhammed Yunus and the Grameen Bank he founded. Yunus, an economist from Bangladesh, supports micro-credit and has spread this idea around the globe in the past three decades by helping more than 100 million people take the first steps to rise from poverty. His remarks are "Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty." Yunus plans to use the \$1.4 million prize money to create a company to make low cost, high nutrition food for the poor and for setting up an eye hospital for the poor in Bangladesh.

Grameen, which means "rural" in the Bengali language, was the first lender to hand out micro-credit, giving small loans to poor Bangladeshis who did not qualify for loans from conventional banks. The loans average about \$200 and have a 99% repayment rate. Women received 97% of the loans in more than 70,000 villages.

**South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon** has been named successor to Secretary General Kofi Annan. The five year term of Ban Ki-moon will begin January 1, 2007. He has stated that he intends to move forward with reforms begun by Annan. Soothing relations strained by global turmoil following the 9/11 attack on the US is another of his priorities.

## Features

In the next few issues of Chapter News we will present articles describing the UNA-USA and its programs. Following is the first of these, submitted by Peggy Nance Lyle.

## What is UNA-USA ?

The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization that supports the work of the United Nations and encourages active civic participation in the most important social and economic issues facing the world today. It educates Americans about the work of the UN, encourages public support for strong US leadership in the UN, and it is a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. The vision of the UNA-USA is a world in which humanity is spared the scourge of war, human rights are honored, the natural environment is protected, and the US is a constructive member of the UN for the well-being of all humankind.

The UNA-USA sponsors a number of world wide programs. Among these are Adopt-A-Minefield, Business Council for the UN (BCUN), Global Classrooms/Model UN, HERO Campaign, and Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC), to name a few. Some of these programs will be described in future issues of Chapter News.

Policies and programs of the UNA-USA are determined by its board of directors and the National Convention which meets every two years with delegates from UNA-USA chapters and affiliated organizations.

Funding is acquired through membership dues, foundation grants, corporate contributions and donations by individuals. No funds are provided by the UN. (Contributions to UNA-USA are tax deductible.) Chapters receive a portion of the membership dues and they raise money on their own to support local programs.

Chapter activities are very diverse. They include local public programs to observe United Nations Day on October 24 and Human Rights Day on December 10; Model UN and National High School Essay contest; communications with Congressional Representative (E-Action Network, Advocacy); and joint projects with other organizations.

In addition to its regular lecture program, our Wake chapter and its friends raised over \$3300 this year to support local, national, and international programs. These include awards for high school UN essay contest winners, subsidies for students to attend UN-related events, financial assistance for the Spring 2007 conference on human rights, UNA-USA film project, UNICEF of America, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, and Widows With Strength International.

## Chapter Officers

President:

Edmund T. (Ed) Klemmer [erklemmer@earthlink.net](mailto:erklemmer@earthlink.net)

Vice President:

Peggy Nance Lyle [pnlyle001@aol.com](mailto:pnlyle001@aol.com)

Secretary:

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Treasurer:

[H. Wayne Bare wayneb@nc.rr.com](mailto:H.WayneBare@nc.rr.com)

Chapter News Editor:

Robert Lamb [rqlamb1@gmail.com](mailto:rqlamb1@gmail.com)

The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) is the country's largest grassroots foreign policy organization and the leading center of policy research on the United Nations. The UNA-USA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that offers Americans the opportunity to connect with issues confronted by the UN from global health and human rights to the spread of democracy, equitable development, and international justice.

The mission of the UNA-USA is to inform and educate Americans of every age about critical issues tackled by the UN.

The Wake County Chapter of UNA-USA has a website at [www.una-wake.org](http://www.una-wake.org) . Phone 919 832-7099.

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