



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CHAPTER

1st Quarter

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February 2008

NEWSLETTER UNDERWRITTEN BY ONE SOURCE IMAGING

*Santa Barbara Celebrates
 UN Day!* By Kazutoyo Furuta



United Nations Day 2007
 "Youth in Peril: From Child Soldiers to Street Gangs"
 at SBCC Garvin Theater.

On Saturday, November 10th, Santa Barbara Adult Education Program hosted the UN Day 2007 "Youth in Peril: From Child Soldiers to Street Gangs" at SBCC Garvin Theater.

The program was opened by Marty Blum, Mayor, City of Santa Barbara. She applauded and welcomed the program which focused on the topic of local and international youth. She said, "Today we will discuss children using violence, and what can we do as a city. We have police officers who totally dedicate to this issue. What we really want is to pull these children from out of the street to say to them that you have a future, hope and dreams, and we want to help you." She said that these children have no where to go, and it's very important for them to realize that it's better to have family with love instead of joining gangs with violence. Blum concluded, "I'm a member of Mayors for Peace, and I truly believe that we can have peace in this world if we really set our mind to all this for each person in this world." Rick Wayman, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, followed the Mayor and presented the 2007 Youth Peace Leadership Award to our keynote speaker, Kimmie Weeks, for his great success and for his vision for a peaceful world in which all children have access to food, medicine and shelters, and for his great dedicated works to eliminate poverty and human suffering in Africa and around the world since he was 14. Before his 14th birthday, Kimmie's work had helped to disarm 20,000 child soldiers.

Kimmie Weeks, Founder and Director of Youth Action International, opened his talk by explaining how important and

-continued on page 2

*UNA-USA Santa Barbara
 Annual Meeting 2008
 "Save Chad/Darfur"*

**Keynote speakers:
 William Felstiner and Stan Roden
 Saturday, February 16
 9:00 A.M. - 12 noon
 Free
 American Red Cross
 2707 State Street, Santa Barbara**

A Santa Barbara City College Adult Education Program
 Presented by
 Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue

*"God and War: Does
 Religion Cause Violence?"*

**Keynote speakers:
 Mark Juergensmeyer
 and
 Imam Ibrahim Kanerooni
 Saturday, April 19
 9:00 A.M. - 12 noon
 Check in 8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.
 Free
 SBCC Fe Bland Auditorium
 721 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara**

President's Message



Primary elections are taking place as I write this message. 2008 elections are pivotal for the US as well as our global neighbors. It is heartening to hear that voter apathy is down and the percentage of voters is up considerably from the 2004 elections. Economy tops the list of concerns with Iraq now coming in a close second. However, there are many pressing problems that need to be addressed immediately by our legislative representatives and our future President. Let's hope that less than a year from now when the Presidential election takes place, we have true representatives on board to steer our country in a new, productive direction. Consequently, I ask all of you to make sure you vote. Your vote is crucial to the future of our Country and the health of the world. And once the elections are complete, remember to keep up the pressure on your legislative representatives to make sure they take steps to fix these crucial problems nationally and abroad.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2008!

Sincerely,

Catherine Dishion
President

Michelle Rod

Michele is co-secretary and World Affairs/Advocacy Chair at UNA Santa Barbara. She currently works as an Emergency Services Specialist at the American Red Cross, Santa Barbara



County Chapter. She is involved in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. She is also part of a Disaster Action Team, a local group of volunteers and staff that respond to local disasters (such as single family fires) and provide clients assistance for lodging, food, and clothing.

"I love working for both the UNA and the American Red Cross because they are both non-profit organizations that aim to help people worldwide. Both organizations show how important it is for community and organizations to work together in spreading knowledge and reaching people who need assistance. I had the opportunity to go to San Diego to help with the American Red Cross wildfire relief efforts. I was impressed with how well the organization came together, and how effective and willing volunteers were to give assistance. It is philanthropic organizations like the American Red Cross and the UNA that really show how much can be accomplished when good people work together."

UN Day -continued from page 1

critical the issue of child soldiers is, and described that there are approximately 300,000 children that are used as soldiers around the world. Weeks said, "The youngest Liberian soldiers are 6 years-old, and they are forced to hold guns and are forced to be away from their family. Just picture a 6 year-old child on the front line fighting against the army. 10 year-old children are forced to kill their family and their best friends' families. You hold that image, and just imagine that. When we talk about rehabilitation, I think these children are never rehabilitated fully." Weeks shared his

-continued on page 3

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UN Day -continued from page 2

experience as once a 10 year-old survivor of the Liberian civil war and now an acclaimed international youth activist. He explained that before the 1989 civil war, Liberia was the fastest growing country in African, and people came to schools and to find job opportunities. He described that Liberian people expected the civil war to last for only a few days and to get things much better by celebrating when first the war was started as a great revolution; however, the war lasted much longer and caused extreme human sufferings when people were killed, women were raped, houses were burned, guns fired and missiles were flying everywhere, and children were starved without food. Children were forced to join the force, and they called themselves freedom fighters. Liberian culture before the civil war was built on so much respect to elders, but that was changed dramatically because of trauma and because of what these children have seen. Weeks said, "I never forget the mother has been killed, but her baby was left on the street. The baby was still there,



From left to right: Babatunde Fodayemi, Dr. Marisela Marquez, Dr. Peter Haslund, Kimmie Weeks and Mary Jo Terrill, RN, MSW.

cried, and held on to the mother's body; however, people just passed but nobody stopped. Children and elders usually suffered the most in crisis." All community functions disappeared with no running water, no electricity, no food and no medicine. So many children died, and

200,000 people died during the civil war. Weeks told about his trips, experiences, and works in Uganda. He explained that we spent much more money in the U.S. on military expenses and dessert such as ice cream instead of eliminating poverty in this world, providing medicine and food to children, and sending children to schools. Weeks emphasized, "When often we think about these issues in African countries and South East Asian countries, people think that these are not our issues. But, I truly believe that every child died, their blood is on our hands, all of our hands. We all are guilty. We should commit each and every person to do something better no matter how small. We need to change and need to take action. We need to change our thinking." Weeks concluded, "We need a good balance. Africa also can help the West. The West can help Africa. Everything we do, let's think about it as a human family."

Our panelists were Babatunde Fodayemi, former member, Santa Barbara City Council; Mary Jo Terrill, nurse and social worker and trauma team member, Rwanda; and Dr. Marisela Marquez, mediator, teacher, Executive Director, UCSB Associate Students, and they held the break out sessions along with everyday gandhis. Dr. Peter Haslund, chair, Global and International Studies at SBCC, facilitated the program which was presented by Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue including UNA Santa Barbara. For more information on Youth Action International, please visit their website at: www.youthactioninternational.org.



2007 NAPF Youth Leadership Award to our keynote speaker Kimmie Weeks.

UCSB Model UN

by Jessica Rankin

The UCSB Model United Nations Society is proud to announce that it will be attending the 2008 World Model UN Conference in Puebla Mexico and the 2008 West Model UN Conference hosted by SBCC. Our delegation will be assigned a country, and each delegate will be assigned a different committee on which to serve. After a fantastic showing at last year's Harvard Model UN in Boston, we hope to maintain the good reputation of the club by representing our assigned country's interests and hopefully winning some Best Speaker awards. Each conference is an extraordinary opportunity for delegates, and we will be sending the maximum 18 to WorldMUN and as many as possible to WestMUN.

For information about joining or supporting our club, contact Jessica Rankin at jessicarankin@umail.ucsb.edu.



UNA Santa Barbara members at Santa Barbara Sister Cities' United Nations Day 2007 event on October 25th.

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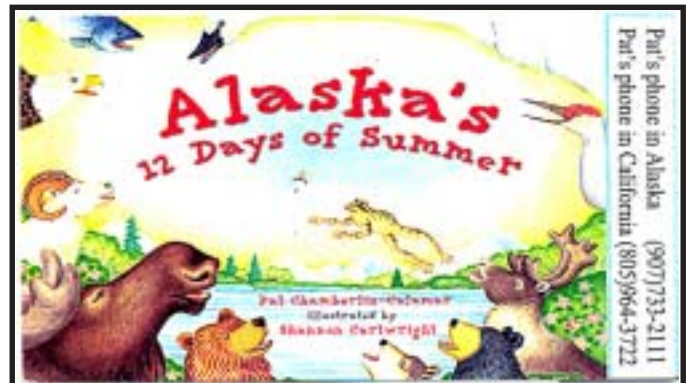
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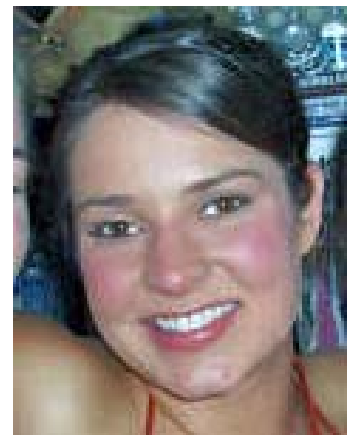
Montessori Center School Brown Door students proudly pose with our UNA Santa Barbara Programs Co-Chair Elin Pratt to whom they presented a check for \$1,000 to help children less fortunate than themselves all over the world.



Dr. Robert Muller, Barbara Gaughen-Muller and Douglas Gilles spoke about "Celebration of the UN" at Friendship Force meeting at Goleta Valley Library on November 26th.

Iran Would Be Another Failure

By Misa Nuccio



International

On behalf of the UNA Santa Barbara County, we would like to express our concerns about the possibility of invading Iran. First, we should be concerned with doubling the distress and grief of the tragic and utter failure of Iraq: one million killed, two million refugees in neighboring countries, two million displaced inside Iraq, environmental destruction, infrastructure destruction, economic disaster, health crises, education interrupted, and children's futures stolen from them. Public (taxpayer) funds are being poured into destroying things instead of into improving them. In addition the administration is considering multiplying this disaster by two or more. Especially now with the awareness that Iran has not furthered its development in its nuclear program since September 2003, we ask "What payoff could ever justify the price?"

One of the UN core principles is peacekeeping. Let's stop considering air strikes and invasions as options. Let's choose negotiation, empathy and consensus-building instead.

Clearly much of the US population values and desires these goals. But because of the current administration's primary concern with oil and it's benefiting corporations, we as American citizens are seeing no benefits to this war and no possible benefits to a invasion if Iran. Let's examine some more concrete reasons why invading Iran would be a mistake. When you look closely at a map of the region, Iran would be a very difficult place in which to fight. It has a very rough terrain in many parts of the country. It is also a much larger and less diverse country than Iraq, so occupying it would be much more difficult. Not only would it be risky to invade because of the terrain, but many experts say that if we invaded Iran the oil prices for the American consumer could double.

Disarmament, demobilization, decolonialization, reintegration, advancement of women, economic and social development (education, job opportunities) , sustainable development, and human rights are concerns of the UN. As an association we will work towards legitimizing the UN to the position of power that is necessary to implement these desires of global citizens. An invasion of Iran would be contrary to our primary concerns of protecting and advancing our global citizens.

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 at the University Club, 1332 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.**

Links & Information Resources

UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

By the year 2015, all 191 UN Member States have pledged to meet these goals.

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger***
 - 2. Achieve universal primary education***
 - 3. Promote gender equality and empower women***
 - 4. Reduce child mortality***
 - 5. Improve maternal health***
 - 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases***
 - 7. Ensure environmental sustainability***
 - 8. Develop a global partnership for development***
- www.un.org/millenniumgoals***

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8. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): ***www.ohchr.org***.
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10. 34 Million Friends of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): ***www.34millionfriends.org***.