



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
*of the United States of America*  
GREATER SEATTLE CHAPTER

[www.unaseattle.org](http://www.unaseattle.org)

*The United Nations Association of the United States of America Greater Seattle Chapter is a nonprofit, 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.*

**October 2011**

# Today's Iran: A Young American's Experience

Observations & Reflection by Lily Ghebrai, a Seattle High School Student

By Megan Gilshire

**August 30 - University Temple  
United Methodist Church:**

Lily Ghebrai, a local high school student, presented before UNA Seattle members, board members and the public a speech and slideshow of her recent trip to Iran. Lily's trip was sponsored by UNA Seattle, who helped her to raise the funds necessary to participate.

Lily's presentation about the trip was nothing less than inspiring. Lily captivated the audience as she told stories from her trip and shared pictures she had taken. Lily reflected on the mannerisms and customs of the local people, many of whom asked her to 'go back to America, and tell them we are nice.' After Lily's presentation, a Q & A session was held and it was obvious that everyone was intrigued by Lily's experience.

Last year, UNA Seattle sponsored a Lakeside High School student, Brooke Loughrin, who also spoke at Lily's event, to participate in the same trip, put on by Solh Tours and UNA Board Member Abdi Sami.

"As a 17 year old high school student, I did not know whether or not there was a place for me on a group trip to Iran.," said Loughrin. "However, from the moment I expressed interest in the trip, Abdi took steps to ensure that my experience in Iran was as educational, engaging and enriching as possible. How many other American teenagers can say they spent Spring Break talking to soldiers, students and artists in Iran?"

Brooke has since gone on to college at Boston University and Lily starts her freshman year at college this fall. Both are interested in Arab studies and wish to continue their study of Middle Eastern languages and politics. We will surely be hearing more from them in the future.



Top: Lily spoke before a crowd of about 30 UNA members, friends, and guests. Bottom: Lily told how the Iranian people were eager to speak with the American tourists and have their picture taken.

## Upcoming Events

**October 22, 2011**

### "Global Rhythms Uniting Nations"

A Celebration of United Nations Day

Luncheon Program - 11am  
International Music Event - 2pm

Museum of History and Industry  
2700 24th Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98112

The United Nations Association of Greater Seattle will celebrate the 66th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations on October 22, 2011. The program, "Global Rhythms Uniting Nations," will feature guest speaker Will Davis, Director of the United Nations Information Center as well as five groups of multicultural performers representing music and dance from four continents. The programs will be held at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle. Tickets are available at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com), or by calling 206-568-1959.

You can also purchase your tickets at the museum on the day of the event.

Find more information at  
[www.unaseattle.org](http://www.unaseattle.org).



# A Note From Our President

## “From Hiroshima to Hope: The Dual Legacy of ‘Little Boy’ and ‘Fat Man’”

Prepared for delivery at ‘From Hiroshima to Hope’ ceremony, August 6, 2011, Seattle, WA (Abridged)

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Greater Seattle Chapter  
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Since that terrifying event of August 1945 when some 200,000 met their untimely end, our world has seen a massive buildup of nuclear weapons, ten times more powerful than the two that unleashed their fury on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. One unpromising legacy of that event was the “harnessing of the basic power of the universe,” as Pres. Truman remarked in the wake of the falling bombs, named “Little Man” and “Fat Boy.” It sparked the post-war nuclear arms build-up and the long Cold War, during which all of humankind stood hostage to the frightful prospect of another nuclear catastrophe—which we nearly came to in the autumn of 1962.

There have been other “fall-outs” from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to be sure: food, health and their attendant insecurities have claimed the lives of millions in the Global South; structural inequalities have wreaked havoc on the weak and powerless; ethnic-national strife has claimed countless numbers and a frightful number die in civil wars or are forced to become soldiers at a much-too-young age. Rape has joined the long list of war atrocities--committed even by those sent to protect. Numerous girls, barely arrived at puberty, die from too-early. Human rights violations persist; and the plague of racism and intolerance stalks the land. Each day the carrying capacity of our fragile planet becomes more uncertain, threatening life on earth; and economic recessions have shattered the hopes of millions. The Cold war’s end may have opened new opportunities for democracy but still over half of the earth’s peoples have no meaningful role in the decisions that steer their lives. Soldiers still go off to war, as they have done since 1945.

Yet, the period since that fateful August of 1945 has also seen tremendous progress. We have eradicated smallpox and made much progress on other diseases. Many more have access to clean drinking water. Land mines have been removed in war-torn areas. Deforestation, overfishing, and ozone pollution have been arrested, if not stopped. The laws to protect workers’ rights and safeguard the health of consumers are today more enforced. Fertility rates are being lowered, affording women room to improve their lives. Painstaking efforts to promote literacy have seen success. The efforts to safeguard the rich but vulnerable storehouse of human artifacts, cultures and languages are showing fruit. Advances in travel have facilitated mutual understandings and interconnections among common humanity. And thanks to the UN and a host of NGOs, millions of the voiceless

across our planet, who have been silent for far too long, have found their voice.

To add to this promising legacy of Hiroshima, we have explored the stars and marveled at the possibility that we might not be alone in the world. The Hubble Telescope has produced breakthroughs in science and medicine, to the benefit of all humanity. We have invented the X-ray, mapped DNA and the human genome, and invented the Internet. The Berlin Wall, that symbol of the east-west rivalry, fell with a great noise, shattering illusions and the deep psychological fissure formed over decades. China has, after a long absence, re-joined the world. And in April the presidents of Russia and the United States agreed to cut their massive nuclear stockpiles, in certain knowledge that they must lead by example.

So, you see, August 1945 has bequeathed to us dual and contradictory legacies. It is tempting to focus on the negative side of the ledger, but that would only lead to further despair. When future generations arrive, they’ll not judge us by how penitent we were for the things we did not attend to in the wake of Hiroshima and Nagasaki but by what we did to put things right; how much we strove “to seek, to find, and not to yield.”

And so, I put it to you that the way that you and I can best remember the dead of two cities who perished in that August heat is to rededicate, here and now, on this very spot and in this place, our lives and fortunes to the service and well-being of the human family. My dear friends, the age beckons us to a higher state of mindfulness. It asks how you and I shall engage with those constructive and unifying processes occurring all over our fast-shrinking planet. What shall we do singly and together to improve the lot of our fellows? Will we stand shoulder to shoulder, join hands and heart to fashion a more promising future for the generations to come? I urge you to see with new eyes into the future.

In a world torn by religious, ethnic, racial and other strife, our task must be to become harbingers of cooperation and mutual trust. We must set aside our deeply-bred prejudices, and embrace our fellows. If we do this, we can “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” which has so many times since Hiroshima and Nagasaki “brought untold sorrow” to our world. We can get through this August and the many Augusts to come, and we can build a future unlike the past.

*Trevor McMorris Tate, President  
UNA Greater Seattle Chapter*

## ACTION ALERT

- URGENT -

### Ask for Full US Funding to the United Nations

Write to Senator Patty Murray - today.

Ask her to support FULL funding of the United Nations Regular Budget and the UN Peacekeeping Budget.

Our annual contribution to the UN - comprising about one-tenth of one percent of the federal budget - provides a cost effective means of resolving global problems.

The US must not walk away from this responsibility.

Send to: Senator Patty Murray,  
448 Russell Senate Office Building,  
Washington DC, 20510

Find more information at:  
[www.unausa.org/advocacyresources2011](http://www.unausa.org/advocacyresources2011)

Thank you for Taking Action Today !

# Mt. Si High School Forms Model UN

By W. Doug Smith



On October 5th at 2:30 PM, Mt. Si High School hosted the first meeting of their Model UN. There were 14 students ranging from 14 to 18 years old. Andrew Rapin, acted as host and faculty advisor. William "Tall Bill" Blakely represented Mt. Si parents.

The meeting began with a sign-in and brief overview of the history of the United Nations, followed by the historical necessity of forming a multi-lateral body to negotiate and mediate threatening global issues to avoid catastrophic events like the preceding two world wars. The UN Preamble and Purpose were read aloud.

The students were then told that the Model UN was now in their hands. They would review global events and issues and they would set their own priorities to address. Almost immediately students began to organize themselves. They reviewed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and thought that it would be impossible for them to address all at once. Brennen Rose, a Sophomore had a short video he had found on YouTube that illustrated how plastic bottles could be recycled and turned into a hanging hydroponic window garden. Brynn Davis went to the front of the room and began taking a democratic vote on projects the group would undertake. The majority wanted to work on the window garden concept and see if it could be applied locally as well as with other Model UN groups in developing and underdeveloped countries. Nepal was one country suggested. Several web sites were found and students said they would research available information on various ways to construct window gardens using salvaged materials.

It was agreed that the Model UN would meet on odd Wednesdays of each month so that it could be coordinated with the Mt. Si Green Team as several Model UN members were also on the Green Team. Mr. Rapin thought this would be a good idea because there would be so much overlap between the two organizations.

The Seattle UNA Chapter can be proud of the bright and energetic students that are now part of the Model UN at Mt. Si High School.

## UNA Seattle Board Members Attend National Conference

By Dick Blakney

UNA-USA National Conference, June 12-14, 2011 in Wash., DC:

Attended by nearly 200 delegates from 62 chapters and 27 states, the conference was the first since the formation of the strategic

alliance with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) family. A great deal of positive energy was demonstrated. The keynote speaker was UN Ambassador Susan Rice, who expressed this sentiment the best:

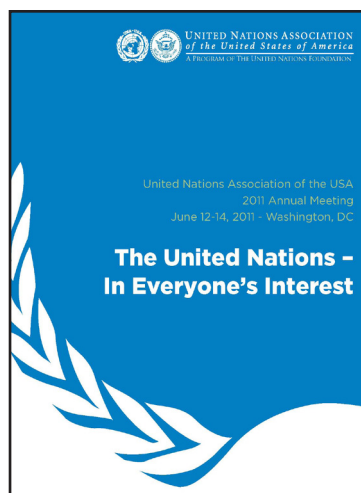
"Now more than ever, American's security and well-being are inextricably linked to those of people everywhere. Now more than ever, we need common responses to global problems. And that is why the US is so much better off - so much stronger, so much safer and more secure - in a

world with the United Nations than we would be in a world without it. That's the important case I've been making to the American public - and I need your help to reinforce it."

UNA-USA's new Executive Director, Patrick Madden, gave the major presentation: *UNA: Looking Forward at the Crossroads*. Photos and major points are at the site: [unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/una/patrick-madden-presentation.pdf](http://unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/una/patrick-madden-presentation.pdf).

UNF released a document showing that 85% of U.S. voters say it is important the US maintain an active role in the UN. The poll, conducted by Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research, showed that 60% favor support of the US paying our dues to the UN on time and in full, and 69% support the US fully paying our peacekeeping dues to the UN.

Please visit [unausa.org/annualmeeting](http://unausa.org/annualmeeting) to find post-conference materials, such as the chapter toolkits, fact sheets, speakers bureau and advocacy briefings, which are made available to add value to your membership, improve chapter resources and empower you to advocate on behalf of the UN. The new chapter handbook is available at: [unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/una/chapter-handbook-una-usa.pdf](http://unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/una/chapter-handbook-una-usa.pdf).





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## UNA Seattle Welcomes Five New Board Members

*Bios compiled by Sachi Maekawa and Megan Gilshire*

**Maria Joao Andrade Thuau** has dual-citizenship in Portugal and France. She attended the Lusíada University in Portugal and studied International Relations and Political Science. Professionally, she has been a translator, journalist, reporter, and was the founder and head of a cultural cooperation project and assistant of the Portuguese counselor of cooperation in the Cape Verde Islands. She was also a board member of Ten thousand villages in Austin, Texas, and was an election observer for the European Union in El Salvador and the Ivory Coast for The Carter Center. Most recently she was the invited speaker to the students of the Masters of Arts in Management of Conflict at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Italy regarding the Ivory Coast Elections of 2010.

**Irene Diaz Soto** is originally from Spain. She graduated with an undergraduate degree in journalism and a postgraduate in International Cooperation and International Law at the University Complutense in Spain. Currently she is attending the Masters in Nonprofit Leadership program at Seattle University, which has given her opportunities to develop new projects in health care and education for women. Since 2010, she became involved with the American Red Cross assisting in projects at the International Services Department where she is an instructor of International Humanitarian Law for different academic institutions focusing on restoring family links, tracing cases and searching for families who have been separated by armed conflict.

**Jehna Williams** was born into a multi-national family. She has toured Europe extensively as a classically trained musician and studied sociology and modern music composition in Paris at the Sorbonne. She returned to the US to pursue a career in international threat assessment and analysis for ArmorGroup, a London-based company. For 7 years, she composed and performed in an experimental music band and produced 2 albums, and has since returned to college to finish her BA in liberal arts. Currently, she is working towards completing her concentration in global studies and psychology at Antioch University. Last November, she organized a multi-city artist exhibition in support of ending the apartheid of Israel and Palestine.

**Eugene Martin** has been an instructor in English as a Second Language for 25 years, in Boston and Seattle, and an instructor in English as a Foreign Language in Korea, Taiwan and the Czech Republic. He currently teaches in an adult intensive ESL program on Capitol Hill in Seattle. He is the facilitator for Puget Sound Millennium Goals Project, a group of activists who promote knowledge of and action towards achieving the MDGs. Recent activities include preparations to serve as MDG advisors in an undergraduate course in Communications Design at SPU beginning in January. Eugene is active in the Seattle chapter of RESULTS, and he traveled to Washington DC in June 2011 advocating the Education for All Act of 2011, meeting with Sen. Maria Cantwell.

**Carleton S. Pritchard** was the point-man for International Affairs Programming for the Charlotte, North Carolina World Affairs Council for 13 years before coming to Seattle. While in North Carolina he also worked with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library Senior Outreach Services and as the Director of Auxiliary Services for Davidson College. He spent one year as Group Leader for the Hotel Development Team at the US Agency for International Development in Amman, Jordan, and has worked in prestigious roles for many hotels across the United States. Today, Carleton is involved with the Education Committee at The Shepherd's Center in Seattle as well as Great Decisions Programs in Ballard, Shoreline and Charlotte.

## DONATE TO UNA TODAY

Your special donation will assist the Seattle Chapter's outreach efforts in support of UNA Programs and UN initiatives beyond what can be done through membership dues.

Give online at [www.unaseattle.org/donate](http://www.unaseattle.org/donate) or give by mail by sending a check to:

United Nations Association Greater Seattle Chapter, PO Box 85682, Seattle, WA 98145-5682