

UNA MIDPENINSULA

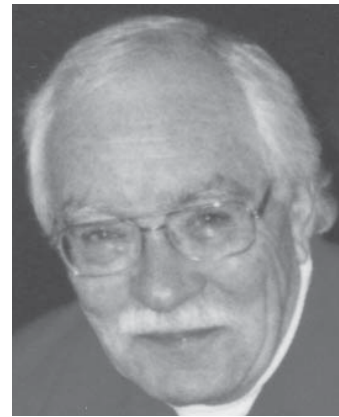
Remembering Ernie Pope

We lost a special friend and a key member of our newsletter staff when Ernest Hamilton Pope died unexpectedly in May. Ernie was our desktop publisher for many years, a computer whiz who made complex maneuvers seem simple.

This magic appeared after his long and distinguished career at Palo Alto's Cubberley and Gunn high schools (teaching English, French, journalism, and creative writing). Captivated by computers at the Army Language School in Monterey, he became Educational Technology Coordinator for Palo Alto's schools and later a computer programmer at Rolm Corporation and then IBM.

That wasn't all Ernie did in his amazing life. There were one-

year leaves teaching in France and Germany, three summers in France with the Foreign Study League (a program for American high school students) and a long summer leading a student bicycle



tour of Europe. Ernie also served on the College Board's committee

on advanced placement in French, on one writing a California state teaching guide for foreign languages, and one summer as assistant director of the Peace Corps language school at San Francisco State.

Ernie earned a BA from Stanford and an MA at Middlebury College, both in French, before an MA at Stanford in Education.

He is survived by his wife Katherine, four children, and four grandchildren. It was our great good fortune to have been favored by Ernie's remarkable talents, and we will never forget him. ✍

Brandon Goes to Washington

Our chapter's national winner in the UNA's 2009 essay contest, Brandon Araki, was honored on June 13 in Washington D.C., at a reception at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Building.



Brandon receives chapter award from Karen Beswick.

After Liubov Grechen, chair of the national contest, introduced him and presented the \$2000 award, Brandon gave a short thank-you speech and was congratulated by Thomas Miller, the United Nations Association's new president.

More than 100 attended the event, which was MC'd by Monterey Bay chapter president Larry Levine, who also chaired UNA-USA's national convention.

Brandon, who was accompanied by his moth-

er on the visit to Washington, says "Going to the convention and meeting so many people who have dedicated their lives to improving the world was truly an inspiring experience for me." ✍

New Members

We welcome:
Brandon Araki
Vijay Menon
Rigoberto Plascencia
Raj Sarkar



President's Message

It's summertime, that time of year when people, whose lives and schedules have revolved around the academic year, look back at strengths and weaknesses of the past year and set priorities for the year ahead.

Our chapter has many strengths: the nationally acclaimed UNAFF, the Student Alliance at Cupertino High School, a newly created YPIC, inspired participants in the annual UNA Essay Contest with our local winner also the national winner, two successful Night of 1000 Dinners events for landmine clearance, a small but dedicated Book Club meeting monthly, a video presentation at Avenidas Senior Center monthly, our truly unique and well-stocked Gift Shop manned by volunteers, and a loyal membership of about 180.

Every one of those strengths is a source of pride, but we have weaknesses also that we'd like to address. We need younger members to serve on our Board, especially in the areas of programming and education, and we need greater visibility in the community to bring a strong focus on the advocacy programs of UNA. Please contact us if you are interested in serving or know of others who are, and remember to visit our shop at 552 Emerson Street in Palo Alto for gift purchases to help us remain viable during this economic downturn.

Also, I urge you to read Tom Friedman's "Hot, Flat, and Crowded," our Book Club selection for June. It brings into sharp focus the greatest challenges facing our planet today, the necessity for global solutions, and the opportunity for the U.S. to mobilize its creative energies and develop its political will, to lead in meeting these challenges. It is insightful, well documented, and convincing, and is written in a style that stimulates our thinking and, hopefully, action.

- Mary Granholm



Film Series and Book Club

UNAFF films will again be shown Mondays at 2:00 p.m. at the Avenidas Senior Center, 450 Bryant Street in Palo Alto. On July 20, *Belonging* (52 minutes), about developmental impacts on the Inuit people of the Canadian arctic. Directors/producers Gerard Gergerman and Audrey Brohy; on August 17, *Iron Ladies of Liberia* (77 minutes), the story of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected woman leader, and her drive to rescue Liberia from two decades of civil war. Directors Daniel Junge and Siatta Scott Johnson, producers Henry Ansbacher and Jonathan Stack; on September 21, *The Linguists* (70 minutes), about vanishing tongues in Siberia, India and Bolivia and the scientists investigating them. Directors/producers Daniel Miller, Jeremy Newberger and Seth Kramer.

Book club meetings, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., are at Mary Granholm's residence in Mountain View (1945 Mt. Vernon Court, apartment 15; for directions call 650-968-1174). On August 18 we will discuss *The Ayatollah Beggars to Differ*, by Hooman Majd; and on September 15 *This Child Shall be Great*, by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a woman and her followers determined to change Africa. ✎

This month, talented Cynthia Cadua takes over from Ernie Pope (see front page) in laying out our newsletter and sending it to our printing-mailing service. Welcome, Cynthia, we'll profile you in our next newsletter!

A Report Card on Nuclear Weapons

by Anne Loftis

Nearly a quarter of a century ago the end of the Cold War seemed to promise the world a reprieve from nuclear Armageddon. When Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev met at Reykjavik, Iceland in the summer of 1986 there was a suggestion that the U.S. and the USSR would get rid of the 70,000 warheads stored in their combined arsenals. But they stepped away from an agreement. The weapons programs were continued, at enormous cost. Between 1945 and 1991 the U.S. spent approximately five trillion dollars on the nuclear arms program. Five years after the Reykjavik conference, the two nations that still possess 95% of the world's nuclear arsenal signed a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty that reduced the weapons to 2,200 on each side. Their representatives are presently meeting in Moscow to cut the number to 1,500 apiece before the December deadline for the renewal of the treaty.

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“So long as our relationship is defined by our differences, we will empower those who sow hatred rather than peace, those who promise conflict rather than the cooperation that can help all of our people to achieve justice and prosperity. And this cycle of suspicion and discord must end.” – *Barack Obama, Cairo, June 4*

Nuclear Weapons (continued)

Eighteen months ago the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons was endorsed by four American foreign policy specialists: Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, former Senator Sam Nunn and William Perry, who as Secretary of State in the 1990s had encouraged nuclear divestiture by Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. (The CIA is credited with persuading the Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi to abandon his program in 2003.) In the uncertain world of 2009 attention has shifted away from the old enemies, Russia and the U.S., who are also working together to ratify the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Instead, the focus is on recent members of the nine member nuclear club, nations with small arsenals and deadly rivalries: India and Pakistan, Iran and Israel, North Korea and its neighbors. In this new environment the concern is less with long-existing weapons stockpiles, and more with the sale and trade of fissionable materials. This has brought about a dramatic shift in international response.

Recently we saw an example of this new strategy in the UN's reaction to the nuclear test launched by North Korea on May 25. Under the leadership of the American ambassador, Susan E. Rice, the five permanent members

on the Security Council (the U.S., Great Britain, France, Russia and China) on June 12 passed Resolution 1874, which proposed a strategy to stop trafficking in nuclear materials. It called on UN member states to intercept, and if possible inspect, cargo vessels and airplanes suspected of carrying such materials or, if inspection was refused, to follow the vessel to a nearby port and if possible cut off resupply operations. A blueprint for the plan was the Proliferation Security Initiative of May 2003, in which 90 countries, including China, combined to address what they considered to be the chief security threat: the acquisition or use of WMDs by terrorists or rogue states. The rationale for the plan was the premise that North Korea, which is in dire financial straits, could be influenced through its commercial trade in nuclear materials with Southeast Asia and the Middle East. “Interdiction is the word,” said Douglas Wilder, a representative of the Obama Administration, of Resolution 1874.

The U.S. president has defined the new challenge: “In a strange turn of history the threat of nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of nuclear attack has gone up.” And former Senator Sam Nunn, pressing for the zero option, added: “We are in a race between cooperation and catastrophe.”

Global military spending hit a record \$1.46 trillion in 2008, with the United States reaching \$607 billion (41.5%), greater than the next 14 nations combined. China was far behind at 5.8%, with France and Britain each 4.5% and Russia 4%.
– From the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *The Economist*, June 13

In My Opinion

by Paul Miller

For those of us who still believe the world can find its way to lasting peace and security, President Obama's speech in Cairo on June 4 surely was a milestone. He spoke in one of the greatest cities of the Muslim world, and his words were addressed mainly to that world's millions and to those of its most tormented region, the Middle East. Obama spoke directly of the “great tension between the United States and Muslims around the world” and of the role of history both ancient and modern, including colonialism and the Cold War; and he called Iraq “a war of choice.” He said only a small minority of Muslims had turned to violent extremism and that he had come to Cairo “to seek a new beginning.”

The President came closer than any predecessor to squarely facing the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and his implication went far beyond Palestine and the Middle East, saying “human history has often been a record of nations and tribes—and yes, religions—subjugating one another in pursuit of their own interests. Yet in this new age, such attitudes are self-defeating.”

The President said we are not, and never will be, at war with Islam but will “relentlessly confront” any grave threat to our security from violent extremists. And while admitting we have made many mistakes, he cited his own story and that of our own millions of Muslims as proof that we are still a nation of promise. After a century of tragedy in the Middle East and beyond, this eagerly-awaited speech surely will not change anything overnight; but it still might prove one day to have been a turning point in history.

Chapter board meetings are open to all members. They are usually the last Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm, at our UNA Center, 552 Emerson Street, in downtown Palo Alto

Write, fax or e-mail Congress in support of the UN! Contact Editors too!

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UNA Midpeninsula Newsletter

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UNA Calendar

July 20
August 17
September 21 } UNAFF films at Avenidas Senior Center in Palo Alto. See page 2.
Mondays at 2pm

July 28
August 25
September 29 } Chapter Board meetings.
Tuesdays at 7:30pm

August 18
September 15 } Book Club meetings in Mountain View. See page 2.
Tuesdays at 7:30pm

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