



# newsletter

of the Maine Chapter  
of the United Nations Association



Winter, 2003-4, Vol. XII, No. 4

11 Columbia Street, Augusta, ME 04330

## OFFICERS

### President

**Thurston Holt,**  
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### Vice President

**David Pearson,** Readfield  
685-3749

### Secretary

**Wendy Hazard,** Belgrade  
495-2675

### Treasurer

**Robert S. Howe,** Harpswell,  
622-4466

## DIRECTORS

**Anne Brautigam,** Brunswick  
725-4483

**Paula Brayson,** Gray,  
428-3676

**Julia Edwards,** So. Portland  
799-5827

**Suzanne Hedrick,** Nobleboro  
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**Lynn Kuzma,** Portland  
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**Thesil Morlan,** Waldoboro  
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**Al Niese,** Woolwich, 443-8613

**Kenneth Rodman,** Colby  
College, Waterville

**Mary Lee Rushmore,**  
New Harbor, 677-3647

**Trudi Schneider,** Georgetown  
371-2152

**Norman Seagrave,** Brunswick  
725-8478

**Lydia Sparrow,** Brunswick  
725-5477

**Bruce Stedman,** Westport  
882-7387

**Jack Swift,** Georgetown  
**371-2567**

**Philip Thompson,** Portland  
871-7171

**Charles Weitz,** Portland  
774-1741

## ANNUAL MEETING

Chapter members will have received a flyer announcing the Annual Meeting, to be held at the New Meadows Inn in West Bath, on Saturday, December 13th, beginning at 10:30 AM. Registration, consideration of an amendment to Chapter by-laws, election of officers and directors for the coming year, and the report of Chapter President Thurston Holt will occur before the luncheon, which will be served from 12:00 Noon. At 1:15 PM the Executive Director of the Campaign for UN Reform, Mr. Don Kraus will give the keynote address.

### Bylaws amendment.

The Board of Directors proposes that Article Five of the Chapter bylaws be amended to add a new post, "Immediate Past President" in the list of officers.

### Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors for 2004

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate to be acted upon at the annual meeting:

President:	Wendy Hazard
Vice-President:	Bruce Stedman
Secretary:	Lydia Sparrow
Treasurer:	Bob Howe
Immediate Past President:	Thurston Holt

### Directors (two-year terms)

Isabel Denham (*)	Herschel Sternlieb (*)
Tom Ewell (*)	Phil Thompson
Lynn Kuzma	Sarah Walton (*)
Al Niese	
Thesil Morlan	(*) denotes new member

Directors remaining in office (not up for re-election this year) are: Anne Brautigam, Julia Edwards, Suzanne Hedrick, David Pearson, Ken Rodman, Mary Lee Rushmore, Trudi Schneider and Jack Swift.

The Board expresses its sincere thanks for the services rendered by Paula Brayson and Norman Seagrave, who are retiring from the Board.

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## **UNITED NATIONS DAY**

UNA-Maine's observance of UN Day in 2003, co-sponsored by the First Unitarian Church of Yarmouth, took the form of a symposium celebrating the centenary of nobelist Ralph Bunche, long-time international civil servant, who was born in August 1903. Observations of the Bunche centennial are being conducted nationwide throughout the year, under the auspices of the Ralph Bunche Centenary Commemoration Committee, in the Ralph Bunche Institute of the City University of New York. Our event in Maine was greatly assisted by that Committee.

A man of the people and of the world, Ralph Bunche rose from humble beginnings to achieve many firsts in an often racially hostile environment. He was a scholar and early student of Africa and the problems of race. His distinguished career encompassed pioneering work in the cause of civil rights and racial equality in the United States, and in the establishment and development of the United Nations organization. He was the first person of color to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded for his success in bringing about the 1949 armistice agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors, in his capacity as United Nations Mediator on Palestine.

Our UN Day program took place on October 25th in the excellent facilities of the First Universalist Church of Yarmouth. The symposium was led by a three-man panel: Gerald Talbot, a native of Maine and a long-time civil rights advocate and student of black history in Maine, and John Olver and Bruce Stedman, both retired UN assistant secretaries-general who worked with Dr. Bunche on various UN peace-keeping activities in the Middle East and Africa, which were conducted under his supervision. Dr. Talbot discussed the formative years of Bunche's life, and his regular participation in various civil rights activities before he joined the UN Secretariat. Messrs. Olver and Stedman gave personal accounts of Bunche as they saw him at work in the UN Secretariat.

A lively question and answer period followed the panel's presentation, moderated by Robert Greene, a retired Maine journalist.

Our chapter is grateful to the First Universalist Church and its pastor, Erik Wickstrom for their hospitality and co-sponsorship. We are also appreciative of the contribution made to the success of this event by Board nominee, Isabel Denham.

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## **News Bites from the UN Wire**

We continue the practice of publishing excerpts from the UN Wire of interesting news items which were not widely publicized in the mass media. Members are encouraged to subscribe to the UN Wire, available at no cost on the internet for excellent, ob-

jective coverage of UN-related activity at <http://www.unwire.org/subscribe>.

9/17/03 Schools around the world are beginning a new year, but roughly 123 million school-aged children will not be attend-

ing, according to UNICEF reports.

9/30/03 First Lady Laura Bush joined French President Jacques Chirac in Paris yesterday for a ceremony heralding the US move to rejoin UNESCO.

10/20/03 The UN General Assembly today voted five new members onto the Security Council. They are Algeria, Benin, Brazil, Philippines and Romania, replacing Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guinea, Mexico and Syria as from January 1st, 2004.

11/5/03 The UN General Assembly yesterday condemned, for the 12th consecutive year, the 40-year-old United States economic embargo against Cuba, by a vote of 179-3, with two abstentions. The three countries voting against the condemnatory resolution were the United States, Israel and the Marshall Islands. Traditional US allies, including the member countries of the European Union, Japan, Canada and Australia, voted in favor of the resolution.

11/5/03 While 91% of UN member states are using internet services, a new UN study questions the cost effectiveness of "on-line government" in both developed and developing countries. The study states that 15 governments have established on-line services for public comment on policy issues, including the UK, the US and Canada.

11/7/03 Countries with high levels of corruption tend to have poor environmental conservation records, according to a report issued by the University of Kent, in Canterbury, UK.

11/7/03 The UN Foundation will give \$104 million in grants this year, bringing to \$689 million the total of grants given by the Foundation since its inception six years ago. Projects for the current year include sanitizing drinking water in West Africa, modernizing legal structures in Iraq, and pro-

moting renewable energy sources in developing countries.

11/10/03 Canada has introduced legislation that would allow generic drug makers to supply cheap copies of patented medicines — mostly AIDS drugs — to poor countries, a move the UN praised as a step toward improving access to drugs and promoting public health in developing countries.

11/18/03 Mexico's ambassador to the United Nations will be forced to resign his post after saying last week that the United States sees Mexico as a "backyard," not as a "partner." Mexican President Vicente Fox has decided to "separate" Adolfo Aguilar Zinser from his duties as of January 1st. Zinser told a university audience in Mexico City last week that the US-Mexico relationship was one of "convenience and subordination." Zinser was an outspoken supporter of the Mexican government's decision to oppose the US-led invasion of Iraq.

11/18/03 A former British intelligence worker who allegedly leaked a US National Security Agency memo calling for intensified spying on United Nations envoys during the buildup to the Iraq war has been charged with violating national secrecy laws. Katherine Teresa Gun was fired in June from her job as a translator at the British code-breaking agency, and arrested. She will appear in court November 27th and could face up to two years in prison. Gun said, "any disclosures that may have been made were justified....because they exposed serious illegality and wrongdoing on the part of the US government." UN diplomats from Angola, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Guinea and Pakistan all had their phones tapped, according to the National Security Agency memo, in an apparent attempt to eavesdrop on undecided members of the UN Security Council preparing to vote on action in Iraq.

## To Contact Your Congressional Legislators

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