

Updates from **UNA Maine**. Our UN Association Chapter's mission is to inform, inspire and mobilize United States support for the principles and vital work of the United Nations. Be sure to check out the list of events, including a **June 2021 Week of Action**, at the end of this newsletter!

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Thinking About Peacebuilding.

Did you know that the Girl Scouts celebrate a "World Thinking Day (WTD)" on February 22? Although the United Nations has many annual "observance" days (see [observances](#)) it doesn't (yet) celebrate WTD. This year six Senior/Ambassador Girl Scouts of Maine planned and led a WTD event with the theme of "Peacebuilding." Participants learned about cultural differences from a Maine Pakistani exchange student, took part in peaceful meditation exercises, discussed conflict resolution styles, and looked at peace in songs. They closed with this math moment-- if the 10 million members in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) each did a good turn every day, this would be three billion, six hundred and fifty million acts of peace each year!

You can support Maine scouts! (such as UNA Maine Chapter members **Grace Goodwin** and **Devlin Geisler**) global programming through cookie purchases. Cookie sales are now in progress. To find a source near you, use this Cookie Locator: [COOKIES](#)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Lexi Bartlett, a 2019 graduate of USM, lives in Portland and works at the Saco Social Security office. Lexi served as Secretary General of the Model UN Conference at USM in her senior year. She trained and served with the Peace Corps in Morocco in 2019-2020.

Bret Bergst, a Social Studies teacher and Model UN Advisor at the Greater Portland Christian School, lives in South Portland. From 1991-1999 he served in multiple Model UN roles--delegate, regional and national staff volunteer, and advisor, through the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. From 1999-2005 he was a Research Associate and Program Officer at the World Resources Institute/IUCN. Before joining GPCS, Brett worked for 13 years as an account analyst and merchandising specialist at Hannaford Brothers.



DID YOU KNOW?

- On March 31, member **Claude Rwaganje**, of Westbrook, Maine, joined two other panelists in a virtual conversation on Racial Justice and Economic Justice. Among other things, he described the disturbing and disproportionately high rate of COVID-19 infection among Maine's immigrant community, plus inaccessibility of benefits, such as PPP, pointing to lack of technology and language barriers as factors. He called on government, funders, and other institutions to have greater trust in organizations such as ProsperityME (which he founded in 2008) in reaching and supporting the immigrant community/businesses. Claude was honored by our Chapter on UN Day in 2017 for his leadership in providing financial literacy education to new Mainers. ProsperityME's multi-faceted educational programs empower immigrants to reach their goals. You can learn more, volunteer, and/or donate to ProsperityME's vital work here: <https://www.prosperityme.org>
- On February 19, member **Zoe Weil**, of Surry, Maine served at the UNA-USA Global Summit, moderating a panel entitled "Ensuring Education for All." Zoe is the founder and President of the Institute for Humane Education, as well as an award-winning author, and TED talk favorite! For over 30 years the Institute has offered programming and outreach on the interconnected issues of human rights, environmental sustainability and animal protection. FMI and to access materials and some free events in Maine, visit: <https://humaneeducation.org/about-ihe/>
- Board member **Al Niese**, of Brunswick, Maine, recently published *Soren's Story: A Parable about Bullies and the Peaceable Kingdom*, a children's book about bullying, courage, forgiveness, and building peace. The story is told by Soren, a rock dove, aka city

pigeon. The book, as well as a teaching guide, is available for purchase at: <http://alfredniese.com/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES, BENEFITS, and DONATIONS.

Membership in the Maine Chapter UNA-USA goes through the National office in Washington D.C. Dues payments are split 50/50 between our Chapter and the National office. Membership entitles you to participate in free National programming, use of National resources, and regular messaging from National. Our UNA Maine Chapter warmly welcomes new and returning members (under age 26 is free). Directions for payment electronically or by check are available through our website: <https://unamaine.org/join-us>. Please be sure to indicate MAINE as your chapter preference when paying. If you have any questions at all about membership please contact us at: info@unamaine.org Last year there were challenges with the record keeping, but National is working hard to get things in order. You can update your personal contact information with National here: [UPDATEUNA](#) National is also now providing an option for automatic, recurring membership.

PLEASE do not send donations for the Maine Chapter through National. We welcome donations to the Maine Chapter electronically via our website, or by check mailed to our PO Box 262, Brunswick ME 04011. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Thank you!

EVENTS--SDG's and more!

April 15. 10 AM to Noon, the **Maine International Trade Center (MITC)**, welcomes Dr. Holly Parker of **UNE North**, and Adam Roy Gordon of the UN Global Compact USA, leading a final program on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). FMI and to register: [MITC/UNE/SDGs](#).

April 15. 1-2 PM Global and Local Solutions to Reaching Zero Hunger (SDG #2) (UNA-USA Global Engagement Online Series) FMI and to register: [ZEROHUNGER](#)

April 17. 9:30-11:30 AM, Maine Chapter Board meeting. All members welcome. To get the ZOOM link, contact us at info@unamaine.org

April 22. Earth Day!

April 23-25. Global Youth Summit. This virtual Summit for young people aged 14 to 30, is FREE thanks to support from the WHO, and UN Fund's COVID 19 Solidarity Response Fund. You can learn more, and register here: [SUMMIT](#)

April 28. 7 PM, Fifteen minute film "**Dear Georgina,**" sequel to Dawnland, about the forced separation of children from their parents in Maine, followed by a live Q&A led by PPH Arts Reporter Bob Keyes, with filmmaker Adam Mazo, and Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana. FMI and to register: [GEORGINA](#)



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
BUILDING A BETTER GLOBAL
FUTURE--2021 Week of Action.**

This year's Week of Action will kick off with two days of live programming to equip members with the necessary tools and perspectives needed to be an effective advocate for the United Nations in virtual meetings with our Congressional delegation. Participants will also have opportunities to connect and network with other UNA-USA members from across the country.

Maine Chapter members who **register SOON** for the Week of Action will have the opportunity to represent Maine in a State Roll Call video, a quick compilation of UNA-USA members from across the country that will be shown during the Opening Plenary. **Filming sessions for Maine will be Wednesday, May 12 at noon.**

[REGISTER HERE TO PARTICIPATE!](#)