



**UNA★USA**

**Maine Chapter**

**November 24, 2020**

**Greetings and Thanks Giving.**

As we approach the end of this year, in the midst of uncertainty and division, we are grateful for your attention to, and hope for, improving the world. Thanks especially to those who participated last month in producing (and/or attending) the Chapter's first ever virtual UN Day program celebrating the 75th anniversary of the UN. As Maine's Poet Laureate, **Stu Kestenbaum**, read to us from his poem  *Holding the Light* , we are challenged to "stitch back together" "the heart of the world." He observes that "in our imperfect world we are meant to repair and stitch together what beauty there is, stitch it with compassion and wire."

Thanks also to Board Treasurer and Membership Chair **Peter Cole** who has taken on the immense task of modernizing our website. The new design is more user friendly, so we will be able to post news and events regularly. In addition, it includes a **DONATE** button. So you (and your friends) can easily support our educational programs, on **Giving Tuesday, December 1**, or any day! Of course, we are still happy to receive checks mailed to our P.O. Box 262, Brunswick ME 04011. Feedback on the website is welcomed. See: <http://www.unamaine.org>

**An Abundance of Riches!**

Having moved to virtual programming, each of us may be faced with a myriad of splendid choices of programs, classes, entertainment. The national office of UNA-USA offers regular GEOS (Global Engagement Online Series) programs on many topics, and programming from other UNA chapters across the country is also

available. Notice of these comes directly from UNA-USA, and through the UNA-USA Forum (see below). Our newsletters and website may mention these, but we plan to highlight Maine initiatives. See Upcoming Events below.

### **UNA Forum – Reminder.**

[UNA Forum](#) is a way for UNA-USA members from all chapters to connect and collaborate with each other. You can learn how to use the platform by watching this brief [video](#). Opportunities, programming, and resources will be shared via UNA Forum, so don't miss out. If you are a Chapter member and have not yet joined the Forum, you will need an invitation to create an account, which can be received by sending an email to UNA-USA at [membership@unausa.org](mailto:membership@unausa.org). If you have questions, or any difficulty getting signed up, contact your Maine Chapter at [info@unamaine.org](mailto:info@unamaine.org).

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- The **Bates College Chapter of UNA-USA** was recently officially recognized by Bates. This gives the Chapter additional standing on the campus. If you are a student you are permitted to be a member of BOTH a college campus Chapter, as well as a Community Chapter. So this is good news for us all! Sign up, if you haven't done so yet.
- In 2015, member **Christine DeTroy** published *Remembering...Years of Hiding Behind Silence*, a thought-provoking memoir, about her childhood (ages 4-17) growing up near Bremen, Germany, under the Nazi regime. Filled with questions, we come away from her story wondering, how do we learn to "speak truth to power?" Her book is available through Maine libraries (Minerva), or for purchase from Maine publisher "Just Write Books."
- You can take a live **virtual tour of the UN** from your own home! FMI click here: <http://visit.un.org>
- As we all do our part to battle the current pandemic, let's pause to recognize **Valerie Curtis**, British behavioral scientist, who sadly died October 19, age 62 of cancer. One cannot overstate Val's influence in pushing hygiene up the global health agenda. She played a critical role in having hygiene included under the UN's [Sustainable Development Goals](#) in

2015, co-founded the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing (now the [Global Handwashing Partnership](#)), helped establish Global Handwashing Day (October 15), co-developed the [Behaviour Centred Design](#) model for behaviour change, and worked with organisations in over 70 countries on the design and evaluation of innovative Wash interventions.



### Upcoming Events.

**November 29:** [Deadline to submit artwork for UNA-USA's Human Rights Day art contest](#) See sidebar (or below)

**December 3--10 AM to 11 AM.** Virtual webinar on the UN Global Compact sponsored by the Maine International Trade Center. Featured presenter is Adam Roy Gordon, Engagement Director for Global Compact Network USA. FMI and to register: <http://mitc.com/event/sus>

**December 5, 10 AM to noon--**Virtual UNA Maine Chapter Board meeting. All members welcome (including Bates College Chapter members). To get the link, contact us at [info@unamaine.org](mailto:info@unamaine.org)

**January 16, 10 AM to noon.** See December 5 above.

**February 20-21, 2021.** The topic for the 34th Annual Camden Conference (virtual

and live) is "**The Geopolitics of the Arctic: A Region in Peril.**" FMI about free and low-cost CURRENT virtual programming, click [here](#)

### **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

Two Excellent Opportunities.

The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine (HHRC) will honor **State Representative Rachel Talbot Ross** at their Virtual Annual Meeting on **December 9, 7 to 8 PM**. She will be awarded the 2020 Gerda Haas Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education and Leadership. The program will include other speakers on human rights, and the public is welcome. FMI and to register: [hhrc annual-meeting](#).

**December 10--4 PM UNA-USA Human Rights Day GEOS: The Artistic Approach to Advancing Human Rights.** There will be featured pieces of art, and guest speakers will offer their perspectives on the artwork and related UN activities. Register: [Human Rights Day GEOS](#)