



**UNA ★ USA**  
Johnson County Chapter

News and Events

c/o JC UNA  
308 E. Burlington St., #245  
Iowa City, IA 52240

April 2021

# No one is safe, until everyone is

## The UN and World Health

by Katy Hansen

(This article is taken from a number of WHO publications on the Internet)

In January 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO) and characterized as a global pandemic in March. At that point, the UN launched a comprehensive worldwide response to the emergency.

WHO is working closely with global experts, governments and partners to rapidly expand scientific knowledge on this new virus, to track the spread of the virus, and to provide advice to countries and individuals on measures to protect health.

The United Nations, since its inception, has been actively involved in promoting and protecting health worldwide. WHO was formed on 7 April 1948 — a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day.

In the beginning, it was malaria and TB. WHO's agenda today is HIV/AIDS, diabetes, cancer, SARS, Ebola and the Zika virus. WHO is now spearheading the international response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Since its creation, WHO has contributed to many historic achievements in global public health. Just three of them are:

- **Polio** (1988): Polio cases have decreased by more than 99 per cent because of immunization against the disease worldwide.
- **Smallpox** (1979): Following an ambitious 12-year global vaccination campaign led by WHO, smallpox is eradicated.
- **Tuberculosis** (1995): At the end of 2013, more than 37 million lives had been saved through TB diagnosis and treatment.

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WHO staff work on the ground in 150 countries worldwide. They advise ministries of health on technical issues and provide assistance on prevention, treatment, and care services.

## UN Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is more than a health crisis; it is an economic crisis, a humanitarian crisis, a security crisis, and a human rights crisis. This crisis has highlighted severe fragilities and inequalities within and among nations. Coming out of this crisis will require a whole-of-society, whole-of-government, and whole-of-the-world approach driven by compassion and solidarity.

The UN Secretary-General has launched the **UN Comprehensive Response to COVID-19** to save lives, protect societies, and recover better. It provides an update to the first edition of the report released on 25 June 2020 which includes:

- Deliver a global response that leaves no one behind
- Reduce our vulnerability to future pandemics
- Build resilience to future shocks – above all, climate change
- Overcome the severe and systemic inequalities exposed by the pandemic.

This is a recovery process that builds back better.

## From the President

by Jim Olson

As reported on the right, we hosted a successful Night of 1000 Dinners on March 10. I want to thank our excellent planning committee: Barbara Badovinac, Mercedes Bern-Klug, Stefanie Bowers, Joyce Carman-Baldus, Barbara Eckstein, Britta Loftus, Bijou Maliabo, Suraj Moorjani, Janice Weiner, Samantha Wiedner.



Our spring focus will be advocacy for constructive U.S. leadership in the UN (see “UN Activism Made Easy” on page 4). Working with the Iowa UNA Advocacy Committee, we will arrange a virtual meeting with Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks as well as contacts with Senators Ernst and Grassley. Please consider participating in the virtual meeting. Do you have friends or family living elsewhere in the Second District? Please invite them to join us. It is important to show that people throughout the district care about the U.S.-UN relationship, not just folks in blue Johnson County. Please let me know your interest.

Regardless of whether you take part in a virtual meeting, we can all write or call congressional offices.

To help you with these communications, we will be supplying more information this spring. Many thanks for your membership and support.

# Night of 1000 Dinners 2021

Thanks to the generosity and talent of many individuals and organizations, our Night of 1000 Dinners honored three women-led organizations and raised over \$8,500 to help feed hungry people hard-hit by the pandemic. Night of 1000 Dinners was initiated by the Iowa UNA over 20 years ago; hosted by our chapter since 2017.

This year our annual community celebration of International Women’s Day was a virtual event. We recognized the Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Houses into Homes, and Sankofa Outreach Connection for their work to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Johnson County. Their pre-recorded acceptance statements were interspersed with performances and presentations by the Oakdale Community Choir; Iowa Andhi; the International Academy of Russian Music, Art and Culture; and an interview and reading from the work of Afghan novelist Homeira Qaderi, a former participant in the UI International Writers Program. Iowa City Mayor Bruce Teague brought greetings. JCUNA Board member Bijou Maliabo and UI Campus Chapter liaison Suraj Moorjani were emcees.

About 100 people viewed the program “live” on Zoom. In a follow-up survey of viewers, 94% of those who responded rated the program as “excellent” or “good.”

Net proceeds are being donated to the UN World Food Programme, CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank, the Coralville Commu-

nity Food Pantry, and the North Liberty Community Pantry.

We are grateful to the following co-sponsors: 100 Grannies for a Livable World, Agudas Achim Congregation, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, GreenState Credit Union, Hills Bank and Trust Co., Iowa City Human Rights Commission, Iowa Peace Corps Association, Iowa Women’s Foundation, James Investment Group, MidwestOne Bank, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Peace Iowa, Refugee and Immigrant Association, Sanctuary Community Church, Simmons Perine Meyer Bergmann, Trinity Episcopal Church, UI International Programs, UI School of Social Work, UI Campus Chapter of UNA-USA, Unitarian Universalist Society, Veridian Credit Union, and Veterans for Peace.

We also thank the following individuals who donated \$100 or more: Mercedes Bern-Klug, Stefanie Bowers, Joyce Carman-Baldus, John Fuller, Katy Hansen, Britta Loftus, Margaret Nelson, Dorothy M. Paul, Jana and Jerald Schnoor, and Amy Shuttleworth.

A recording of the event is now available on Youtube (please enter Night of 1000 Dinners 2021 in the search box).



# Johnson County UNA participates in Iowa Earth Fest

by Barbara Eckstein

This year Iowa City is holding an on-line set of activities April 11-30 to celebrate Earth Day, and JCUNA is one of the participants. Organizations with commitments to sustainability—like JCUNA—were invited to submit either a prerecorded video or a live program for the virtual Earth Fest.

JCUNA is collaborating with Iowa City Climate Advocates (ICCA) on a prerecorded video that specifically addresses climate change, climate justice, and solutions to climate change and its effects. The video contains the faces and voices of diverse participants speaking in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish, emphasizing the diversity of Iowa City's population and the global na-

Scott, a member of Iowa City Climate Advocates, compiled the video from the separate videos submitted by participants.

Because climate action is one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, because the UN has been a leader in international response to climate change—for example, through the Paris Agreement and through the



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—and because climate change is one of the top priorities of the World Food Programme, JCUNA is pleased to collaborate with an organization committed to climate action. Iowa City Climate Advocates has promoted local climate action for over a decade and is also a chapter affiliate of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), a national organization committed to securing federal legislation that puts a fee on carbon at its source and returns the dividend collected to all US households. CCL prioritizes this solution because research indicates it is the fastest way to obtain the biggest

reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the cause of climate change. Other nations—Canada, for example—have passed such legislation.

## EARTH FEST

It is time to think green.  
Celebrate Earth Day all month long.

April 11-30, 2021  
Virtual Facebook Events



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ture of the climate change problem. JCUNA board members Bijou Maliabo and Barbara Eckstein are among those who helped to create the Earth Fest video. Chad Slater-

JCUNA and ICCA advocate this and all viable solutions to climate change be they local, regional, national, or international.

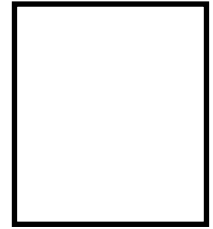
Like JCUNA's collaborations with the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, this collaboration with ICCA promises to be a fruitful one.

Part I of the Iowa City's Earth Fest will be April 11-23 and Part II April 20-30. The city plans activities and demonstrations for all ages. To learn more about particular offerings go to the city's Facebook events pages.

# JC UNA News and Events

Johnson County United Nations Association  
308 E. Burlington St., #245  
Iowa City, IA 52240

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## Address Service Requested

### United Nations activism made easy

One of the great benefits of UNA membership is that our Washington-based headquarters frequently emails action alerts to enable us to communicate with members of Congress with a few keyboard clicks.

On March 1, for example, we received a message titled “We Did the Math – Can You Take 5 Actions?” providing links for sending electronic letters on UN funding, racism, World Health Organization, the UN Population Fund, and climate change.

Did you miss this email? You can still participate. Please visit [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org) and scroll down the home page to the section titled “Take Action.” There you will find not five opportunities, but seven! These include the topics listed above, plus human rights and migrant rights. In 20 minutes you can send seven messages to Rep. Miller Meeks, Sen. Ernst, and Sen. Grassley.

If you are a UNA-USA member but you do not receive emails from UNA-USA, it is probably because they don’t have your email address.

Send your email to [membership@unausa.org](mailto:membership@unausa.org) and start receiving all of the benefits of your membership.

Taking this action will be good preparation for UNA-USA’s Week of Action, June 7-10. In lieu of visiting the DC offices of members of Congress as we did pre-pandemic, we will all have the opportunity to call, write, or email our members of Congress to urge their support for UNA-USA’s primary ask: full funding of the UN. Details to follow.

## UNA Membership Renewal Form

**Please be certain your membership is up to date!**

Membership Rates: \$50 Regular Member, \$25 Introductory Member, Free to people under the age of 26

Please return the information below with your check payable to UNA-USA to the address below.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: JC UNA

Address \_\_\_\_\_

308 E. Burlington St., #245

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Iowa City, IA 52240

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check to: UNA-USA**

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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