



**UNA★USA**

Pasadena Chapter

## *February 2026 Newsletter*

**Read the latest news from the UNA-USA Pasadena community and get involved with upcoming events!**

The UNA-USA Pasadena thanks you for being a part of our work to advance peace, justice, and wellbeing in our local community and throughout the world. This year, we look forward to welcoming members to events like insightful coffee talks and collaborating to work on the SDGs. Read on for information about exciting opportunities for members and to review events you may have missed! Please reach out to [unapasadena@gmail.com](mailto:unapasadena@gmail.com) with any inquiries.

## *Sustaining Peace with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in NYC*

*A Reflection by UNA-USA Pasadena Fellow Ian Eriksson*



This past Fall, I had the privilege of interning with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation at its satellite office in New York City.

The Foundation was established by the Swedish Parliament shortly after the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld's tragic death in 1961 during a UN conflict mediation mission in the Congo, and has since worked to preserve his legacy and further his vision for a more peaceful and just world.

Today, the work of the Foundation is divided across three main thematic areas: UN Leadership, UN Financing, and Sustaining Peace. For my internship, I was placed with the Sustaining Peace team.



Because the Foundation is primarily based out of Uppsala in Sweden, my internship experience was split between a remote research project done in collaboration with my colleagues there, and in-person country consultations and policy monitoring in and around UN headquarters in Turtle Bay. While I was based just across the street from UNHQ, I found that much of the real policy work and advocacy is done in the many cafes and restaurants that line the streets of Turtle Bay.



## **Policy work: 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review**

My time with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation happened to coincide with the final stages of the 2025 Peacebuilding Architecture Review, thus much of my in-person experience ended up revolving around the complex politics, negotiations, and drafting processes behind the Review's outcome document. I supported colleagues in tracking member state positions, taking notes during informal consultations, and helping to summarize key points of convergence and tension for the Foundation's internal analysis and external communications. This meant closely following debates around financing for peacebuilding, the role of national ownership, and how to strengthen the Peacebuilding Commission's advisory role across the UN system. Being able to listen in on these conversations in real time—and then watch how they were reflected (or not) in the evolving drafts—offered a rare window into how language, power, and procedure interact in the multilateral UN system.

Altogether, the internship gave me a unique vantage point: moving between the high-level multilateral processes around the Peacebuilding Architecture Review and the grounded, often under-acknowledged work of youth organizations navigating complex funding landscapes. It's an experience I'm eager to build on as I continue working at the intersection of research, policy, and practice in the peacebuilding field.

~ Ian Eriksson, UNA-USA Pasadena Fellow

## **Research work: Youth, peacebuilding, and private sector partnerships**

In parallel to this policy-focused work, I developed a remote research project with my Sustaining Peace colleagues that examined how US-based private sector actors are engaging with and investing in, youth-led peacebuilding organizations. My initial scoping study marked the Foundation's first dedicated exploration of the US peacebuilding and funding context, which I am proud to have undertaken. I conducted a targeted review of existing literature, mapped examples of private sector–civil society collaboration, and developed mini case studies based on interviews with non-profits and philanthropic foundations working across the US. The goal was to better understand where these partnerships currently exist, how they are structured, what kinds of financial and non-financial support peacebuilding organizations actually find useful, and what risks or power imbalances need to be addressed. While this was only a preliminary look at a much larger and underexplored field, the mini case studies point toward a rich research agenda that could be expanded into a more comprehensive study of US-based private sector engagement in peacebuilding.

***January Coffee Talk Recap: Paige LaCombe on Servas Women***



Paige LaCombe, Chair of Servas Women and former UNA-USA Pasadena boardmember, led UNA Pasadena's first coffee talk of the year. LaCombe presented her work with Servas, including Servas Women, to members of the UNA Pasadena community on January 17th. LaCombe invited members to participate in her talk with self-reflection and opportunities to share, creating an intimate space to consider what it would mean to welcome an international visitor into one's home and to travel abroad to stay with a host.

Servas International was founded by Bob Luitweiler and other members of the international movement Peace Builders in the wake of World War II. Servas advocates for cross-cultural and international friendship building. Servas is a non-governmental organization dedicated to forging such relationships as a way to promote tolerance and understanding, decrease conflict, and show how human similarities outweigh differences.

Servas asks individuals to open their doors to host international visitors and engage in a generous cultural exchange. LaCombe enjoys bonding with visitors by cooking a beloved recipe together. As a former teacher and a museum docent, LaCombe enjoys working with children and encourages traveling families to stay with her. She recounted hosting a French family who wanted to experience "a real American Halloween," which she showed them, complete with costumes, face paint, and neighborhood trick or treating.



LaCombe, who has served as the elected peace secretary of Servas, helped build Servas Women to encourage women to travel internationally safely and sustainably while advocating for global women's rights. Per Servas' website, "Servas International requests UN Member States to take all possible steps to: stop arms delivery and redirect military funds to humanitarian causes; protect women and girls from gender-based violence; and promote women's involvement in leadership roles in ending conflict and building peace." LaCombe's work with Servas Women has taken her around the world to hear women's stories and collaborate with them in advocacy.



As an international non-governmental organization (iNGO), Servas consults with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council. Servas encourages sustainable travel and a symbiotic exchange of cultures in addition to advocating for human rights globally. This March, UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter President Ann Diederich and Paige LaCombe will present at the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women Forum in New York.

*Reflection questions: What would it mean for you to open your doors to an international visitor? How would you welcome an international visitor? How would you feel staying with a host in another country? What would you share from home?*

## **February 5 Coffee Talk with Danno Petersen, UNA Pasadena Member and Jazz Percussionist**

# Danno Petersen UNA-USA Pasadena Coffee Talk

February 5  
6 - 7 PM

Western Justice Center  
75 S Grand Ave, Pasadena

RSVP online  
\$10 donation suggested

## Pathway To Self-Actualization



Join us for a talk with internationally-recognized jazz percussionist Danno Petersen!

- Practical tools for personal growth
- Leading with integrity and impact
- Peace and justice in a changing world



Join us on **Thursday, February 5th from 6-7 pm at the Western Justice Center (75 S Grand Ave., Pasadena)** for a one-of-a-kind coffee talk with internationally renowned jazz percussionist **Danno (Daniel III) Petersen!** Danno Petersen is recognized for global impact through music and leadership and his achievement as a drummer. Danno is the recipient of the President Barack Obama Lifetime Achievement Award. At age 11, he became the youngest university graduate in Africa; he is also a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music. He has performed at official birthday celebrations honoring Nelson Mandela and led clinics and youth engagements worldwide. **Space is limited, so please RSVP. There is a \$10 donation for nonmembers to attend this event.**

In Pathway to Self-Actualization, Danno Petersen shares an inspiring reflection on discovering purpose, aligning one's gifts with meaningful action, and growing with confidence in a changing world. Drawing from his journey as a global musician and speaker, Danno offers practical insight into resilience, growth, and becoming your fullest self. Attendees will be invited to reflect on how their personal purpose can guide them in leading with integrity and community building, advancing the UN's goals of global peace, equality, and justice.

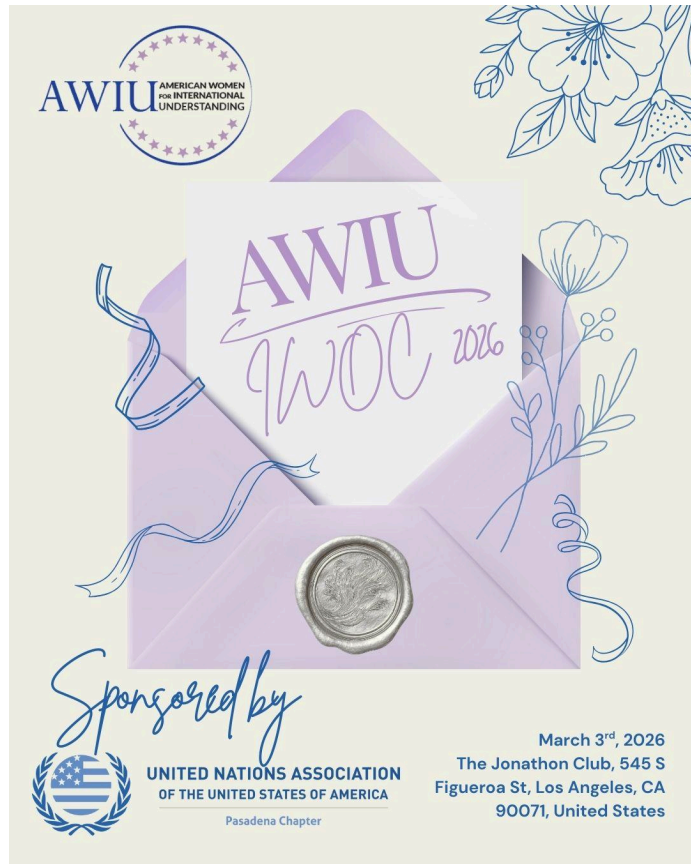
[RSVP here!](#)

## February UNA Pasadena Chapter Meeting

Join us on February 5 from 5:30 to 6:00 pm for our February chapter and board meeting. This short meeting will address upcoming planning with the UNA Pasadena

and will be followed by the February Coffee Talk.

## American Women for International Understanding 2026 International Women of Courage Celebration



Join UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter on **March 3rd, 2026** at **the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles** as we celebrate an evening of true global courage. UNA-USA Pasadena is a proud sponsor of American Women for International Understanding International Women of Courage (IWOC) celebration for the third year in a row. This year, the event will honor alumnae of distinct impact. This significant and incredible event honors several women from across the world who have gone above and beyond in aiding their communities, often at risk to their own lives. We invite you to attend and/or email us if you wish to join the UNA-USA Pasadena table at the event!

## Get Involved! Upcoming Opportunities

*Please email [unapasadena@gmail.com](mailto:unapasadena@gmail.com) to get involved with planning any of these exciting upcoming events!*

**March: Beverly Goldin UNA-USA Pasadena Coffee Talk** featuring a discussion of her documentary about her family's history. Beverly is the UNA Pasadena Secretary and a videographer and educator.

**March 3: AWIU International Women of Courage Alumnae Impact Award** (UNA Pasadena Table)

- UCLA will also host a panel discussion with the awardees.

**April 15: Heal Altadena Narrative 4 Story Exchange** - An inter-school story exchange for the communities affected by the Eaton Fires and a collaboration among Narrative 4, musicians, artists and stewards of the earth

**April: Earth Day Altadena**

**April: UNA SoCal Advocacy Day** in Sacramento to advocate for the SDGs and UN agencies.

**May: Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast** (UNA Pasadena Table)

## Welcome to New Members of the UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter!

Thank you to all the new members of the UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter. We're so grateful for your support and involvement.

Athena Harper

Lauren Poplock

Welcome to your local UNA-USA community!

## Not a member yet? Get your UNA-USA Pasadena membership today!

### Membership Types

#### ➔ **Standard: \$50**

The standard membership makes up the backbone of our movement. Gain access to all of our events, opportunities, and networking.

#### ➔ **GenUN: FREE**

Ages 14–17. As a GenUN member, you'll gain access to incredible benefits that help you grow as a leader, connect with others, and take action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### ➔ **Young Professional: \$25**

Members ages 18 to 30 may choose this membership to unlock benefits related to advancing their career and professional portfolio.

---

## Why become a member?

Being a member of UNA-USA Pasadena comes with many benefits, including...

- UN career development opportunities and skill building
- Opportunities to serve as a UNA-USA delegate at high-level UN events
- Discounts on tours of UN Headquarters in New York City
- Subscriptions to *PASSPORT* and *UNA-USA Today* publications, and more!

[Click HERE to join UNA-USA Pasadena today!](#)

### Stay Up-to-Date with What We're Working On

We have lots of fun events and opportunities for you all year long, so don't miss out! ***Give our socials a follow!***

Instagram 

[@unausapasadena](#)

LinkedIn 

[@UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter](#)

Facebook 

[@United Nations Association Pasadena Chapter](#)

Website 

[UNA-Pasadena.org](#)

UNA Pasadena | 75 S Grand Ave Suite 106 | Pasadena, CA 91105 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

 **Constant  
Contact**

Try email & social marketing for free!