



## PRESS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### United Nations Turns 70

#### Grandson of President Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Visits San Diego to Celebrate

**San Diego, California, October 16, 2015** – the United Nations Association of the United States of America, San Diego Chapter (UNA-USA San Diego) - the local Ambassador to and for the United Nations - is celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations. The community is invited to a Gala Luncheon on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 11 AM to 2 PM, in the Ballroom of the Prado Restaurant in Balboa Park. The luncheon will be hosted by Co-Chair Joanne Tawfilis, U.S. National Commissioner to UNESCO, the Honorary Chairs Sherri Lightner, Council President for the City of San Diego, and Lora Fisher, President of the La Jolla Rotary Club.

In noting the importance of the United Nations, former Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld once stated “the United Nations was not created to take mankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell.” Formed after World War II as an alternative to the balance-of-power politics, the UN looks back at seventy years of creating an institutional architecture that fosters international cooperation and consensual global norms as well as establishes universally applicable rules for the benefit of all. “For most of us here in the United States, unless we have been the beneficiary of the UN’s incredible humanitarian efforts the significance of this milestone anniversary might not be apparent” said Bettina Hausmann, President and CEO of the local UN Association. “San Diego with its vibrant refugee community, however, brings home the very core of the UN mission: to provide solutions to ‘problems without passports,’ in short security concerns that impact us all and can no longer be solved unilaterally”. Community partner and long term supporter of the UN, Rotary International is sharing “a fascinating history” remarks Lora Fisher, President of the La Jolla Rotary Club “a long and successful partnership based on similar visions for a more harmonious and unimpaired world”. Ms. Fisher expressed her excitement to join this year’s commemoration.

The celebratory luncheon on October 24<sup>th</sup> also represents a wonderful trifecta of events for 2015 including: the seventieth birthday of the United Nations, the sixty-ninth anniversary of the United Nations Association of San Diego, and Balboa Park’s centennial celebration. The visit of President Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt’s grandson, Ford Roosevelt marks an important and historical return to the San Diego Chapter after sixty-two years. In 1953, his grandmother, Eleanor Roosevelt opened the new Headquarter of the UN Association at the House of Hospitality in beautiful Balboa Park; the return of a family member to the very spot and heart of the organization is a great privilege and inspiration to the community.

“I’m very honored to be part of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) celebration with the San Diego Chapter of the UN Association” said Ford Roosevelt in a phone call earlier this week. As the guest of honor, Ford is presenting Dr. Dee Aker, Director of the Institute for Peace and Justice at USD with the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights award. “Dr. Aker embodies the values and moral imperative of the work of my grandmother, Eleanor Roosevelt. We need more champions of Human Rights active in our communities today.”

Event Information & Registration [www.unasd.org/2015-UN-Day](http://www.unasd.org/2015-UN-Day)

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#### About UNA-USA San Diego

As a program of the UN Foundation, UNA-USA San Diego is the local Ambassador to and for the United Nations. With its prestigious consultative status to the United Nations, UNA-USA San Diego links the local community with the United Nations and vice versa since 1999. As a Center for Policy Research, the organization is expanding on the understanding of global issues through advocacy and mobilization for actions to influence legislation in supporting the principles and vital work of the United Nations. UNA-USA San Diego actively engages partners and stakeholders locally since 1946.