



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

Sacramento and Davis Chapters

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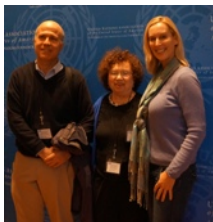
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A Monthly Newsletter

January 2014

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**2014 Brings New
Programs, New Ways
to Participate**

Do you know the MDG's?

The Millennium Development Goals were created in 2000 to address 8 goals:

- Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Reduce Child Mortality
- Improve Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development

There has been dramatic improvement in reducing human suffering over the last 14 years, but more needs to be done. New goals are currently being discussed and debated around the globe.

Make 2014 the year you really get involved in UNA-USA

Whether it be reading the **UN Wire** to stay informed, serving on the Board of Directors, or volunteering your skills at a UNA chapter event, make 2014 the year you make a difference and create a better world.

Currently we are in need of a volunteer to take charge of mailing our newsletter to members. If you have 4 hours a month to address, fold and mail, or just want a more detailed job description, email Sharon:

alexanders@csus.edu



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Post-2015 MDG Consultation at UC Berkeley was inspiring.

The World We Want: USA Consultations of the Post-2015 Millennium Development Goal Agenda

On December 8, 2013, board members of UNA-USA Sacramento were invited to participate in commentary regarding the Millennium Development Goals and what the new goals will be post 2015. A new United Nations development agenda will carry forward the spirit of the MDG's such as eradicating extreme poverty, addressing sanitation, water and environmental issues, and be grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which gives dignity to every human being.

We met at the University of California Berkeley for two sessions. Each session was organized into groups led by a facilitator who was an expert in their field, and a rapporteur. The panels discussed what MDG's to keep, what to amend, and what to add. The diversity of the panels gave meaningful suggestions which were recorded and organized into a cohesive message. Executive Director Chris Whatley oversaw the conference and took our work back with him to Washington D.C. and will share it with the United Nations committee currently working on the new development agenda.

Our Sacramento chapter is organizing its own Post-2015 MDG consultation. For more information, please email Kate Woolley: kate.unausa@gmail.com You can also vote on the issues at www.worldwewant2015.org.



Nick Alexander, Sharon Alexander and Kate Woolley



UNA-USA Executive Director Chris Whatley



Kate Woolley and Chris Whatley





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UNA Sacramento Advocates Carbon Tax at Senator Boxer's Office

On December 18, 2013 several UNA-Sacramento Board members, President Sharon Alexander, Kate Woolley, Katharine Thompson and Citizens Climate Lobby member Elizabeth Robbins met staff member Stacey Smith of Senator Barbara Boxer's office to recommend UNA priorities, full payment of U.S. dues for one, and to support a tax on carbon to help halt further climate change.

Senator Bernie Sanders-VT and Senator Barbara Boxer-CA on February 14, 2013 introduced such a bill, S332; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

It would impose a fee on carbon fuel emissions, address climate disruptions, reduce carbon pollution, enhance the use of sustainable clean energy, and promote resilience in the infrastructure of the United States, and provide rebates for consumers.

It has not been heard yet. We intend to support it.

-Katharine Thompson



Elizabeth Robbins, Katharine Thompson and Sharon Alexander speak with Stacey Smith.



Elizabeth and Sharon at Senator Barbara Boxer's office.

Human Rights Day with UNA-USA Davis Chapter

Verena and Ray Borton have been hosting a multi-cultural reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the International House in Davis for many years on December 10th, which is **Human Rights Day**. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the first document in the world to define human dignity and the rights that every human being is entitled to. It has 30 articles which Verena assigned to different readers. Each article was read twice; once in a foreign language and once in English. It was a beautiful reading and a powerful shared experience for the 50 plus people in attendance. Each person received a lovely book of the UDHR and the discussion that followed was meaningful and poignant. We will definitely be going again next December.



Verena Borton, President of UNA-USA Davis.



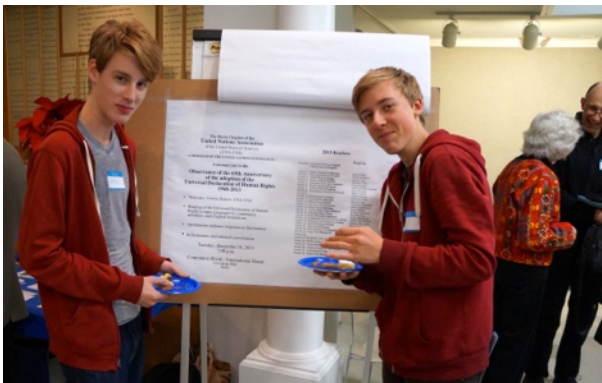
Sharon Alexander, president of UNA-USA Sacramento, prepares to read.



International House, Davis



New board member Nick Alexander discusses world affairs with a friend.



UNA student members Brendan Woolley and Calder Seagraves wrote an essay on their experience for school.



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DAVIS COMMUNITY IMPACTS THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL UNICEF CAMPAIGN

During the fall, practically all UNA chapters focus on their annual United Nations Day program that takes place around October 24. In Davis, October has for decades also been the month that highlights the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign.

Beginning with a proclamation by the City Council, the activity moves to the elementary schools where all children are encouraged to participate in this program of “Children Helping Children” by collecting donations for the UN Children’s Fund along with the usual treats. Hearing about the Children’s Fund is likely the schoolchildren’s first introduction to the UN. Knowing that they can make a difference in the lives of their less fortunate peers empowers our youngsters and may inspire them to become more aware of the needs of others while realizing how comfortable their own lives are by comparison.

Coordinators at each school report to Jennifer Holman, the overall UNICEF campaign coordinator who recently received a UNA Legacy Award for her dedication to this cause. All the funds are deposited in a special UNICEF account that our UNA chapter maintains year-round. It usually takes until December for all deposits to come in.

Meanwhile, citizens can send checks directly to the UNICEF account at First Northern Bank, 434 Second Street, Davis, CA 95616 at any time of the year, and we do receive many generous contributions in this way. They are all acknowledged by letter. One grandfather gave a donation in honor of his grandchildren (“who don’t need any more toys for Christmas”) for the fourth year in a row. One of his granddaughters reportedly told her parents, “I am glad that Opa does this.”

On December 30, we were able to send the 2013 donation from the Davis community, a check for \$12,700, to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Through our personal contact in the New York office we have been assured that our donation will be triple matched by an anonymous donor, just as it has been in the last several years. Rumor has it (confirmed by our UN Day speaker Rosie Breen) that we are among the top contributing groups in the country.

Quoting from one of our letters to Caryl Stern, President and CEO of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF: We are grateful that Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF gives our entire community, young and old, an opportunity to express our concern for the youngest victims of war, poverty, and disease, and to find comfort ourselves through this action. UNICEF helps us to replace thoughts of war with acts of peace and feelings of hatred with deeds of love.



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International Film Series (Now in its 17th year!)

Shown at International House, 10 College Park, on first and third Friday nights, Sept. - June

Sponsored by the UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF DAVIS and I-HOUSE

There is no charge, but **donations are welcomed and gratefully accepted** to help cover the **cost of DVD rental or purchase, facilities use, cups, plates etc. and the refreshments that are served at 7:30 p.m.** **Programs begin promptly at 8.**

January 3 – February 21, 2014 Schedule

January 3, 2014 ***Into the West*** (1992, Ireland, directed by Mike Newell, 97 min.)

A majestic white stallion appears mysteriously to a “Traveller” (gypsy) (David Kelly), teller of legends who preserves the old gypsy ways, including traveling by caravan as a tinker. Arriving in Dublin, he gives the horse to his two grandsons Ossie and Tito (Ciaran Fitzgerald and Ruaidhri Conroy) who live in a highrise slum with their father (Gabriel Byrne). The boys move the horse into their apartment, with predictable results. The horse is taken away by the police and bought by a rich man who races it. The brothers see it on TV, find it and ride it “into the west.” Their adventures are interwoven with traditional gypsy culture and challenges faced by gypsies in modern Ireland: discrimination in housing, employment and services. Saying this film is about two boys and their magical white horse would make it sound like a children’s movie, and children will enjoy it, but it also contains stark social commentary on less idyllic aspects of life in Ireland in the early 1990s. There are no subtitles provided, making some of the dialog difficult to understand (unless you are Irish). Also with Ellen Barkin. (#354)

January 17, 2014 ***A Royal Affair*** (2012, Denmark/Sweden/Czech Republic, directed by Nikolaj Arcel, 137 min.)

This film tells the true story of British Princess Caroline Mathilde (Alicia Vikander) who in 1767 was given in marriage to King Christian VII of Denmark (Mikkel Boe Følsgaard), an erratic monarch considered insane by many. There is an unhappy royal household. The arrival in court of a German physician, Johann Struensee (Mads Mikkelsen), a quietly idealistic man of the Enlightenment, brings unforeseen change. As trusted companion to the king, he is able to bring sweeping reforms to Danish society; as secret lover of the queen who yearns to discuss ideas and read books, he gains happiness and fulfillment for her and himself. Conservative elements in the government eventually take control, rescind progressive laws and cause a tragic ending. (Note: In later years the son of Christian and Caroline, Frederick VI, served as prince regent and enacted liberal reforms.) (#355)

February 7, 2014 ***Shakespeare In Love*** (1998, US, directed by John Madden, 120 min.)

Set in late Elizabethan England, this romantic comedy depicts Shakespeare (Joseph Fiennes) as a rising star who is in demand by impresarios like Philip Henslowe (Geoffrey Rush), but who struggles with a case of writer’s block. Enter Viola De Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow) who auditions to play Romeo in “Will’s” new play. The developing love story between Viola and Shakespeare is interwoven with many details about the business of theater, the looming marriage of Viola to Lord Wessex (Colin Firth), and with poetry, wit and fun. (#356)

February 21, 2014 ***Amour*** (2012, France/Germany/Austria, directed by Michael Haneke, 127 min.)

Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant) and Anne (Emmanuelle Riva) are a couple in their eighties. Both are retired music teachers and performers, deeply in love as they have always been. One morning at breakfast Anne suffers a stroke and surgery makes the situation worse. She makes her husband promise that he will let her stay at home. Georges becomes her caregiver and watches as his life companion gradually disappears while his own wellbeing is strained to the limit. Their daughter Eva (Isabelle Huppert) visits from abroad, but is more concerned about the problems caused by the stroke than about the heartbreak it has caused her parents. One of the only other visitors is Alexandre (Alexandre Tharaud), a former student of Anne’s who has become a successful musician. Dark premonitions and weariness as he watches the end of the loving relationship he and Anne had built over a lifetime finally lead Georges to make wrenching decisions. The opening scene displays the outcome of his actions. 2013 Oscar for Best Film in a Foreign Language. (#357)



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Upcoming Dates

Feb 5: UNA Sacramento Board of Directors Meeting 9:30am St. Michael's Church
Feb. 7: Member's Day at the United Nations Headquarters, New York
Feb. 8: Council of Chapters and Regions Steering Committee Meeting, Northern California Division
March 10-21: 58th Session for the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN

Dues and donations: Please remember to pay your yearly membership dues. We are an all-volunteer organization and depend on our members' support in order to bring quality programs to the public.

UNA board meetings are the first Wednesday of every month. If you have an idea for a program or would like the UNA board to address an issue, email Sharon Alexander (alexanders@csus.edu) to be considered for an upcoming agenda item.

Congratulations to our new board member, Nick Alexander. He brings a wide range of global knowledge and skills to our chapter.

New Membership Benefits

UNA-USA has just inked a partnership with the **UN Federal Credit Union** which will offer all UNA-USA members a new suite of member benefits, including custom programs, services and products. Full details of the partnership will be announced in January and there will be a special information session with UNFCU executives just for UNA-USA Chapter Leaders. For more information, please contact Laura Giroux at lgiroux@unausa.org.

Remember to check out our website, Facebook page and Twitter feed.
www.unausasacramento.com

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Sacramento, CA 95816

Application for Membership

- \$25 Introductory / First Year
- \$40 Individual / Family
- \$10 Student
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Lifetime

Name: _____

Address: _____

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The United Nations Association of the United States of America is a national organization dedicated to strengthening the three pillars of the U.N: sustainable development, human rights, and peace and security. UNA-USA carries out its action agenda through a unique public outreach, policy analysis, and international dialogue.

Make checks payable to:

UNA-USA

P.O. Box 163381

Sacramento, CA 95816

You can also apply online: www.unausasacramento.com

Thank you!

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