



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

Sacramento and Davis Chapters

P.O. Box 163381 Sacramento, CA 95816-9381

Email: [info@unausasacramento@gmail.com](mailto:info@unausasacramento@gmail.com)

## N E W S L E T T E R

January 2015

### UNA Sacramento Program

Groundswell Rising will be shown at UUSS January 18-19 at 2pm.

Page 1

### PSR Essay Contest

Information for the annual scholarship contest.

Page 2

### Valerie Bass

Concert at CSUS in her memory. January 25th. 6pm

Page 3

### UNA Davis UNDHR

Reading the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was meaningful for many.

Page 4

### Open Letter to end Statelessness.

UNHCR's new campaign to help victims of statelessness

Page 5

### UNA Davis hosts International Film Series

Schedule and description of great movies. Hosted at International House, Davis.

Page 6



### UNA Sacramento January Program:

### Film "Groundswell Rising: Protecting our Children's Air and Water"

The new documentary from Emmy Award-winning Resolution Pictures, captures the passion of people engaged in a David and Goliath confrontation. They stand together, challenging a system that promotes profit over health. Meet mothers, fathers, scientists, doctors, farmers and people from all sides of the political spectrum taking a hard look at energy extraction techniques not proven to be safe. With the Oil and Gas industry's expansion of fracking seen as a moral issue, this provocative documentary tracks a people's movement, a groundswell rising towards reason and sensitivity, to protect life, today and tomorrow.



**When:** January 18-19, 2015  
2:00-4:00pm  
**Where:** UUSS 2425 Sierra Blvd.  
Sacramento Fahs Room



We are a volunteer organization that depends on membership dues to bring quality programs to Sacramento. Please join or renew your membership today! [www.unausasacramento.com](http://www.unausasacramento.com)

**“The world is over-armed,  
and peace is under-funded.”**



United Nations Secretary General  
**Ban Ki-moon**

**The Sacramento Chapter of  
Physicians for Social Responsibility**

**Announces a scholarship essay contest open to  
High School Seniors in Sacramento and surrounding counties  
\$15,000 in total scholarship money will be awarded**

To enter the contest, high school seniors should submit an original essay of 500 words or fewer describing their thoughts about the above quotation from United Nations Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon**.

Deadline for essay submission is March 11, 2015  
For contest details, go to [www.sacpsr.org](http://www.sacpsr.org), email: [essaycontest@sacpsr.org](mailto:essaycontest@sacpsr.org),  
or call 916-955-6333

Physicians for Social Responsibility is the U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

## PSR Scholarship Essay Contest

We're pleased to announce that the 2015 PSR/Sacramento Scholarship Essay Contest is now open to high school seniors in Sacramento and surrounding counties (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba). A total of \$15,000 in scholarship money will be awarded to 12 students. The prompt for this year's contest, chosen by a vote of our members, is a quotation from United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who stated, **"The world is over-armed, and peace is under-funded."**

To enter the contest, high school seniors must submit an original essay of 500 words or fewer describing their thoughts about Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's words. The deadline for essay submission is midnight on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

The finalists will present their essays orally at a dinner beginning at **6 PM on the evening of Sunday, April 26**, at the **Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard**, in Sacramento, and a distinguished panel of judges from the community will select the first, second, and third place winners. First place will win a \$3,000 scholarship, second place a \$2,500 scholarship, and third place a \$2,000 scholarship. The other seven finalists will all receive \$1,000

each, and the two alternates will both receive \$250.

Detailed contest instructions and an entry form are available on the PSR/Sacramento website. If you have other questions about the contest or would like additional information, please send an email to **[essaycontest@sacpsr.org](mailto:essaycontest@sacpsr.org)** or call **(916) 955-6333**.

We'd appreciate your help in bringing the contest to the attention of any high school seniors you know. We would also welcome your help in reading the essays and in selecting the 10 finalists and two alternates. Send us an email if you'd be willing to be an essay reader and participate in the finalist selection process.

**Over the past 10 years, PSR/Sacramento has given out over \$100,000 in scholarship awards.** It's through the generosity of supporters like you that we can continue to offer the scholarship essay contest every year. Tax-deductible contributions toward the scholarship fund can be made online via the donations page of the PSR/Sacramento website or sent by regular mail to PSR/Sacramento, 10 Dumfries Court, Sacramento, Ca., 95831. One hundred per cent of contributions made to the scholarship fund go directly to the students.

Thanks for your help in bringing the 2015 PSR/Sacramento Scholarship Essay Contest to the attention of this year's class of high school seniors. And remember to save the date of Sunday, April 26, to attend the essay contest finals dinner.



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
*of the United States of America*  
 A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

## IN MEMORY OF VALERIE BASS, A SPECIAL CONCERT AT CSUS



**Sunday, January 25, 2015, at 7:30pm**, The Chamber Music Society of Sacramento will perform a program of 19th early 20th century music in **Capistrano Hall** in the Music Building on the CSUS mail campus.

The program will include a memorial tribute to the late **Valerie Vitale Bass**, a long time active member of UNA/USA and a loyal volunteer for UNICEF.

She was also a professional harpist with years of varied performing experience including 10 years with the Cleveland Orchestra, and 5 years with the Minnesota Orchestra.

The work to be performed is called the "Introduction and Allegro" by Maurice Ravel. The piece is scored for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet. The piece is generally regarded as a bravura mini concerto for the harp! The Harpist will be Douglas Rieth, principal harpist with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

For information on ticketing, access to the venue etc., please go to **cmssacto.org**

To read more about Mrs. Bass and her life of service:

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/obituaries/article2623051.html>

## DAVIS COMMUNITY 2014 UNICEF CAMPAIGN ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS

Thanks to Davis school children's diligent Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF on Halloween, inspired by their teachers and parents, and thanks to very generous community members who contributed to the cause throughout the year via our UNA/UNICEF bank account, the total donations for 2014 exceeded previous years' totals.



On December 29, we were able to send to the U.S. Committee for UNICEF a check for \$12,900 which will be triple matched by a national donor. Our contact in the New York office wrote to thank the Davis community for its "unrelenting help to the children of the world."

Being able to send this significant donation is especially meaningful at this time when UNICEF has just announced that 2014 was one of the worst years ever for the children of the world. While the organization continues to serve needs in every country where it operates, the most pressing crises right now are in Syria, South Sudan and the West African countries where the Ebola epidemic has created many orphans.

As a footnote, here is section 2 of Article 26 on education:

"Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace."

Being involved with UNICEF is one of the ways our school children first learn about the United Nations.



## DAVIS UNA'S OBSERVANCE OF 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ADOPTION OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Our eleventh celebration of Human Rights Day, originally scheduled for December 11 but postponed due to a severe storm that day, took place on January 3, 2015 at International House. Recruiting sixty-three readers a second time was no small feat, since many of the original participants were abroad, out of state or out of town. But thanks to many wonderful individuals who were willing to give up their Saturday evening for this cause (and thanks to e-mail without which it would be impossible to organize this kind of event) we once again experienced a remarkable bond of humankind and shared with everyone present a sincere dedication to making the world more like what Eleanor Roosevelt and her UDHR committee envisioned in 1948.

After the formal reading of all articles in many different languages, followed by English, everyone had an opportunity to comment briefly on articles that had a particular resonance. Among the topics raised were

Article 5 (“No one shall be subjected to torture”), Article 3 (“Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”), Article 7 (“All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.”), Article 15 (“Everyone has the right to a nationality.”), and Article 25 (“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care”). At the conclusion all joined hands and during complete silence reflected on the millions around the world who at present are prohibited from enjoying these universal rights.

The conversation continued informally while refreshments were served. The impact of the evening is best illustrated by selected comments received afterwards from some of the participants (quoted without editing):

“My son and I got a great experience from this event. Most of all, I could know there were how many human rights for people. I also realized the precious human rights. I will keep this book for a long time.”

“Thanks for another thought provoking and moving evening.”

“Though we have far to go, having the document is critical to creating accountability from leaders. This annual reminder in a small group setting is a critical reminder, indeed a formative act, that I think we need to see more of.”

“I have long been a great fan of Eleanor and her pioneering Declaration. The world would be a much better place if it were not so widely ignored.”

“I was deeply touched by the spirit included in the reading of different language.”

“I had so much fun and I learned a lot. So many rights that I didn't know existed, and that millions of others and I are entitled to.”

“I'd like to be able to cite an article in its proper context to an official- at the right time- and when it's safe to do so- to see what kind of response that will generate.

Listening to each person read his/her article brought to my attention the oversights and injustices globally, but also locally. The “Act Locally” theme to the article readings resonates with my being. It's humbling to also listen to the accounts of people whose touching situation in their respective homelands brings a sobering awareness of the long way that these articles must travel to be recognized nationally and consistently, through each country.”

“It was a very pleasant event. I enjoyed it and also conversation with many people.”

“As I travel, I see more and more the need, not only in this country, in many other areas that have such a need for all humans to enjoy the freedoms that we so often take for granted.”

“I can't tell you how much I enjoyed last night. I'm looking forward to more events and to deepening my acquaintance with the Davis UNA. To making the UDHR a living reality!”

“It was such a pleasure for me to be part of last night's reading. It will be my honor to become a member of UNA-USA Davis. I've been always trying to get more involved with organizations, like UNA or UNICEF, as one of the ways to help other people. In fact, I went to New York two years ago to represent one of the Iranian NGOs at the United Nations. It was then when I realized how much I'd like to become more involved in human rights activities!”

“It was my pleasure to have been part of your community and also felt privileged having been a link in the circle. Looking forwards to other human rights promoting events with you.”

Every year I think I can't possibly organize this labor-intensive task again – but the end result always is a good feeling of having brought people from diverse cultures and backgrounds together to focus on the basic human rights to which mankind is entitled. Each time we rededicate ourselves to working toward the goal of making human rights more truly universal.

Verena Borton



## UNHCR's Open Letter to End Statelessness

**#IBELONG** to a world where everyone has the right to a nationality.

**Across the world today more than ten million people are told they don't belong ANYWHERE.**

*They are called 'stateless'. They are denied a nationality. And with it, they are denied their basic rights.*

*Statelessness can mean a life without education, without medical care, or legal employment.*

*It can mean a life without the ability to move freely, without prospects, or hope. **Statelessness is inhumane.***

*The main reason people are stateless is because of discrimination. Because of their ethnicity. Because of their religion. Because in some countries women cannot pass their nationality on to their children.*

**We believe it's time to end this injustice.**

*With enough courage we know it is possible. Governments can change their laws and procedures, and give stateless people their rights and a place to belong.*

**Within ten years, we can ensure everyone has a nationality.**

*Because if we don't this injustice will only get worse. A child is born stateless every ten minutes.*

*By the time you finish reading this letter another person may have started life without a nationality.*

*We are ready to make our voices heard. We believe that if we take a stand, others will join us. And if enough of us stand up we will end this inhumanity.*



*That is why UNHCR is launching the Campaign to End Statelessness in ten years.*

***Sixty years ago, the world agreed to protect stateless people. Now it's time to end statelessness itself.***

This letter was signed by many world leaders and now each of us can sign it as well. I did.  
-Verena Borton

<http://ibelong.unhcr.org/en/join/index.do>



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
of the United States of America

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

## International Film Series (Nearing the end of our 18<sup>th</sup> year!)

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

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 served at 7:30

p.m. Programs begin promptly at 8.

### January 2 – February 20, 2015 Schedule

January 2, 2015 ***I Served the King of England*** (2006, Czech Republic, directed by Jirí Menzel, 113 min.)

Vashek Cervinka will provide an introduction to this Czech comedy/drama based on the novel with the same title by Bohumil Hrabal. The central figure in the story is Jan Díte (played by Ivan Barnev as a young man and by Oldrich Kaiser as an older man) and it covers thirty years in the history of what used to be called Czechoslovakia. At the beginning of the film, in 1963, the Communist regime releases Díte from prison a month short of his 15-year sentence. As he settles in a deserted village in the former Sudetenland, he reminisces through flashbacks about his early life when his goal was to become wealthy and run the best hotel in Prague, which he eventually achieved. The old order changed drastically with the Nazi occupation and again with the Communist takeover. Although these were hard times, the film is filled with humor and absurd situations, as well as scenes that some may find shocking. While Díte was naïve and rash in his youth, he is a wiser and more philosophical man now. With Julia Jentsch as Liza, the German woman who idolizes Hitler, Martin Huba as Skrivánek, the headwaiter who once served the king of England, and others. Rated R. (#372)

January 16, 2015 ***The French Minister*** (2013, France, directed by Bertrand Tavernier, 113 min.)

This comedy about French diplomacy is based on a novel by Abel Lanzac, “Quai d’Orsay,” and also on a 2003 speech given by former French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin. A liberal young speechwriter (Raphaël Personnaz as Arthur Vlaminc) accepts a job with the conservative Minister of Foreign Affairs (Thierry Lhermitte as Alexandre Taillard de Worms). The Minister constantly demands rewrites of a speech he is to give at the United Nations. Arthur has the support of the chief-of-staff of an office of twelve (Niels Arestrup as Claude Maupas) who has his own issues with the boss. The film is filled with keen observations about the dog-eat-dog world of bureaucracy and France’s role during international crises. Taillard is depicted as a statesman who loves fine wines, is a devotee of Greek philosophy, a believer in yellow highlighters and a fan of mottos such as “Responsibility, Unity, Efficiency!” Also with Julie Gayet, Bruno Raffaelli, Anaïs Demoustier and others. (#373)

February 6, 2015 ***Tokyo Sonata*** (2008, Japan/Netherlands/Hong Kong, directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 120 min.)

Middle-aged Tokyo office worker Ryuhei Sasaki (Teruyuki Kagawa) loses his job when his company outsources its production to China. In his traditional role as the authoritarian family breadwinner and protector he cannot bring himself to admit the truth to his wife Megumi (Kyoko Koizumi) and sons Takashi (Yu Koyanagi) and Kenji (Kai Inowaki), pretending to go to the office but actually visiting employment centers and eating lunch at soup kitchens. The Sasaki family clearly are a dysfunctional family whose members do not communicate with each other. Confrontations between the father and his sons lead Takashi and Kenji to pursue their own paths despite disapproval, while Megumi, desperately lonely, tries to maintain some semblance of family life. An unexpected event and the discovery that Kenji is a musical prodigy lead to a second chance at functioning as a family where all members have personal identities. Also with Haruka Igawa, Kanji Tsuda and Koji Yakusho. (#374)

February 20, 2015 ***The Counterfeiters*** (2007, Austria/Germany, directed by Stefan Ruzowitzky, 98 min.)

This true story of the largest counterfeiting operation in history is based on a book by Adolf Burger. When master counterfeiter Salomon “Sally” Sorowitsch (Karl Markovics) is arrested in Berlin in the mid thirties, he is sent to Mauthausen concentration camp and eventually to Sachsenhausen. There he is put in charge of a team of inmates with special skills to carry out a Nazi scheme (Operation Bernhard) to print British pounds and U.S. dollars to help the war effort and undermine Allied economies in exchange for special privileges and some hope of survival. Ironically the overseer of the scheme is the very Friedrich Herzog (Devid Striesow) who arrested Sally in Berlin. One member of the team, Adolf Burger (August Diehl), tries to undermine the operation based on his Marxist convictions. Sorowitsch’s challenge is to protect Burger from the Nazis as well as from his fellow prisoners, while keeping all of them alive. Moral dilemmas abound. Film is winner of Foreign Language Oscar. **Rated R.** (#375)



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
*of the United States of America*  
A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

On UN Wire I recently noticed an item headlined "Wipe out statelessness." As I was stateless during my youth, this is an issue that has always concerned me. Having no nationality affects all the human rights in the UDHR (see Article 15 in particular). Now a concerted effort has been launched to end statelessness for millions of the world's people. I have signed the UNHCR's Open Letter to End Statelessness and I encourage all members of our chapters to do the same. For the text and link see elsewhere in this newsletter.

-Verena Borton

Dear Editor,

With one crisis after another in 2014, the United Nations has been there to help children deal with the horror, fear and despair they suffer as innocent victims of violence, natural disasters, and deadly diseases. These children have been orphaned, kidnapped, tortured, recruited as soldiers, and sold as slaves. Anthony Lake, UNICEF executive director, says, "Never have so many children been subjected to such unspeakable brutality." It is up to us to make sure these children are not forgotten. They will have long term psychological and physical issues. What can we do to ensure there are resources and programs available for these innocent victims? Can they be provided by the UN and non-governmental organizations? No one should be ok with letting these children fend for themselves.

-KW

---

Don't have time to be a board member but would still like to volunteer? Well we need you! Event leaders for UNA sponsored programs will take on one event of their choice during the year. We are starting exploratory committees for:

International Day of Peace September 2015

Earth Day April 2015

Annual Dinner/UN Day October 2015

IGMUN at UC Berkeley October 2015

UNA Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Model UN Clubs

Young Professionals Group

**We welcome your thoughtful and civilized comments! Please email your Letters to the Editor to:**  
**[kate.unausa@gmail.com](mailto:kate.unausa@gmail.com)**

## Upcoming Dates

- January 18-19: Film "Groundswell Rising: Protecting our Children's Air and Water" UUSS 2pm.  
January 20: Film "Pay to Play" Library at 9th and I St. 6pm  
January 25: Concert in Memory of Valerie Bass, Cal State Sacramento  
January 27: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust  
February 2: UNA Sacramento Executive Board Meeting  
February 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation  
February 7: UNA-USA Regional Meeting, Davis  
February 13: World Radio Day (UNESCO)  
February 20: UNA-USA Member's Day at the United Nations

United Nations International Year Observances for 2015:  
International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies  
International Year of Soils

**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 you and our community.**

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.

**Remember to check out our website, Facebook and Twitter.**

**[www.unausasacramento.com](http://www.unausasacramento.com)**

## UNA-USA Board Members

### **Davis Chapter President**

Verena Borton  
rvborton@comcast.net

### **Sacramento Chapter President**

Sharon Alexander  
916-482-4949

### **Vice President, Young Professionals Chair, Newsletter Editor**

Kate Woolley  
kate.unausa@gmail.com

### **Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor**

John Jervis  
916-482-1354

### **Treasurer**

Jack Kennedy  
916-393-3852

### **Membership**

Carl Sweet  
916-481-6122

### **Advocacy**

Katharine Thompson  
916-456-6929

### **Directors**

Nick Alexander  
John Bernier  
Fred Hansen

### **Past President**

Eddie Lee

Sacramento and Davis Chapters

*P.O. Box 163381 Sacramento, CA 95816-9381*

Email: [info@unausasacramento@gmail.com](mailto:info@unausasacramento@gmail.com)

**[www.unausasacramento.com](http://www.unausasacramento.com)**



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
*of the United States of America*  
A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

UNA-USA Sacramento Chapter  
P.O. Box 163381  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Application for Membership

- \$5 Student
- \$25 Introductory /First Year
- \$40 Individual /Family
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Lifetime

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter (Circle one):    Davis                  Sacramento

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](http://www.unausasacramento.com)

Choose Sacramento or Davis as your local chapter.

*Thank you!*

United Nations Association of the United States of America  
Sacramento Chapter  
P.O. Box 163381  
Sacramento, CA 95816-9381  
Return Service Requested

