



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

N E W S L E T T E R

December 2014

UNA Sacramento Annual Holiday Party

Bring an ethnic dish to share! The annual Holiday party is Dec. 5th.

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UNA Davis Observes UDHR

The 66th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be celebrated at International House.

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UNA Davis Hosts Biannual Meeting

Feb. 7, 2015, join members from N. California to discuss important

A New Peacekeeping Initiative

Letter from Congressman Garamendi

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World Bank Report

"New Climate Normal" describes risks, solutions.

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The School Cycle Project

Girls in Malawi can attend school if they have bikes.

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International Film Series Schedule

Join UNA Davis for thought provoking films and great conversation.

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Letters to the Editor

Members respond to articles in the newsletter or to other current events.

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Join us for our Annual UNA Sacramento Holiday Party and Elections

Share your ethnicity with other members and peace loving people. Bring a potluck dish to share that evokes fond memories.

When: Friday, December 5, 2014

Time: 5:00-7:00pm

Where: USS Fahs Room

2425 Sierra Blvd. Sacramento



*Happy Holidays from UNA-USA
Sacramento and Davis Chapters!*

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



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
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Davis UNA chapter, 101 E. Seventh Street, Davis, CA 95616

DAVIS UNA CHAPTER WILL OBSERVE

2014 CELEBRATION OF THE 66th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

December 10, 2014 marks the 66th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. The Davis chapter of the United Nations Association invites the public to a celebration of this milestone on **Thursday, December 11, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at International House, 10 College Park, Davis.**

The Declaration has been presented each December since 2004 by different readers from the community. Previous years' presentations of the Preamble and 30 Articles read in thirty different languages (followed by an English translation) were received with enthusiasm and wonder. It is a remarkable experience to hear so many voices from various cultures and regions in one small space – voices that reflect the diversity of our community and the universality of the Declaration.

Participating in the ceremony as readers, listeners and observers has been meaningful and occasionally very moving for those who were present for the reading of the complete document. Not everyone is aware that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been guiding the world since the document was created in 1948 under the strong leadership of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.



All interested community members are most cordially invited to come and be a link in our circle when we read, hear, and reflect on the meaning of such basic truths as “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” (Article 19)

All who attend the event will receive **copies of the UDHR** as gifts from the Davis UNA chapter.

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony. There is no charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted.





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Northern California UNA Division biannual meeting Feb. 7, 2015 in Davis

Davis UNA will host 30-40 delegates from all of the chapters in the Northern California Division at International House Davis (10 College Park) on **Saturday, February 7** from approximately **9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** We will offer a complimentary breakfast and have coffee/tea/water available throughout the day. A no host lunch will be arranged or you may choose to bring your own.

Here is a chance for Sacramento and Davis UNA members to attend one of these meetings without having to travel far. All are welcome for part or all of the meeting. Agenda items are expected to deal with major UNA events coming up, such as **IGMUN 2015** on October 10 in Berkeley, **Members Day** at the UN later in February and the **Annual Meeting** in Washington, DC in June. There are tentative plans for a Climate conference, the UN 70th Anniversary activities planned by the San Francisco chapter and the “**Cities for CEDAW**” movement that is fast gaining support across the nation. Additionally there will be reports on advocacy actions, scheduled **International Women’s Day** events and general sharing of chapter activities.

Mark the date on your 2015 calendar and plan to join an interesting group of people who care deeply about the UN and who work hard to inspire their communities to recognize the importance of a constructive U.S.-UN relationship.

November 21, 2014

Mrs. Verena Borton
101 E 7th Street
Davis, CA 95616-3634

Dear Mrs. Borton:

Thank you for contacting me to share your support for funding UN peacekeeping missions. Hearing from constituents like you is vital to my work in Congress and I appreciate you taking the time to let me know what you think.

There are many situations around the world that could benefit from having UN peacekeepers present. During our Peace Corps service in Ethiopia, my wife Patti and I experienced firsthand how poverty and violent conflict impact people’s lives. America’s leadership and financial support in foreign emergency situations is crucial to supporting economic development and human rights in regions around the world where living conditions are perilous and states are weak.

Though some of the funding for UN peacekeeping was cut for FY2014, the US government has not forgotten the importance of supporting these missions. President Obama has proposed transferring funds from the Iraq/Afghanistan Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund to funding UN peacekeeping missions for crises. The White House has also proposed appropriating \$150 million towards a new “Peacekeeping Response Mechanism” to provide funding in unexpected crises. If approved, these initiatives could be used to restore some of the lost funding. This is a very important issue, and I will keep your thoughts in mind during the FY2015 budget negotiations.

I want to thank you for taking the time to contact me. My staff and I make every effort to integrate your concerns and suggestions into my work and I hope you continue to stay in touch. Please feel free to visit <http://garamendi.house.gov/contact-me/newsletter> to sign up for periodic updates about the issues that are important to you or follow me on social media at <http://www.facebook.com/repgaramendi> and <http://www.twitter.com/repgaramendi>.

Sincerely,

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



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“New Climate Normal” Poses Severe Risks to Development—World Bank Report

Dramatic climate changes and weather extremes already affecting millions of lives, but solutions exist

WASHINGTON, November 23, 2014 — As the planet warms further, heat-waves and other weather extremes that today occur once in hundreds of years, if ever, would become the “new climate normal,” creating a world of increased risks and instability. The consequences for development would be severe as crop yields decline, water resources shift, sea-levels rise, and the livelihoods of millions of people are put at risk, according to a new scientific report released today by the World Bank Group.

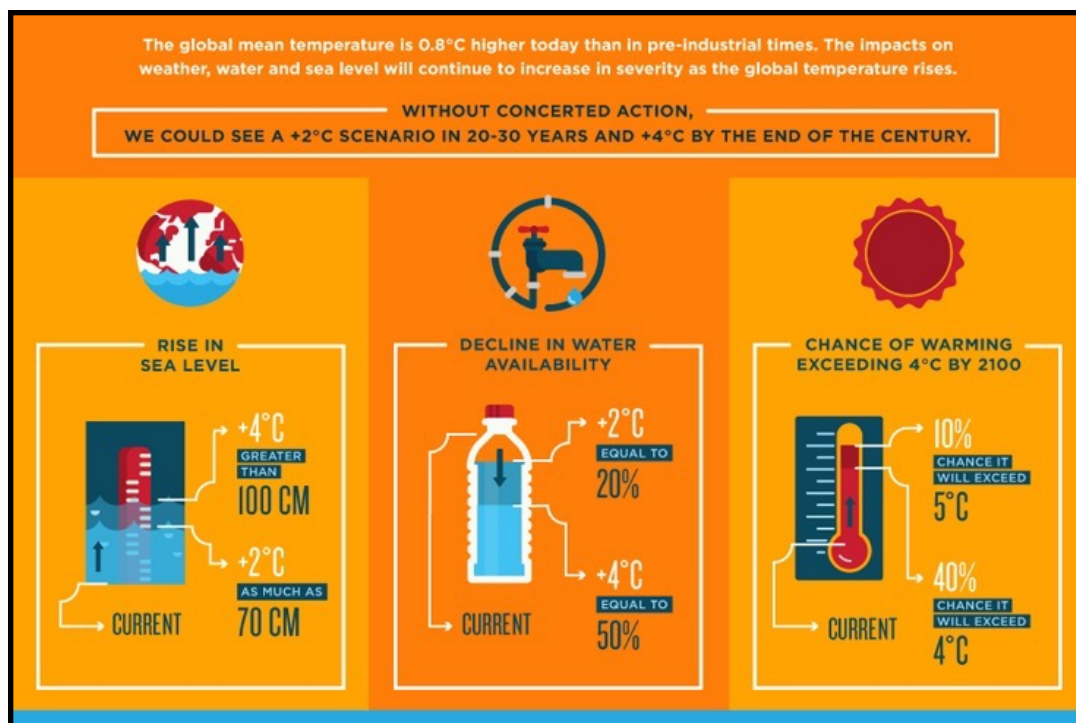
Climate change impacts such as extreme heat events may now be unavoidable because the Earth’s atmospheric system is locked into warming close to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by mid-century, the report said. Even very ambitious mitigation action taken today will not change this, it said.

Dramatic climate changes and weather extremes are already affecting people around the world, damaging crops and coastlines, and putting water security at risk, according to the report, ***Turn Down the Heat: Confronting the New Climate Normal***. Many of the worst projected climate impacts could still be avoided by holding warming below 2°C, the report said.

“The good news is that we can take action that reduces the rate of climate change and promotes economic growth, ultimately stopping our journey down this dangerous path,” Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group, said. *“World leaders and policy makers should embrace affordable solutions like carbon pricing and policy choices that shift investment to clean public transport, cleaner energy and more energy efficient factories, buildings and appliances.”*

The report also warns that if warming continues unabated, irreversible changes on a large scale could be triggered. In northern Russia, forest dieback and thawing of permafrost threaten to amplify global warming as stored carbon and methane are released into the atmosphere, giving rise to a self-amplifying feedback loop. Methane emissions could increase by 20 to 30 percent across Russia at 2°C warming by 2050.

“The report makes crystal clear that we cannot continue down the current path of unchecked, growing emissions. Leaders must step up and take the necessary decisions on how we manage our economies towards clean growth and resilient development,” said **Rachel Kyte, World Bank Group Vice President and Special Envoy for Climate Change**. *“Urgent and substantial technological, economic, institutional and behavioral change is needed to reverse present trends. Economic development and climate protection can be complementary. We need the political will to make this happen.”*



For more information go to: www.worldbank.org and search “Turn Down the Heat.”

The School Cycle Program from Girl Up

In Malawi, fewer than 25% of girls finish primary school. Just getting to school can pose a challenge. Many girls walk up to 28 kilometers (10 miles). Too tired to go home, many are forced to sleep overnight at school or skip their classes altogether. With a bike, a girl can travel to school safely, so she can get the education she needs to create a better future for herself and her community. With your support, Girl Up will provide bikes directly to adolescent girls through a program in Malawi run by the United Nations.

*From the United Nations Foundation Blog:
By Zoe Fox and Lauren Bohn*

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and is rarely mentioned in the news. In the country that's roughly the size of Pennsylvania, three-quarters of the population live below the poverty line. Less than 25% of girls finish primary school – even though it's free. Among those, just 13% will enroll in secondary school. And only 5% of them will finish.

We visited Malawi last year on a United Nations Foundation reporting fellowship. There we met 16-year-old Rosa, a bright girl who hopes to be a nurse despite facing many obstacles. We met charismatic 13-year-old Shakira, the leader of a Girl's Club that encourages girls to continue attending school, even if they marry early and have children. We met countless girls who all cling passionately to the same dream: to graduate from school and to achieve their dreams. But few will ever get that chance. In the country's isolated Mangochi district, we spoke with the principal of a girls' high school about the endless challenges facing her students.

"What's keeping these girls from staying in school?" we asked.

Poverty, a lack of materials and teachers, early marriage, and teen pregnancy are all factors, she explained, but her students' biggest challenge is their exhausting commute to school. Some girls walk up to 10 miles in each direction. Too tired to make their way home by foot, many are forced to sleep overnight at schools or simply skip their classes altogether. Upon returning home, we approached the UN Foundation's **Girl Up campaign** to figure out how we can fill this need, and SchoolCycle was born.

SchoolCycle is a global giving campaign that will launch on **#GivingTuesday** (Dec. 2) to raise money for the United Nations Joint Program on Adolescent Girls in Malawi to provide bikes for girls.



Girl Up's goal is to provide bicycles to 550 adolescent girls in Malawi to increase their access to social services and to improve their school attendance and retention. For \$125, a girl will receive a bike, bike parts, and training. SchoolCycle tackles one of the most expensive and complex pieces of the development puzzle: infrastructure. It's a problem that requires political will and cannot be solved overnight. But Girl Up's SchoolCycle is one piece of the puzzle we can all help align.



When it comes to giving, we don't buy into the notion that people don't want to help, or that people don't care – they just need to feel like they can make a difference. And when problems like Malawi's are so complex, effecting change can seem elusive.

SchoolCycle is about investing in future change-makers by giving them a simple tool – actual wheels of progress – to make sure their voices are heard, so they can transform the course of their futures.

These girls are already going places. This holiday season, let's help them go farther.



International Film Series (Now in our 18th 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 that are served at 7:30 p.m. Programs begin promptly at 8.**

December 5, 2014 – January 16, 2015 Schedule

December 5, 2014 ***Tales From the Golden Age*** (2009, Romania, directed by Hanno Höfer, Razvan Marculescu, Cristian Mungiu, Ioana Uricaru and Constantin Popescu, 141 min.)

The final fifteen years of the Ceausescu regime were the worst in Romania's history, but the propaganda machine of that time (ending in 1989) referred to the period as the country's "golden age." This film is an anthology of six "urban legends" of Romanian life, recapturing the mood of a nation trying to survive with wit under a brutal dictatorship when food was more important than money, freedom more important than love and survival more important than principles. One reviewer likened the film's lyrical political satire to Gogol. Actors include Alexandru Potocean (Secretary), Teo Corban (Mayor), Emanuel Pirvu (Party Inspector), Avram Birau and Paul Dunca (Photographers), Diana Cavallioti (Crina), Radu Iacoban (Bughi) and others. (#370)

December 19, 2014 ***Before Midnight*** (2013, U.S., directed by Richard Linklater, 109 min.)

The sequel to *Before Sunrise* (1995) and *Before Sunset* (2004) brings us the same actors, Ethan Hawke as Jesse and Julie Delpy as Celine, after another nine-year interval. In their early forties, they are on vacation in Greece with their twin daughters. While there are extended conversations just between the two main actors, they also are shown in scenes where they talk to younger and older couples, offering different views on love, marriage and romance. In the earlier films, Jesse and Celine talked about their future, ambitions, fears and dreams. In this one they focus on mistakes of the past and present problems. *Before Midnight* explores the complexities of modern love and life in an international setting (filmed in Greece) with smart and elegant dialog. Also with Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick as Hank, Jennifer and Charlotte Prior as Ella and Nina, Xenia Kalogeropoulou as Natalia, Yiannis Papadopoulos as Achilleas and Athina Tsangari as Ariadni. (#371)

January 2, 2014 ***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 Vlamincek) 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)



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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor and UNA Sacramento Members,

Going into the new year of 2015, it would be of benefit to reflect on the Post 2015 Millennium Development Goals and see how we can not only help at an international level with our advocacy, but help locally with our time, experience and money. There are many worthwhile organizations helping victims of domestic violence, helping homeless and displaced people, promoting sustainable living, and bringing an awareness of peace to the community. Pick one or two organizations and give them some love. We all have something of value to share.

-K.W.

Save the Date

*UNA-USA and the Mid-Atlantic Region
invite you to*

**Members' Day at the UN and the 7th Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference
Friday, February 20, 2015**

United Nations Headquarters
405 E. 42nd St., New York, NY 10017

Join fellow UNA-USA members and UN supporters at the **UN Headquarters** for Members' Day, a day of dynamic and informative discussion on the most pressing issues facing the United Nations. Using this year's theme, *The United Nations: Up to the Challenge*, UNA-USA members will get exclusive access to the UN, where they will hear from experts, and network with community leaders, academics and students, and representatives from think tanks and like-minded organizations. Stay tuned to UNA-USA email and social media communications for more information on registration, conference program and speakers. Don't miss out on what is expected to be the largest gathering of UN advocates in the United States. Email membership@unausa.org if you have additional questions.

We welcome your thoughtful and civilized comments! Please email your Letters to the Editor to:
kate.unausa@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates

December 2: Service for Pete Holmquist. UUSS 2425 Sierra Blvd. Sacramento 1:15pm
December 5: UNA Sacramento Holiday Party, UUSS 2425 Sierra Blvd. 5:00pm
December 5: International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
December 9: Vigil for Peace and Justice: 16th St. and J St. 4:30pm-6:00pm
December 10: 65th Anniversary Universal Declaration of Human Rights
December 11: UDHR Reading with UNA-Davis, International House, 10 College Park
December 13: Service for Ted Webb. Sierra Arden Church 890 Morse Ave. Sacramento
December 31: New Year's Eve

United Nations International Year Observances for 2014:
International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
International Year of Small Island Developing States
International Year of Crystallography
International Year of Family Farming

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

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UNA-USA Sacramento Chapter

P.O. Box 163381

Sacramento, CA 95816

Application for Membership

- \$25 Introductory /First Year
- \$40 Individual /Family
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Lifetime
- Students are free

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.

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You can also apply online: **www.unausasacramento.com**

Choose Sacramento or Davis as your local chapter.

Thank you!

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