



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

## A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

### Sacramento and Davis Chapters

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### M A R C H N E W S L E T T E R

#### UNA March Program:

Professor Bob Metcalf will present a unique approach to clean water methods. Monday, March 17, 2014. 7pm SMUD.

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Join the Davis Chapter at the International House for thought provoking movies and stimulating conversation.

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Professor Bob Metcalf with Solar Cookers International

## UNA March Program: "The Goal is Zero: a strategy to eliminate water-borne diseases in Lower Nyakach, Kenya."

**When: Monday, March 17, 2014. 7:00pm**

**Where: SMUD 6301 S St. Sacramento**

The **United Nations International World Water Day** is March 22nd of each year. It is a day to reflect on the scandalous situation that despite achieving Millennium Development Goal 7, target C, 1 billion fellow citizens still have only highly contaminated drinking water sources. They continue to be plagued with 4 billion cases of debilitating diarrhea and 1.8 million preventable deaths from water-borne diseases each year. Why is this tolerated? Water-borne diseases are not complicated like HIV / AIDS, malaria, or TB. Kill the germs in water, as we do in developed countries, and people don't get sick.

Although in July, 2010, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/64/292 declaring safe and clean drinking water and sanitation a human right, this Resolution is empty without a plan to achieve this goal. At the March 17th meeting, **Professor Bob Metcalf** will present a unique approach to water-borne diseases, involving practical field methods involving community members to assess the bacterial quality of drinking water, educating communities about the relationship between fecal contamination of water and disease and introducing readily available household water treatment and storage methods.

Bob Metcalf is a Professor Emeritus and California State University, Sacramento, where he taught microbiology courses from 1970-2012. In 1978, he started regularly using a solar box cooker developed by two Arizona women, finding solar cooking superior to conventional gas/electric cooking during Sacramento's long solar season. Since 1978, he has solar cooked 6,000 meals in Sacramento and in 20 developing countries where he has led workshops on solar cooking, water testing, and solar water pasteurization. His recent focus in Kenya brings together microbiology and solar to address water-borne disease at the community level.

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)



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## South Sudan wracked by human rights violations, economic concerns.

The United Nations peacekeeping mission in South Sudan has released an initial report on human rights violations, including ethnic killings, during the ongoing South Sudan conflict. According to the report, mass ethnic-based killings, gang rapes and torture were carried out by government troops and various opposition militia. Gatmai Deng lost three family members in the violence that erupted in South Sudan on Dec. 15 and lasted until the end of January. And he blames their deaths on the government's failure to use the country's vast oil revenues to create a better life for its almost 11 million people.

When the country gained independence from Sudan in 2011, many hoped that their new government would provide them with the services that successive Sudanese governments had denied the South Sudanese. "But that government is no different from the Khartoum governments that marginalized South Sudanese citizens. Where are the hospitals? Where are the schools, where is the clean drinking water they promised us?" Gatmai asks. South Sudan earns 98 percent of its revenue from oil exports. Between 2005 and 2012 – when the country stopped production because of a pipeline dispute with Sudan – South Sudan earned more than 10 billion dollars from oil exports, according to both government and World Bank officials. "I think the oil money is benefiting [President] Salva Kiir and his ministers," Gatmai says from Khartoum, Sudan's capital, where he sought refuge following the outbreak of violence in his country. The fighting left thousands dead and wounded, displacing 863,000 others. Dr. Leben Nelson Moro, professor of development studies at Juba University tells IPS that oil has been more a curse than a blessing for South Sudan. Moro says once the violence started, "it became easy to recruit those who felt excluded from the country's wealth into hostile activities."

"A lot of the oil revenues were taken by a few people in positions of authority. Services were not provided to large sections of the population. We don't have roads [and] we don't have other basic services such as health care," Moro points out. The revenues were not used to generate employment for young people. This generated some grievance against the few people in government who seem to be benefiting from the country's resources," Moro says.

In practice, the government has no policy or strategy to increase the social economic integration of its youth. "Insufficient labour demand, lack of skilled labor supply, absence of a coherent government policy, and the lack of a sound legal and regulatory framework limit the absorption of youth by the labour market," the document says.

There are no official figures on the rate of youth unemployment but figures from Oxfam International show that only 12 percent of women and 11 percent of men within the active population are formally employed. Pinyjwok Akol Ajawin, director general for youth at the Culture, Youth and Sports Ministry, tells IPS that the country's "youth got politically manipulated." "They are following their elders and their tribesman. That's why we are trying to reach out to them to enlighten them. Let them know that they are the youth of one country, they belong to South Sudan and they must co-exist so that they see themselves as brothers with those they are trying to fight."

A National Youth Crisis Management Committee, a community service initiative for the youth, has been created with support from the government. "This is the only way to keep young South Sudanese busy and to discourage them from joining the ongoing conflict between government and anti-government forces," Ajawin says.

Edmond Yakani, executive director of the Community Empowerment for Progress Organisation, believes otherwise. "It is only thorough economic reforms that we shall bring stability to this country," he tells IPS.

-By Charlton Doki

Inter Press Service News Agency

## United Nations Human Rights Council opens with calls to protect, support civil society activism.



High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay addresses the opening of the twenty-fifth regular session of the Human Rights Council. UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré.



Pillay and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

“Streets, airwaves, entire countries are buzzing with demands for economic, social and political justice,” said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay.

The 47-member body will also review the rights records of members and hold events addressing the prevention of large-scale abuses and on combatting sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, along with the annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child and the annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Setting out this agenda and acknowledging the hard work that lay ahead in ensuring that all people enjoyed equal rights, Ms. Pillay emphasized the important role of civil society in those efforts. “We need to work together to ensure that the space, voice and knowledge of civil society is nurtured in all our countries,” she stressed.

Recalling reports of what she labelled “intolerable” reprisals against people who cooperate with the UN’s human rights activities, she called for more action to protect them. *“The UN itself is required to protect and support those who contribute to its work, often at great personal risk,”* she said.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, also present at the opening today, added that, **“No one should have to risk their life for standing up and speaking out on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.”** -UN News Centre

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## Climate Change REDD+



Deforestation and forest degradation through agricultural expansion, conversion to pasture, infrastructure development, destructive logging, fires etc., account for nearly 20 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions - more than the entire global transport sector and second only to the energy sector. It is now clear that in order to constrain the impact of climate change within limits that society will reasonably be able to tolerate, global average temperatures must be stabilized within **two degrees Celsius**. This will be practically impossible to achieve without reducing emissions from the forest sector, in addition to other mitigation actions.

**Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)** attempts to create financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. REDD+ goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

It is predicted that financial flows for greenhouse gas emission reductions from REDD+ could reach up to \$30 billion a year. This significant north-south flow of funds could reward a meaningful reduction of carbon emissions and support new, pro-poor development, help conserve biodiversity and secure vital ecosystem services.

Further, maintaining forest ecosystems can contribute to **increased resilience to climate change**. To achieve these multiple benefits, REDD will require the full engagement and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

To be truly meaningful contributions to combating climate change, REDD activities in developing countries must complement, not be a substitute for, deep cuts in developed countries' emissions. The decision to include REDD in a post-Kyoto regime must not jeopardize the commitment of the 40 industrialized and transitioning nations that make up the Annex I countries, to reduce their own emissions. Both will be critical to addressing climate change successfully.

**For more information on REDD:** <http://www.un-redd.org>



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## Letters To The Editor

Dear UNA Sacramento,

I'm sorry to say it, but our efforts at "educating the public" and "promoting the United Nations" seem feeble and ineffective.

The public opinion, as expressed by individuals and in the local news media, seems far removed from that for which we might wish. Yet, I am unaware of any organization besides the U.N. that may influence in a positive way, the long-term health of the planet - the only one we will have in the foreseeable future - or its inhabitants.

The deterioration of our climatic and intellectual environment caused largely by our military, industrial and financial activities does not seem to be counteracted, in any significant way, by our local, state or federal governmental organizations. I ask, "What are we going to do about this sorry state of affairs?" The schools can't do it all!

Regards,

F.H.

### **Welcome to our new members!**

.....

Barbara Arnstine  
Beth Bennett  
Paul Burke  
Nancy Compton  
Douglas Dyrssen  
Sara Fischer  
Robin Howlett  
Aileen Hsu  
Joan Marie

Sukanya Pandey  
Suyash Pandey  
Sharen Rendon  
Anna Sawyer  
Pratibha Shalini  
Catherine Troka  
Randall Williams  
Robert Woodfork-bey

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

## Gender equality and peace are linked -the Post-2015 agenda should reflect it.

As talks over replacing the millennium development goals gather pace, equality and peacebuilding communities should join forces.

-By Hannah Wright

Progress on the millennium development goals (MDGs) for women and girls is disappointing, with efforts to improve maternal health among the most off track.

Gender parity in primary school enrollment is close to being achieved, but among the other goals, lack of adequate data makes it difficult to assess whether women and girls are truly benefiting. What is clear is that countries affected by conflict and widespread violence are among the furthest from achieving any of the goals.



Gender and peace are closely linked: peace is vital to promote gender equality, while gender inequality can also undermine peace and drive conflict and violence. This is one of the key messages in a new briefing, Gender, violence and peace: a post-2015 development agenda, published by Conciliation Resources and Saferworld.

A number of studies have found a strong correlation between levels of conflict and gender inequality, but the nature of this relationship is not always clear. Does violence fuel gender inequality, or gender inequality fuel violence, or both? In some cases, women advance their strategic interests during times of conflict, but this is often followed by the restoration of more unequal gender roles afterwards. In many of the countries that have experienced revolutions during the Arab spring, increased opportunities for women's political activism have been coupled with a violent backlash against women trying to claim their rights.

The UN secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, recently observed that countries experiencing conflict and fragility face most difficulty in achieving the MDGs for women and girls because violence reduces their access to healthcare and welfare services, economic opportunities and political participation.

UN member states will meet in New York for the annual Commission on the Status of Women, and negotiations have the potential to demonstrate international commitment to making gender equality a key priority for the post-2015 framework.

## International Film Series

- 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 8pm.

### March 7 - March 21, 2014 Schedule

March 7, 2014 ***Postmen in the Mountains*** (1999, China, directed by Huo Jianqi, 93 min.)

A postman (Teng Rujun) who has spent his entire life delivering mail to rural communities in the mountains of Hunan is about to retire and hand the job over to his son (Liu Ye). The two of them have spent little time together, as the father was always gone on his long delivery walks: 112 kilometers over three days. As the father walks the route one last time with his son and his faithful dog, the son learns much about his father's life, especially his role in connecting villagers with the outside world. The son, in turn, relates how his mother worried during the father's absences. She is depicted as the pillar of the family. The beauty of the scenery adds much to the journey. (#358)

March 21, 2014 ***Elizabeth*** (1998, UK, directed by Shekhar Kapur, 124 min.)

This historical drama deals with the troubling circumstances surrounding the ascent to the throne of Elizabeth I at age 25 in 1558. Cate Blanchett portrays the queen starting as a naïve, young girl and gradually becoming a smart, willful strategist who picked her advisors (Geoffrey Rush as Sir Francis Walsingham, Richard Attenborough as Sir William Cecil) carefully while ignoring their urgent advice for her to marry. She rejects suitors from France (Vincent Cassel as the Duke of Anjou) and Spain, and finally declares there will be one mistress and no master. Christopher Eccleston as the Duke of Norfolk and Joseph Fiennes as the Earl of Leicester provide intrigue with shifting loyalties, Elizabeth ruled for 45 years. The colors and textures of the costumes and sets are wonderful. There are factual inaccuracies for the sake of a good story. (#359)

**THIS COMPLETES THE 17<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES, CONTINUOUS SINCE APRIL 1997.**

**JOIN US ON APRIL 4 TO BEGIN OUR 18<sup>TH</sup> SEASON!**

## Upcoming Dates

March 8:	International Women's Day
March 10-21:	58th Session for the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN
March 17:	UNA Sacramento Program: Professor Bob Metcalf, SMUD 7pm.
March 21:	UNA Davis Film "Elizabeth," 8pm.
April 2:	UNA Sacramento Board of Directors meeting, 9:30am
April 22:	Earth Day

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](mailto: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)

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UNA-USA Sacramento Chapter

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Sacramento, CA 95816

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- \$25 Introductory /First Year
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Choose Sacramento or Davis as your local chapter.

*Thank you!*

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