



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION



## Sacramento

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## Davis

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

December 2016

### UNA Davis and Sacramento

Join us for a fascinating history lesson!

**Page 1**

### UNA Davis

UNA Davis hosts their annual reading of UDHR on Dec.11

**Page 2**

### UNA Potluck

Welcoming refugees into our community was a beautiful event.

**Page 3**

### International Film Series

Join UNA Davis and watch thought provoking films.

**Page 4**

## UNA Davis and Sacramento January Program

### *The UN Association-USA*

### *A Little Known History of Advocacy and Action*

by James Wurst

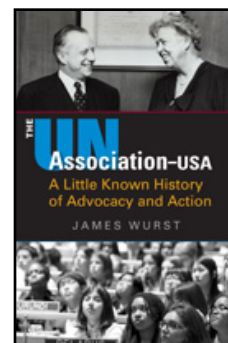
The **Davis** and **Sacramento** UNA chapters and **International House Davis** will host author James Wurst, contributor Dulcie Leimbach and book tour organizer Ed Elmendorf (former president and chief executive of UNA who also wrote the foreword to the book) on **Tuesday, January 31, 2017 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at International House, 10 College Park, Davis**. The book was recently published and this book tour is launching it through one Southern California and three Northern California UNA events.

Quoting Heather Hill from a similar event held in Washington, DC: "It's remarkable, the influence that individuals [in UNA-USA] had with almost no recognition," Wurst commented. "And indeed, the pages of the book teem with stories of tireless advocacy, wearying travel, and little reward beyond the personal satisfaction that UNA-USA members and leaders over the years found in their mission and their efforts. It is notable that at the beginning, the UNA-USA executive director had a number of meetings with President Roosevelt, working closely with him towards the creation of what became the United Nations."

Dulcie Leimbach, in doing research in previously unused archives, developed an intimate knowledge of Eleanor Roosevelt and her work in the original American Association for the United Nations and UNA.

Please plan to join us for what promises to be a fascinating evening of insights into the (little known) history of our organization, as well as an opportunity to purchase copies of the book (courtesy of The Avid Reader bookstore) and have them signed by the authors.

A reception will follow the presentation.



**When: Tuesday,  
January 31, 2017  
7:30pm to 9:00pm**

**Where: International  
House, 10 College Park,  
Davis**

**For more information  
contact Verena Borton:  
[rvborton@comcast.net](mailto:rvborton@comcast.net)**

**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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## Davis United Nations Association Observance of 68th Anniversary of UDHR

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** will mark its 68th anniversary this week. The document was adopted on December 10, 1948, thanks in large part to the effort of Eleanor Roosevelt, dynamic and persuasive leader of the United Nations team that drafted the Declaration.

Governments that formed the United Nations in 1945 determined that every individual is entitled to all human rights regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion, political opinion, national origin, economic or other status. The Universal Declaration was the first document ever to spell out the qualities of a decent standard of living for all. Nearly every nation has adopted the document. While the act of adopting the Declaration is not legally binding, it represents a moral obligation to make the rights a reality. In the light of recent events there is a great urgency to focus on the thirty articles that outline our rights.

On **Sunday, December 11 at 7 p.m.** the individual articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be presented in thirty different languages, including English, at **International House, 10 College Park, Davis**. The Davis United Nations Association invites all to join in the event to reflect on the universality of the Declaration as well as on the diversity of our community. We still need a few more readers. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Verena Borton at [rvborton@comcast.net](mailto:rvborton@comcast.net) right away.

Why do we choose to read the Declaration in the relatively intimate setting of International House? To quote Eleanor Roosevelt: "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served after the formal part of the program.

There is no charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted. UNA-USA has recently launched the *Adopt-a-Future* initiative in collaboration with the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, raising funds to support education for children in refugee camps. Together with other UNA chapters in our region, the Davis chapter is working towards raising \$30,000 to build a classroom for forty students. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation, to be fully matched by the *Educate A Child Fund* of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nassar of Qatar, in support of this effort to prevent a lost generation of millions of refugee children. To donate online, visit <http://www.unausa.org/programs/adopt-a-future>

-Verena Borton, UNA Davis President



## Multicultural Potluck Celebrates the Cultures, Languages and Food of Our New Neighbors

I have new friends. Ahmad, Saber and Mahamad and his son - all arrived in Sacramento just two months ago through the refugee resettlement program. They told me a bit of the story of their journey here and their enthusiasm for getting to work. Ahmad was a video journalist working with the US Army and is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Saber is a computer programmer and Mahamad is a skilled mechanic and craftsman. These are just three of the 3,400 new neighbors - resettled refugees in 2016 -- who are hoping to feel in their hearts that Sacramento is their new home.

December 3rd at Sierra 2 Center nearly 100 people from over a dozen countries brought their favorite home country dish to share at the first annual Multicultural Exchange potluck. This is the first time our chapter opened up this annual event to the public. With over 3,400 refugees officially resettled in the Sacramento area this year, we thought celebrating our region's growing diversity and honoring the culture they bring with them was a great idea. We look forward to a bigger party with people from many other cultures being able to attend next year.

Our chapter President, Kate Van Buren opened the event with a welcome message, then introduced event co-hosts Nahid Kabbani, founder of One World for Love and Peace, and Laura Hansen and Joan Marie, cofounders of Compassionate Capitol Region.

Shalahnia Riversong, elder of the Seneca Nation and the indigenous hosts to all other visitors, welcomed all of us to their ancestral land.



Koichi Mizushima of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento then offered a blessing in Japanese as a mindful transition from the welcome statements and the mad dash to the potluck tables.

While we talked and ate from plates piled with savory and rich dishes from Iroquois stew to Baklava to Biryani to pumpkin pie Megan Nguyen, our newly elected Vice President led us in a game where we learned how to say, "Hello" and "Thank you" in all the languages represented - turns out 14 in

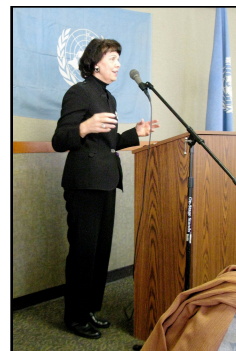
all: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Iroquois, Ukrainian, Farsi, Yiddish and Bambara.

Christelle Picque, Director of Operations and Russul Roumani, Care Coordinator at Opening Doors, a refugee resettlement agency gave an update on the resettlement effort in our region.

Russul, co-lead blessing with Koichi at end of event in Arabic.

We'd like to thank the community organizations who took the care and time to provide information tables: Sister Cities International, Braveheart Women, Kappa Kappa Phi, Opening Doors, Compassionate Capitol Region, One World for Love and Peace. I had the pleasure of meeting Malukah Propal, MD, President/RIHLA (Refugee Integration & Health Azimuth) [www.rihla.us](http://www.rihla.us) and Hannah Gladstone, Social Justice as a Spiritual Practice Sacramento.

-Bv Laura Hansen. UNA Sacramento Board of Directors



## International Film Series *(NOW IN OUR 20TH 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 2016 Schedule

December 16, 2016 *Mustang* (2015, France/Germany/Turkey/Qatar, directed by Deniz Gamze Ergüven, 94 min.)  
 School lets out for the summer. In a village in the north of Turkey, Lale (Günes Sensoy) and her four older sisters (Doga Zeynep Doguslu as Nur, Tugba Sunguroglu as Selma, Ilayda Akdogan as Sonay and Elit Iscan as Ece), all orphans being raised by their grandmother (played by Nihal Koldas), innocently play with male schoolmates on the beach to celebrate vacation. Observed by an elderly neighbor, their supposedly depraved behavior causes a scandal with unintended consequences. The family home slowly turns into a prison, Uncle Erol (Ayberk Pekcan) locks up the grounds and rounds up everything that could corrupt the girls further, classes on domestic skills replace school and marriages begin to be arranged. Despite the extreme patriarchal oppression, the five sisters fight back, each in her own way, pursuing their lost freedom and identities waiting to blossom, finding strength in their sisterly bond. All five are non-professional actors. (#406)

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Congratulations to our new board of directors for the UNA Sacramento Chapter!

Vice-President, Young Professionals Chair: **Megan Nguyen**

Treasurer: **Jack Kennedy**

Membership: **Laura Hansen**

Education Chair: **Sylvia Villalobos**

Volunteer Coordinator: **Chee Chang**

Directors at Large: **Sharon Alexander, Nicholas Alexander, Elena Ruiz, Rey Castellanos**

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*Letters to the Editor:*

Dear Editor,

On the internet a few weeks ago, I came across a speech by our new U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres in which he said: "Globalization and technological progress fostered extraordinary economic growth and created conditions for unparalleled reduction of extreme poverty and generalized improvement of living standards. But their unbalanced nature led to high income concentration and extreme inequality, and made exclusion even more intolerable. Exclusion, competition over dwindling resources and shortcomings in governance undermine social cohesion and institutional robustness, further contributing to the eruption of violent conflicts."

I believe this is of value for our UNA members.

Regards,

Fred Hansen

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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  
Annual Dinner/UN Day  
IGMUN at UC Berkeley  
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)**

December 10 Human Rights Day  
December 11 UNA Davis reading Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 7:00pm, International House  
December 18 International Migrants Day  
December 20 International Human Solidarity Day  
January 8 UNA Sacramento Board of Directors Meeting UUSS 9:00am-10:00am  
January 31 UNA Program: The UN Association, A Little Known History, 7:30pm International House, Davis

United Nations International Year Observances for 2016:  
International Year of Pulses

**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 Sunday of every month. If you have an idea for a program or would like the UNA board to address an issue, email Kate Van Buren: [kate.unausa@gmail.com](mailto:kate.unausa@gmail.com) 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](mailto:rvborton@comcast.net)

**Sacramento Chapter President  
Newsletter Editor**

Kate Van Buren  
[kate.unausa@gmail.com](mailto:kate.unausa@gmail.com)

**Vice President, Young  
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Megan Nguyen

**Treasurer**  
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Sylvia Villalobos

**Volunteer Coordinator**

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Rey Castellanos  
Elena Ruiz

**Past President**

Sharon Alexander

**Sacramento and Davis Chapters**

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UNA-USA Sacramento Chapter

P.O. Box 163381

Sacramento, CA 95816

**Application for Membership and Renewal**

- \$25 Introductory
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- \$50 Individual/Family
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Lifetime

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

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

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

Chapter (Circle one): Sacramento Davis

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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Sacramento, CA 95816

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You can also apply online: **[www.unausasacramento.com](http://www.unausasacramento.com)**

Choose Sacramento or Davis as your local chapter.

*Thank you!*

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