



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

Sacramento and Davis Chapters

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N E W S L E T T E R

UNA May Program:

Duane Campbell presents "The Crisis in Democracy and Education."
1:30-4pm, May 22, 2014. Arden-Dimick Library.

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Professor Duane Campbell,
Institute for Democracy
and Education - Director.

Author Duane Campbell presents, "The Crisis in Democracy and Education."

When: Thursday, May 22, 2014 1:30-4pm.

Where: Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave. Sacramento

Public education has been one of the most important contributors to the development of prosperity and democracy in the U.S. Yet, today, both democracy and public education are in crisis. The CSU and UC have suffered devastating budget cuts, reducing access and the quality of education and forcing students to rely upon student loans. 37 million Americans now owe a combined \$1 Trillion in student loans, while CSU students now graduate with an average of \$16,648 in debt.

K-12 education is being "reformed" to be more test driven and more unequal. Public schooling for students in California is underfunded and for many students it is failing.

We, the people, passed Prop. 30 in 2012 to adequately fund the schools. California currently ranks about 34th in the nation in per pupil funding, 49th of the 50 states in counselors per student, 49th in students per classroom, and 50 of the 50 states in librarians per student. Schools and districts will receive more money next year- and they are required by a new law to involve parents and citizens in decisions on how the new money will be spent- it is called Local Control Funding Formula.

At the same time the role of privatized charters, and for profit higher education is creating a two and three tiered system, a racially divided and unequal system- an anti democratic system. Underfunding the public schools forces them into decline, assuring that working families and their children will face increasing obstacles to improving their lives.

The first step in rebuilding our public schools is to understand the crisis and its alternatives.

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



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From: CongressmanJohnGaramendi@houseemail.house.gov
Date: April 3, 2014 3:58:05 PM PDT
To: rvborton@comcast.net
Subject: A Message from Congressman John Garamendi

April 3, 2014

Dear Mrs. Borton:

Thank you for contacting me to share your support funding the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali. 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.

The situation in Mali deserves our attention. 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 funding for the Mali mission was cut for FY2014, the US government has not forgotten the importance of supporting UN peacekeeping 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 funds could be used to restore funding for the Mali mission. 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 write to me, and I encourage you to be in touch in the future on other matters that are important to you. Please feel free to reach me online at <http://garamendi.house.gov> or at my office in Washington, DC (202-225-1880). If you would like updates about the issues that are important to you, you can sign up for my e-newsletter at <http://garamendi.house.gov/contact-me/newsletter> or follow me on social media at <http://www.facebook.com/repjohnaramendi> and <http://www.twitter.com/repjohnaramendi>.

Sincerely,

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

Washington DC Office 2438 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-1880. Fax: (202) 225-5914.

From: <senator@feinstein.senate.gov>

Date: April 4, 2014 7:06:55 AM PDT

To: <rvborton@comcast.net>

Subject: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein responding to your message

Dear Mrs. Borton:

Thank you for contacting me regarding funding for United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations. I appreciate the time you took to write, and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

I have long supported the goals of the UN to promote peace, protect human rights and the environment, and improve economic and social development throughout the world. Participation in the UN acts as an incentive to promote peace and provides a forum for negotiations that can avert the need for more expensive unilateral or bilateral military interventions in the future. I believe that the United States must continue to participate in the UN while we strongly assert our view that the UN, and its peacekeeping operations, must run as efficiently as possible.

Congress funds required payments to UN peacekeeping operations through the U.S. State Department's Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account. The United States has a statutory cap currently limiting assessed contribution payments to the CIPA account to 27.14 percent of a UN peacekeeping mission's costs. In the past, Congress has provided additional funding for specific peacekeeping operations through the CIPA account in supplemental appropriations legislation.

As you may know, on January 17, 2014, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), which funds the federal government through fiscal year 2014. The law specifically provides \$1.76 billion for UN peacekeeping operations. This amount is equal to the United States' fiscal year 2014 required contribution payments for UN peacekeeping activities.

I understand you have concerns that the level of FY2014 funding provided for UN peacekeeping may not be enough for the efforts in Mali. Congress and the U.S. State Department expect to review the Mali peacekeeping operation and its finances later this year. Should the available FY2014 funds in the CIPA account not be enough to support peacekeeping activities in Mali, the State Department may request the necessary funds to finance any shortfalls in its FY2015 budget request.

Please know that, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which has jurisdiction over funding for UN peacekeeping operations, I have made careful note of your views, and I will keep your thoughts in mind as the Committee considers fiscal year 2015 funding legislation.

Again, thank you for your letter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-3841. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Climate Change and Environment

Environmental Justice Coalition for Water presents the new documentary: **THIRSTY For Justice: The Struggle for the Human Right to Water**

Thirsty for Justice shares the powerful stories of the communities suffering from lack of access to safe, clean, and affordable water in California, and chronicles the inspiring grassroots movement that made the Human Right to Water the law of the land in California. Together we can make this right a reality!

Wednesday, May 14, 2014. Screening with community leaders & filmmakers.

Sponsored by:

The California Endowment
The Nature Conservancy
Councilmember Steve Hansen, City of Sacramento
Vice Mayor Jay Schenirer, City of Sacramento
Sacramento Labor Council AFL-CIO
Co-Hosts: Alliance for Democracy, CA Center for Public Health Advocacy, Capitol Region Organizing Project, Clean Water Action, Community Water Center, Environmental Council of Sacramento, Food & Water Watch, Green Sanctuary - UU Church of Davis, Lutheran Office of Public Policy - CA, SEIU-USWW, Sol Collective, **United Nations Association-USA Sacramento Chapter**, UU Community Church of Sacramento, UU Justice Ministry of California, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.



The California Museum

1020 O St., Sacramento, CA 95814

5:30pm. Reception

6:15 - 7:45pm. Screening with Community Leaders & Filmmakers

Reserve your free ticket at: ejcw.org/thirsty

Donations will be accepted at the door.



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Letters To The Editor

Dear UNA Sacramento:

Poll shows overwhelming support for U.S.-UN relations

A new poll released last week by the Better World Campaign has found that even during this polarizing political time, there is one issue that most voters agree on: the U.S. can't solve the world's problems alone.

Eighty six percent of American voters agree that it is important for the U.S. to maintain an active role in the United Nations. Additionally, more than seven out of ten Americans believe that working through the UN to resolve international issues improves our country's image around the world. As president of the Davis chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, I am one of them.

The U.S. has fallen behind on its dues to UN peacekeeping, but over two thirds of voters want the U.S. to both pay what is already owed and meet new commitments in the year to come. The U.S. cannot and should not bear the burden alone, and by maintaining an active and strong partnership with the UN, we won't have to.

Peacekeeping missions are authorized by the Security Council on which the U.S. casts a crucial vote. The latest authorization was for a peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic, but no funds are currently allocated in the proposed U.S. budget to back up this commitment to help fund the mission while other nations provide the peacekeepers.

At this time of fiscal restraint, working cooperatively through the UN makes economic sense and provides effective solutions to global challenges.

Verena Borton
 Davis, CA

Submitted to The Davis Enterprise and The Sacramento Bee, 5/2/14

Welcome to our new members:

Fred and Helen Unterleitner

Marta Beres

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

Davis Model UN Conference (DMUNC) 2014 welcomes Delegates.

The DMUNC is an annual high school conference hosted by Model UN at UC Davis. Each year they welcome over 400 delegates of all levels of experience from all around California.

This year's conference will be held on May 17-18, 2014, on the UC Davis campus in order to give delegates a preview of the college atmosphere. For more information regarding the conference, please visit our website: <http://davismun.org/high-school/> or email Reginne Ang, Conference Secretary General at dmunc.sg@davismun.org.

Earth Day 2014 was a celebrated event.

UNA Sacramento and Davis attended Earth Day on April 19 in Southside Park in Sacramento. The day was clear and beautiful, with music, food, crafts and great speakers to inspire the attendees. We were excited to see **Solar Cookers International** demonstrate how to make dinner off the grid, and our friends from **Sac Peace** helped with the ornery canopy. Hundreds of people turned out to enjoy the day and we were happy to speak with everyone who stopped by our booth.



Fred Hansen and Isabel Robertson

Verena and Ray Borton, Fred Hansen, Kate Woolley, Isabelle Robertson



International Film Series (Starting 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.

May 2 – May 16, 2014 Schedule

May 2, 2014 *Queen to Play* (2011, France, directed by Caroline Bottaro, 97 min.)

Hélène (Sandrine Bonnaire) works as a chambermaid at a hotel in Corsica and as part-time housecleaner for a retired and widowed American doctor, Dr. Krôger (Kevin Kline in an entirely French-speaking role). A casual observation of a chess game gets her interested and gradually obsessed with the game that she teaches herself on an electronic chess set that she had bought for her dockworker husband Ange (Francis Renaud) who is not interested. She persuades Krôger to teach her more; they develop a fascinating relationship over the chessboard.

Hélène turns out to have great talent and wins her first tournament. Her new confidence and the recognition from family (including her teenage daughter), friends and strangers fundamentally changes her life. (#362)

May 16, 2014 *Bend it Like Beckham* (2002, UK/Germany/US, directed by Gurinder Chadha, 112 min.)

Set in London, the film tells the story of Jesminder (“Jess”) Bhamra (Parminder Nagra), daughter in a traditional Sikh family, who dreams of playing soccer for England while her sister Pinky (Archie Panjabi) and her mother (Shaheen Khan) make elaborate wedding preparations. When Jess is recruited by her new friend Jules (Keira Knightley) to play in a local women’s league, she precipitates a culture clash that ripples outward from her own household, especially as she develops a crush on her coach Joe (Jonathan Rhys Meyers). *Bend it Like Beckham* (as in David Beckham then of Manchester United fame) has been described as an ethnic sports comedy and is intended to get you in the mood for the upcoming World Cup. (#363)

***The International Film Series will take a summer break during June, July and August.
The Series will resume on September 5.***

Upcoming Dates

May 3:	World Press Freedom Day
May 7:	UNA Board of Directors Meeting 9:30am
May 14:	Movie: "Thirsty For Justice: the struggle for the human right to water."
May 15:	International Day of Families
May 22:	UNA Program: "Crisis In Democracy and Education," Arden-Dimick Library
May 29:	International Day of UN Peacekeepers
June 5:	World Environment Day
June 8:	World Oceans 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) to be considered for an upcoming agenda item.

UNA-USA Board Members

Davis Chapter President
 Verena Borton
rvborton@comcast.net

Sacramento Chapter President
 Sharon Alexander
 916-482-4949

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 Newsletter Editor**
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Sacramento, CA 95816

Application for Membership

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

Name: _____

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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.

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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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