



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

March 2015

UNA March Program

Two events:
 Celebrating
 International
 Women's Day and
 Climate Justice.

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**UNA
 Members Day at the
 United Nations**

Secretary General Ban
 Ki-moon gave an
 inspiring talk - and
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**Celebrate Women's History
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UNA March Programs

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
 CELEBRATED BY DAVIS CHAPTER**

Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, March 29**
from 3-5 p.m. for a Davis UNA program marking
 International Women's Day at International House:
 10 College Park, Davis.

Presentations by **Rensie Xhira Bado Panda**, **Leslie Anastassatos** and **Cynthia Kellogg** will focus on their international experiences and on cultural differences that have had a major impact on them personally as well as on their view of gender issues, global awareness and women's empowerment. The speakers will be drawing on their own experiences with projects in Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, El Salvador and the United States.

The public is invited and there will be an informal reception with refreshments.

More details to follow.

For information contact Verena Borton at
 (530)756-0632 or rvborton@comcast.net

**Yolo Interfaith Alliance for Climate Justice
 3rd Annual Interfaith Climate Conference**

Saturday, March 7th
 9:30 am-3:15 pm

Environmental advocate, nature author and moral philosopher **Kathleen Dean Moore** will speak on Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril as she explores the questions above, and guides us to meaningful action.

The keynote address will be followed by an **Intergenerational Panel**: Visions of Effective Climate Action with questions and answers from the audience.

Location:

University Covenant Church: 315 Mace Blvd., Davis

Contact & Additional Information:

www.cooldavis.org

Suggested donation of \$10 includes lunch

Registration and coffee at 9:00 am

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

The UN at 70: A Year For Bold Action and UNA Member's Day

Member's Day at UN headquarters in New York was an exhilarating experience.

Yes, it was 10 degrees outside, but the energy and enthusiasm from more than 750 UNA-USA members was hot. The Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, gave a very personal talk about his childhood, his ideas, and how he and the UN are both 70 years old. He also spoke about violent extremism, its root causes, and how all of us must work together as a global community to address inequalities.

Next was a panel discussing activism for Universal Human Rights at home and abroad. Panelists included representatives from the Global Poverty Project, UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, and International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. After lunch was a sobering talk with the UN Special Envoy on Ebola, David Nabarro. The next panel was "From the MDG's to the SDG's: The Future of Global Health." This was fascinating because after hearing the projection that 70% of the global population will be living in urban cities by 2050, and that the world's population of people over 60 will double by then, I realized that decisions we make as individuals will have far greater consequences than ever before.



Kate Woolley takes a selfie with the Secretary-General

Concluding the conference was a discussion on the rise of ISIL and the end of the Arab Spring. Solutions to terrorism and extremism went back to finding the root causes of these outbreaks. The Secretary-General gave the reasons in his opening remarks: "First, bad governance -- failed leadership, corruption, injustice, inequality. These really put peoples' anger -- makes people angry and frustrated and leaves them no choice than to react in a violent way. The more important solution would address how to make people have a sense of belonging. Human dignity and human rights should go hand in hand in preventing violent extremism."

The United Nations is asking for our support and solidarity as we work together for a climate change agreement in Paris this coming December, for gender equality, and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

After observing the intelligence, organization and determination of hundreds of UNA members, I have no doubt we are on our way to meeting these goals.

-Kate Woolley
Vice-President, UNA Sacramento



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Division Meeting Hosted by UNA Davis

On February 7, 2015, UNA chapters from all over Northern California descended on International House in Davis for the yearly Division meeting. Our region is unique in that many chapters make the effort to be involved and attuned to work together on issues and programs. We talked about best practices, challenges and goals for 2015. Each chapter had a chance to go over the highlights of 2014 and present ideas for the coming year. 2015 is the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations and the theme is "A Year for Bold Action."

There was a personal video message from UNA Executive Director Chris Whatley, and an update on the steering committee. Intergenerational Model UN (IGMUN) will be held at U.C. Berkeley this year on October 10th. Rita Maran spoke about her experience with "Cities for CEDAW" (Equal rights for women.) Rita will be coming to Sacramento later this year to give her presentation on this very important topic.

Thank you to Verena and Ray Borton for an extremely productive and inspiring conference.



Photos by Roger L. Kelley





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EVENT: League of Women Voters of Sacramento County presents

Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment

In observation of Women's History Month and the 75th birthday of LWV Sacramento

When: Thursday, March 26, 2015 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

Where: **Plates Cafe** 14 Business Park Way, Sacramento

Cost: \$30 includes buffet dinner

Speaker: Lisa Culp, Founder/CEO of Women's Empowerment

To RSVP: Send name, organization, how many in party, email and check to:

Elaine Lee 8622 Shasta Lily Dr. Elk Grove, CA 95624

Mark your calendar - and please volunteer for an hour!

UNA Members Needed to Staff Earth Day Booth in April

When: April 19, 2015 Sunday 11am. to 4pm.

Where: Southside Park, Sacramento

The Sacramento celebration of the 46th annual Earth Day will be filled with diverse business, non-profit, cultural and government vendors with practical information, goods and services for saving money, living healthier, and protecting the environment. Bring your friends and family!



Contact Carl Sweet to volunteer: ernestsweet@aol.com



Earth Day 2014



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On March 20th we will complete 18 years of this UNA-International House program! Join us this Friday for "Jaffa" (film #376).
Between January and the end of April we will have shown Czech, French, Japanese, Austrian, Israeli, Italian, Philippine and Croatian films.
Thank you for your loyal support and donations that benefit I-House.

Verena

International Film Series (COMPLETING 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 7:30p.m. Programs begin promptly at 8.

March 6 - April 17, 2015 Schedule

March 6, 2015 **Jaffa** (2009, Israel/Germany/France, directed by Keren Yedaya, 106 min.)

Reuven Wolf's (Moni Moshonov) garage in Jaffa is a family business that employs son Meir (Roy Assaf) and daughter Mali (Dana Ifgy), as well as a Palestinian Arab, Toufik (Mahmud Shalaby) and Toufik's father, Hassan (Hussein Yassin Mahajne). Mali is a quiet young woman who is the good daughter at home and at her job, while Meir is moody and often precipitates conflict both at home, especially with his mother, Ossi (Ronit Elkabetz), and at work where he chafes at his father's claim that Toufik is a more reliable worker. Nobody suspects that Mali and Toufik have been secretly in love for many years. On the day of final preparations for them to get secretly married, Meir and Toufik get into a fight that results in Meir's accidental death and Toufik's conviction of manslaughter. When Mali finally tells her parents that she is pregnant, she hides the identity of the father and decides not to have an abortion. She raises her daughter Shiran (Lily Igvy) in her parents' home. When Toufik is released from prison after nine years, Mali has to make some very difficult decisions. (#376)

March 20, 2015 **Light of My Eyes** (2001, Italy, directed by Giuseppe Piccione, 113 min.)

In this understated drama about fantasy and reality Antonio (Luigi Lo Cascio) is a lonely man who works as a chauffeur of luxury cars and imagines life as an interplanetary traveler named Morgan. Through a chance encounter he meets Maria (Sandra Ceccarelli), a stressed single mother trying to keep her frozen foods store afloat and her daughter Lisa (Barbara Valente) from being taken away by her grandparents. Their real life drama draws Antonio out of his make-believe world. For the first time he cares deeply about others and secretly goes to great lengths, including working for a gangster (Silvio Donato as Saverio), to help Maria in her struggle to hold on to her business and her daughter, while Maria mostly seems to remain indifferent to his quiet love and moral support. Antonio persists and they gradually develop a tentative relationship that makes both them and Lisa less lonely. (#377)

This completes 18 continuous years of the International Film Series and starts our 19th year!

April 3, 2015 **Batad** (2006, Philippines, directed by Benji Garcia, 90 min.)

Batad is a Philippine mountain village in northern Luzon famous for its spectacular Ifugao rice terraces that are a UNESCO World Heritage site. Ag-ap (Alcris Galura) is a 14-year old high school dropout who has to sell produce in the market in nearby Banaue to augment his family's income. He admires tourists' hiking boots and dreams of owning a pair. To earn money for such a purchase he takes all kinds of odd jobs, but he always ends up giving the earnings to his mother (Gina Alajar) for the household while his father (Noni Buencamino) is away. Eventually he barter his fee as a tour guide for a pair of boots and starts thinking seriously about leaving his ancestral home and traditions and exploring the world. He talks to his little sister Ima (Hiedi Morata) about people leaving the village to earn a living "far away." She asks "Where is far away?" His answer: "Everywhere is far away." We see Ag-ap and his parents struggle with questions of tradition and duty to the community versus following modern trends (symbolized perhaps by the shoes that are a hindrance rather than an asset on the terraces) while seeking a better standard of living. (#378)

April 17, 2015 **Behind the Glass** (2008, Croatia, directed by Zrinko Ogresta, 80 min.)

This drama takes place over five days. Architect Nikola Jeren (Leon Lucev) has led a life of lies for years and while successful in his profession is totally incapable of making decisions in his personal life. His wife Maja (Jadranka Djokic) knows that he has been unfaithful and wants him to decide between her, whom he no longer loves, and Ana (Daria Lorenci), his colleague and mistress who presses him for a divorce. Both women are at the end of their rope, but Nikola refuses to sit down and talk with either of them. He clearly is devoted to his 8-year old daughter Ljerka (Anja Sovagovic-Despot). At a family gathering Maja throws everything into further turmoil. The protagonist clearly tempts fate with his inertia and suffers tragic consequences. (#379)



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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I was moved by an article from the UN News Center. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Hussein, gave his report on his work in 2014. He said he was appalled by the rising tide of attacks around the world from both extremists and governments, each trying to get or maintain power.

Mr. Zeid voiced deep concern at the tendency of States to clamp down on the most basic of human rights, including the adoption of measures that restrict freedom of expression and democratic space.

"When powerful leaders feel threatened by a tweet, a blog, or a high-school student's speech, this speaks of profound underlying weakness," he continued. "And when writers are abducted, jailed, whipped, or put to death; when journalists are assaulted, subjected to sexual violence, tortured and killed; when peaceful protestors are gunned down by thugs; when human rights lawyers, human rights defenders and land activists are arrested and jailed on spurious charges of sedition; when newspapers are attacked or shut down – such cases attack and undermine the foundations of stable governance."

The High Commissioner also expressed regret at the renewed use of the death penalty in a number of countries – Jordan, Pakistan, and Indonesia – and "the continuing extensive use" of the death penalty in China, Iraq, Iran and the **United States**.

"It is the people who sustain government, create prosperity, heal and educate others and pay for governmental and other services with their labour," Mr. Zeid concluded. "It is their struggles that have created and sustain States. Governments exist to serve the people – not the other way round."

Why are there so many ongoing conflicts and power struggles? Can't we just start excepting our differences and celebrating them - knowing the world is much richer and vibrant for the diversity?

-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

Upcoming Dates

March 3:	World Wildlife Day
March 7:	Interfaith Climate Conference, University Covenant Church, Davis
March 8:	International Women's Day
March 11:	Final day to submit essays for PSR's scholarship contest
March 20:	International Day of Happiness
March 22:	World Water Day
March 26:	League of Women Voters, Celebrating Women of Character, Courage & Commitment
March 29:	UNA Davis Celebrates International Women's Day, International House, Davis
April 19:	Earth Day, Southside Park, Sacramento

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

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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.

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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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