



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION



## Sacramento

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

June 2015

### UNA Sacramento Program

Over-armament and nuclear weapons in our backyard.

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### NYT Article

The U.S. fails to support nuclear disarmament.

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### Cities for CEDAW

The co-sponsored meeting with WDSC was inspirational.

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### Annual UNA Meeting

Chapters from all over the U.S. met in Washington D.C.

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### 70th Anniversary of the UN.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will be in San Francisco to celebrate.

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### Registration is open for IGMUN

Intergenerational Model UN seeks people of all ages to participate!

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### Letters to the Editor

Members voice their concerns and opinions.

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## UNA Sacramento June Program

### OVER-ARMAMENT - The NNSA's Nuclear Weapons Program Nuclear Weapons in Our Backyard

Join us for a timely program on Department of Energy's \$1 trillion spending plan to modernize and maintain 7,000 nuclear warheads. **Marylia Kelley, Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs**, has returned from Washington D.C. to share shocking budget priorities that include nuclear weapons activities at Lawrence Livermore Lab. The United States recently refused to sign an agreement to contain nuclear weapon activities, ignoring President Obama's pledge to rid the world of them in 2009.

**When:** Monday, June 22, 2015 6:30pm - 8:00pm

**Where:** Sierra 2 Community Center, Curtis Hall  
2791 24th St. Sacramento, CA 95818

*This program is co-sponsored with Physicians For Social Responsibility, Sacramento Peace Action, Peace in the Precincts and Women Democrats of Sacramento County.*





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## Lost Opportunity on Nuclear Disarmament

-by the New York Times Editorial Board, June 3, 2015

The United States and other nuclear powers failed to use a recent United Nations conference to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament. The meeting in May was supposed to strengthen international efforts to contain nuclear weapons. Instead, it was a reminder of the deep divisions over the future of nuclear weapons and what efforts should be made to eliminate them.

The conference is held every five years to review compliance with the **1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty**, the agreement known as the NPT under which the countries recognized by the treaty as having nuclear weapons — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — committed to pursue nuclear disarmament.

The other 186 signatories promised to forgo nuclear weapons. India and Pakistan did not sign the treaty, and both have nuclear weapons. Neither did Israel, which refuses to admit that it has a nuclear arsenal, and South Sudan, which has none. North Korea, once an NPT member, withdrew in 2003 and is now believed to have perhaps as many as 16 nuclear weapons.

This year's conference, after four weeks of often acrimonious debate and finger-pointing, collapsed on May 22 without the members formally agreeing on a plan of action. All decisions must be made by consensus, and the United States, Britain and Canada rejected the final communiqué.

One reason for the failure was a dispute between Egypt and Israel, which was backed by the United States, over banning nuclear weapons in the Middle East. This was not the first time Egypt and Israel had clashed over a proposal for a nuclear-weapons-free zone. The 2010 NPT review conference called for a meeting in 2012 on a regional weapons ban, infuriating Israel. Israel eventually agreed to attend planning sessions, but the 2012 meeting never took place, which angered Egypt and other Arab nations.

During this year's NPT conference, Egypt and its allies tried to accelerate the process by proposing that the United Nations secretary general convene a meeting on a Middle East weapons-free zone by March 2016, even if Israel refused to agree on an agenda; Israel insisted on including the broad range of security challenges in the region. The conflict is unfortunate because both nations view Iran's nuclear program as a major threat.

The problems with the nuclear conference went beyond this dispute. Relations between the United States and Russia have deteriorated in recent years, and efforts to further reduce their nuclear arsenals have stalled. The Russian government has not only refused President Obama's offer to negotiate a further one-third cut in deployed nuclear weapons beyond the 2010 New Start treaty limits of 1,550, Russian officials have made outrageous threats about using nuclear weapons in the confrontation with NATO over Ukraine. Russia has also been violating the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty by testing a new cruise missile, and Washington and Moscow have embarked on costly programs to modernize their nuclear stockpiles.

Such behavior makes it harder to argue for nuclear restraint with countries like China, India and Pakistan, which have an estimated 100 to 250 nuclear weapons each but are expanding their arsenals.

Despite the disappointments and backsliding in disarmament efforts, there is one real bright spot — the negotiation between Iran and the major powers on an agreement that would curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting international sanctions. If a sound and verifiable deal is reached, it should inspire new initiatives to rid the world of the most dangerous weapons, including in the Middle East.

UNA Sacramento's May Program:

## Plea Given for Grassroots Action On Discrimination Against Women

Give UC Professor Rita Maran an "A" for dogged persistence in her quest to end discrimination against women. Dr. Maran was instrumental in getting an anti discrimination statute adopted in San Francisco some years back and would like to repeat it in cities such as Berkeley, Davis and Sacramento. She brought that message to a joint meeting of the Sacramento UNA Chapter and the Sacramento Women Democrats on May 18.

Recognizing the UN's adoption of a treaty outlawing discrimination against women (absent the concurrence of the United States) is most unevenly obeyed, she suggested the best path is one of grassroots action at the local level. She drew a clear distinction between an anti-discrimination *resolution* and an actual *statute*, the latter allowing legal action to enforce compliance through the courts.

"Non discrimination against any human: woman, migrant, one with disabilities is at the root off the United Nations Charter," Dr. Maran told the group. She labeled US legislators' refusal to deal with the issue one of "failing to follow a blanket set of laws adopted internationally because we (believe) we are exceptional. But our exceptionalism has withered on the vine. The rule of law has gotten kind of slid under the rug."

She noted the Sacramento Mayor heads the national mayor's conference which meets soon in San Francisco and now would be an opportune time to test the depth of his sincerity on what she considers a vital and humane issue.

*By John Jervis*



From left: Eddie Markie,,Assemblymember McCarty's office; Verena Borton, UNA Davis President; Kate Woolley, UNA Sacramento Vice President; Rita Maran, UNA East Bay; Sharon Alexander, UNA Sacramento President; Natalie Jocovich, UNA Sacramento; Nick Alexander, UNA Sacramento Board Member; Fred Hansen UNA Sacramento Board Member.





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**UNA-USA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.** was held at the National Education Association from June 7-9. Topics such as “Forming Partnerships and Building Coalitions,” “Digital Communications 101,” “Action and Advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals,” and “Growing Chapter Capacity & Making the Ask” were discussed.

Chapter members met their Congressional Representatives at the Capitol to advocate for the sustainable development goals and human rights policies. California UNA members had breakfast with Senator Feinstein organized by UNA East Bay member Rita Maran.





## YOU'RE INVITED

**On June 26, 2015, join us as we mark 70 years of the United Nations' lifesaving work and the moment that started it all: the UN Charter signing in San Francisco.**

The UN's roots are proudly a part of the fabric of this city, and the Bay Area continues to play a critical role in advancing the mission and values of the one global institution dedicated to

**"saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war."**

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To celebrate this legacy, join us as the United Nations Foundation hosts Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, world leaders, and California and US political leaders at:

### CHARTER COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 | 12:00PM – 1:00PM

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Rotunda, City Hall | San Francisco, California

[www.70thUNCharterSigning.unfevents.org](http://www.70thUNCharterSigning.unfevents.org)





5th Annual

Inter-Generational Model United Nations

October 10, 2015

*Resolve International Issues***About IGMUN**

IGMUN is a program of the Northern California Division of United Nations Association USA.

IGMUN is one of the few inter-generational Model United Nations in the U.S, offering a diversity of delegates and perspectives.

As a noncompetitive simulation of the United Nations, IGMUN is an excellent opportunity for both novices and experienced delegates to practice their debate and negotiation skills.

**Location:**

University of California Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA 94720

**Registration:**

Early Bird—June 25: \$25

After June 25: \$30

After September 1st: \$35

Price includes: fees, materials, breakfast, & lunch

**Time:**

9:00am– 6:00pm

(Registration begins 8am)

**Committee Topics**

Peace & Security - 1st Committee DISEC

*Global Terrorism: Activities by Non-State Entities*

Global Health - WHO :

*Ebola: Combating Communicable Diseases in Developing Nations*

Human Rights - UNHRC -

*Internally Displaced Persons in Politically Unstable Areas*

Women's Rights - OHCHR to Special Session on CEDAW:

*Revisiting CEDAW: Accelerating Implementation and Execution*

Climate Change - EP - *Soil Conditions: Erosion, Degradation, and Use for Food Production*

Internet Security - ITU -

*Cyber Crime and Espionage*

Post-2015 Development Agenda - UNDP To GA - *MDGs and SDGs:*

*Adopting and Implementing Specific Goals*

\*Security Council

*Open Agenda: Topic will be announced in July*

\*Denotes Advanced Committees

*Register for the conference at [www.igmun.org](http://www.igmun.org)*



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## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I chose the subject for our UNA-USA June 22, 2015 monthly meeting, **OVER ARMAMENT - NNSA's Nuclear Weapons Program**, as a result of my reading nearly 100 PSR Scholarship Essays and the finalist's reading of the 10 winning Essays on the assigned subject of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's statement "**The world is over-armed and peace is under-funded,**" These High School students appeared to well understand the peril of the entire world and impossibility of ever developing Peace with our country's fixation on over-armament with nuclear weapons and now our Energy Department's modernization of our nuclear arsenal.,

The mission of our Chapter of UNA-USA and associated UN Foundation is to support the work of the United Nations, and what more important work is there than developing Peace and eliminating war. I personally believe that modernizing our nuclear weapons is a great detriment to developing peace and trust between countries in our world. I am confident that Marylia Kelly, Director of Tri-Valley CARE's, our program speaker who has just returned from meeting with our Administration and Congress as well attending some of the UN International Conference on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty will well inform us on this timely subject..

The program is extremely timely as I just received the New York Times Editorial "**Lost Opportunity on Nuclear Disarmament**" that we have included in this UNA Newsletter to prepare you for further discussion and comments at the end of our program.

Peace be with you, *Carl*

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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 September 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](mailto:kate.unausa@gmail.com)**

## Upcoming Dates

- June 1 UNA Board of Directors meeting, St. Michael's Church 9:30am  
June 7-9 UNA-USA Advocacy Conference, Washington D.C.  
June 8 World's Oceans Day  
June 17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought  
June 20 World Refugee Day  
June 22 UNA Program "Over-armament" Sierra 2 Center 6:30pm-8:00pm  
June 26 70th Anniversary Celebration of the United Nations, San Francisco

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](http://www.unausasacramento.com)**

## UNA-USA Board Members

### **Davis Chapter President**

Verena Borton  
rvborton@comcast.net

### **Sacramento Chapter President**

Sharon Alexander  
916-482-4949

### **Vice President, Young Professionals Chair, Newsletter Editor**

Kate Woolley  
kate.unausa@gmail.com

### **Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Editor**

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### **Treasurer**

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### **Membership**

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916-481-6122

### **Advocacy**

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916-456-6929

### **Directors**

Nick Alexander  
John Bernier  
Fred Hansen

### **Past President**

Eddie Lee

**Sacramento and Davis Chapters**

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UNA-USA Sacramento Chapter

P.O. Box 163381

Sacramento, CA 95816

## Application for Membership

- Free Student Membership
- \$25 Introductory / First Year
- \$40 Individual / Family
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Lifetime

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Make checks payable to: **UNA-USA**

(For Sacramento)

(For Davis)

P.O. Box 163381

101 E. 7th St.

Sacramento, CA 95816

Davis, CA 95616

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

Choose Sacramento or Davis as your local chapter.

*Thank you!*

United Nations Association of the United States of America  
Sacramento Chapter  
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Return Service Requested

