



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

June 2014

UNA June Program:

Fulfilling UN Resolutions
in Israel - Palestine.
Presentation by Jewish
Voice for Peace. June 23,
2014, 6:30pm SMUD.

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UNA June Program: Fulfilling United Nations Resolutions in Israel/Palestine.

When: Monday, June 23, 2014. 6:30pm

Where: SMUD 6301 S St. Sacramento

Fulfilling United Nations Resolutions in Israel/Palestine

Reflecting on the United Nations Declaration of 2014 as the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, members of the Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights, including Jewish Voice for Peace, will address the current situation and efforts to bring compliance with international law and human rights. Following a brief presentation by each panelist, the audience will be invited to ask questions and engage in discussion.

-Moderated by Maggie Coulter



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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Why 2015 is a Make or Break Year for the Climate - by Jeffrey Sachs

Humanity has just about run out of time to address climate change. Scientists have pointed out that a rise in temperature of 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels will put the Earth in dangerous, uncharted territory. Yet we currently are on a path toward an increase of 4° or more this century. The last chance for action has arrived.

That chance lies in Paris in December 2015, when the world's governments meet for the **21st annual United Nations climate-change meeting**. But this time will be different. Either governments will agree to decisive action, as they have promised, or we will look back at 2015 as the year when climate sanity slipped through our fingers.

In 1992, the world's governments adopted the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, promising to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic [human-induced] interference in the climate system" by reducing the rate of emission of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide. But, though the treaty entered into force in 1994, the rate of emissions of greenhouse gases, including CO₂, has actually increased.

In 1992, global combustion of coal, oil, and gas, plus cement production, released 22.6 billion tons of CO₂ into the air. In 2012, the most recent year for which comparable data are available, emissions were 34.5 billion tons. Humanity has accelerated, rather than controlled, human-induced climate change.

This is now the greatest moral issue of our time. Global fossil-fuel use gravely threatens the poor, who are the most vulnerable to climate change (though the rich are the main cause), and future generations, who will inherit a planet that has become unlivable in many places, with food supply subject to massive shocks.

We are causing this harm in an age when technological breakthroughs enable the world to shift from dangerous fossil fuels to low-carbon energy sources, such as wind, solar, nuclear, and hydro, and reduce the impact of fossil fuels by using carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. Pope Francis recently put it just right: "Safeguard Creation," he said. "Because if we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us! Never forget this!"

Yet, for the many powerful interests, climate change remains a game, with the goal being to delay action for as long as possible. The giant fossil-fuel companies have continued to lobby behind the scenes against the shift to low-carbon energy, and have used their vast wealth to buy media coverage designed to sow confusion. Rupert Murdoch's media empire in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and elsewhere stands out as playing a particularly cynical and harmful role in spreading anti-scientific propaganda.

First, the world is waking up to the calamity that we are causing. Second, the world's citizens do not want to go down in flames. Public opinion has so far succeeded in blocking the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would accelerate the production of Canada's oil sands – a shocking prospect, given that neither Canada nor the US yet have committed to a climate plan.

Third, more severe climate shocks may lie ahead. This year could prove to be a major El Niño year, when the waters of the Eastern Pacific warm and create global climate disruptions. A big El Niño now would be even more dangerous than usual, because it would add to the overall rising trend in global temperatures. Indeed, many scientists believe that a big El Niño could make 2015 the hottest year in the Earth's history.

Why 2015 is a Make or Break Year for the Climate - continued.

Fourth, both the US and China, the two largest emitters of CO₂, are finally beginning to get serious. President Barack Obama's administration is trying to stop the construction of new coal-fired power plants, unless they are equipped with CCS technology. China, for its part, has realized that its heavy dependence on coal is causing such devastating pollution and smog that it is leading to massive loss of life, with life expectancy down as much as five years in regions with heavy coal consumption.

Fifth, the Paris negotiations are finally beginning to attract global attention from both the public and world leaders. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for political leaders to attend a special summit in September 2014, 14 months ahead of the Paris meeting, to launch intensive negotiations. The UN expert network that I direct, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN), will issue a major report in July on how each of the major economies can successfully decarbonize the energy system.

Finally, technological advances in low-carbon energy systems, including photovoltaics, electric vehicles, CCS, and fourth-generation nuclear power with greatly enhanced safety features, all help make the transition to low-cost, low-carbon energy technologically realistic, with huge benefits for human health and planetary safety.

Starting this fall, the UN SDSN will create a platform for all global citizens to participate in the hard work of saving the planet. The SDSN will offer a free, online introductory course to climate change, and then host a global online "negotiation" of a global climate agreement. We expect that hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of interested citizens worldwide will participate online, showing the way for the politicians. The control of climate change is a moral imperative and a practical necessity – far too important to be left to politicians, Big Oil, and their media propagandists.

Jeffrey D. Sachs, Professor of Sustainable Development, Professor of Health Policy and Management, and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, is also Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals.

UNA Sacramento's May Program was an Education in Education.



Dr. Duane Campbell presented on "The Crisis in Democracy and Education" to the UNA-USA, Sacramento Chapter, in May. Those attending were glued to their seats asking questions. Dr. Campbell has provided the following excerpts from different sources in response to the questions asked at the talk.

"Funding of California's k-12 public education system is changing fundamentally. Some schools will get much more money to educate kids. It is critical that teachers, parents, and educational advocates get involved now. The centerpiece of the change is the **Local Control Funding Formula**, designed to send additional funds to districts where the need and the challenge is greatest. The law requires that parents, students, teachers, and other community members be involved in the process of

deciding how new funds are spent. Ed Source has an excellent guide to these changes: ChoosingDemocracy.blogspot.com

"The promotion of democracy should be a central goal of schooling. Teachers should promote and cultivate democratic values. One way we promote democracy is to teach about civic responsibility, the electoral process, and the U.S. Constitution. A second way is to teach using social participation and service learning strategies. A third way to promote democracy in the classroom is by developing in students a preference for fairness, justice, and mutual respect; these are issues of classroom management. "

"The current testing regime of *No Child Left Behind*, *Race to the Top* and the proposed testing of Common Core State Standards, only measures math, reading, and at times English. They do not measure progress toward democracy. The testing emphasis and the segregation of California schools blocks teachers from having the time to promote democracy." (*Choosing Democracy: a practical guide to multicultural education*, Campbell, 4th. edition. 2010)

Good source on democratic discipline or restorative justice: www.fixdiscipline.org

Thank you Dr. Campbell for your important presentation and the follow up presented here.

-Dr. Sharon J. Alexander, President UNA-USA, Sacramento Chapter



Professor Duane Campbell speaks to a full room at the Arden Dimmick Library in May 2014.



UNA Sacramento board member Kate Woolley thanks Professor Campbell for his insightful presentation and lively discussion.

Thirsty For Justice showers its audience with stories about water rights.

In May, the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water presented the new documentary “Thirsty for Justice: The Struggle for Human Rights to Water.” Community leaders and filmmakers were invited. UNA Sacramento was a co-host of this program with many other concerned environmental groups. This was a heavily attended presentation at The California Museum that required reserved free tickets.

“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.”

Many of the people who were portrayed in the film spoke at this showing about the impact of the lack of clean and affordable water in their communities. Farm workers, Native Americans and the homeless were represented, as well as others who are part of this grassroots movement. This effort continues to see that the law that protects their Human Rights to clean and affordable water is implemented.

-President Sharon Alexander, UNA Sacramento. Thanks to Anna Andrews for the pictures..



Chief Caleen Sisk



Allison Davenport,
U.C. Berkeley



John Krapntz





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Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor and UNA Sacramento Members,

As Membership Chairman of our Sacramento Chapter of the United Nations Association I have been experiencing a declining membership in our chapter over the last few years in spite of an ever increasing need for our Association support of the many activities of the United Nations in this troubled World. With the conflicts in the Ukraine, the unsettled leadership problem in Egypt, the continuing conflict in Israel and Palestine, the global need for sustainable energy and other climate change issues just to highlight a few matters that need UN attention. Our chapter membership needs to be community activists in this vital work of the UN.

I would like to suggest that our UNA Chapter make a concerted effort in recruiting new members especially new young members in our schools and colleges; get more involved in other community organizations with the same or similar concerns such as Sacramento Peace Action, PSR, Common Cause, 350, League of Women Voters, Organizing for Action and possibly your church organization; and participate in community activities such as the International Day of Peace in September. Let's build up our UNA Chapter to be a vital force for Peace in the world and in our Sacramento Community.

Peace be with you, Carl E. Sweet

Dear Editor:

In the 1930's, Franklin Roosevelt did not quite have to preside over a social revolution. Maybe next time we won't be so fortunate.

In this hopefully infinite, naturally discrete, clearly progressive series we call life, the social and biological sciences seem to have been able to provide enough information about our behavior to permit us to advance beyond the economic, cultural "late iron age" that some desert and "jungle" dwellers seem to have been caught up in. To assure that the series will certainly be infinite and progressive, may take somewhat more effort than many of us seem willing to exert. How fortunate can we be? Can the educational work be done by persuasion rather than by force?

Best regards,
F. H.

Register now for the 4th Annual Intergenerational Model UN: www.igmun.org

September 27th, 2014 at San Francisco State University

IGMUN is a one day program of the United Nations Association USA, Northern California Division, where delegates of all ages participate in debate as representatives of UN Member States, collaborating to reach agreement about priority international issues through the simulation of the United Nations. IGMUN is designed as a teaching and learning conference and is intended for both novices and delegates with prior Model UN experience. Participants will be joined by other guests including notable leaders in civic affairs and international relations.

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

Upcoming Dates

June 4:	UNA Sacramento Board of Directors Meeting
June 5:	World Environment Day
June 8:	World Oceans Day
June 8-10:	UNA-USA Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
June 17:	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
June 23:	UNA Sacramento Program: Fulfilling UN Resolutions in Israel/Palestine
June 26:	UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture

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.

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UNA-USA Sacramento Chapter

P.O. Box 163381

Sacramento, CA 95816

Application for Membership

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

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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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Thank you!

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