

Newsletter

Vol. 37: No. 2 (Fall 2007)

Human Relations Council of Pomona Valley
Kurdish American Education Society
Martin Luther King Committee
Peace with Justice Center of Pomona Valley
United Nations Association of Pomona Valley

UNA--Today's Africa

Are you interested in learning more about Africa? I will be teaching a course entitled "Today's Africa" at the Claremont Adult School starting September 21st, with 8 sessions over the next 9 Fridays, 9:30-11:30. Rather than try to skim over all the 50+ nations, we will concentrate on Sudan, South Africa, Congo (RDC), Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, and Botswana, using them as examples of issues important to all of Africa—governance, class, military intervention, ethnicity, foreign aid & intervention. We'll also look into a novel by Chinua Achebe, *No Longer at Ease*. No tests, and the reading is of course voluntary. Phone the school to enroll at 624-6402. Log onto this month's UNA net for Pomona Valley if you wish to read a short piece I wrote, "Africa and You" at pv.una-socal.org.
--Bob Smith

Martin Luther King Annual Commemoration

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, 26th annual event will be Sunday, January 13, 2008. This annual observance is always inspiring and lively. Mark your calendar now! Call Gayle Claiborne (951-218-7820) if you'd like to help plan this, or if you are a young person aged 14-19 and want an application to write an essay explaining your volunteer work in the home, school, church, or community. The youth awards are an important part of the festivities. Awards are \$1,000 and \$500.

Human Relations Council

The purpose of the Human Relations Council of Pomona Valley is to promote community awareness, and harmonious relationship among diverse peoples. To work to eliminate discrimination based on cultural groups, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age or religion. The Council is here to educate the community on human relations issues through dialogues, forums and multicultural events.

The Board is busy with the plans for the 8th Annual Police and Community Forum: An Open Dialogue, which will be in February or March of 2008. Please join us in making a difference in our communities by joining the Board of Directors and share your ideas for a theme for the upcoming forum.

We meet on the fourth Monday of each month and the next meeting will be September 24, 2007 at 5:00pm at Porter Hall in Pilgrim Place. For more information please call Gayle Claiborne at (951) 218-7820.

Peace with Justice Center News

From a group that mounted anti-war protests in the 1970s,

the Peace with Justice Center has become a non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and charitable corporation that presents speakers, films, and panel discussions on topics of current local, national, and international interest. It cooperates with individuals and groups with similar goals and uses its resources to support organizations such as AIMS and Pax Christi that share its purposes. PwJ operates by way of Board meetings, which all members of the eighteen-person elected Board have the right to attend. Other PwJ members and guests may attend by arrangement. Additional information about the activities of PwJ may be obtained from Ali Siddiqui (951-734-4599), Connie Weir (909-596-4460), and Dorena Wright (909-593-4966).

PwJ is at present trying to update its membership and mailing lists. If you would like to continue to receive information through the Newsletter, please return the form below to Dorena Wright, Dept. of English, U. of La Verne, 1950 3rd St., La Verne, CA 91750.

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Requested Membership Donation: Individ. \$15 Org. \$25

Sept. 21. Claremont Peace Walk to mark International Day of Peace, meeting 4:45pm at the corner of Arrow Highway and Indian Hill.

Oct. 21-28. Screening(s) of "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" in conjunction with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. For more information, or to arrange participation by your group in the campaign, call Gerald Haynes (909-624-5008).

November 17. Panel Discussion, Indigenous Peoples of North America, 7:00pm Scrooby Lounge, Pilgrim Place, Claremont. For more information, call Ali Siddiqui (951-734-4599).

Pax Christi is an international association of people, primarily but not exclusively Catholic, whose focus is promoting peaceful resolution of conflict, social justice and a sustainable environment. Pax Christi of the Pomona Valley meets in the Reflection Room at Our Lady of the Assumption Church (OLA) at 435 Berkeley, Claremont from 9:30-11:30 AM on alternate Saturdays, with adjustments for various holidays or activities. If you are unsure about a meeting date, you can contact Connie Weir (909-596-4460) or John Hernandez (909-627-7954). Our meeting schedule for remainder of 2007 is: Sept. 8 and 22, Oct. 13 and 27, Nov. 10th, December 1 and 15.

Each meeting includes prayer, Scripture reading and reflection, as well as discussion of current issues and events of interest and action planning.

Peace and Blessings,
Connie Weir

SAVE A LIFE and STOP THE WAR with just one action. COUNTER-MILITARY-RECRUITMENT. Alternative Ideas to Military Service (AIMS) has a program of educating students on the hazards of military service. Hazards such as to a person's mental health, physical injury and using one's life for destruction rather than building up one's community, one's world.

Using the flyer "Do You Know Enough to Enlist?" we go to high school campuses at lunch time. We also do community events at Farmers Markets. We welcome help in these projects. Having a community event? Invite AIMS. If you know of groups of parents or students that would be interested in hearing this information please call Gerald at 909-624-5008.

Will Iraq's Failure be Iran's Success?

Five years into the war, America's battle for success in Iraq is only half way up the hill. With a little help from US friendly forces in the region, and the UN Security Council vote on August 10, to be a strong partner for peace, the second half of the battle might not need to be fought.

Putting history into perspective, the current situation in the Middle East could be compared to the WWI alignment of the warring forces in the Balkans which led to the final dismantlement of the Ottoman territories. In Iran, the Shiite revolutionary fervor under President Ahmadi-Nezhad, echoes the fist-raising slogans of the anti-imperialist Bolsheviks under the late Lenin during WWI. Exercising patience, through a sustained cold war period and perestroika, the Soviet Union peacefully disintegrated into more than a dozen States.

If America holds steadfast with a purposeful resolve, along the UN mission for peace, the current regimes in the Middle East too, will disintegrate in due course without pushing the cannons of war further up the hill. Given the physical destruction and loss of lives in Iraq, a similar tactic to bring change to Iran should be beyond contemplation by US policy makers. Instead, the United States with the help of the recent willingness by the United Nations, and willing partners for change in Iraq and in the Middle East, ought to focus on addressing the nearly unrecoverable current situation in Iraq.

The most logical step forward is for President Bush to heed the solution put forward by Senator Biden for "soft" partitioning of Iraq into three autonomous states. With decades of peace-keeping missions and conflict resolution experience (e.g. most recently in the Balkan states), the United Nations can facilitate reformation of the failed state known as Iraq, and prepare the country for an election by which disputed territories and natu-

ral resource centers are democratically handed over to the duly elected regional governments. This in turn will be the firm democratic ground that the United States had stated as a goal when going in, but has so far failed to achieve. With the support of these newly formed autonomous governments and the UN endorsement of the election results, what has been a failure so far in Iraq could be turned into a successful US policy to help promote democracy in the region, and the necessary support to help arrest the advance of Iranian power and nuclear arm development.

Ardishir Rashidi-Kalhur, Founder and President of the Kurdish American Education Society (KAES) and So Cal Division UNA President, 909-981-2444.

Peace Quotes

In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.

Mother Teresa http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/mother_teresa.html

A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.

Mohandas Gandhi http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/mohandas_gandhi.html

The topdog may win the game of force. But not the moral issue - and when that dawns upon him and his allies, change of consciousness sets in, and demoralization starts thawing the frozen heart. The game is over.—Dr. Johan Galtung <http://www.betterworld.net/heroes/galtung.htm>

Contact Information

Human Relations Council of Pomona Valley

P.O. Box 1023, Claremont, CA 91711.

Gayle Clayborne (951) 218-7820, or gayledc55@aol.com
FAX (909) 608-2069

Kurdish American Education Society

1408 Forest St., Upland, CA 91784-1092

Ardi Rashidi, 909-981-2444

Martin Luther King Committee

Mary Kashmar (909) 762-5269

or Gayle Claiborne (951) 218-7820

MLK, Jr. Committee Co-Chairs.

Peace with Justice Center of Pomona Valley

Dorena Wright, Dept. of English, U. of La Verne, 1950 3rd St., La Verne, CA 91750, (909-593-4966).

United Nations Association -USA, Pomona Valley

Mel Boynton, 1145 Baughman Dr., Claremont, 91711,
(909) 398-1124. Cell (909) 964-0531.

U. N. 2000 Millennium Development Goals

(<http://action.one.org/>)

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day. Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education.

Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women.

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

4. Reduce child mortality.

Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

5. Improve maternal health.

Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources. Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.

8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory.

Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction. Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems to make debt sustainable in the long term.

In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth.

UNA Membership Application

OR APPLY ONLINE: WWW.UNAUSA.ORG

_____ *Yes! I want to become a member of the United Nations Association of the USA, Pomona Valley Chapter*

Please Print

___ Mr. ___ Ms. ___ Dr. ___ Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

Email: _____

Student Information

School Type: ___ Graduate School ___ College

___ High School ___ Jr.High/Middle School ___ Elementary

School Name: _____

Campus City/State: _____

Membership Category

___ \$10 Student (Includes membership in Student Alliance)

___ \$25 Introductory (first year only)

___ \$40 Member

___ \$100 Sponsor

___ \$500 Patron

___ \$1,000 Lifetime Member

___ I wish to become a member of the Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC)

___ Please send me information on making a Planned Gift through the Eleanor Roosevelt Society.

In addition to my membership dues,

I would like to make a **contribution** to:

___ UNA-USA National Program \$ _____

___ My Local UNA-USA Chapter \$ _____

Payment Options

___ I am enclosing a check/money order payable to "United Nations Association of the USA."

\$ _____

___ Please charge my credit card in the amount of: \$ _____

Credit Card Information

Name on card: _____

Billing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Card: ___ AMEX ___ MasterCard ___ Visa

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please Return this application with your payment to:

United Nations Association of the USA
801 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017.

Richard E. Harris
620 Plymouth Rd. #1
Claremont, CA 91711

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UNA Programs: 2007-2008

(3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Porter Hall Conference Room, Pilgrim Place--Snacks provided.)

September 18. Western University Professor Malika Kachani will speak on "2007 Research and Student Experiences in Morocco"

October 16. Dr. Sally Seven, Board Member Los Angeles County League of Women Voters, will speak on "Population Impacts on a Sustainable Future"

November 20. Claremont McKenna Professor Edward Haley will present "How to End the Iraq War"

December 18. Pitzer Professor Lako Tongun presenting, "An Update on Darfur and Sudan."

January 15. Rizek Abusharr will speak on "The Palestine and Israel Issue from inside Jerusalem."

February 19. Imam Ali Siddiqui will present "What America Needs to Know About Islam."

March 18. Charlene Martin will present "My Years at International Place."

UN Day and Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 25, 2007, at 11:45 AM, is "United Nations Day" at International Place of the Claremont Colleges. 390 East 9th Street, Claremont. The public is invited. Lunch (\$6 at the door) at 11:45 and the program begins at 12:15. For information, call 621-8344

Sunday, January 27, 2008, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Potluck Annual Meeting of Pomona Valley Chapter of the UNA-USA in Decker Hall, 665 Avery Road, Pilgrim Place, Claremont, 909-399-5561. The public is invited. Our H.S. Essay Contest winners will be presented with cash awards and our featured speaker will be Cyndi Torres "Program Highlights at Pomona Valley Habitat for Humanity."

VISIT the Claremont Public Library during October and admire our UN-UNA display arranged by Pres. Mel Boynton and V.P. Richard Harris. Invite your friends, enemies, neighbors, inlaws, outlaws, acquaintances, unknowns, and others.

Pomona Valley Chapter Webmaster:
Shirley Williams.