

**UNA-USA Pomona Valley Chapter  
Minutes     June 17, 2014   5:30 PM**

Katie Gerecke , Vice-President, welcomed 30 people to the meeting. She talked about the relationship between this presentation and Goal Seven of the Millennium Goals, Ensure Environmental Sustainability. Handouts of the goal were available. She then encouraged all in attendance to join UNA-USA while distributing application forms.

**Announcements**

**UNA-USA Events:**

**An association of former United Nations workers** that will support the organization is being created. Katie has more information for those interested.

**July 15 Chapter meeting** will feature Judith Harris, Division President, who will share highlights of the Jun 8 -10 Annual Meeting.

**There will be no August Chapter meeting.**

**Other:**

**International Cultural** Exchange needs hosts for high school students. Katie has more information.

Adnan and Barbara Aswad were thanked for providing the treats.

**Program**

Adnan Aswad introduced Dr. Joshua Fisher, NASA/JPL, who discussed a variety of components to addressing climate change. Pictures, charts and graphs accompanied his talk. Dr. Fisher began with an explanation of “climate” and then gave evidence of human influences on it. Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane increases can be linked to human activities such as growing rice and eating beef. His map showing the locations of McDonald’s restaurants was especially telling. Dr. Fisher spoke of the increasing extremes of weather, as satellite pictures of hurricanes Katrina, Irene and Sandy proved. Other examples of increased weather extremes included those of drought, floods, dust storms and (lack of) snow. Dr. Fisher included attitudes of various religions and of our military about the topic. He said that NASA has predictive models available to people who, given the information, need to use to make decisions about the future. Looking into the future, he is concerned that the Amazon, the “lungs of our planet” is going to die. Looking into the past, Dr. Fisher described the non-inhabited Easter Island as a product of over-harvesting. He discussed solar, wind and geothermal options. He listed the various actions each of us can do and gave the website of [skepticalscience.org](http://skepticalscience.org) as a source of information.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Carolee Monroe, Secretary