

# THE SPOKESWOMAN

AAUW DAVIS NEWSLETTER

Volume 54, Number 11

November 2018

## REPORTS

### UNITED NATIONS DAY SPEAKER

On October 21, the celebration of the founding of the United Nations took place at International House. (The actual day is Oct. 24). After sampling delicious treats (both sweet and healthy), people came into the main room to hear Verena Borton (President of UN Association Davis) welcome the group. She thanked us for being there despite busy activities on a sunny Sunday. She told us that the City Council proclaimed this a special day (24<sup>th</sup>) and would fly the UN Flag over City Hall. Co-Director of UNICEF, Kristen Norton read the proclamation.

Verena introduced Katrina Finch, Senior Advocate of Chapter Development at UNA-USA headquarters in Washington, D.C. Ms. Finch works with chapters around the country to assist them in their efforts to educate and advocate within their communities. She has managed nationwide scholarship programs and has worked with congressional offices on education and grassroots action toward UN goals.

This program's focus was on the many ways that universal human rights start "close to home". (See Eleanor Roosevelt's actual quote below\*\*).

Katrina talked about cooperation among nations to promote peace and fulfill global goals that all nations adopted. After a short video, she asked us to think of improvements needed in the Davis community. Audience members brought up racism as seen at the Picnic Day confrontation; religious bias as demonstrated by graffiti and negative flyers aimed at Muslims and Jews.

Human Rights are relevant. Let your Congressional Reps know that you believe we should reapply for Human Rights

Membership at the U.N. Text 738-674 or UDHR. It is better to have a seat at the table, even if the U.S. is negative, so that we hold each other accountable. For improvements in human rights, work with your UN Chapters. Identify issues to be worked on and join in.

Verena thanked Ms. Finch, and acknowledged the co-sponsorship of AAUW\*, I House, and UN Association of Davis. Examples of working toward UN HR goals are: AAUW's goal (#23) of non-discrimination- equal pay for equal work; Sahaya's work for health and education for orphans in india (#25); UNICEF's work for rights to live, have security and education (#22, 25, 26); I House with programs to foster cooperation and understanding; and the UN Adopt-A-Future program to provide school rooms, supplies, and teachers in Kenya.

After cleaning up after the event, Ray and Verena Borton took Katrina, Gail, Juliana, Shahla, and Estelle to Bistro 33 for a good dinner. Thank you, Verena and Ray, for your generosity.

\*Members present were: Laleh, Parto, Juliana, Estelle, Shahla, Gail, Verena.

*\*\* "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works.*

*Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination.*

*Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."*

## **RENAMING NORTH DAVIS ELEMENTARY**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Janice Bridge led a short presentation about the renaming of North Davis Elementary to honor Mary Ellen Dolcini. A small group met in the Blanchard Room. Ramona Swenson welcomed the group on behalf of AAUW and spoke to AAUW's goals of empowering women, encouraging girls in STEM, and developing each woman's potential. Janice showed a video of Dr. Dolcini's induction into Davis Senior High's Hall of Fame in 2016. She then spoke of the committee's proposal to rename North Davis Elementary after Mary Ellen Dolcini, the school's first principal.

Dr. Dolcini acted as an inspirational model of a woman educator as teacher, principal of NDE, principal of Emerson Junior High, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, and returning NDE principal.

In addition, Dr. Dolcini was a member of the U.S. delegation to China in 1972, was active in Education Associations, was a board member for I House in Davis, and President of the USA-UN Davis.

Several people spoke about her lasting positive impressions of caring and capability with her former students, parents of students, and staff as well as the Davis Community.

The purpose of the meeting was to publicly acknowledge the proposal for renaming NDE. Several audience members spoke of Dolcini's actions and policies for improving Davis schools and for global education. A committee will present a request to the school board for consideration of the renaming to honor Dr. Dolcini's achievements and memory.

Thank you to Janice, Ramona, Estelle, Rhonda, Shahla, Leslie, Gail, Verena, and Juliana for enabling this presentation.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES**

These films are shown at I House, usually with refreshments at 7:30 pm, with the film starting promptly at 8:00. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

On Nov.2, Paul Grant will host a screening of the 2016 Austrian film, **Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden**, 110 min.

On Nov. 16, **The Light Between Oceans** 2016, US, UK, New Zealand 132 min.

### **BOOK CLUB AND CELEBRATE THE 19<sup>TH</sup>**

We will meet on Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, for coffee at Mishka's Café, 610 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in downtown Davis from 9 am-10:30 am. We will discuss the book, ***A Long Walk to Water***.

### **SPECIAL PODCAST**

Parto Aram is an AAUW member and former Board member, and has taught robotics at several Tech Trek campuses. She founded *Inspire-Tech*, a non-profit dedicated to encouraging and educating girls about STEAM fields (includes Art). To learn more about Parto, her background and goals, and the Neda Nobari Foundation's work, please listen to the follow podcast:

<http://nnf.foundation/west-of-middle-east/> and click on Episode 9.

### **DECEMBER HOLIDAY GATHERING**

On Saturday, December 8, we will hear Delaine Eastin speak about the fate of the Republic and the importance of women in determining that fate. For this holiday gathering, we may collect goods for a charity as well as enjoy each other's company. There will be further details in a special announcement.

### **CALENDAR**

- November 2- Friday: International Film Series at I House
- Nov. 15- Thursday: Board meeting at Rhonda's 6:30 pm 320 I
- Nov. 16- Friday: International Film Series at I House
- Nov. 17- Saturday: 9:00 am- Mishka's Café Celebrate & Book
- Nov. 22- Thursday: Thanksgiving
- December 6- Friday: International Film Series at I House
- Dec. 8- Saturday: Holiday gathering at Estelle's 5pm-8,  
747 Plum Lane

**Be as active as you wish, but stay a member. You count.**