



**UNA★USA**

Pasadena Chapter

## *Welcome to Spring with UNA Pasadena!*

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**Read the latest news from the UNA-USA Pasadena community and  
get involved with upcoming events!**

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The UNA-USA Pasadena thanks you for being a part of our work to advance peace, justice, and wellbeing in our local community and throughout the world. This year, we look forward to welcoming members to events like insightful coffee talks and collaborating to work on the SDGs. Read on for information about exciting opportunities for members and to review events you may have missed! Please reach out to [unapasadena@gmail.com](mailto:unapasadena@gmail.com) with any inquiries.

## **JOIN US: UNA-USA Pasadena Annual Meeting on March 28 (Online)**

Join the UNA-USA Pasadena on Saturday, March 28 from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM on Zoom for our Annual Meeting! During this one-hour Zoom meeting, the board and members will recap the past year for the UNA, present and vote on board members and executive committee for the coming year, and discuss advocacy opportunities throughout the country to support the SDGs and UN's mission this year. Upcoming UNA-USA Pasadena events in the community will also be discussed. We look forward to seeing you at this special meeting and continuing our work together!

If you would like to attend the annual meeting, [please fill out this Google Form](#).

# February Coffee Talk Recap: Danno Petersen on Drumming and Finding Your Purpose



UNA-USA Pasadena hosted its second Coffee Talk of the year, featuring drummer Daniel “Danno” Petersen. Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, Petersen shared his story with attendees and performed on the drums during the event. He is currently studying at the Manhattan School of Music and spoke about his journey into music and how it has shaped his life.

Throughout the evening Danno talked about how music became a way for him to express himself from a very young age. He reflected on how discovering your personal purpose can help create stronger connections with others and build a sense of community. While visiting the area he also mentioned that he would be performing at local high schools in Pasadena and sharing his story with students.



After the performance, Danno spoke with the audience and answered questions about topics such as finding your community, staying true to yourself, and what he hopes people can take away from hearing his music. He explained that when he performs his goal is for listeners to

feel the same sense of freedom that he experiences when he plays the drums. At the end of the evening Danno was presented with the Ambassador for Peace award by representatives from the Universal Peace Federation.

Overall the Coffee Talk gave attendees the chance to experience Danno performance while also hearing about the role music has played in shaping his path as an artist.

~ Charlotte Yorke, UNA Pasadena Intern

## March Coffee Talk Recap: Beverly Goldin on *The Gypsy Princess*



UNA-USA Pasadena hosted its third Coffee Talk of the year on March 5th at the Western Justice Center, welcoming guests for an evening of storytelling with the chapter Board Secretary Beverly Goldin. Goldin, an educator, artist, and media arts teacher, shared her short documentary [The Gypsy Princess](#).



*The Gypsy Princess* is a modern fairy tale that traces the life of a woman raised in the Bronx and her daughter who gradually uncovers long-hidden family stories. Through a blend of home movies, archival footage, and personal narration, Goldin explores themes of heritage and belonging. The documentary invites viewers to explore how spoken and unspoken family narratives shape our sense of identity.



The film sparked a meaningful conversation about the role of storytelling in understanding family history. Younger members of the UNA-Pasadena chapter were introduced to the use of home videos and personal archives as storytelling tools, demonstrating how art preserves heritage. For all members, the presentation highlighted the power of personal storytelling to connect with individuals across cultures and experiences, values that align closely with the mission of the United Nations Association to foster understanding and global citizenship. By sharing her family's story, Goldin demonstrated how deeply personal narratives can spark broader reflection about identity and belonging.

### **Reflection Questions**

What stories from your own family history have shaped who you are today?

What memories/traditions would you want to preserve for future generations?

How can art and storytelling help us better understand our own identities and connect with others?

~ Lauren Poplock, UNA Pasadena Intern

## Recap of the CSW70 Forum with Servas International



From March 9-18, Chapter President Ann Diederich and Former Board Member Paige LaCombe travelled to New York City to attend the 70th Annual Session of the Committee on the Status of Women. As the leader of the Servas International Delegation, Paige organized three panel discussions that brought important global issues to light, including the intersectionality between climate justice, peace, and gender equality.



They were also able to meet with the UNA-USA San Diego delegation led by UNA SoCal President, Bettina Hausmann. Ann was also about to reconnect with Women of Courage Arbana Xharra, Facia Harris and Fatou Baldeh, at the UN Foundation and BBC panel discussion on the role of AI in online violence.

The connections our chapter forged with the 3000+ attendees from around the world injected Ann and Paige with a renewed sense of purpose regarding advocacy for the SDGs. Stayed tuned for information regarding UNA-UNA Pasadena delegation in 2026!!



For further reading regarding the US' controversial actions during the vote on this year's CSW resolution, we recommend [this article](#) from PassBlue.

## UNA Pasadena at the AWIU Alumnae Impact Gala



Earlier this March, UNA Pasadena had the privilege of sponsoring the AWIU's first ever International Women of Courage Alumnae Impact Celebration at the Jonathan Club in DTLA. The evening was a celebration of the incredible work that past International Women of Courage (IWOC) awardees have done using their alumnae impact grants in their respective countries (Vietnam, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Gambia, and Liberia). To learn more about the work of the American Women for International Understanding (AWIU), [please click here](#).



## UNA Pasadena at NAACP Pasadena's 37th Annual Ruby McKnight Williams Awards Gala



Also in March, UNA Pasadena helped sponsor the 37th Annual Ruby McKnight Williams Awards Dinner & Gala hosted by the Pasadena chapter of the NAACP. UNA Pasadena's own Char Bland was the MC for the event, and she helped lead a fantastic evening of music and inspiring speeches, including from the likes of Judy Chu, the House Representative for CA's 28th Congressional District. To learn more about NAACP Pasadena's work, [please click here](#).

# UN Advocacy and Action in Iran

On February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched coordinated strikes on Iranian military sites and senior leadership, triggering Iranian retaliatory drone and missile attacks against Israel and multiple Gulf states, plunging the Middle East into its most dangerous military escalation in decades. The strikes, carried out without prior UN Security Council authorization, have raised urgent and unresolved questions about the limits of unilateral military action, the enforceability of international law, and the capacity of multilateral institutions to constrain great power conflict.

For members of our local UNA chapter, this moment is both a test of the UN system we advocate for and a call to action. The principles enshrined in the UN Charter are not abstract ideals. They are the rules the international community agreed upon precisely to prevent this very situation.

Nearly three weeks into the conflict, there remains little clarity as to how and when the violence may be brought to an end, but the UN and its leadership have spoken clearly and consistently. Below, we outline what they have said, and what we can do about it.

## **What the UN Has Said — Key Official Statements**

### ***Secretary-General António Guterres:***

SG Guterres [condemned](#) the initial U.S. and Israeli strikes and Iran's subsequent retaliation, calling both a threat to international peace and security. Guterres has further called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities and de-escalation," further stating that "there is no viable alternative to the peaceful settlement of international disputes, in full accordance with international law, including the UN Charter," underscoring the grave threat to international order that these conflicts present.

### ***UN General Assembly President Annalena Baerbock:***

Annalena Baerbock, current President of the GA, [issued a statement](#) condemning the "extremely dangerous military escalation in the Middle East." She has further called on the United States, Israel, and Iran to de-escalate, to avoid dragging neighboring countries into the conflict, and to return to diplomacy. Regarding the US-Israeli basis for initiating the attacks, Baerbock noted that Iran's nuclear program and regional activities must be addressed "in accordance with the UN Charter and international law" (not through airstrikes targeting government and military officials).

### ***UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk:***

UNHCR Commissioner Volker Türk [deplored](#) the strikes and retaliatory attacks, warning that it is the civilians who "always end up paying the ultimate price" and urging leaders to "choose the challenging path of dialogue over the senseless route of destruction." Türk further raised the alarm about the ongoing threat to nuclear facilities, warning that "all must be done to reduce any nuclear safety risk."

### ***OHCHR Independent Experts:***

On March 11, 2026, a group of UN Special Rapporteurs [declared](#) the U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran and Lebanon "entirely illegal under international law", warning that the conflict risks setting "a precedent of total impunity for some of the world's strongest military powers" and calling for an immediate ceasefire and an international peace conference. The UN's [Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Iran](#) has documented that over 1,300 people have been killed and more than 7,000 injured since February 28, with civilians caught "between a large-scale military campaign and ongoing repression by their own government." Separately, OHCHR experts [strongly condemned](#) the missile strike on a girls' school in Iran that killed at least 160

children, calling for an independent investigation into what may constitute a war crime under international humanitarian law.

### **The Security Council's Response:**

The UN Security Council has been at the center of international diplomatic efforts since the conflict began, though its response has reflected the deep geopolitical fault lines that have long complicated collective action. On March 10, 2026, the Council adopted [Resolution 2817 \(2026\)](#), condemning Iran's retaliatory missile and drone strikes on Gulf states and Jordan "in the strongest terms" and demanding an immediate cessation of hostilities. The resolution passed 13–0, with China and Russia abstaining rather than exercising their vetoes.

The resolution's passage, however, did not reflect consensus on the underlying causes of the conflict. Iran's representative to the UN called the resolution "[a manifest injustice](#)," arguing that the United States (holding the Council presidency at the time) had systematically obstructed every prior effort to broker a ceasefire and hold the initiating parties accountable. Russia, meanwhile, put forward a competing draft resolution calling on *all* parties to immediately cease military operations, which would have explicitly implicated the U.S. and Israel, but it failed to pass. The divergence between these two draft resolutions illustrates the central tension the Council has yet to resolve: how to condemn Iranian retaliation while also reckoning with the legality of the [initial U.S. and Israeli strikes](#) that triggered them.

That legal question has drawn significant scrutiny. The United States submitted an [Article 51 letter](#) to the Security Council invoking the right to self-defense as justification for the strikes. A claim that international law scholars have widely criticized as legally insufficient, given that the attacks were preemptive rather than in response to an armed attack already underway. For UNA members, this debate goes to the heart of the UN Charter's foundational purpose: preserving a rules-based international order in which no state is above the law, no matter how powerful they may be.

### **How You Can Help:**

As the conflict continues to evolve, UNA chapter members have a meaningful role to play in amplifying the UN's call for diplomacy and accountability. The most immediate action members can take is to educate themselves and their communities using UNA-USA's dedicated resource hub, [Global Perspectives on the Escalating Iran Conflict](#), which offers accessible explainers on international law, nuclear safety, the Strait of Hormuz, and the humanitarian situation on the ground. Staying informed through verified, UN-sourced information is especially important given the volume of misinformation circulating about this conflict.

Beyond personal education, we encourage you to help amplify official UN and UNA-USA messaging on social media, such as by sharing statements from the Secretary-General, the General Assembly President, and OHCHR experts, helping ensure that authoritative voices cut through the noise. This kind of grassroots information-sharing is one of the most tangible contributions we can make to the broader advocacy ecosystem.

Finally, members should look ahead to UNA-USA's [2026 Global Engagement Summit](#) on April 10 in New York City, which will bring together advocates, policymakers, and UN leaders and will feature discussions directly relevant to the Iran conflict. Whether attending in person or following remotely, this is a prime opportunity to engage with the national UNA-USA network and to carry the core

message of this moment back to your local community: that diplomacy, international law, and the UN Charter remain the only viable path to a lasting resolution.

## 2026 Global Engagement Summit in NYC



Building a Stronger  
More Effective UN

NEW YORK CITY | APRIL 10 2026

Are you interested in attending UNA-USA's 2026 Global Engagement Summit with UNA Pasadena? [If so, please fill out this Google form](#). More information about the Summit is [available here](#).

*Our chapter has resources available to help cover travel expenses.*

## UN Advocacy Day in Sacramento

# ADVOCACY DAY

April 21, 2026 | Sacramento, CA

**Engage. Advocate. Lead.**

Meet with Legislative Offices  
Elevate Global + Local Impact  
Connect w/ Fellow Advocates



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

California



Californians for Equity, Human Rights & Sustainability  
Connecting Local Action to UN Priorities

Are you interested in attending Advocacy Day with UNA-USA Pasadena? [If so, please fill out this Google form.](#)

*Our chapter has resources available to help cover travel expenses.*

## UNA-USA Pasadena Welcomes Board Member Bella Flad



The UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter is thrilled to welcome Isabella “Bella” Flad to the Board of Directors. Bella joins the board after over one year of experience as a Communications Intern and College Fellow, bringing with her a deep commitment to community engagement and global citizenship.

Bella is a proud graduate of Occidental College, where she majored in Urban and Environmental Policy. During her time at the UNA-Pasadena Chapter, Bella played a key role in organizing and supporting chapter events, reviving the Coffee Talk program with senior fellow Ian Eriksson, contributing to the chapter newsletter, and assisting with a wide range of administrative and communicative needs.

Her connection to the chapter’s mission is deeply personal. After losing her childhood home in the Eaton Fire, Bella found community through the UNA-Pasadena chapter, which provided support and raised awareness about this tragedy.

In addition to her work with UNA-Pasadena, Bella works as a behavioral interventionist with youth on the autism spectrum. In her free time, she enjoys reading, singing, and rooting for the Dodgers.

**Welcome UNA-USA Pasadena's New Interns,  
Charlotte and Lauren!**



Charlotte Yorke is a junior at Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena. She is passionate about leadership, community service, and youth engagement. Charlotte founded and leads the Families Forward club at her school. She is also the Co-Sports Editor of the Mayfield newspaper, where she enjoys writing about athletics and highlighting student voices in the school community. Charlotte is a member of both the Mayfield volleyball and swim teams. Charlotte is involved in entrepreneurship and innovation programs in her community and helps support events at the Caltech Entrepreneurs Forum.

Through working with UNA-USA Pasadena, she hopes to help engage young people in conversations about global issues and encourage youth involvement.



Lauren Poplock is a sophomore at Polytechnic School in Pasadena whose work centers on expanding access to the arts and empowering young people through service and leadership. She is the founder of NoteAble, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides music education to children and adults with learning differences. Lauren is also the captain of her school's Model United Nations team, an Assistant News Editor for her school's newspaper, and a member of the Upper School Student Community Engagement Council. She is president of the Pasadena Chapter of the National Charity League. Outside of school, Lauren studies violin and enjoys creative writing.

Through her work with UNA-USA Pasadena, Lauren hopes to continue expanding opportunities for service, leadership, and community engagement.

## Upcoming Opportunities

Sunday, April 19: **Earth Day Celebration**

Theme: Local Action for Global Change

In collaboration with: Soul Force Project and Altadena Hive

Where: the Historic Solvang Ranch in Altadena

When: 3 PM

Sunday, April 26: **Screening of *Respect My Crown***

In collaboration with: Community Women Vital Voices

Where: Western Justice Center in Pasadena

Time: 2 PM

*(UNA-USA Pasadena members only, registration info will be sent out soon)*

Thursday, May 7th: Pasadena Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Where: Pasadena Convention Center

When: 7:30–9:00 AM

*If interested in attending, please email unapasadena@gmail.com*  
(Priority will be given to UNA Pasadena members)

**May Coffee Talk:** Screening of "Empower" documentary featuring the artisans of impulse empower (with UNA Pasadena member Christen Goeken)  
Date/time: TBD

## Welcome to New Members of the UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter!

Thank you to all the new members of the UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter.  
We're so grateful for your support and involvement.

Jeanette DePatie

Welcome to your local UNA-USA community!

## Not a member yet? Get your UNA-USA Pasadena membership today!

### Membership Types

#### ➔ **Standard: \$50**

The standard membership makes up the backbone of our movement. Gain access to all of our events, opportunities, and networking.

#### ➔ **GenUN: FREE**

Ages 14–17. As a GenUN member, you'll gain access to incredible benefits that help you grow as a leader, connect with others, and take action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### ➔ **Young Professional: \$25**

Members ages 18 to 30 may choose this membership to unlock benefits related to advancing their career and professional portfolio.

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## Why become a member?

**Being a member of UNA-USA Pasadena comes with many benefits, including...**

- UN career development opportunities and skill building
- Opportunities to serve as a UNA-USA delegate at high-level UN events
- Discounts on tours of UN Headquarters in New York City
- Subscriptions to *PASSPORT* and *UNA-USA Today* publications, and more!

Click [HERE](#) to join UNA-USA Pasadena today!

### Stay Up-to-Date with What We're Working On

We have lots of fun events and opportunities for you all year long, so don't miss out! ***Give our socials a follow!***

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[@unausapasadena](#)

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[@UNA-USA Pasadena Chapter](#)

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Website   
[UNA-Pasadena.org](#)

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