



United
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Association
of Australia
WA Division

UN Matters

Nov/Dec 2014

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We are delighted that the Governor, Her Excellency the Hon Kerry Sanderson AO, has kindly agreed to be our Patron. 2015 is shaping up to be an exciting year, with planning for events such as Peace Day and the UN Day (70th birthday celebrations) already underway. A reminder that we will be moving office at the end of January - details to follow soon.

A few more volunteers are sought for the sausage sizzle on **Saturday 10th January** at Subiaco Bunnings. Volunteers work for short shifts in a relaxed atmosphere so please give Harvey a call (see pg 3) if you can help for a couple of hours.

Our International Day of Remembrance in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust function will be held at 11am on **Tuesday 27th January** in Stirling Gardens, Perth. It includes a memorial prayer and Holocaust survivor's testimony (details page 2).

Our recent Planning Day was very well attended and surprisingly, a lot of fun. We looked at 'strategic elephants' and issues such as funding, marketing and strengthening our sustainability. We also considered new initiatives which we expect to finalise early in 2015. Thanks to Hannah Fitzhardinge from Integral Development for facilitating the session.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. Thank you to all of our volunteers for their wonderful efforts during 2014.
[Carolyne Gatward]



[Photo: A sample of the Planning Day participants]



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International Day of Remembrance in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

Organised by the UNAAWA and the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (WA)

Tuesday 27th January 2015

Visit to the Memorial to the Victims of the Holocaust

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 11 am | Opening Address | - | Carolyne Gatward, UNAAWA President |
| 11:10am | Memorial Prayer | - | Rabbi Shalom White |
| 11:20am | Survivor Testimony | - | Ken Arkwright OAM |

Stirling Gardens, corner St Georges Tce & Barrack St, Perth

The memorial was erected as part of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War and commemorates all those who died as a result of the Nazi regime.

"Firstly they came for the Jews and I did not speak out
Because I was not Jewish
Then they came for the communists and I did not speak out
because I was not a communist
Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out
because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for me and there was no-one left
to speak out for me" - Pastor Niemoeller

Enquiries NCJWA WA wa@ncjwa.org.au or esteingiesser@gmail.com
UNAAWA office@unaa-wa.org.au

UNAAWA WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

We are excited to announce UNAAWA has established a Women's Committee that will focus on gender equality and women's issues in Australia and around the world.

The committee will send out more information in the following weeks to interested people. If you are interested in joining the committee or would like any further information please feel free to contact the women's committee convener Kristy Tyrie on womens.committee@unaa-wa.org.au.



UN Photo/Evan Schneider

[Photo: UN Women for Peace March, with Yoo Soon-tae (third from left, in white hat), wife of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, with Susan Sarandon (on Mrs. Ban's left), and Monique Coleman (right), UN Champion for Youth.]

SATURDAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE, SUBIACO

The sausage sizzle is on **Saturday 10 January** at the Bunnings Store, Salvado Road, Subiaco (behind our office). The sizzle will help us raise money for moving office.

There is still time to volunteer for a two hour shift as a cook or server. Please contact Harvey on 0422 417 563 or email the office on office@unaa-wa.org.au. Don't be shy!

Members of our Executive will be leading the activities. If you cannot volunteer on the day, please try to drop by and admire our culinary expertise, or send hungry people to keep us busy.



UN DAY CELEBRATION 2014



Speakers and performers, UN Day 2014 [photo by Richard Harmer]

UNAAWA celebrated UN Day at the Constitutional Centre of WA, with our partners the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) and the Western Australian Multicultural Association (WAMA). The evening opened with two impressive vocal performances. 'Barbershop', from St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls, kicked off the event with a delightful and energetic a capella performance. Paula Parore-Petera from 'The Voice' followed, captivating the audience with her soulful rendition of 'Imagine'.

Carolyne Gatward, UNAAWA President, welcomed all to the event with a message from Ban Ki-moon, emphasizing the point that the UN is needed more than ever to work for a common cause for the common good.

Greg Glossop of the UN and Overseas Policing Association of Australia made a dedication to the UN personnel who have worked in the field on UN Peacekeeping missions. We were urged to think of those who have not returned home from these missions, and encouraged to acknowledge the sacrifices that are made in service to the UN.

Nigarish Hyder, a student at Penrhos College, gave an impressive speech on 'The Voice of Youth'. Her speech emphasized the inherent power of young people, and encouraged us to listen to their voices. In celebrating the UN it is important to recognize that if it offers an opportunity for youth to speak and allows them to explore the world in which we live; the UN will also channel young peoples' passion to instigate change.

Hon Professor Jan Ryan gave an in-depth account of the history of the UN, calling special attention to the little-known fact of Australia's contribution to setting up the General Assembly.

The Keynote speaker for this event was US Consul General Cynthia Griffin. Ms. Griffin highlighted the goals and objectives of the United States for the 69th United Nations General Assembly. She noted that peace, sustainability, counter-terrorism, human rights, online privacy rights, Indigenous rights, Women's equality, LCBT rights/equality, and climate change (to name a few) are at the forefront of the US's engagement with the UN and its objectives.

[Colleen Harmer, Executive Member]



Cynthia Griffin, US Consul General

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE—SPEECH

UNAAWA Vice President Ricardo Hernandez delivered a speech to open the International Day of Peace in September. Due to popular demand we have included an abridged speech below:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and to represent the UNAAWA at this opening of the 2014 International Day of Peace celebration. This day is observed around the world to commemorate the peacekeeping efforts that strengthen the ideals of peace among nations and the peoples of the world. Today, 21st September, marks the 30th anniversary of this international day with the theme "*The Right of Peoples to Peace*". This is an opportunity to reaffirm not only peace in our community, but equally so forgiveness and unity. Internationally, the UN calls us to honour a ceasefire in all hostilities and to commemorate this day through education and public awareness on peace-related matters.

Peacekeeping operations function in constantly changing physical, social and politically difficult environments. There are concerns around breaches of the law (both international and local laws), civilian safety, gender issues, logistics like offering field support to peacekeepers, concerns for the preservation of the environment in conflict zones, disarmament and demobilisation of rogue states, and children involved in conflict areas. And central to all these are the preservation of human rights.

UN peacekeeping forces amount to 118,111 field personnel deployed across 17 international missions and working on 4 continents. The operating budget is A\$8.66 billion, which is no small figure. But this only accounts for <0.5% of the world's military expenditure. This year alone has seen 17 peacekeepers lose their lives in the service of the UN. The cumulative figure since records started in 1948 now amount to 3,263 Blue Helmet deaths.

What does peace bring to us in 2014?:

- Improved international trade and economic prosperity.
- International cooperation in dispute resolution.
- Democracy in government.
- Improved living standards (e.g. widespread access to food, clothing, shelter, and public services).
- Generates personal wealth through diverse employment opportunities.
- Civil security and reduced corruption.

The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon stated on his 100-Day countdown message for this International Day that:

"...we need to unite as a human family to deliver the right to peace by encouraging fighters to lay down their arms. Let us stand in solidarity with the civilians killed by terrorism and war, the traumatised families whose homes and futures lie in ruins, the countries whose development has been set back by decades.

History has shown that, no matter how fierce, conflict can end, peace can prevail and reconciliation can triumph. On 21 September, at concerts around the world – in major cities and small towns, in conflict zones and peaceful communities – people will broadcast this essential message. They will celebrate the value of human diversity and the strength of our unity."

Today, right here in Perth, we celebrate the diversity and richness of the cultures we share. Today we are ONE, united across religions, transcendent to beliefs, gender, ethnic background, age and social class. The UN urges us to engage in friendship, and bring our communities together and demand the right of peoples to peace. We need to consider the value of peace in our Australian community, to remember our neighbours in Africa and the Middle East who do not enjoy the benefits we have, and to ask for forgiveness, peace and the unity that brought us here this afternoon.

[Ricardo Hernandez, UNAAWA VP]



Bridge of Peace at Peace Day celebration

WOMEN ACHIEVERS 2014



In November 2014, on behalf of the UNAAWA, our Vice-President Neesha Seth (photo, top left) attended the National Council of Jewish Women WA 'Women Achievers' evening. The event was held on 30th November at the Jewish Community Centre in Yockine. The 2014 Awards went to Alecia Benzie, Jackie Jarvis and Lynda Fisher. The NCJWA(WA) celebrated their 85th anniversary with the presence of their National President Di Hirsh OAM and Ester Steingesser, State President WA.

[Neesha Seth, UNAAWA Vice President]

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014

I attended and placed our UNAAWA wreath at Remembrance Day Commemorative Ceremony services at the Kings Park War Memorial. The event becomes more sacred and solemn as each year we learn more of these world wars that inflicted so

much human destruction, pain and suffering to humanity. As one aged veteran expressed to me today, the horrific, traumatic experience still lives on in his life and many others. I was taken with his words 'it may have been better not to have come back and today we are still at war in distant lands'.

If only we could begin to read the rippled creases of time on our veteran's faces that hide the battlefield experiences—the voices of hostile war experiences, we may become better citizens in eradicating the pursuit of conflict.

During my recent period in Europe, I expressly visited most of the western front war lines and fronts to become more familiar with those events of almost a century past. I will prepare a report on this experience in which Australia gave so much.

[Joseph Caruso, UNAAWA Global Representative]



2014 GEOFFREY BOLTON LECTURE—AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

The 2014 Geoffrey Bolton Lecture was delivered by the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson, the Director of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The lecture took place on the evening of 3 November 2014. Dr Nelson spoke about the Anzac Centenary and the foundation of the Australian War Memorial, whose job it is to recount the stories of those who fought, served, and died in the First World War. He also described his own profound epiphany in the Toronto Avenue Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Belgium in 2011 while serving as Australia's Ambassador to Belgium, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Dr Nelson is well versed in the historical accounts of many Australian soldiers, and he recounted provoking stories from the frontline.

"Australia's population in 1914 was just over 4.5 million. We had a million men who were of an age that could volunteer. Of those, 417,000 did, 32,231 volunteering [were from] Western Australia. Four years later there would be almost 62,000 dead, more than 7,000 of whom were Western Australians."

On 4 August 2014, the Australian War Memorial commenced projecting the name of each one of the 62,000 fallen soldiers from the First World War Honour Roll onto the front of the Memorial just below the dome. The letters are a metre high and visible down ANZAC Parade. Each name is projected for thirty seconds on thirty occasions over four years. The Memorial's website allows you to log the name of the person in whom you have an interest into the estimator and the dates and times of projection are provided.

You can visit the site and search for a name here: <http://www.awm.gov.au/1914-1918/roll-honour-name-projections/>.

[Ricardo Hernandez, UNAAWA Vice President]

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

One World Centre—Volunteer opportunities available

DFAT's funding for the Global Education Project via the One World Centre (OWC) is no longer available. To get the Centre through the next six months or so, the assistance of volunteers will be required e.g. in the library, administration, bookkeeping, event management etc. Can you help?

For more information, contact Alison Bullock, Co-ordinator at OWC on 9371 9133; email—coordinator@oneworldcentre.org.au.

International Women's Day (IWD) Functions

- UN Women's IWD Breakfast will be held on Thursday 5 March from 7-9am.
- The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) will be holding a sparkling IWD High Tea on Friday 6 March from 3pm-5pm.

If you are interested in attending either event, please email UNAAWA's Women's Committee Convener Kristy Tyrie on womens.committee@unaa-wa.org.au or ring the office so we can consider multiple bookings/group seating.

UN IMPORTANT DATES

27 Jan	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
4 Feb	World Cancer Day
6 Feb	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
13 Feb	World Radio Day [UNESCO]
20 Feb	World Day of Social Justice
21 Feb	International Mother Language Day [UNESCO]



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Questions, comments, stories? Email Colleen Harmer at newsletter@unaa-wa.org.au