

PRESS RELEASE

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THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION USA EAST BAY CHAPTER **www.unausaeastbay.org**



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION ***MOVING THE WOMEN'S GLOBAL AGENDA FORWARD***

Saturday, March 8, 2008 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Mills College, Carnegie Hall 2nd Floor
5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland

Dr. Emily Murase, Executive Director of *San Francisco's Department on the Status of Women*, has accumulated numerous examples of how women's opportunities have advanced. Other needs and rights for women have been impeded. She's bringing her practical and legal perspectives to International Women's Day celebrations to be held from 1:00 to 5:00 at Mills College on March 8th, 2008. The public is invited to this event organized by the United Nations Association-USA of the East Bay as part of global celebrations for United Nations International Women's Day.

Recognizing that the challenges women face and how they overcome them is complex, other viewpoints will be presented that demonstrate how women can be more effectively involved:

- *Charlie Toledo*, director of the *Suscol Intertribal Council*, a strong voice in human rights and activist at United Nations meetings about the status of women;
- *Saadia Ahmed*, outreach manager for the *Ahmadiyya Muslim Community* who will address the role and agenda of women in Muslim countries; and
- *Maria Di Meglio* of Alameda's Department of Public Works, who is identifying increasing ways that women help protect the climate and reduce global warming for future generations.

Senator Barbara Boxer and the **California State Commission on the Status of Women** are among supporters of the gathering at Mills College. Senator Boxer joins **Congressional Representatives Barbara Lee and Ellen Tauscher** among Honorary Chairs. The State Commission and its Alameda County counterpart – working to advance equality, opportunities and the role of women – are among more than a dozen co-sponsors encouraging their constituents to participate on March 8th, Women's Day.

The conference will also feature a traditional *Japanese tea ceremony*, *Korean and Pakistani refreshments*, and *cultural and musical showcases from Pakistan and Japan*. Similar multi-cultural activities were a highlight of the UN Association's Women's Day gathering in 2007 and is being repeated.

Participation: \$10 donation suggested at the door, students are free.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: In 1975 the United Nations began the tradition of celebrating International Women's Day on March 8. In 1977, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution that a Day for Women's Rights and International Peace be observed by member states. In 1995, women from all over the world gathered in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women, taking a giant step forward on behalf of humankind. The United States has designated the month of March as "Women's History Month". The imperative is clear: make a difference, think globally, act locally, and do your bit to ensure that the future for all women is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.

ABOUT UNA-USA: The United Nations Association of the United States of America is a not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to building understanding of and support for the ideals and vital work of the United Nations among the people of the United States. Its educational and humanitarian campaigns allow people to make a global impact at the local level. In addition, its policy and advocacy programs stress the importance of nations working together and the need for United States positive, responsible leadership in the United Nations. The association is affiliated with the World Federation of United Nations Associations.