

### Chapter Activities 2008/2009

**Essay Contest (2008-09)** – This contest is conducted to encourage high school students to think about the problems resulting from overpopulation.

The winners were – Tai-Lun Ng (\$200 first prize), Michelle Ruan and Narah Moon (\$100 second prizes), and Kyle Wong (\$50 third prize). Winners were from Mark Keppel and Alhambra High Schools in Alhambra and Hoover High School in Glendale. We also awarded \$25 consolation prizes to all participants.

Congratulations to all winners and participants! We hope your keen interest in population and environmental issues continues!

Please feel free to contact us if you want to read the essays, we will be glad to send you a copy. Excerpts from the winning essays:

*"Aside from the environmental effects, the vast population will also affect the social, economic, and political aspects of human society. 51% of the entire human population lives in crowded urban areas and eventually, they will be scattered across the globe, filling every empty space. The populous cities will raise job competition, forcing many to be jobless. Without jobs, poverty is the next issue. More people will be living on the streets and scavenging the dumpster for food. Even the rich will find their living standards lowered, for they cannot afford lavish furniture or big houses. Environmental refugees will migrate to other areas for more resources. Every year around 25 million international environmental refugees migrate mostly from developing countries to developed countries."*

*"Yet, merely writing and talking about women empowerment as a way to solve the overpopulation crisis doesn't do any good. Everyone should start to put more effort into teaching young girls sexual education and family planning which helps them to plan ahead for the future. In 1994, the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt recognized that empowering of women was needed in order to counter overpopulation. 179 nations gathered and together, the leaders vowed to act towards reducing the gender gap in education, give more options for careers, and improve family planning services."*

**Chapter Meeting – January 31, 2009** at La Pintoresca Public Library. Chapter meeting was held and a report on chapter activities was provided. Essay Contest prizes were awarded and upcoming events were discussed. Several students and members were present and we had a lively discussion on various topics. The attendees were outspoken and enthusiastic and they pledged to volunteer in upcoming local events. Light refreshments were served.



**Neighborhood Green Fair – January 31, 2009** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pasadena. Bill and Sharon Weisman took time away from the chapter meeting and graciously volunteered to attend this event. Our booth was nestled between the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Planned Parenthood booths in a large room full of non-profit organizations. The animated film "The Story of Stuff" was playing in one building and a "bag-lady" dressed entirely in plastic grocery bags walked the grounds explaining how damaging the bags are to the environment.

The crowd was large, diverse, and receptive to the family planning message. We hope other chapter members will volunteer for similar tabling opportunities as it is so much fun to network with activists from other groups.

**Greening the Earth Day – April 25, 2009** at Memorial Park in Pasadena. We had tremendous response at this event and Sharon and Bill Weisman, Dick Seeley, Ludina Sallam, Gloria and Terry Beyer and Rajiv Garg managed the tabling. This free annual festival featured over thirty exhibits related to nature and environment, demonstrations, art workshops, food, music, fun activities, and giveaways.





**Pasadena Family Fun Day - May 23, 2009** at La Pintaosca Park in northwest Pasadena. Sharon and Bill Weisman, Dick Seeley, Elizabeth Evans, and Ludina Sallam managed the tabling. Family Fun Day features live entertainment, ethnic dances, songs, and free lunch.



**Montrose Farmer's Market** – We participate once every eight weeks in this event. Montrose Farmer's Market is held weekly (on Sundays) in Montrose (Honolulu and Ocean View). Several members (Sharon & Bill Weisman, Dick Seeley, Ludina Sallam, Elizabeth Evans, Terry & Gloria Beyer, and Rajiv Garg) manage the tabling(s). Other non-profit agencies participate along with arts, crafts, food, and produce vendors.

### Attention Teachers & Educators!

**Earth Matters – a great teaching resource** explores some of the most pressing environmental, social and economic issues of our time on an easy to use CD-ROM. Through 32 readings and 42 innovative teaching activities, secondary students can understand the complexities of population pressures, climate change, natural resource use, wildlife endangerment, distribution of wealth and food, urbanization, public health, gender equity, economic progress and how all these issues are interrelated. The CD can be ordered for \$15 at [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org).

### Treasurer's Report

#### Financial Report

#### For the Year Ended December 31, 2008

<b>Beginning Cash January 1, 2008</b>	<b>\$2,120</b>
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Donations received</b>	<u>\$ 3,017</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,017</u></b>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Essay Contest Awards</b>	\$1,100
<b>Postage</b>	\$163
<b>Printing &amp; Stationery</b>	\$389
<b>Event Expense</b>	\$751
<b>Advertising</b>	<u>\$43</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>\$2,446</u></b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>\$571</u></b>
<b>Ending Cash Dec. 31, 2008</b>	<b>\$2,691</b>

### Donors List

Francisco Alonso, Janette Arenz, Joe Bertani, Maria Fotopoulos, Evangeline Garner, Bob Gillespie, Florence Griffen, Ardashes Kassakhian, Nancy Kent, Downs and Irene McCloskey, Harry Montgomery, Garrett Paine, Ruth Peters, William Robertson, Ludina Sallam, Robert Scudder, Richard Seeley, Joel and Margie Seigle, Noreen Shanahan, Sandra Sklar, Tim Viselli, and Charles Woolf.

We thank all the anonymous donors and please let us know if we have inadvertently excluded you from the list above.



### Please Donate to the Chapter

**The Chapter does not generally receive funds from the national office.** All our activities are supported by local donations.

We will need more donations to continue these activities and initiate new projects. **This is a great opportunity for our loyal supporters to send in contributions and comments.** Please use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope. **We need your feedback!**

### Population Conference in Uganda

By Ludina Sallam

Breakfasting at elegant Julienne's in San Marino last November I bumped into Bob Gillespie. He was an acquaintance of my mother, working on population issues for several decades, and now runs a group called "Population Communication." He said he would soon be traveling to Uganda for an international population conference, so I said--great--can I ask you about it when you get back?

I learned from Bob that this three day conference - *Partners in Population and Development* is held annually in different countries and this year (2008) it was held in a hotel in Kampala, Uganda under strict security. 500 delegates and heads of national family planning programs from 23 countries participated. The conference was conducted in English with simultaneous translation in Chinese and French. The president of Uganda gave an opening speech. Achieving population stabilization, public health, and family planning were discussed. One of the major findings discussed was that the African populations have increased 3-4 times, half of the population is below age 17, and that it is a major challenge to achieve stabilization and prevent famine. Therefore, a major focus was how to replicate the success that has occurred in Asia and the Middle East. Bob added that Uganda is beautiful and its people friendly.

Bob's Pasadena-based group - Population Communication helps governments design health and family planning programs with the mission of achieving population stabilization. A report he sent me related to the conference contained the following information:

- Population Communication will be preparing a comprehensive report for "World Population Day" on July 11, 2009 using information from representatives from Nigeria, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and from various government and non-government agencies in Philippines, Egypt and India that detail their population programs
- During the last 50 years, governments and private sector have established programs for

reproductive health and family planning under the universally accepted idea that people should have the opportunity to have children when they are wanted. Even though fertility rate of 2.2-2.3 children per woman will eventually result in stabilization, the growth momentum is large when half the people are under age 17

An example of this concept is China, which has a rate of only 1.6 children per woman—yet it still adds 524,000 new people each month!

- Some examples of current fertility rates are: Taiwan-1.1; Hong Kong-1.0; Thailand-1.6; Morocco-2.4; Turkey-2.2; Iran-2.1; Mexico-2.3; Egypt-3.1; Philippines-3.3; and Bangladesh-2.7. India adds 1.5 million people each month. In Sub-Saharan Africa the average is 5.4.

- Key elements of successful programs to stabilize population are - access to primary health care, family planning for adolescents, increasing marriage age, committed leadership, good training for health providers, social marketing, field workers bringing services to doorsteps, media campaigns, literacy programs, women's clubs, and business credit. He noted that there is extensive (collective) experience and skilled resources available for training and mobilizing many participants in these concepts. Of course, each country and region varies a lot in the actions needed. Good timetables, goals and financing are essential.

Finally, he noted that 75 heads of countries have signed the "Statement of Population Stabilization."

### Chapter Contacts

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### Be Proud of Affecting Change!

We are in search of chapter officers for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. This is a great opportunity to be part of the change and feel really good about affecting change!

The time commitment is minimal and you will get a chance to interact and work with a group of dedicated and talented volunteers. We are also planning to extend our activities in the greater Los Angeles area - we need your support!

Please contact one of the chapter officers for details, we look forward to hearing from you!

## Chairman's Note

In today's world, populated by nearly 7 billion people and growing at a rate over 800 million a decade, over 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Over 2 million people, mostly children, die annually from water borne diseases. Isn't clean, safe and affordable water not only a necessity, but a fundamental right? Are we abridging that right?

Let's take a look at California, for example, the sixth largest economy in the world, where millions of people lack safe drinking water. Many thousands more live in the path of flood waters, fish in polluted waterways, and swim at sewage-contaminated beaches.

Government and/or corporate water policies deny equitable access to the ecological, social, economic or political resources necessary for a given community's health and prosperity. According to the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW), about 75% of the water wells in Tulare County are polluted from decades of unregulated agricultural runoff, discharges from large dairies, food processing plants, and community sewage systems. Central and Salinas Valley communities pay for tap water they can't use while being forced to purchase bottled water. Economic inequities exist! In Tooleville, a poor Central Valley Farm

community, water is unsafe, but in nearby wealthy Exeter, drinking water is fine. Additionally, requests for Public Utility Commission (PUC) hearings and meetings have been denied and requests for written materials in Spanish have been rejected until some Tulare County towns forced the District Board to provide translation. And the demands of work, family needs and transportation costs keep most Californians away from PUC hearings in distant San Francisco.

In general, water policy is aggravated by a complicated, fragmented system of water regulation and control as well as a maze of water districts, obscure agencies, and powerful corporations that manage water through networks that prevent the public from having a voice in decisions that directly affect them. With increasing population, along with its negative environmental aspects, water justice must create and maintain a participatory system of water governance as well as community-based forms of management and regulation. It should also maintain a public oriented system of water conservation and create more grey water recycling facilities. As we all know, water, clean water, is an absolute necessity for all forms of life to exist on this planet.

Visit [www.donation.populationconnection.org/chapters/pasadena/pgs](http://www.donation.populationconnection.org/chapters/pasadena/pgs)



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