

# INTERNATIONAL HOUSE·DAVIS

10 College Park, Davis, CA 95616

(530) 753-5007

[www.internationalhousedavis.org](http://www.internationalhousedavis.org)

**March 2009**



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## Annual Auction on March 7



The board of directors at International House Davis invites members of the public to support the non-profit by attending its 8th annual auction on Saturday, March 7.

Tickets for a dinner and live auction are \$20 available at I-House, 10 College Park, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets at the door will be \$25.

A buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with a live auction beginning at 7 p.m. Auctioneers are the I-House president, Sean Duggan, and longtime I-House supporter and a former mayor, Maynard Skinner.

"They will be auctioning off vacation homes, airplane rides, cases of wine and more," said Elisabeth Sherwin, executive director. "This is always a fun evening and we welcome your participation," she added.

International House recently provided the venue for a standing-room-only panel discussion about the war in the Middle East, and offers language classes, dance classes, story-telling, art receptions and more designed to bring international visitors and Davis residents together.

More than 600 Davis residents and international visitors are members of International House ([www.internationalhousedavis.org](http://www.internationalhousedavis.org)). Please join us on March 7.

## Learn about Sahaya's work in India



Join us on Sunday, March 29, at 3 p.m. in the Community Room when Koen Van Rompay and Ramin Yazdani, both of Davis, will talk about their recent trip to India.

Van Rompay, founder of Sahaya International ([www.sahaya.org](http://www.sahaya.org)) and a member of the board directors of I-House, recently returned from his annual trip to rural India. He will share new photographs that highlight the progress that has been made this past year thanks to the support of many Davis residents and members of International House.

"It was very touching to see all progress being made in our village including two schools that have been or are being

built plus 140 children who are sponsored by many people in Davis," he said. "We also saw many HIV-infected children who thanks to our fundraising activities are now looking a lot healthier and stronger. Thanks go to our many local supporters, I hope they know they are making a huge difference."

Yazdani, an environmental engineer in Davis, is also a Sahaya volunteer. While in India he taught a solar cooker workshop to the field staff. They said it opened their eyes to this form of environmentally clean technology. In addition, as part of his business trip he visited many waste dump sites in India (including in Mumbai) and has stories of children and families that will definitely remind you of the movie 'Slumdog Millionaire,' but also speaks to the possibilities that we can explore on how we can help such children.

Learn how your donations to Sahaya have been making a difference...or come to learn how you can get involved. Join us on March 29 at 3 p.m.



“Very Yellow Man” by Anna Skacel

## Upcoming Events at International

### Monday, March 2

Docents' Present Humphrey Fellow Meena Kunwar Adhikari of Tibet speaking on forestry, climate change and community development. Docents will meet at 11:30 a.m., the talk will begin at noon sharp. Come hear this fascinating speaker. Free, public invited.

### Thursday, March 5

Amnesty International will meet in the Lounge at I-House at 7 p.m. in a meeting led by Cate Klepacki.

### Friday, March 6

Tonight's international movie is "Train Man" from Japan. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Movie starts at 8 p.m. sharp. Donations appreciated.

### Saturday, March 7

**Annual Auction/Dinner** to raise money for International House. This year, we will feature a live auction only (no silent auction) and a delicious dinner. We are looking forward to seeing an enthusiastic audience bid on vacation homes and trips with our ace auctioneer, Sean Duggan, once again working his magic. Tickets for the dinner/auction are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

### Sunday, March 8

The International Storytelling Program features Robert Greygrass telling Native American tales and playing his cedar flute. Doors open at 1:45 p.m., the program will begin at 2 p.m.

### Friday, March 13

An art reception for photographer Anna Skacel and Bob Horowitz will take place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at International House. The title of Anna Skacel's show is "Eyes Opened Wide..." She says: "The adventure and the challenge of putting ourselves, however temporarily, in another place and a different way of life, can transform any person who makes themselves available to such opportunities. As photographers, we seek to share what we have seen and learned with others, in the hope that they too, will have their eyes opened wide."

### Friday, March 20

Tonight's international movie is "Vitus" from Switzerland. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Movie starts at 8 p.m. sharp. Donations appreciated.

### Sunday, March 29

Koen Van Rompay will give a program on the non-profit he founded, Sahaya International, at 3 p.m. in the Community Room. He will show slides of his most recent trip to Southern India and will introduce you to the children there being saved from lives of poverty and even death due to AIDS. Davis resident Ramin Yazdani also traveled to India with Van Rompay. Free, public invited.

## Storytelling for March 8 features Robert Greygrass

The March 8 Children's International Storytelling Program will feature a Native American storyteller in the Community Room at International House, 10 College Park from 2 to 3 p.m. Doors open at 1:45 p.m.

Robert Greygrass is coming to Davis to tell Lakota stories and to play his cedar flute and sing for the audience.

He is an award-winning storyteller, actor, writer, producer, wellness coach and sun dancer. He is Lakota, French and Creole and has spent many years listening to the Elders, learning the Lakota language, and working with the American Indian Cultural Center. A working SAG actor who lives in Hollywood, he pursues voice-over, film and TV, and is an active company member of Native Voices at the Autry.

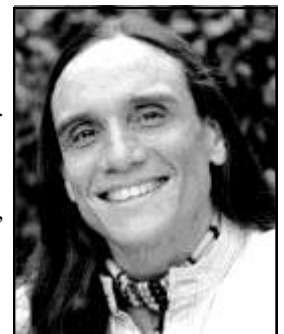
He tours internationally with his one-man plays, and for 15 years has toured and performed at story-telling festivals, theaters, and universities. He has worked with at-risk youth on reservations, schools, summer camps and shelters.

Each storytelling event is open to the public. There is no charge for International House members. The suggested donation for non-members is \$2 per person or \$5 per family.

One Sunday afternoon per month from September through June children age 4 through 10 with an accompanying adult enjoy storytelling performances with an international content. This is one of the myriad activities offered at I-House for adults and children.

"Many thanks go to Shirley German and Ann Gunion and their volunteers for the wonderful programs they put on," said Elisabeth Sherwin, executive director.

For further details, send an e-mail to [chips@internationalhousedavis.org](mailto:chips@internationalhousedavis.org) or go to [www.internationalhousedavis.org](http://www.internationalhousedavis.org). For more information on this performer, see [http://www.turtleislandstorytellers.net/tis\\_oregon/transcript\\_r\\_greygrass.htm](http://www.turtleislandstorytellers.net/tis_oregon/transcript_r_greygrass.htm)



Robert Greygrass

## International Film Series offers special films for international foodies



On the first and third Fridays of the month, autumn through spring, an International Film Series is shown at I-House. The series is sponsored by the United Nations Association of Davis and International House. There is no charge but donations are welcomed and gratefully accepted to help cover the cost of video/DVD rental, facilities use, cups, plates and the generously donated refreshments that are served at 7:30 p.m. The movie will begin promptly at 8 p.m., please arrive on time.

"Special thanks go to Verena Borton who has arranged for two films that will help celebrate our Annual Conference theme of global food," said Elisabeth Sherwin, executive director. Join us on April 3 for "Big Night" and on April 17 for "Ratatouille," fun food-themed films to tie in with the April 25 International House Annual Conference that this year will celebrate food from around the world in an event called "Fun Food Fest: What's on Your Plate?" Additionally, the two movies to be shown this month are:

**March 6: "Train Man"** (Densha Otoko) (2005, Japan, directed by Shosuke Murakami, 101 min.) Based on an incident that supposedly really happened ("urban myth" comes to mind), this slightly bizarre romantic comedy revolves around a "geek" or "otoko" (Takayuki Yamada) who happens to save a young woman (Miki Nakatani) on a commuter train from harassment by a drunk. After giving their report at the police station, they exchange contact information. Shortly afterward the woman, Hermés, sends him a fancy thank-you gift – and the idea of romance takes off. Having no social experience, our hero turns to his chat room friends to ask for advice on every detail of the relationship he hopes to develop. Densha Otoko is a popular example of the "nice guy" class of Japanese geeks who wish to lead normal lives, but are too shy to find a girlfriend, or to speak openly anywhere but online. In a startling depiction of modern communication we see messages texted right onto the screen and see that Train Man can't manage without his cell phone or directions from his virtual friends. Definitely a sign of the times. (#258)

**March 20: "Vitus"** (2006, Switzerland, directed by Fredi Murer, 120 min.) As a piano prodigy and mathematical genius who loves to read an encyclopedia while his kindergarten classmates are fingerpainting, the fictional Vitus (played as a 6-year-old by Fabrizio Borsani and as a 12-year-old by real life prodigy Teo Gheorghiu) is pushed to perform by his hearing aid inventor Swiss father (Urs Jucker) and English mother (Julika Jenkins). The parents nurture his talents but in their obsession with his achievements deny him the joys of a normal childhood. Fortunately Vitus gets to spend time with his understanding grandfather, played by Bruno Ganz, who lets him be a kid and shares with him his dream of flying. Vitus also loves to spend time with his baby sitter (Kristina Lykova and later Tamara Scarpellini) who is the girl of his dreams. Against the backdrop of a great soundtrack this comic fairytale chronicles this gifted child's trials and the way he deals with them. Children who can read the subtitles would probably enjoy this film. (#259)

The April movies will conclude the 12th consecutive year of the International Film Series at I-House. Many thanks go to Ray and Verena Borton, Guy and Akemi Turner and Koen Van Rompay.

## 2009 Annual Conference to focus on food



Members of I-House and members of the public are invited to International House's 2009 Annual Conference: "Fun Food Fest: What's on your plate?"

"While we usually focus on a country or a region at our annual conferences, this year we decided to take a look at a broader concept – food—specifically the characteristics that geography impart to food," said Elisabeth Sherwin, executive director.

Terroir is originally a French term used to denote the special characteristics that geography, the study of the earth -- its lands, features, inhabitants, and experiences, have bestowed upon wine, coffee and tea contributing to the distinctive qualities of these foods.

This year, I-House proposes to apply this theme at the upcoming 2009 Annual Conference, "Fun Food Fest: What's on your plate?"

The date for this year's conference at I-House will be Saturday, April 25 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mark your calendars now and join us as we celebrate and savor the terroir of food.

For further information about this event or to volunteer for the day of the event, please contact: Shirley German at [sgerman@internationalhousedavis.org](mailto:sgerman@internationalhousedavis.org).



## Gift memberships are a great idea

Thanks go to Dale Heckman who not only renewed his International House membership but paid for a gift membership to a longtime colleague.

Heckman paid for a membership for Angelika V. Grigorian of Sacramento who is originally from Russia in the Caucasus region (Vladikavkas).

For more than 17 years she has worked professionally in Sacramento as a college instructor, translator, interpreter, and evaluator of academic credentials from Eastern Europe and the Philippines. She earned two degrees from Russia, including a master's degree in linguistics. In this country, he said, she has gained a fine grasp of our state-oriented system of higher education.

"This is a lovely way to support International House and we welcome Ms. Grigorian," said Elisabeth Sherwin, executive director. "I urge other members to sign up their friends for gift memberships. This is particularly important during this time of recession when memberships are down but the services that I-House provides are more important than ever."

You can pick up membership forms in the I-House lounge or turn to page 5 in this newsletter.

## Thank you, members, for your generous support of I-House.

The following have recently donated \$100 or more:

**Memberships:**

- Robert Avalos
- Jocelyn and James Morris
- Evelyne and Richard Rominger

**End of Year contribution:**

- Verena and Ray Borton

**General donation:**

- Carolyn and Dean Cliver

**2009 Annual Auction sponsors:**

- Davis Food Co-Op
- Tandem Properties
- Sodexo at UC Davis
- Seth Masarik Catering

**Harlem Ambassadors Fundraiser sponsors:**

- Sean Duggan and Andrea Bjorklund
- Elisabeth Sherwin
- Howard G. Schutz
- Hamza El - Nakhil and Assoc.



Thank you to all who responded to the recent reminder to renew their memberships. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership for 2008-2009. Take a moment to complete and mail the Membership Form included in the newsletter. We rely on and value your continued support especially during this recession.

## Docents Presents:

Ms. Meena Kunwar Adhikari



Meena Kunwar Adhikari, a Hubert H. Humphrey fellow visiting Davis from Nepal, will give a talk to International House Davis docents and members of the public on Monday, March 2 at noon sharp.

Adhikari's interests are wide-ranging and interconnected. She is interested in forestry, climate change and community development. "Please join us on Monday, March 2 for what is sure to be an interesting talk on a great topic," said Elisabeth Sherwin, executive director of I-House.

Docents will meet at 11:30 a.m. for a short business meeting before the lecture. Refreshments will be served.

## Basketball on May 11

More information will be disseminated widely in the coming weeks and months about our exciting new fundraiser, which will pit the Davis All-Stars against the Harlem Ambassadors in a basketball game taking place at Davis High School on Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m. Tickets at \$7 will go on sale soon and the identity of the Davis All-Stars team membership also will be revealed! Stay tuned.... For information, phone I-House at (530) 753-5007.



# INTERNATIONAL HOUSE · DAVIS

10 College Park, Davis, CA 95616  
 (530) 753-5007 (530) 759-8155 - Fax



International House • Davis promotes respect and appreciation for all people and cultures. We encourage a global community by providing many opportunities for cross-cultural interaction and exchange.

I-House • Davis in a non-profit, community-based organization whose activities are largely supported by membership dues and donations. All contributions to I-House are tax deductible.



I-House is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
 Federal Tax ID #94-2822-342.  
 Contributions are tax deductible.

**NON-PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**Permit No. 147**  
**Davis, CA 95616**

**Language Groups** You can join these conversation-based classes at any time! Contact instructors directly for the latest information about meeting dates and times. You may attend the first class for free, thereafter, I-House memberships are appreciated (student: \$20, individuals: \$40). If you are interested in teaching a class, contact I-House at (530) 753-5007.

CLASS	DAY & TIME	INSTRUCTORS
English Diction English Diction	Mon 9:45-11:20 am Thurs 1-3 pm	Lee Bixson: leebixson@comcast.net
English-Speaking Salon English-Speaking Salon English-Speaking Salon	Mon 6-7 pm Thu 5:30-6:30 pm Fri 5:30-6:30 pm	Kathy Phung: kathy.phung@gmail.com Katie Webber: kewebber@ucdavis.edu Kathi Hickey: kathihickey@yahoo.com
French	Wed 10 a.m.	Leiti Truong: laprovence@sbcglobal.net
German	Wed 6-7 pm	Paul Grant: pwgrant@mac.com
Italian	Wed 7:30-9:00 pm	Mike Hoffman: mahoffman@ucdavis.edu
Japanese, Beg. (off-site so check with instructor)	-	Amy Sakabe: amysakabe@yahoo.com
Spanish-Speaking Salon	Tues 6:30-8pm	Julita: jledesm@att.net
Turkish, Inter. Turkish, Beg.	Mon 6:30-8:00 pm Thur 7-8:30 pm	Ali Ercan: aercan@ucdavis.edu Erol Layikte: elayikte@me.com
Arabic	Wed 6:30 pm	Rihab al-Shamari and Ali Mehdi: contact Ali at Aalamehdi@ucdavis.edu

\*If you want to practice or learn **Vietnamese**, contact Tanh: tnqu@ucdavis.edu

\*If you want to learn **Korean**, contact Marie: mhympark@gmail.com

**Regular Meetings at I-House**

**Amnesty International** - 1st Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. Contact: Cate (415) 734-8323

**Connections** - Wednesdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Meet friends and share information about life in Davis. Children welcome!

**Connections** - Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Contact: Anesiades Leonard (530) 756-3188