



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

Northern Colorado Chapter

January-February 2010

Volume 6, Number 1

UPCOMING EVENTS:

UNA Public Meeting. Saturday, 16 Jan, 2:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect Rd, in the choir room, Dr. Michele Betsill will present, *The Future of Multilateralism for Climate Change: Reflections from Copenhagen* (see *Reflections*, page 2)

Namaqua Forum, Loveland Lecture Series. Sunday 31 Jan, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ferguson High School, 1101 Hill Top Drive, Loveland. Professor Scott Denning will present *Climate Change: How it works, how to fix it and what it means about us*. Free and open to the public – More information contact patpmcvey@msn.com.

UNA Public Meeting. Sunday, 21 Feb, 2:00 p.m. at the Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Ave. Fort Collins. Former Ambassador Tom Miller and the new President and CEO of UNA/USA will speak (see *UNA/USA President*, page 3). *Note date and time change from previous announcements.*

Atlantic Regional Conference & UNA/USA Members Day. Friday, 19 Feb, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, United Nations HQ, New York. A Year of Crises: Opportunities for Change. UNA/USA members welcome. See announcement, page 3.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Our UNA Chapter had a very successful 2009. The list of accomplishments is too long to list here but suffice it to say we **are** making a difference in our community when it comes to knowledge of and attitude toward our United Nations. I look forward to another productive year working with all of you.

We have two very good programs lined up for our January and February meetings. You won't want to miss what Dr. Michele Betsill has to say about her experiences at the Copenhagen Conference.

On Sunday, February 21 (note, not our usual Saturday afternoon time) we will be hosting our new United Nations Association President, Ambassador Tom Miller.

He spent 29 years in the US Foreign Service, working on policy issues in the Balkans, the Middle East and Southeast Asia and serving as ambassador to Greece and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as a Cyprus negotiator... He recently served as the chief executive of Plan International, a \$650 million, 72-year-old agency that focuses on children's lives in

developing countries. His resume is long and impressive. Please do come to this special program and bring your friends. We are fortunate to be able to bring Ambassador Miller to Fort Collins. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

At our Annual meeting in December, one of our members, Dave Roberts, handed me some copies of interesting United Nations memorabilia. Dave's father was at one of the earliest United Nations General Assemblies on April 28 held in Flushing New York. He was one of only 300 people out of 20,000 applications to get a ticket.

Dave has a copy of this ticket and a copy of a letter to Trygve Lie, Secretary General, from Saudi Minister Asad Al-Faqih requesting that the following item be put on the Agenda of the Special Session convening on April 28th, 1947: "*The termination of the mandate over Palestine and the declaration of its independence.*" Dave's newspaper clippings from the next day show that the US and Britain deferred any decision and called for the problem to be taken up by a fact-finding committee. I found this to be fascinating. I will make some copies and have them at our next meeting for anyone interested.

Again, I would like to recommend that you subscribe to the UN Wire (see *Free UN E-Publications*, page 6) and also, do take a look at the United Nations Information Center, Washington DC website: www.unicwash.org. There is much good information at these sites so I do not feel the need to repeat it here.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy New Year.

Eleanor Dwight, President
UNA/USA, Northern Colorado

WHAT IS YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

In going about our daily lives, each of us contributes to the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change. The choices we make in our homes, our travel, our food, what we buy and throw away all influence our carbon footprint.

Nature Conservancy has developed a **Carbon Footprint Calculator** that estimates how many tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses (GHGs) our choices create each year.

Calculate your impact on our climate at: <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/>.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

Get-Acquainted Gathering: A small group of new, long-time, and prospective members gathered at Eleanor Dwight's home on Nov 21. There are some very interesting people associated with our Chapter, and this is a good way to find out about them. The Membership Committee plans to have one of these events in the spring and another in the fall.

New Members: Please welcome Ann Louise and Michael Diamond as new members. Please note them in your new Membership Booklet. E-mail address: annlouisediamond@yahoo.com.

Deceased Member: Donna Bischoff died in the fall. She had not been able to attend meetings, but her dues, contributions, and interest in the Newsletter were appreciated.

New Membership Booklet: Our Chapter's list of members and friends and contact information was updated in November. **Thanks to Pat Ciesla** for her work in getting the text properly laid out. Copies were given out at the Annual Meeting, and we will have them available at our January and February meetings as well. We hope to avoid postage costs, so come to those meetings and pick up your booklet! Be sure to take only the one that has your name written on the cover, because written by your name is the date when your dues become due. If you should find an error in the booklet, please let Margaret Smith know so we can issue a correction.

We hope you will find the membership booklet a useful place to write down names of new members and other changing information about the Chapter. For instance: At the time we had to go to press, the nomination for Secretary had not been confirmed. Please write in on the list of officers and nominees (at the end of the list of names of members) that **Debbie Hamilton** is Secretary. You may want to tuck the full Board list into your membership booklet.

Dues, Contributions, and Forms: The New York office of UNA-USA will send you a renewal notice when it's close to the time your dues are due. That office also sends out requests for contributions. When you renew your dues, please be sure to use the dues renewal form. If dues are sent with only a contribution form, the money is credited as a contribution but not as dues. This could result in your being dropped from the national membership list. If you wish to make a contribution along with your dues, there's a place on the membership/renewal form to indicate that. If you want to make a contribution to our Chapter directly, please do that with a separate check written to **Northern Colorado Chapter, UNA-USA** and give it to Chapter Treasurer Don Heyse.

Magic Number: If all members whose dues were due at the end of September and the end of December paid on time, my records indicate that we

are just at the **100-Member** mark. We would like to continue our award-winning growth rate, so please introduce friends to the UNA. And thanks to all you faithful members!

Margaret Smith and Mary Wolfe, Membership Co-Chairs.

JANUARY CONTACT PERSON: Margaret expects to be out of town from January 10-26 or so. If you have membership questions, please ask Mary Wolfe, Lizzie1@greeleynet.com. Thanks!

REFLECTIONS FROM COPENHAGEN



On Saturday, January 16, Dr. Michele Betsill will speak on her experiences at the Copenhagen UN Conference on Climate Change. Her presentation is "*The Future of Multilateralism for Climate Change: Reflections from Copenhagen.*"

Dr Betsill is an Associate Professor of Political Science as well as founder and co-leader of the *Environmental Governance Working*

Group at CSU. She is also an affiliate of the Center for Multi-Scale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes. Dr. Betsill teaches courses in international relations, global environmental politics and qualitative research methods. Her research focuses on global environmental governance, with particular emphasis on the politics of climate change. She is the author of several books, including *Cities and Climate Change: Urban Sustainability and Global Environmental Governance* and *NGO Diplomacy: The Influence of Nongovernmental Organizations in International Environmental Negotiations*. Dr. Betsill serves on the editorial boards of *Global Environmental Politics and Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*. She is a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Earth System Governance project, a core project of the International Human Dimensions Program on Global Environmental Change.

The meeting will be at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect, in the choir room from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

UNA-USA'S IOWA DIVISION IN COPENHAGEN

UNA-USA's Iowa Division (Iowa UNA) sponsored a delegation at the 15th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December. The delegation included 30 professors, graduate and undergraduate students from Drake; Grinnell; Iowa State University; Rice, University of Iowa and Wartburg College. Student members were chosen through a competitive process based on their academic achievements and community-program proposals. Information on their experiences is available at www.unausa.org/cop15delegation.

UNA/USA PRESIDENT & CEO TO SPEAK

On Sunday, 21 February, the UNA Public Meeting will feature President and CEO of UNA-USA, Former Ambassador Tom Miller. Prior to joining UNA-USA in May 2009, Miller served as the chief executive of Plan International, where he was responsible for the coordination and management of the agency's operations in 49 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.



Previously, Miller spent 29 years in the US Foreign Service. He was named ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999 and ambassador to Greece from 2001-2004. During his Foreign Service career, he concentrated on counterterrorism, focusing particularly on domestic terrorism and security during the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Miller founded the Model United Nations program in Washington, DC, in 1993 and created a similar Model UN organization in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He initiated the Community Service Network for local and American volunteers at US embassies in Sarajevo and Athens and personally participated in rebuilding homes and refurbishing buildings for refugees and disabled children in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Athens. He also helped found the Athens chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

The meeting will be held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Ave. Fort Collins. Everyone is welcome. Please join us!

BEFRIEND AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT!

Approximately 90% of international students who come to study in the United States never set foot inside an American home. The Fort Collins International Center has developed and organized an **International Friends Program** to bring together members of the Fort Collins community and international students. Community adults, whether singles or families, are paired with foreign students and scholars according to mutual interests. This program provides the opportunity to make friendships across the world—friendships that often last for years.

The CSU international student body hails from over 90 countries, with Saudi Arabia, China, India, Korea, Taiwan, and Japan being top-sending countries. In the fall, their international community totaled 1,500.

Hosts do not provide housing; hosts provide hospitality that makes an international newcomer's stay in Fort Collins memorable.

Students appreciate the family support structure that they miss while away from home. Community friends are encouraged to include the foreign student(s) in family activities (e.g., birthday parties, holidays). Children in the family have a marvelous opportunity to learn about the rest of the world.

For more information on the program or to obtain an application to become an International Friend, visit www.fortcollinsinternationalcenter.org or contact: Layla (232-9691) or Jean Griswold (484-5954).

Atlantic Regional Conference and UNA-USA Members' Day

Friday, February 19, 2010
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

United Nations Headquarters, New York
(The UN building opens to the public at 9:00 a.m. and all visitors are required to go through a security check.)

The 2010 conference theme:

A Year of Crises: Opportunities for Change

will feature the following panels:

***Afghanistan: From Ramping Up to the Exit Ramp
Hitting the Reset Button on the Global Economy
Turning Back the Bomb: Hard Cases and Grand
Designs***

*UNA-USA Members are welcome to bring a friend
to this FREE of CHARGE event*

To download a flyer for this event, click [here](#).

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

While it may not have garnered national headlines, 2009 saw the United States take significant strides toward re-defining its diplomatic role in the world.

For the first time, the US ran for election to the world's most prominent human rights body, the *UN Human Rights Council*, and easily won a seat. The US ended its self-induced exile from the world's first permanent international court for mass atrocity crimes, the *International Criminal Court* (ICC). And the President and Congress provided over \$700 million to pay UN arrears and funding shortfalls, finally fulfilling the most basic obligation of UN membership--paying our dues.

These historic accomplishments demonstrate a renewed commitment to active and responsible U.S. participation in international organizations, which help the United States share the burden of promoting international stability and prosperity.

And **you helped make it happen** with your letters and meetings, phone calls and e-mails.

Thank you for all your dedication and support!

The UNA-USA Advocacy Team

CONVENTION ON ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Thirty years ago, the United Nations adopted a landmark treaty providing a comprehensive framework for promoting and protecting women's rights. Since then, the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* has been ratified by almost every country in the world. It has become, in the words of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, "a transformative force" and "one of the most successful human rights treaties ever."

Sadly, the United States is the **only** country in the world that has signed, but not ratified, CEDAW, undermining our credibility as a self-proclaimed global human rights leader. Fortunately, the Obama Administration is committed to ratification of CEDAW. A successful push for ratification, however, will require a determined effort by the President.

Thirty years is too long - it's time for the U.S. to lead by example! It's time for action on CEDAW. Help strengthen America's voice in support of women's rights by urging President Obama to make a proactive push for CEDAW ratification. [ACT NOW by clicking here.](#)

In addition, please urge Senators Bennet and Udall to act on this issue.

For more information about CEDAW, visit: www.womenstreaty.org.

UN AT WORK: UN opens Biodiversity Year with plea to save world's life-supporting ecosystems

In a bid to curb the unprecedented loss of the world's species due to human activity—at a rate put at 1,000 times the natural progression – the UN is marking 2010 as the **International Year of Biodiversity**, with a slew



of events highlighting the vital role the phenomenon plays in maintaining the life support system on Planet Earth.

"Humans are part of nature's rich diversity and have the power to protect or destroy it," the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) said in summarizing the Year's main message. "Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us all with health, wealth, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on."

The official launch will be in Berlin on 11 Jan. This will be followed on 21 and 22 Jan by a high-profile meeting at the Paris headquarters of the UNESCO, which is expected to bring together heads of state and royalty. A host of other events will follow in venues around world, from Norway, to India, from Qatar, to Colombia, and from Shanghai, to Nairobi, culminating in a high-level meeting at UN HQ in New York at the start of the General Assembly.

THANK YOU FOR URGING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT THE ICC

Thanks to UNA-USA member advocacy, the US has taken a first step toward reengagement with the International Criminal Court (ICC). As UNA-USA staff members prepared for the opening of the Eighth Session of the ICC's Assembly of States Parties (ASP) in November, we were thrilled that the United States will also be represented at the meeting. It marked the first time the US has participated in ICC meetings since 2001.

This session was an important preparatory meeting for next year's Review Conference, which will deal with important issues of interest to the US, including possible amendments dealing with war crimes and activating the Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression. If the US had not decided to attend, it would have missed out on an important opportunity to share its views and shape the agenda for the Review Conference.

This new development in US-ICC policy was brought about in part by the action of UNA-USA members. In October, UNA-USA members sent almost 2,000 messages to the Obama administration in response to an advocacy alert calling on the US to go to this meeting. In July, over 700 UNA-USA members responded to an advocacy alert calling on President Obama to engage with the ICC. These numbers do not include all of the letters that UNA-USA members and others copied and distributed at events and sent by mail.

Your tireless advocacy on this issue was effective, and we join you in celebrating this major success. Thank you and we hope you will continue to take action with UNA-USA on this issue.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Luibov Grechen, Director of Membership, National Membership Department, UNA-USA, at 212-907-1328 or lgrechen@unausa.org.

THE UN AT WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

At the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, Dec 2007, 187 countries agreed to launch a two-year process of formal negotiations on strengthening international efforts to address the problem of global warming. Key issues under the Bali Action Plan are taking action to adapt to the negative consequences of climate change; devising ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; finding ways to deploy climate-friendly technology; and financing adaptation and mitigation measures. **Mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing** have since become the four key building blocks for strengthening the global response to climate change. These form the basis for hundreds of UN programs and initiatives, such as:

Our World 2.0—a web-magazine produced by the United Nations University, the academic think tank of the UN. The project features compelling articles and 6-minute videos about the global challenges of our times: climate change, oil and food security. *Our World 2.0* speaks to the general public and shares stories on how and why we can re-make this world into a newer, better version. *Our World 2.0* is online at <http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/>. The site is supported by video channels on YouTube and Vimeo

Many Strong Voices Program—brings together a unique group of partners from the Arctic and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to ensure the well-being, security and sustainability of coastal communities in response to ongoing and anticipated climate change. The long-term goal is to bring together local, national and regional stakeholders to share and enhance knowledge and expertise about, and to collaboratively devise strategic solutions to, the challenges confronting coastal communities in these regions as a result of climate change.

Analysis of the role of nuclear energy in sustainable development and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with national experts, international research institutes and intergovernmental orgs, routinely analyzes the role of nuclear energy in sustainable development and GHG mitigation in IAEA member States. Results are documented and disseminated in a series of booklets and publications.

Monitoring and assessment of carbon impacts on the oceans—to assess the role of the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by the oceans and its impacts and role in mitigating climate change.

Marine Isotopic Records and Models to Assess Climate Change engages in activities to develop and validate ocean circulation models and to coordinate associated isotopic climate change studies with other organizations to increase understanding of ocean acidification.

Nuclear and isotopic application to quantify ocean carbon cycling and Isotopic studies of nutrient dynamics and algal blooms use nuclear tools to assess the absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by the oceans as well as the potential future impacts of ocean acidification on fisheries and aquaculture industries in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific, Mediterranean, and Europe regions.

Small Grants Program, 4th Operational Phase—to secure global environmental benefits in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation, and phasing out of persistent organic pollutants through community-based initiatives and action.

Community-Based Disaster Preparedness—Skill- and knowledge-building for communities exposed to natural hazards and extreme weather events to guard against loss of lives and livelihoods during and after disasters. Activities include emergency task force formation, planning evacuation routes, school-based programming, and distribution of family and child survival kits.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (UN-REDD Program)—The forestry sector, mainly through deforestation, accounts for about 17% of global greenhouse gas emissions. In 2008, UNEP developed the UN-REDD Program to address these challenges. Administered through UNDP's Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, the Program was officially launched on 24 September 2008.

Food security monitoring and early warning systems—Early warning systems help communities understand and anticipate shocks, including those spurred by climate change, enhance preparedness and response. World Food Program (WFP) assists governments in putting in place and in strengthening these systems at the national level. WFP also co-chairs the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Sub-Working Group on Emergency Preparedness and Contingency.

Aviation data collection and dissemination—Operations statistics are collected and forecasts are produced, including for jet fuel consumption/CO₂. A database of State-level jet fuel consumption is being prepared to help quantify the contribution of aviation to climate change.

Capacity building for humanitarian response—UN Population Fund is conducting training and capacity building workshops at the country level for humanitarian response to natural disasters, including climate change related events. The workshops focus on resource mobilization and contingency planning for a wide array of emergencies, including storms and weather patterns associated with climate change.

Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)—An internationally coordinated system to meet national and international needs for climate and climate-related observations. It is designed to provide comprehensive information on the total climate system, involving a multidisciplinary range of physical, chemical and biological properties; and atmospheric, oceanic, hydrologic, cryospheric, and terrestrial processes.

Online Inventory of UN System Activities on Climate Change—database on the wide array of UN activities underway in response to the global climate change challenge. Check it out for more information at <http://www.un.org/climatechange/projectsearch/>.

THE UN AT WORK: Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (SAFE)

In December, the UN launched a pilot project to provide fuel-efficient stoves to some 150,000 women in Sudan and Uganda to cut the risks of murder and rape they face in gathering firewood. SAFE stoves will reach eventually up to 6 million refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and returnees in 36 nations.

HELP STRENGTHEN UNA-USA ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Please help strengthen UNA-USA's voice in support of the United Nations by spreading the word about our E-Action Alerts. Note the following links to UNA-USA's important advocacy work:

E-Action Alerts Sign Up:

<http://capwiz.com/unausa/mlm/>

Web stickers:

<http://capwiz.com/unausa/remotecoment/>

RSS Feeds:

<http://capwiz.com/unausa/remotecoment/?action=RSS>

WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

Coming Soon---Our own web site! Our web site is being "built" by a talented student from CSU. So far it looks great!! Now when people ask you, "What's your web site?" You will have an answer. Watch for the "unveiling."

Past issues of the Newsletter are archived at:

UNA, Northern Colorado Chapter:

www.essayz.com/unausa-noco .

Colorado Division: <http://www.una-colorado.org> .

National level: <http://www.unausa.org> .

UNICEF: www.unicefusa.org .

United Nations information: www.un.org .

United Nations Information Center, Washington DC:

www.unicwash.org .

FREE UN E-PUBLICATIONS:

The Advocacy E-News is the free bi-weekly online newsletter from the national UNA-USA. Sign up to receive the *Advocacy E-News* from the lower left corner of the UNA-USA homepage sidebar, located at: <http://www.unausa.org> .

UN Wire is a daily email news briefing from the United Nations Foundation that provides up-to-date news covering the UN and the world.

Learn more about *UN Wire* at: www.unwire.org.

Subscribe at: http://www.smartbrief.com/un_wire/# .

The InterDependent made its final run in print form last fall. The next issue will be available online only at www.unausa.org/interdependent.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: JOIN UNA-USA!

Please mail this form, along with your payment to:

UNA-NC Membership Director
1980 Welch St. #31
Fort Collins CO 80525

Name (please print)

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Business Phone

Email

Questions? Contact our Membership Director at 970-493-3857

Membership Category: Check one

- \$10 Student
- \$25 Introductory (first year only)
- \$40 Individual or Household Membership
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1,000 Lifetime (a one-time payment)

Student Members Information:

School Name & Level (ex: Adams High School, Class of '86)

Additional Contribution Opportunities:

- UNA-USA National Programs \$ _____
- My local UNA-USA Chapter \$ _____

My check (payable to "United Nations Association of the USA") is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

Charge my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Check one: AMEX Mastercard Visa

Name as it appears on credit card

Billing address

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Membership in the UNA-USA is open to any citizen or resident of the United States of America who is committed to the purposes of UNA-USA. UNA-USA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, educational organization.