



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States

Northern  
Colorado  
Chapter

July-August 2012

Volume 8, Number 4

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**UNA Annual Picnic!!!** Thursday, 26 July, starting at 5:30 at Warren Shores pool and recreation area, 3715 N Star Course, Fort Collins. See invitation on page 5.

**Peace and Dignity Fundraiser.** Saturday, 4 August, 3:00–5:00 p.m. at the Global Village Museum, 200 West Mountain Ave, Fort Collins. Program includes Lakota Grandmother, Candace Ducheneaux, excerpts from award-winning documentary, *Blue Gold: The World Water Wars*, and traditional flute music by Marie-Louise Borak. Proceeds will go to support the 2012 Peace and Dignity Journey. See more details on page 4.

**UNA Informal Discussion.** Sunday, 23 September, 2:30-4:00, Location TBD. Sam Rachid will present “What’s Happening in Egypt.” Additional details will be provided in the September Newsletter.

## PRESIDENT’S CORNER

A few highlights from my trip to DC:

For four days in early June, I represented our UNA chapter and the Rocky Mountain Region at the Annual Meeting of the National UNA/USA in Washington DC. I am now secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Chapters and Regions Steering Committee. There are only three of us on this Executive Committee, so I will have quite a bit of work to do. Fortunately, the Chair and Vice Chair are very capable and experienced people and I will enjoy working with them.

The staff of the UNA national office is almost all new. They are all very good and will be a great help to the local chapters. Also, the people we work with from the UN Foundation and the Better World Campaign are top notch. I think our recent affiliation is serving us well.

One of the highlights was the day spent at the State Department where we heard talks by Assistant Secretary of State Esther Brimmer (whose friendship with people at the Better World Campaign enabled us to meet in the State Department) and former UN Ambassador Thomas Pickering. Pickering’s experience with the UN Security Council is that it can successfully work to avoid conflict around the world. Esther Brimmer reeled off the long list of issues being dealt with at State in rapid fire manner. I could scarcely keep up with her

Lunch at the State Department was in the coveted Benjamin Franklin Dining Room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. This grand room overlooking the Mall is normally reserved for visiting dignitaries and it was a rare treat to lunch there.

Here we heard Colorado’s own Tim Wirth, President of the UN Foundation, at his relaxed best. He spoke about energy and climate and how global partners can collaborate to meet global climate challenges.

My friend from Arizona asked Senator Wirth about population and its effect on global climate. Sen. Wirth replied that population growth is the “elephant in the room” that no one wants to talk about and that it is time that it be addressed.

And finally, my colleagues from Denver joined me in visiting our Congressman Cory Gardner’s and Sen. Bennet’s offices. We were only able to meet with their staffs—it is rare to actually meet with the Congressperson. I told Congressman’s Gardner’s staff that we were most disappointed in his votes in Congress with regard to the UN. The UNA tracked three votes in Congress this year. Gardner voted against the UNA position on all three. One was the Broun Amendment to HR 1. This amendment would prohibit the U.S. from paying its dues to the UN in full and would have had the effect of pulling the U.S. out of the UN. Fortunately several Republican congressmen did not agree with Gardner’s position and the amendment failed. I think that Gardner’s assistant was a little bit taken aback when I told her that he had actually voted against funding for the renovation of the UN building which would have resulted in \$3.35 in return to U.S. companies for every dollar contributed to the fund.

Senator Bennet has been much friendlier to the U.N. We gave them a “heads-up” about the potential for the Agenda 21 issue to be brought to their desks. We left them with fact sheets on this and they were glad to get this as they said that they had had a few calls on it and did not fully understand the issue.

Tapes of all the speakers at the meeting can be found on the new UNA web site -- [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org). I highly recommend that you visit this much improved new site.

Thanks for sending me as your representative.

*Eleanor Dwight, acting president*



*In the museum rooms reserved for foreign dignitaries on the 7th floor of the State Department*

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

**PLEASE WELCOME** our newest member and add her to your membership booklet:

Claire Cafaro [cousinclaire@gmail.com](mailto:cousinclaire@gmail.com)

**MONTHLY REPORT FROM NATIONAL OFFICE** arrived on 20 June. It covers members through 31 May and shows that our chapter has 96 members in 73 "units" or households. We are closing in on 100 members! Keep recruiting!

**DUES REMINDERS:** I'll be sending out dues reminders to members whose dues expire 30 June or earlier soon.

**CONFERENCE CALL ON MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS:** On 2 July, Eleanor Dwight and Margaret Smith participated in a conference call featuring UNA-USA staff members and 10-20 other folks. Some were from some of the biggest chapters in the country, and they had some of the same questions we had. One hot topic was membership of couples (or households, or units) and how to account for them. The UNA-USA staff will do some work on this.

Meanwhile, households can put both names on their membership forms when joining or renewing. It may help to put both names on the "name" line.

The UNA-USA staff has been working hard to resolve some inherited data-base problems and to regularize the reporting schedule. They are responsive to questions and needs from chapters.

Margaret Smith, Chair,  
493-3857, [Macsmith36@aol.com](mailto:Macsmith36@aol.com)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Education Committee is looking for a volunteer to chair the overall committee. The committee's projects have been organized into individual subcommittees and Individual committee members have volunteered to be the lead for each: Jane Thompson and Bob Jeffrey will lead the middle school and high school essay contests, Elissa Tivona is leading the MUN project, and Dick Rush will continue to lead the elementary art contest.

**GRADE SCHOOL ART CONTEST:** The topic for fall's Art Contest is "*Families Around the World.*"

**MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST SUB-COMMITTEE:** The topic for fall's Middle School Essay Contest is "*Human Trafficking: What Can the UN Do?*"

**HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST SUB-COMMITTEE:** The topic for the spring High School Essay Contest is also "*Human Trafficking: What Can the UN Do?*"

**MUN EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE:** A good number of interested and motivated UNA members turned out on June 7<sup>th</sup> to continue the brainstorming process for increasing participation in the High School Model United Nations program in our region. Special thanks

go out to Susan Solick for providing us with light refreshments for our work session and to Devon Tivona of Regional High School MUN staff who joined us from Boulder.

Tod Huckaby, MUN faculty sponsor at Fossil Ridge High School, summed up the challenge, "*The biggest problem is motivating more teachers at the different high schools to sponsor clubs.*"

In response, most of our conversation centered on motivational strategies. The idea that gained the most traction at the work session was for our chapter to initiate a *Try It Free* grant for students at other high schools to attend state MUN meets with Tod's group. "*Often the best way to motivate teacher sponsors is by motivating the kids,*" observed Devon. Tod agreed.

Our committee decided to work out the logistics of this initiative for Fall 2012. In essence, our UNA chapter would make a \$25 grant available to a number of high school sophomores (...possibly juniors...)—the number of winners depending on space available in the district vehicle. This grant would cover the cost of student entry fees to attend two MUN meets in Colorado, giving them the opportunity to *Try it Free*. Tod offered to coach grant recipients from other schools to help them prepare. The details of this program will be discussed at the next UNA Board Meeting.

Additional suggestions discussed included:

- Assemble testimonials on prospective jobs and opportunities available to graduates with MUN experience
- Continue outreach to PSD staff and faculty with Andrea Delorey, Social Studies and English Curriculum facilitator
- Increase outreach to Charter Schools
- Research grant options through the Pharos Fund
- Outreach outside of PSD (e.g., Weld County and Thompson School Districts)
- Pass PSD contacts to RHSMUN for follow-up. RHSMUN is developing an outreach program to make directors available to work with fledgling high school programs, run simulations in classrooms, etc.
- Find motivational video on MUN
- Collaborate with UNA Speaker's Bureau and make the collective resources of UNA's membership available to support activities at the schools.

The work session concluded with assigning individuals to follow up the various action items and reaffirming our commitment to keep building enthusiasm for MUN in Northern Colorado. We welcome your participation and help with any of the creative ideas of the MUN subcommittee.

Elissa Tivona, MUN Subcommittee Chair,  
[etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com](mailto:etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com)

## INDIGENOUS CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Indigenous Concerns has been extremely active supporting the 2012 *Peace and Dignity Journey* (see article in the March-April Newsletter) and preparing for the summer eco-dome project at Pine Ridge Reservation (see report below). On 4 August, we are hosting a fundraiser for the Peace and Dignity Journey at the Global Village Museum. See the announcement on page 4 for full details. The PDJ runners traveling south will be stopping in Fort Collins sometime in August and we will be hosting a potluck dinner in their honor. Watch for information about this exciting event.

*Christinia Eala, Chair*

## NEWS FROM THE ECO-DOME PROJECT

The eco-dome project on the Pine Ridge Reservation started on Memorial Day week-end. Chris Gillespie and I caravanned up with Todd Smeidendorf, of Denver. This was Todd's second trip to the Reservation and Chris' first. They were both pretty excited about everything they saw and experienced. Todd and his congregation set up our first base-camp on the land of Leola One Feather in Wounded Knee, and we are camping there again this summer. After getting our base camp organized, we plan to begin the prep work for laying the bags on her dome house. It feels really good to be back on her land. Please see the photos that I took of the work that we did last week on our website: <http://winyanmaka07.webs.com>.

On Monday, we were up early to pick up Jason Medrano, a Cal-Earth alumni, as well as the builder who worked with us the first two years of the project. It was so good to reconnect with him. We spent the trip back reminiscing about the last two years and the International volunteers who had been involved. A real camaraderie develops between the volunteers and staff every summer. Most of us stay in contact far after the project is completed for the year.

One of our youngest volunteers in 2010 let me know this spring that he wishes he could be here again this year. Another volunteer, a young, hard-working, very talented young man from France, has passed away. Not only did he work hard on the prototype shelter, but he created the *You Tube* video that was posted on the website for us. He also played mad guitar and sang us songs in French. We continue to miss him.

I will post video when I learn how. I have made three five-minute videos and tried to post them to the website to no avail; but I will find someone who can help me.

This summer we are also working with Betty Janis, a wonderful elder and friend who cares for six of her grandchildren. Her current home is one of the "cluster houses" built by H.U.D. in the early seventies. It is filled with black mold and is literally falling apart around

them. Reservation Housing is always busy with repairs and so they don't get around to help very frequently.

Betty had a mild stroke about a month ago. Todd, Chris, and I went to visit her while she was recuperating in the hospital. It was a very emotional experience. She is home now and thrilled about building a home on her own land in Porcupine. She has a large family who will help her (and us) get this accomplished this season.

Finally, we are trying to break ground on the Wicosani Experiential Learning Lab on my land in Wounded Knee. It will serve as a permanent base camp site, replete with all of necessities. The most important piece will be outdoor classrooms where we can identify and train apprentices to this building style—and help them start a cottage industry with this alternative building style. Another very important piece will be a warehouse to handle emergency supplies to assist during times of severe weather (blizzards, tornados). We will send out notice when this structure is in place and start accepting donations year round. Supplies we hope to maintain include small generators, batteries-all sizes, flashlights, heaters-all sizes, water, diapers, dried food stuffs, blankets, baby food, etc.

*Be well every one of you whose eyes fall on these words, STAY STRONG on this Journey we all share together, and Wicosani to you and those you love.*

*Christinia Eala*

## FAREWELL NASIR

Our Co-president, Nasir Jalal, is graduating CSU this summer with a PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology, specializing in DNA damage and repair in cancer cell lines. He will then be returning to his home country of Pakistan where he will rejoin his previous employer and continue to teach at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) in Lahore, Pakistan.

Nasir has been a tremendous support for our chapter. He was the primary organizer of our bi-monthly Informal Discussions and key in bringing us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by establishing our *Facebook* page and Blog. His articulate discussions gave many of us a new perspective and greater appreciation for the history and culture of his native land.

Nasir extends an open invitation to all of his UNA friends to visit him at Forman. Forman is run by Americans and "*should any of you like to visit, you will have plenty of expatriate Americans who won't let you feel homesick.*"

Forman is a missionary (non-profit) institution which runs on private donations, Pakistan government funding and US-AID funding. If you are interested in learning more about this college or in donating to it, the college website is <http://www.fccollege.edu.pk/>.

Farewell, Nasir. We wish you well in your future endeavors.



## 2012 PEACE AND DIGNITY JOURNEY

Every four years Indigenous communities across the Americas partake in the tradition of receiving runners with ceremonies unique to their community.

Runners start simultaneously from northern Alaska and Tierra del Fuego and traverse Turtle Island (i.e., the North American and South American continents) by foot from community to community joining for a final gathering in Central America.

They will be arriving in Northern Colorado in August. Our UNA chapter is supporting this Journey and will be hosting a pot luck cook-out when they arrive in Fort Collins.

This year the Peace and Dignity run reminds us that Water is an important shared resource for all.

### PEACE AND DIGNITY JOURNEY FUNDRAISER

**Where:** Global Village Museum  
200 W Mountain Ave, Fort Collins

**When:** Saturday, 4 August, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

#### ENJOY:

**Indigenous flute music** from the Land of the Condor and the Land of the Eagle *performed by Marie-Louise Borak*

**Excerpts from Blue Gold: the World Water Wars**, winner of seven international film festival awards for best documentary

#### Traditional Lakota Grandmother, Candace Ducheneaux

Candace will speak on the topic of water issues on the Cheyenne River Reservation. As a young person, her family was displaced from their traditional homeland on the Missouri River. She will share her story and her role as a water rights activist.

**Samples of native food will be available for purchase.... Yum!**

Following the program, enjoy **Indigenous Artwork** on display throughout the museum.

**A \$7 donation will be requested at the door (children are free). Proceeds will benefit the Peace and Dignity runners coming through Fort Collins in August.**

Candace Ducheneaux also cares for the "four-leggeds" on the Cheyenne River Reservation. Donations for 50# bags of dog food will be accepted by Eagle Butte Ampride Co-op at (605) 964-2225

**For more information: 970-218-6038 or 970-493-1751**

### STUDENT EXPERIENCES FROM CHICAGO MUN

**Seth Drehle – Ewan:** *At the conference there were thousands of high school students that were all a part of one of the twenty-five councils and committees. Being one of the mass, I was lucky to represent the Republic of Fiji, in the Food and Agriculture Organization, an organization that my country deeply utilized because of its power to help solve the problems of food and disease security.*

*My experiences from this competition were so expansive and for that, I was mesmerized by the involvement. I learned that it is possible to do anything and that even at the high school level, politics are fun to play. Since coming back from Chicago I have been able to share my experiences with many different people, from all places. However the biggest surprise to me is how much MUN is connected throughout the world; even in places that are not likely to know what MUN is. Most recently, I shared my Chicago experience with two students visiting from the Yucatán. They didn't know what MUN is, but they knew that their school had a similar club to the one we have at FRHS. The experience of sharing knowledge and similarities is one that I expressly love and hope to continue in my future.*

**Jim Kahler:** *For the Chicago National Conference, I represented Fiji in the Economic and Financial Committee. The topic that our committee chose to tackle was the underground market and what should be done to handle the problem. Some countries wanted all nations to use all available resources to eradicate the global underground market while others argued that some underground markets were beneficial in oppressive nations. The republic of Fiji wanted the eradication of the Underground Market but did not want an international organization running the eradication. Fiji believes in national sovereignty for all situations and would not support an international committee controlling the operation.*

*The interesting part to me was that almost every part of the issue was compromised upon except whether an international committee should run the operation or if each government should have an individual plan for dealing with the markets. Two draft resolutions were made in which this issue was the main difference, so Fiji sided with the resolution that supported individual organizations.*

*However, amendments were made which basically reversed the beliefs of each resolution so Fiji swapped sides, making many of the other nations upset because Fiji was one of the main supporters of the first resolution. In the end, the resolution backed by Fiji won the majority vote. It was very close though with only a 2 – 3 vote margin in a room with over 100 delegations.*

## IT'S A PICNIC!!!

**When:** Wednesday, 26 July 2012, starting at 5:30

**Where:** Warren Shores Pool and Picnic Area  
3715 N Star Course, Fort Collins

**BRING YOUR OWN TABLEWARE AND A DISH TO SHARE.**

We'll provide soft drinks and barbeque from the grill (including vegetarian).

Bring beer and wine if you wish.

**No formal program!** This is a picnic! .

Please call Eleanor at 970-377-0863 or email: [Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com](mailto:Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com) so she knows about how much food to prepare.

**We hope to see you there!**

Bring your swim suit if you want to swim or tennis rackets for tennis.

**Bring the kids! We know of several who are coming.**



## THE UN AT WORK

The following are excerpts from UN News Centre (<http://www.un.org/News/>) and other authoritative news sources



**Observe World Population Day 11 July.** World Population Day has been observed annually on July 11 since 1989 when it was established to reaffirm the human right to plan for a family. World Population Day aims to increase awareness on various population issues

such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights. The day is observed worldwide by business groups, community organizations and individuals in many ways, such as seminar discussions, educational information sessions and essay competitions.

On World Population Day in 2011, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon observed, "*This year's World Population Day falls during a milestone year, when we anticipate the birth of the Earth's seven billionth inhabitant. This is an opportunity to celebrate our common humanity and our diversity. It is also a reminder of our shared responsibility to care for each other and our planet.*"

**WE REACHED 7 BILLION ON 31 OCTOBER 2011.**

## UNFPA and Gates Foundation to Give 120 Million More Women Access to Family Planning by 2020.

3 July—On World Population Day, 11 July, the London Summit on Family Planning will launch an unprecedented initiative to meet the need for modern family planning in developing countries. The aim is to mobilize the political will and extra resources needed to give 120 million more women access to family planning by 2020. The initiative will be co-hosted by the UK Government's Department for International Development and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

## Somalia signs action plan to end use of child soldiers.

3 July—At a UN-backed meeting in Italy, Somalia's Transitional Federal Government today signed an action plan to end the recruitment and use of children in the East African country's national military. The action plan, signed at a meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia outlines concrete steps to be taken by the Government to ensure a child-free national army. The ICG is composed of representatives of the United Nations and its diplomatic partners in support of efforts to restore peace and stability in Somalia.

## 2012 International Day of the World's Indigenous People is 9 August—

First proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1994, the focus of this year's International Day will be *Indigenous designs: celebrating stories and cultures, crafting our own future.*

This theme highlights the need to preserve and revitalize indigenous cultures, including their art and intellectual property and to showcase



*Bird Apache Dancer*

indigenous artists, organizations and businesses who take inspiration from indigenous customs and cultures.

## Ban names United States diplomat as new UN political affairs chief.

11 June -- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Jeffrey D. Feltman of the United States as the top UN official dealing with political issues. Mr. Feltman recently served as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs for the US Government.



**Birthplace of Jesus placed on UNESCO's World Heritage in Danger List.** 29 June—The Church of the Nativity, which sits on the site in Bethlehem that has traditionally been described as the birthplace of Jesus, was inscribed today on the *World Heritage List* and on the *List of World Heritage in Danger* by the UN Scientific, Cultural, and Educational Organization (UNESCO).



*Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem*

The church, and the pilgrimage route on the site, was placed on the *List of World Heritage in Danger*

because it is suffering from water damage. The *List of World Heritage in Danger* is designed to inform the international community of threats to the outstanding universal values for which a property has been inscribed, and to encourage corrective action.

*Editor's note: Placement of this site on Heritage lists was only possible because UNESCO voted to accept Palestine as a member in 2011. UNESCO can only provide support and protection to historic sites in its member-nations.*

**Jackie Chan visits Myanmar to help combat child trafficking.** 3 July—Action-film star and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador Jackie Chan is in Myanmar this week to help UN efforts to combat child trafficking in the country.



Mr. Chan will visit a vocational training center for trafficked children who have managed to return to their homes and will travel to UNICEF-supported projects assisting children at risk of being trafficked. Mr. Chan will also discuss how to combat trafficking with Myanmar's Ministry of Social Welfare and with members of its anti-trafficking police task force.

According to UNICEF, every year some 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide. Trafficking, which represents a multimillion dollar enterprise, exposes children to physical violence, sexual abuse and grave emotional distress. Trafficking is also closely linked to migration. Tens of millions of people migrate for work. When they are far away from their homes and support systems, families – especially children – face an increased risk of being trafficked.

**Protracted refugee situations in Liberia and Angola come to an end.** 29 June—The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that, as of 30 June, people who fled the civil wars in Liberia and Angola and remain abroad will no longer be regarded as refugees by the world body and host governments, bringing to an end two of the most protracted refugee situations in Africa.

Liberia and Angola have both enjoyed many years of peace and stability. UNHCR is working with the governments of origin and of asylum to resolve repatriation and local integration and legal status issues.

**UN Environment Program (UNEP) names its '2012 Champions of the Earth' winners.** 4 June—A country president, a banker, an aeronaut, a scientist, a renewable energy businessman and a conservationist were named as the six winners of the *UN Champions of the Earth 2012* award, given to those whose actions and leadership have had a positive impact on the environment.

The awardees are Mongolia's President, Tsakhia Elbegdorj; Brazilian banker Fábio C. Barbosa; renewable energy entrepreneur Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber from the United Arab Emirates; Swiss aeronaut Dr. Bertrand Piccard; Dutch scientist Dr. Sander van der Leeuw; and Kenyan Maasai conservationist Samson Parashina.

According to UNEP, the winners have demonstrated commitment to building a sustainable future for the planet through their work, which encompasses active green policies, groundbreaking clean energy developments and community work that has helped conserve critical ecosystems.

In the case of President Elbegdorj, his award was in the area of policy leadership, for delivering on promises to put the environment at the forefront of policies.

Mr. Barbosa and Dr. Al Jaber were recognized in the area of entrepreneurial vision, for their business efforts in sustainability and promoting renewable energy and clean technology, respectively.

Dr. Piccard was awarded in the area of inspiration and action, for raising global awareness of the possibilities of renewable energy-driven transport.

Dr. Van der Leeuw was recognized in the area of science and innovation, for his research, which applies lessons learned from history to understand why humanity is not facing up to the long-term issue of environmental change.

The award for Mr. Parashina was in the special category section, for leading community efforts to conserve Kenya's Tsavo-Amboseli ecosystem.

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, NORTHERN COLORADO (NOCO) CHAPTER LEADERSHIP  
2011 UNA/USA NOCO Board of Directors**

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**UNA, Northern Colorado Chapter:**

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/225640767454752/>

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United Nations information: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) .

UN Information Center, DC: [www.unicwash.org](http://www.unicwash.org) .

**Our World 2.0**—a web-magazine produced by the UN University: [ourworld.unu.edu/en/](http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/).

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For prompt local acknowledgment of your membership, please mail this form and your payment to:

**UNA of Northern Colorado,  
Margaret Smith, Membership Chair  
1980 Welch St. #31, Fort Collins CO 80525**

Margaret will forward your form and payment to the national office after recording the information locally.

**Select Your Annual Dues Amount (US\$):**

- \$40 Regular  
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Yes, I would like to receive communications from UNA/USA.

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