



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States of America

## Northern Colorado Chapter

March-April 2010

Volume 6, Number 2

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**League of Women Voters of Larimer County.** Monday, 8 March, 7:00 p.m., at the *Coloradoan* meeting room, 1300 Riverside Ave. LWV will host a panel discussion on *Native Americans: Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education*. Admission is free and the public is welcome (see *Native*, page 4).

**UNA Public Meeting.** Saturday, 13 March, 2:30 p.m. at the Harmony Library, 4616 South Shields, Karel and Bob Waltermire will share a multi-media presentation on Murulle Foundation activities in sub-Saharan Africa to meet the Millennium Development Goals (see *Murulle*, page 2)

**New Book Group.** Sunday, 21 March, 3:00 p.m. at Old Firehouse Bookstore, 232 Walnut St. (just east of the Silver Grill in Downtown Fort Collins). The first book will be *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder. Jane and Rich Thompson will lead (see *Book Club*, page 2).

**UNA Public Meeting.** Saturday, 10 April, 2:30 p.m., at the Fort Collins Downtown Library, 201 Peterson Street. Tim Kubic will speak on need for planning long-range assistance to prevent such crises as the recent earthquakes from being overwhelming. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**UNA Public Meeting.** Saturday, 8 May, 2:30 p.m. Location TBD. Peggy Christianson, Director of the Geller Center, will share a video and other information on the Honduras Aid project involving CSU students.

**Community Foundation Annual Celebration of Philanthropy.** Thursday, 13 May, 4:30 p.m. at the Hilton Fort Collins, 425 W. Prospect Road. Featured speaker will be Timothy Wirth, former US Senator and current UN Foundation president. For reservations, call Roxanne Fry at 488-1989.

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Every day we are reminded of the important role the UN plays all over the world. As we watched the tragedy unfold in Haiti, the UN was on the forefront with immediate help. Just today Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on the UN to put sanctions on Iran. And every day the UNHCR goes on with its work of housing and feeding millions of displaced persons. Who else is equipped to do this difficult work? As Dag Hammarskjold said, "The UN was not created to deliver us to heaven, but to save us from hell."

I can't think of another group I would rather be heading up. I am so very proud of what we in our local chapter have accomplished this year. Starting with our outstanding programs; Michele Betsill and her report from her experience at Copenhagen and Tom Miller's talk about the challenges President Obama faces. Then on to our support for UNICEF's work in Haiti. (We sent \$575 to UNICEF Haiti relief including donations Ken Tharp, Norm Illsley and I collected at the MLK day parade—A California UNA took up the challenge and tried to match our gift!)

Even though it was snowing and there were two other major competing events, we still had a nice crowd to hear the remarks of our UNA National President and CEO Tom Miller. It was indeed an honor to have a person of his caliber visit us. Several of us hosted him at a small dinner and we found him to be a wonderful person. As you might guess anyone with 29 years with the State Department and several ambassadorships has many, many insights of how the real world works (see *Miller*, page 3). I also have a CD of his talk if anyone would like to borrow it. Thanks to all who helped to put on this nice affair.

We now have a web site, [unanortherncolorado.org](http://unanortherncolorado.org), thanks to the help of Brian Cairns, son of Chuck Cairns and Debbie Hamilton. It still needs a little tweaking and I need to learn how to make changes. If anyone wants to help, I would welcome it.

*Eleanor Dwight, President  
UNA/USA, Northern Colorado*

### FCHS MODEL UN CANCELLED

The FCHS Model UN (MUN), scheduled for 24 April, has been cancelled due to a number of problems, according to Suzie Dickens, MUN Club sponsor:

- conflicts with mandatory Saturday reviews for AP testing
- conflicts with spring sports events
- decrease in FCHS MUN membership, which would make it difficult to run a full NUM (other Colorado MUNs had similar decreases in membership)
- financial strain on the club and Social Studies Department.

That's a formidable number of obstacles, which are very largely beyond Ms. Dickens control.

Many thanks to all those who volunteered to help with this event.

**UN TIDBIT:** The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established 14 December 1950 to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. It also has a mandate to help stateless people. Today, a staff of some 6,600 people in more than 110 countries continues to help about 34 million persons.

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

**Get-Acquainted Gathering** for new members and recent visitors to our chapter's meetings will take place on Saturday, March 20, at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Eleanor Dwight. We will send out invitations to folks who fit in those categories. This is a great opportunity to meet some very interesting people--and to let them get to know you--in a small informal gathering.

**New Member:** Please welcome Kay Lindgren, [Klind7@hotmail.com](mailto:Klind7@hotmail.com). You could jot her name down on the back page of your Membership Booklet.

**Don't have your Membership Booklet yet?** We've been handing them out at meetings since Annual Meeting, but still have quite a few to hand-deliver or mail. We do want all members to have one. We have reserved all copies by name of members, with the appropriate dues expiration date noted.

**Speaking of dues:** We are nearing the end of the first quarter of 2010, which means a good number of you will have your dues come due by March 31. Be alert for a mailing from the UNA's national office in New York about this, with a renewal form included. Renewals are to be sent directly to the New York office. Or renew on-line--Go to [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org). The home page will have a place to click on "Join Us," which will get you to an on-line form.

There is a way for you to **donate** either to our Chapter or to the UNA-USA on either the mailed or the on-line form, if you so desire.

**Want to join for the first time?** We prefer that you send your first-time-joining membership form and payment (only \$25 for your introductory year) to our local Membership Chair. She will get your name into our local communications records right away, and then forward your form and dues to the national office. If you send it directly to the national office or if you join on-line, it may be several weeks before we are notified that you have joined. Membership forms are printed on the back page of our local Newsletter, or you can download and print one from [www.usa.org](http://www.usa.org), as above.

**Need more clarification?** Contact Membership Co-Chair Margaret Smith, 493-3857, [MacSmith36@aol.com](mailto:MacSmith36@aol.com).

**Bring a friend** to UNA-NoCo meetings! That's a good way to help our membership grow.

*Margaret Smith, Mary Wolfe, Membership Co-Chairs.*

#### INDIGENOUS CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

Last December, the *Tiyospaye Crisis Center*, along with the *Institute of Sustainable Development and Village Earth*, sponsored ***Emergence: A Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the America's***. See the report of this event on page 4.

Another major project of the ICC and Tiyospaye Crisis Center is the "Eco-Dome Project" in South Dakota. A report on this project will be included in the May-June Newsletter

*Christinia Eala, ICC Chair*

#### NEW BOOK GROUP

The first meeting will be Sunday, 21 March at 3:00 p.m. at Old Firehouse Bookstore, 232 Walnut St. just east of the Silver Grill in Downtown Fort Collins.

The first book will be *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder. It is about the amazing Dr. Paul Farmer and his work in Haiti, Peru, Russia etc. dealing with TB, HIV and poverty.

Old Firehouse has at least one copy left and can order more quickly--Also Eleanor has a copy she will loan.

Please join us for interesting conversation and review.

Jane and Rich Thompson, Book Group conveners.

#### THE MURULLE FOUNDATION

The Murulle Foundation (TMF) is a 501(c)(3) charity committed to building an enduring coexistence of people and threatened ecosystems in sub-Saharan Africa. On Saturday, 13 March, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Harmony Library, Karel & Bob Waltermire of TMF will share a multi-media presentation on activities the organization is doing in sub-Saharan Africa to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

One major TMF project is *Research and Conservation of the Mountain Nyala*, an endangered species of Antelope found only in Ethiopia.

Another major TMF project is Women's Small Business Loans – TMF is sponsoring a micro-finance project for women in the village of Dinsho, Ethiopia, the headquarters of the Balé Mountains National Park. Women in many areas of Ethiopia play an important economic role in households. However, they are hampered by the male dominance of their culture. They are deprived of land and livestock assets, the main means of livelihood in traditional communities, so they have no collateral to qualify for loans or credit.

Additional information is available at the Murulle Foundation website: <http://www.murulle.org/>.



## **TOM MILLER SPEAKS TO THE UNA OF NORTHERN COLORADO**

Despite snowy weather, a good turnout gathered at the Unitarian Church on February 21 to hear Tom Miller, former Ambassador and current President and CEO of the National United Nations Association talk about, *"The Obama Administration's Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities."*

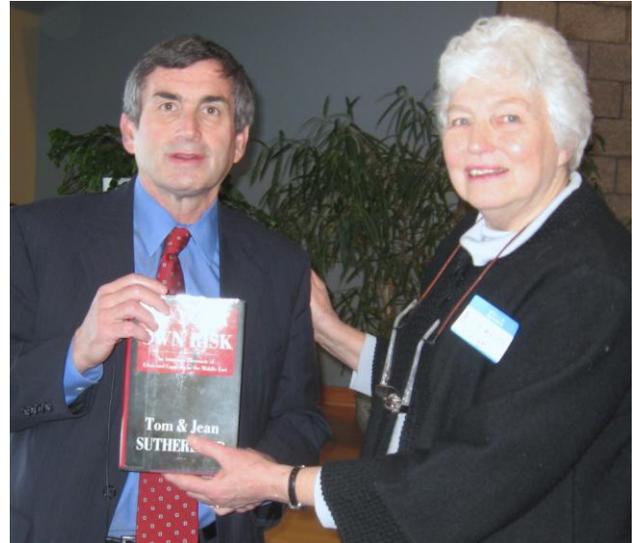
Mr. Miller said President Obama has greater demands on him than past presidents because two wars are raging and an economic crisis has put constraints on his ability to accomplish his agenda. Frequently people think that a president can just snap his fingers and things will get done. Not true! He has constraints on his ability to get things done. There are resource constraints –competing uses for every available resource. Congress is part of the decision process on how and when resources are used. Internally, the president also faces political opposition – often from both flanks. Gone are the days of bipartisan support in foreign policy. And, finally, the American people tend to have a short attention span. We are not a patient people and we tend to demand instant results. Our inability to see things in the longer term does not bode well for good foreign policy. Many see multilateralism as a constraint and prefer short term unilateral actions. We want our leaders to be decisive but hasty decisions have a way of backfiring. Presidents in the past have often been hostages of their own words.

What we need is for our leaders to be effective and able to make decisive, political tradeoffs. American foreign policy has been characterized by others as a mile wide and an inch deep. The President is working to change that view.

The President has a tool box for conducting foreign policy that includes diplomacy, leadership (the guts to take a stand), foreign assistance and, as the very, very last resort, military involvement.

The President needs to use multilateral agencies (such as the United Nations). Multilateralism far outweighs unilateral action in most cases. For example, deploying a UN peacekeeping soldier is eight times cheaper than using a U.S. soldier. Most Americans favor foreign assistance and are surprised to learn what a small portion of our budget is allotted to this endeavor.

Mr. Miller said we could do a better job in foreign assistance by not insisting that our assistance be U.S. agricultural products shipped in U.S. ships. American shipping is expensive and often our agricultural products undermine the recipient countries ability to grow their own food. Haiti, which used to grow rice but no longer does so, was cited an example.



**UNA President Miller and NCO President Eleanor Dwight**

We also tend to ‘target’ high visibility problems. In the battle against disease, AIDS has received priority. However, far more people die from drinking impure water and from diseases such as malaria. Water purification and mosquito netting are inexpensive ways to address these problems, yet we are not engaged enough in this work. Many of these problems are endemic to Africa. Africa does not have the highest priority for Americans.

Mr. Miller pinpointed the following as major world challenges:

- poverty, terrorism, human rights,
- climate change, narcotics, arms control,
- regional conflicts and local leadership.

Fortunately for President Obama, the UN takes on the hard issues no one else wants and does them well. The UN sends peacekeepers all around the world, it supervises the International Criminal Court, the World Health Organization, and humanitarian relief in places such as Haiti and Darfur as well as issues relating to climate control.

Mr. Miller sees Ban Ki Moon as a capable Secretary General of the UN; however he is more of a secretary than a general. When asked his opinion of the current U.S. ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, he said that she is a quiet diplomat and does not call attention to herself. She is respected by her fellow diplomats at the UN.

Ambassador Miller says that President Obama needs to frame the issues and he needs to practice the three “Ps”---Patience, Perseverance and Planning. Americans, including members of the UNA, must support the president in these endeavors. As ordinary citizens, without official status, we, too, have the opportunity to affect change. We have done so in the past and must continue to persevere.

**BOOKS REFERENCED DURING TOM MILLER'S TALK:**

*Wars of Choice, Wars of Necessity*, by Richard Hass  
*Half the Sky*, by Nicholas Kristof  
*At Your Own Risk*, by Tom and Jean Sutherland  
*Getting to Yes*, by Roger Fisher and William Ury.

**EMERGENCE: A GATHERING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICA'S**

In December, *Tiyospaye Crisis Center*, a Native American non-profit located in Fort Collins, along with the *Institute of Sustainable Development and Village Earth*, proudly sponsored the 11<sup>th</sup> *Gathering of Indigenous Peoples of the America's* to establish genuine, honest, and open dialogue with the United Nations; a dialogue that addresses the human rights violations of Indigenous Peoples globally, as well as the violations perpetrated against the environment -- the earth, the water, and the air.

Representatives came from Alaska, Canada, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Chile, Brazil, and Mexico; as well as the Ute and Lakota Indian Nations. Panel discussions included a live telecast from Geneva Switzerland with Alaskan Ambassador Ronald Barnes, who talked about the then upcoming, climate talks in Copenhagen. Mayan Priests talked about 2012 prophecies and performed a small Sacred Fire ceremony at the Geller Center and, a few days later, a larger ceremony in Carbondale, Colorado. The Gathering concluded in Denver with a final festival held at the Guadalupe Church where musicians played traditional instruments, sang, danced, and all had a wonderful send off.

The Fort Collins community rallied around the event and helped with housing for the representatives. Potluck dinners helped to keep things lively. The Ethnic Studies Department, and Peace and Justice are two groups that helped with the cost of the food.

The *Eco-Dome Housing for Indigenous Peoples* in South Dakota is another major project supported by the ICC and the *Tiyospaye Crisis Center*. Look for a report on this project and summer opportunities for involvement in the May-June Newsletter. For more information contact Christinia at (970) 980-1629 or e-mail [christiniawin@yahoo.com](mailto:christiniawin@yahoo.com).

*Christinia Eala, Director of the Tiyospaye Crisis Center and ICC Chair*

**UN TIDBIT:** UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund, promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programs to reduce poverty and to ensure every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and all girls and women are treated with dignity and respect.

**UNFPA--because everyone counts**

**NATIVE AMERICANS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Monday, 8 March, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the *Coloradoan* meeting room, 1300 Riverside Ave., Fort Collins, the League of Women Voters of Larimer County will host a panel discussion on the unique challenges Native Americans face in institutions of higher education. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

Because most information about Native American life and culture is drawn from media stereotypes, there is a lack of accurate understanding about Native American experience. To counter these stereotypes, the program will look at one important aspect of their experience, focusing on *Native Americans: Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education*.

The program features a panel of Native American CSU students--Melody Jones, Goldlin Wall, and Tiffani Kelly--and Roe Bubar, J.D., Associate Professor in Ethnic Studies/School of Social Work and Chair, Women's Studies Board at CSU.

For more information, contact Irene Fortune, 613-0966, [vladimir1992@hotmail.com](mailto:vladimir1992@hotmail.com)

**NOTE:** *Our UNA chapter has a committee on Indigenous Peoples, headed by Christinia Eala. UNA members are encouraged to attend this event.*

**THE UN IN HAITI**

**Haiti: UN agency recruits young people to assist with post-quake relief**--*UN News Centre*, 25 Feb 2010. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has recruited dozens of young people (66 to-date) to help drive the Haiti reconstruction effort.

The volunteers are working to improve the health of residents of makeshift shelters across the hardest-hit city and capital, Port-au-Prince, by providing supplementary food for 53,000 children and 16,000 pregnant and new mothers as part of a program bringing together UN agencies, their partners and the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population.

Working in teams of two, the volunteers visit camps, meet with local leaders, and identify women and children in need of food supplements after the quake, which has claimed over 200,000 lives.

They explain the program and distribute de-worming medication and food vouchers, supplied the following day. Pregnant and lactating mothers and children ages 3-5 receive 3-week rations of high-energy biscuits; younger children are given *Plumpy'nut*.

**Plumpy'nut** is a fortified peanut butter stuffed with milk and vitamins for use in famine relief which was formulated in 1999 by André Briend, a French Pediatric Nutritionist. It can be stored safely for months, needs no refrigeration or clean water, and is actually well-liked by children.



**Haiti cash-for-work project expands; more than 30,000 now employed**—UNDP Newsroom, 1 Feb 2010. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) *Cash-for-Work* initiative in Haiti is expanding rapidly. The number of workers doubled over the weekend to 31,885 and is expected to double by end of the week.

“Expansion was constrained at first by the need to coordinate with local authorities and ensure that systems were in place for things like payments and for the transparent and accountable management of the finances,” said UNDP Country Director Eric Overvest.

Another challenge was obtaining the boots, gloves, shovels, pickaxes, wheelbarrows and trucks needed to remove the waste, added Cash-for-Work Program Manager Abdullah Al-Laham. “At the end of the program, all this material will be given to the poor and vulnerable to help sustain their livelihoods.”

Workers are paid roughly \$4.50 at current rates of exchange, for six hours’ labor.

The work includes removing building rubble from the streets, sorting and crushing reusable material, and disposal of debris.



The purpose is to restore essential public facilities, such as light rehabilitation and repairs of public infrastructure, access to water and protection of water sources, markets, communal washing areas, community centers, etc. These will help lay the foundations for mid-term recovery and development.

The program is coordinated by the UNDP as part of its Emergency Relief and Recovery Framework. UNDP is in the process of partnering with 15 national and international non-governmental organizations to facilitate the expansion into other areas of the city. Money is coming from a wide variety of sources, including the governments of Italy, Japan, Norway and Spain. As of today, \$13.2 million have been pledged and \$6.1 million have been received.

“The cash for work program is bringing immediate results to restore livelihoods and dignity to the people of Haiti,” said UN Humanitarian Coordinator Kim Bolduc. “But to succeed it has to reach many more people, and this requires sustained international support.”

**NEWSMAKER: UN official counters negative media coverage of Haiti recovery effort**—UN News Centre, 25 Feb 2010.

Kim Bolduc, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and UN Humanitarian Coordinator says not enough media coverage has been devoted to the progress made by Haitians, humanitarian workers and their partners since the devastating earthquake struck nearly six weeks ago.



“... seldom in our history have we seen such a sizeable type of operation set up within days of the emergency. Everything that has been achieved has been achieved at great sacrifice for people who are still standing in the field and running the operations.”

In the first 48 hours after the quake struck, as the search was underway for the top UN envoy in Haiti, Hedi Annabi, and his principal deputy, Luiz Carlos da Costa, Ms. Bolduc took temporary control of the UN mission, whose headquarters was reduced to rubble.

“We had to simultaneously take care of search and rescue operations while . . . collecting the dead bodies out in the streets, and also to immediately try to organize relief support to provide food, water and medical care for all the people who were devastated by the earthquake,” she said.

“If you think about the number of people affected – three million people in a country where the centre – the capital – has been destroyed, managing after five or six weeks to feed over two million people is an accomplishment.”

Looking ahead to the country’s longer-term needs, she noted there is an opportunity to build back better and stronger in what was already the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere prior to the earthquake. “I think everyone wants the same thing – a strong Haiti, a sustainable Haiti and a Haiti that has a future for its children and the future generation.”

Ms. Bolduc, a Canadian national born in Viet Nam, served with the UN in Brazil and Iraq before her post in Haiti. She was seriously injured during the 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad that killed 22 UN staff.

“I think what has kept me going has always been the belief that if I struggled hard enough I would be able to help at least one person and that is not a chance that is given to everyone. That is the beauty of working for the UN.”

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, NORTHERN COLORADO (NOC) CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Below is a list of the 2010 Board of Directors of the UNA-NCO. Clip and put it in your blue membership booklet.

**Officers:**

- President, Eleanor Dwight,  
[Eleanor@dwightcentral.com](mailto:Eleanor@dwightcentral.com) , 970-377-0863
- Vice President, Chuck Cairns
- Co-Presidents-Elect, Hugh Sanborn  
and Valerie Baker-Easley
- Secretary, Debbie Hamilton
- Treasurer, Don Heyse
- Membership Chair, Margaret Smith  
[MacSmith36@aol.com](mailto:MacSmith36@aol.com) , 482-3857

**Directors:**

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| William DeMarco | Christinia Eala     |
| Miranda Fisher  | Tom and Karen Guter |
| Norm Illsley    | Nasil Jalal         |
| Stan Kidder     | Hazel Krantz        |
| Heidi Nash      | Sidna Rachid        |
| Dick Rush       | Paul Smith          |
| Susan Solick    | Marla Swanson       |
| Ken Tharp       | Jane Thompson       |
| Elissa Tivona   | Mary Wolfe          |

**WEBSITES OF INTEREST:**

**UNA, Northern Colorado Chapter:**

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

UNA national: [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org) .

UNICEF: [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org) .

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, the academic think tank of the UN: [ourworld.unu.edu/en/](http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/). Supported by video on YouTube and Vimeo.

**FREE UN E-PUBLICATIONS:**

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

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

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**UN Wire**, the UN Foundation daily email news.

Learn more about *UN Wire* at: [www.unwire.org](http://www.unwire.org).  
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**The InterDependent:** [unausa.org/interdependent](http://unausa.org/interdependent).

**UNA-USA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:**

Please mail this form, along with your payment to:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

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Address

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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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

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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.