



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States

Northern
Colorado
Chapter

March - April 2011

Volume 7, Number 2

UPCOMING EVENTS:

UNA Informal Discussion Series. Saturday, 19 March, 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Aggie Center (Building 24), 500 W. Prospect Rd. Christinia Eala will lead a discussion on "Issues of Indigenous Peoples." Parking is available and free.

Public Meeting. Monday, 28 March, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Coloradoan Meeting Room, 1300 Riverside Ave. Gamze Cavdar will present *Revolution in Egypt: Causes and Implications* and Sam Rachid will discuss his experiences during the Egypt uprising. Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Larimer County. See *Revolution*, page 3.

UNA Public Meeting. Saturday, 9 April, 2:30 p.m. at the Harmony Library, 4616 South Shields. The program will include presentation of the 2011 *International Humanitarian Award*.



UNA-USA PRESIDENT SPEAKS

On 27 February, we were privileged to have the President of UNA-USA, Ed Elmendorf, speak on the status of the UN Millennium Development Goals. The 8 MDGs have galvanized efforts by all the world's countries

and all of the world's leading development institutions to meet the needs of the world's poor by 2015. With this date fast approaching, it is important to understand which are on track and where additional support is needed. Over 60 different indicators are used to measure progress. Interim results indicate that most of the goals are on track but some are in danger of falling short. The MDG in most danger is #5: Maternal Health. Its target is to reduce the maternal mortality rate (MMR) by three quarters and achieve universal access to reproductive health.

The last portion of Mr. Elmendorf's talk focused on the importance of the UN to the United States. The UN employs hundreds of Americans directly, purchases 35% of its goods and services (around \$1.2 billion a year) from US companies and provides safe venues for US companies to operate in around the world. The UN has 120,000 personnel serving in 15 peacekeeping missions around the world, less than 100 are American.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW LEADERS

New Officers and Board Members were elected at the Annual Meeting, held 15 January. Our officers are:

Co Presidents: Hugh Sanborn and Nasir Jalal

Vice President: Chuck Cairns

President-Elect: Elissa Tivona

Secretary: Debbie Hamilton

Treasurer: Don Heyse

A complete list of officers and board members is provided on page 6.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The following committee chairs have also been selected.

Membership: Margaret Smith and Mary Wolfe, MacSmith36@aol.com, 970-493-3857

Education: Dick Rush, crush@frii.com

Advocacy: Eleanor Dwight, eleanor@dwrightcentral.com

Indigenous Concerns: Christinia Eala, christiniawin@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee Convener:

Jane Thompson, janerich2001@yahoo.com

Hospitality: TBD

PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEES:

International Humanitarian Award Program:

Elissa Tivona, etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com and Bill DeMarco, william.demarco@gmail.com

UN Day Program: Peggy Christiansen,

UCM@lamar.colostate.edu

Human Rights Day Program: Stan Kidder,

stankidder@comcast.net

2011 Annual Meeting Program: TBD

If you have questions or would like to help with any of these committees, please contact the chair.

We still need chairs for the *Hospitality Committee* and the *2011 Annual Meeting* (to be held in January, 2012). If you would like to chair or participate on either of these committees, please contact Co-President Hugh Sanborn, 970-225-0983 or hwsanborn@comcast.net.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

2011 Membership Booklets are being distributed at UNA chapter meetings. After the March meeting, we will mail them to members who haven't yet received their copy.

The booklets bear a sticker with the member's name and the date when his or her dues expire. There is space inside to make notes and to add information on new members. They also contain information about the UN Foundation/UNA-USA Strategic Alliance. We are grateful to Pat Ciesla, who maintains the names and contact information, did the lay-out and supervised the production of this useful booklet.

Please Welcome These New Members and add their names and contact information to your 2011 booklet. You can do this by cutting from this Newsletter and pasting, taping, or stapling it to a blank page in the booklet.

Susan Dominica sootie@gmail.com

Arunachalam Lakshminarayanan

l.arunachalam@gmail.com

Monica M. McKenzie monica.mckenzie@msn.com

Meridee Miller merideefm@msn.com

Phoenix Mourning-Star

Phoenix@globalhealthresearchsociety.org

Please Note These Corrections In Your Booklet:

Peggy Christiansen: (home phone) 970-980-0656
(business phone) 970-482-8487

Rashida Banerjee: (home phone) 970-673-4342
(email) deraban1@gmail.com

First Quarter Dues Expire March 31. UNA-USA membership dues are on a quarterly expiration schedule. Your dues expire at the end of the quarter in which your previous payment was made. About 20 of us have dues expiring on March 31. I'll send out a "heads up" notice the first part of March. You will also receive a renewal notice from the National Office soon. The sooner you can respond, the less confusion for everyone. Of the regular \$40 dues, the Chapter receives \$12.50. In cases of financial hardship, we have a limited "scholarship" fund, so please let me know if you're in a position to need help with dues.

YOU ARE ALL ON THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM!

Bring a friend to a meeting. Mention the group's activities. Print off an extra flyer and/or Newsletter to give to a friend or neighbor. We always are glad to strengthen our influence by adding more members. The committee could use some people to help greet and sign in people at meetings--a fun and easy job with no home-work! Let me know if you are interested in volunteering.

Margaret Smith: Macsmith36@aol.com,
970-493-3857; Mary Wolfe, Co-Chairs,

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Speakers' Bureau, which our committee has set up, is now in operation. Teachers in the Poudre and Thompson districts can contact us to arrange visits to their classrooms. The five persons on the list offer a variety of backgrounds and experiences, and we hope that some of you with experience in international programs will want to join us to broaden our appeal. If you are interested in participating or have questions, contact Dick Rush at 667-5077 or crush@frii.com.

Our spring college-level essay contest on the topic "*The International Criminal Court: What Advantages for the US to Join?*" will be in April. Winners may be invited to share their papers with us at an upcoming meeting so that we can learn more about the Court and they can learn about us.

Dick Rush, Chair

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT:

On Feb. 22, Dick Rush and Eleanor Dwight met with our newly elected representative to the U.S. Congress, Cory Gardner. You will recall that Betsy Markey held that office last term. We were greeted very cordially and Rep. Gardner seemed to be interested in what we had to say. He noted that he was a graduate in political science from CSU and had studied under Bob Lawrence. Many of our members know Bob Lawrence.

We focused on the importance of paying our UN dues in full and on time. Dick pointed out what a bargain the UN is for the US. We asked him to vote against some current bills that will transfer our monetary support for the UN from a dues assessment basis to a voluntary basis and that this is a treaty we are obligated to honor. He did not let us know how he intended to vote or if he had decided on anything yet. He smiled a lot and asked us questions. He seems to have some knowledge about international issues. We left a briefing packet with him and he asked to be put on our mailing list for the newsletter. We will continue to lobby him and will follow how he votes on UN issues.

Recommended Reading!

There is a new United Nations Foundation Quarterly publication called *Global Insights*. It can be accessed at: <http://www.unfoundation.org/assets/pdf/global-insights-winter-2011.pdf>. It is only 5 pages long with just a few well written in-depth articles. The winter issue has a particularly interesting article on the future for Haiti's women and the need for access to reproductive health services.

Eleanor Dwight, Chair

REVOLUTION IN EGYPT: CAUSES AND IMPLICATIONS

On Monday, March 28, from 7 to 9 pm, Professor Gamze Cavdar of the CSU Political Science Department will speak and discuss a topic of current significance, "Revolution in Egypt: Causes and Implications" at the *Coloradoan* meeting room, 1300 Riverside Ave., in Fort Collins.

Prof. Cavdar will discuss questions involved in the furious wave of protests that has swept through Egypt, ending Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule. What propelled Egyptians to organize a series of demonstrations, marches and labor strikes? What are the implications of this political unrest for Egypt and for the entire region?

Joining Prof. Cavdar will be Sam Rachid, who was visiting his relatives in Cairo at the time and was a first-hand witness to the uprising. There will be a period at the end of the presentations for questions and discussion.

The program is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Larimer County. Admission is free and all are cordially welcome.

ENGINES LAB TOUR

On a sunny Valentine's Day, about 20 UNA members and friends had a tour of the CSU engines lab. Nasir Jalal and one of our newest members, Arunachalam Lakshminarayanan, who is a student working in the lab, helped to put together this tour. The work taking place there has global impact. From the smallest tool to the largest, they do it here.



The lab has developed and put in place thousands of small efficient cook stoves all around the world. They have developed a cleaner two-stroke engine (as in the little tuc tuc rickshaw in the Philippines) and are working on some of the world's biggest engines to use to measure natural gas in the pipeline in the field and to pump it along. They also have a model of how city utilities work and can help prevent shutdowns and waste.

One might say that this was the most unique UNA meeting. Not everyone has such meaningful work taking place in their backyard. A nice surprise was that one of those taking the tour was one of our Essay contest winners from Boltz Middle School.

THE UN AT WORK

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

Egypt: UN launches initiative for children traumatized by recent violence—23 February.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its national partners in Egypt have launched a psycho-social support program for children who were affected by violence during the uprising that led to the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak earlier this month.



"All reported deaths and injuries, particularly of children, as well as reports of children being paid to participate in counter-demonstrations, and of children being detained, should be thoroughly investigated, and children's rights fully protected," said UNICEF country representative Philippe Duamelle.

The psycho-social program will help children at risk in Cairo and Alexandria, as well as schoolchildren nationwide, to overcome their psychological distress.

One million nets—February 2011. *Nothing But Nets*—a global, grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to combat malaria, one of the largest killers of children in Africa—has announced that nearly one million bed nets have been distributed in the Central African Republic. C.A.R. is a land-locked country, surrounded by areas of conflict, and often forgotten. Malaria is a year-round threat, and the leading killer of children under five. *Nothing But Nets* and partners, Population Services International (PSI), UNICEF, singer/actress Mandy Moore, Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly, the UN Foundation and others have provided a net to every family in C.A.R. For additional information, see <http://www.nothingbutnets.net/>

Send a net. Save a life. Together we can cover a continent.

World Water Day—22 March—is devoted to implementing UN recommendations and promoting concrete activities within their countries regarding the world's water resources. Each year, one of the UN agencies involved in water issues takes the lead in promoting and coordinating international activities for the day. This year, the lead agency is UN HABITAT and the theme is *Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge*.



New UN agency for women--On 24 February 2011 **UN Women** was officially launched. It was voted into

existence unanimously by the 192-member General Assembly following years of advocacy by a spectrum of women's rights advocates. Formally known as the *United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*, **UN Women** combines four pre-existing U.N. agencies into one task force that embodies the highest ambitions and aspirations of the drivers of gender equality.

"For the first time in history, women at the United Nations will have a seat on all the major decision-making bodies within the UN. . ." Former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet, a long-time champion of gender equality and women's rights, will serve as first executive director of U.N. Women.

UN agency creates tool to mitigate agriculture's contribution to global warming--5 February 2011.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiated a program to improve global information on greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and assess farming's potential to mitigate global warming.

The improved data acquired by the FAO Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) program, which will receive \$5 million from Germany and Norway, will be available via an online global knowledge base that will profile greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and identify best opportunities for improving farming practices.

Having access to improved data will give governments, development planners, farmers and agribusinesses a tool they can use to access international funding for mitigation projects and policies, programs and practices intended to reduce agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions and increase the amount of carbon sequestered on farms.

"The data we are working together to assemble is fundamental for the effort to shift food production to the climate smart model. The more information we have on emissions from specific farming systems, the more effective the policies countries will be able to put into place," said Marja-Liisa Tapio-Bistrom, MICCA coordinator.

Agriculture accounts for about 14% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, equal to 6.8 gigatons of carbon equivalent. FAO believes there is great potential to reduce agriculture emissions and sequester large amounts of carbon through improved cropland and grazing land management, and restoration of degraded lands.

International Women's Day (IWD)—8 March—is a major day of global celebration of women. In different regions the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements.

Conservation projects in Guatemala and Nepal win UN environment prize--23 February 2011.

A forest conservation initiative in Guatemala and a sustainable development project in Nepal are the recipients of this year's Sasakawa Prize, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) announced today.

The UNEP Sasakawa Prize, worth \$200,000, recognizes the most innovative, groundbreaking and sustainable grassroots environmental initiatives in developing countries. This year, it has been awarded to Asociación Forestal Integral San Andrés, Petén (AFISAP), a forest conservation initiative in Guatemala, and the Manahari Development Institute in Nepal (MDI-Nepal), a sustainable development project in Nepal.

Estimates indicate that deforestation and forest degradation are costing the global economy between \$2.5 and \$4.5 trillion a year--more than the losses of the recent and ongoing financial crisis.

AFISAP is focused on preserving the forests on a 52,000-hectare concession within the Mayan Biosphere Reserve. It has also introduced projects to extract the lucrative *xate*, the popular foliage used for floral arrangements worldwide. Xate has brought enormous economic benefits for the rural communities in the area.

MDI-Nepal has introduced agroforestry to help improve crop productivity and water irrigation systems as well as reduce soil erosion on the forested hills and mountainous areas. These measures have significantly improved food security and living standards of the rural communities.

Earth Day—22 April—was founded by US Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970 to inspire awareness and appreciation for the earth's natural environment.



In 2009, the United Nations designated 22 April as **International Mother Earth Day** “to promote a view of the Earth as the entity that sustains all living things found in nature. Inclusiveness is at the heart of International Mother Earth Day; fostering shared responsibilities to rebuild our troubled relationship with nature is a cause that is uniting people around the world.”

Tunisia: UN human rights team lays out path for transition to democracy—24 February 2011. “We witnessed the beginning of a remarkable new era in Tunisia,” four top experts from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said in a report on their week-long mission that ended earlier this month. “There are clear indications of a willingness to put in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure a clear break with past injustices and to elaborate a vision for the new Tunisia.”

The experts, who were dispatched by High Commissioner Navi Pillay after president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled the country, highlighted “the denial of dignity” as the key phrase that they heard throughout their visit as the underlying cause of the uprising.

In their recommendations, the experts highlighted 10 areas that “require the attention of national and international actors,” including the establishment of governing structures and decision-making processes that are fully representative of the whole political spectrum and all segments of society, including youth and women.

The Tunisian authorities have asked OHCHR to set up an office in the country to support the transformation, and an advance team will soon be on the ground to ensure that human rights remain at the core of the transitional phase.

UN and African partners adopt joint strategy on Somalia crisis—The United Nations and its African partners adopted a joint strategy on 23 February designed to help the troubled interim government in Somalia manage the transitional period. The Joint Regional Strategy outlines a common approach to political, security, humanitarian, institutional and financial issues and challenges facing the peace process in this Horn of Africa nation.

Somalia—which has not had a functioning government since 1991—is facing a dire humanitarian crisis in which 2.4 million people are in need of assistance. The Strategy will be a tool to enhance cooperation and information sharing between the institutions, the international community and other partners, according to a joint communiqué.

UN agency chooses India as global host of this year's World Environment Day—The UN Environment Program (UNEP) announced on 22 February that India will be the global host of 2011 World Environment Day (WED) on 5 June. The theme of WED 2011 – “Forests: Nature at Your Service” – complements the focus of the UN International Year of Forests.

UNESCO marks International Mother Language Day--21 February 2011. International Mother Language Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity and of multilingual education. According to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN agency tasked with preserving the world's cultural heritage and promoting education, half of the world's 6,000 languages are endangered.

“Mother languages, along with linguistic diversity, matter for the identity of individuals. As sources of human knowledge, and vehicles for creativity and cultural expression, they are also important for the health of societies,” said Irina Bokova, the UNESCO Director-General.

This year's International Mother Language Day focuses on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for safeguarding and promoting languages and linguistic diversity. This year, UNESCO is launching a campaign via the social media Twitter and Facebook to encourage users to share stories, photographs and video illustrating the potential of new technologies for the promotion of linguistic diversity. *“These technologies are also a new frontier for promoting linguistic diversity. UNESCO is committed to promoting multilingualism on the Internet,”* said Ms. Bokova.

International Mother Language Day originated in international recognition of Language Movement Day, commemorated in Bangladesh since 1952, when a

number of Dhaka university students were killed on 21 February during the Bengali Language Movement.

Shaheed Minar (the Martyr's monument), Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Cyprus UN de-mining to end—20 January 2011. UN de-miners have removed over 27,000 landmines from the buffer zone in Cyprus over the past six years; but the mine action program will come to an end next month due to lack of access to remaining minefields.

According to UN Mine Action Centre in Cyprus (UNMACC), a total of 74 minefields or 9.7 square kilometers of land have been cleared throughout the buffer zone. but some 15,000 landmines may still remain in Cyprus and two million square meters of land could still be contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, NORTHERN COLORADO (NOCO) CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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www.unanortherncolorado.org.

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UN Foundation: <http://www.unfoundation.org/>

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United Nations information: www.un.org.

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Our World 2.0—a web-magazine produced by the UN University: ourworld.unu.edu/en/. Supported by video on YouTube and Vimeo.

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