



# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the United States

Northern  
Colorado  
Chapter

May-June 2013

Volume 9, Number 3

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**UNA Women of Denver Informal Gathering.** Tuesday, 7 May, at 7:00 p.m. at 16 Sedgwick Drive, Englewood, CO. See *UNA-USA Women*, page 4.

**UNA INFORMAL DISCUSSION.** Sunday, 19 May, 2:30 p.m. at the Global Village Museum, 200 W. Mountain, Fort Collins. Emily Bartholomew, J.D., L.L.M. will discuss her service in Malta with UNHCR in *Somalis Seeking Asylum*. See *Somalis*, page 3.

**UNA INFORMAL DISCUSSION.** Sunday, 16 June, time and place TBD. Chelsea Shelton will share her experience at the Millennium Village in Mayange, Rwanda. See *Millennium Village*, page 2.

**ANNUAL UNA NCO PICNIC.** Coming in July. Watch for announcements in June.

### SCHEDULING CONFLICTS

Recently, many of our standard meeting rooms have established a policy of not booking rooms more than a month in advance. This means we often cannot include specific time and location information in our announcements. We will send out e-mail announcements as soon as we can confirm times and locations and we apologize for this inconvenience.

*Susan Solick, Editor*

## PRESIDENTS' CORNER

### DEAR UNA MEMBERS AND COLLEAGUES,

I am delighted to share deep appreciation (and a good deal of awe) for the international work by notable humanitarians in Northern Colorado that our chapter helps support and promote.

First, **KUDOS** to Hugh Sanborn, convener and leader of the UNA organizing committee for this year's International Humanitarian Award celebration on 21 April honoring Kari Grady Grossman, for her work in establishing ***Sustainable Schools International***.

Notable volunteer contributions came from

- Bill DeMarco, who provided music, designed the flier and made the certificate for the event;
- Mary Kay Graver, who handled logistics and coordinated greeters and guides;
- Holly Stern, Paul Smith, Larry McCullough, Mary Kay and Jacquie Huhta, who greeted and oriented our guests;

- Janet and Larry McCulloch, our wonderful River Rock hosts;
- Elissa Tivona, creator of "winner" circle banners for display;
- Susan Solick, for delicious refreshments;
- George Grady-Grossman and Happy Lucky Teahouse, for the donation of beverages; and
- Margaret Smith and Eleanor Dwight for handling a myriad details.

### JOBS ALL VERY WELL DONE!

Pull out your calendars and make plans to join me at upcoming UNA programs that will feature our Chapter's *GEN-UN*, a cohort of inspirational young people who are working to realize the UN's ambitious MDGs throughout the world.

On Sunday, May 19th, Emily Bartholomew, J.D., L.L.M. will discuss her work in Malta with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) serving Somali refugees as well as her local experience with The Global Refugee Center in Greeley. (See *Somalis*, page 3.)

On Sunday, June 16th, CSU student Chelsea Shelton will share her experience at the Millennium Village in Rwanda.

Looking ahead to the fall, one of our newest UNA Board members, Steven Sorensen, is preparing an experiential program on the Model United Nations and the role of civic simulation in public education. This program is still in the planning phase but stay tuned for more details this summer.

Did I say awe? That's exactly how I feel about the extraordinary vision and commitment these young people have to the peaceful future of our world. I'm proud that the UNA, both locally and nationally, supports them, listens to them and learns from them!

Finally, Our National UNA Regional representative, Eleanor Dwight, will be headed to the National UNA meeting running June 1-4 in Washington D.C.. She has generously offered to share accommodations in DC with another UNA member who would like to attend. Also, Eleanor reminds us that limited funds are available to help with travel expenses. If anyone is interested in taking part in this invaluable experience, please contact Eleanor at [elleanor@dwrightcentral.com](mailto:elleanor@dwrightcentral.com).

I can think of no better way to close than with UNA, NCO founder, Margaret Smith's stirring words, "Carry On!"

*Elissa Tivona, President*

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

**MEMBERSHIP MEANS YOU.** "Membership" is a term that has several meanings, depending on the context. The national level of UNA, the UN Foundation, etc. often send out e-mail messages with interesting and useful information about the UN and/or the UNA. **Sometimes** these messages are labeled "Membership" in some way. This means it is for **ALL** of the members, NOT just the Membership Committee. If it's just for the Committee, you won't be on the e-mail list that receives committee-only messages. So don't forget to read these "Membership" items from the national level. They are intended for YOU.

**2013 MEMBERSHIP BOOKLETS** will be mailed soon to members who have not yet picked up their copy. Additions and changes to the membership list since it went to press will be noted in the Newsletter. You may want to copy that information into your booklet. From time to time there will be summary update sheets available at UNA meetings.

**PLEASE WELCOME** these new members, who have joined since the March/April Newsletter went to press:

Emily Bartholomew [emily.bartholomew@gmail.com](mailto:emily.bartholomew@gmail.com)

Deanne Lembitz (no contact information yet)

Elizabeth Stanley [staneliz@yahoo.com](mailto:staneliz@yahoo.com)

Anjou Giri Kwan is moving, so her e-mail address is the one to use: [anjougkwan@hotmail.com](mailto:anjougkwan@hotmail.com)

And finally, please note a name change for (and congratulations to) our long-time Board member, Heidi Nash, who has recently become Heidi Cross.

Margaret Smith, Chair  
[Macsmith36@aol.com](mailto:Macsmith36@aol.com), 970-493-3857

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Education Committee will be meeting soon to discuss topics and strategies for next year's elementary school art and middle school essay contests. Since response to our high school and college-level contests has been weak or nil over five years, we will consider whether to offer them again.

Dick Rush, Middle School Essay Sub-Committee

## MILLENNIUM VILLAGE IN RWANDA

On Sunday, 16 June, Chelsea Shelton, a student at the School for International Training at CSU, will share her experiences at the Millennium Village in Mayange, Rwanda. This fall, Chelsea will be pursuing a Master's degree at UPEACE, the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica. Additional details to be forthcoming.



**Celebrate UN International Refugee Day on 20 June.** The 2013 theme is "*ONE FAMILY TORN APART BY WAR IS TOO MANY*"

## 2013 IHA PROGRAM INSPIRING

On Sunday, 21 April, a crowd of over 60 people were on hand to congratulate our newest IHA recipient, Kari Grady Grossman, and hear her inspirational story.



Kari detailed the 12-year saga of **Sustainable Schools International**, recounting a journey that began with the best of intentions. However, Kari's family quickly realized intentions were not nearly enough to unwind the sense of hopelessness left in the wake of three decades of genocide in Cambodia.

With careful listening, profound humility, and inexhaustible creativity and perseverance, **Sustainable Schools International** forged a successful model for building and sustaining local schools that is now transforming the lives of thousands of youngsters and impoverished, rural communities in Cambodia.

Thank you **Sustainable Schools International** for your exemplary humanitarian work year after year, and congratulations, Kari, for this well-deserved recognition.

For more information on SSI, check out their website: <http://www.sustainableschoolsinternational.org/> OR drop in for a chat (and some delicious tea) at Happy Lucky's Tea House (236 Walnut St, Fort Collins),

## UN 101, A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Our first Informal Discussion of the year was a wonderful relaxed learning atmosphere. We all taught each other. The Cieslas are very familiar with the working of the UN from their experience on the ground.

Dick Rush was his usual interesting, low-key teacher. We learned from his example of how important the UN is in lesser known arenas. He gave us an overview of how the global weather information put out by the UN helps us all and all for free. I gave an overview of the structure of the UN. We ended with a great round-table discussion. A good time was had by all and learning took place at the same time.

If you missed this class and would like to have one again let me know. For me, it is one of our best "programs" mostly because of the participation of all in attendance.

Eleanor Dwight



### SOMALIS SEEKING ASSYLUM

Our May Informal Discussion will be presented by Emily Bartholomew, Esq., a child protection attorney, who will be sharing her experience as a Protection Intern with the UNHCR in Malta in the Summer of 2012.

**When:** Sunday, 19 May, 2:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Global Village Museum  
200 W. Mountain Ave, Fort Collins

Emily will speak about the detention monitoring and research activities that UNHCR Malta conducts in pursuance of its advocacy and protection mandate.

Specifically, she will be relaying firsthand experiences visiting the children from Somalia and beyond as they awaited the outcome of their applications for refugee protection.

If scheduling permits, several individuals associated with The Global Refugee Center, Inc. in Greeley, Colorado, where Emily currently volunteers as an ESL instructor, will join the conversation.

### GOING EXTINCT IS GENOCIDE: Lakota Elders Tour to Raise Awareness about Struggle.

On Tuesday, 9 April, Lakota elders, activists and nonindigenous supporters marched through the streets of Manhattan to the UN, where they attempted to present a petition, entitled *The Official Lakota Oyate\* Complaint of Genocide Based on the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. This petition listed the numerous injustices faced by the Lakota people. (\*Oyate is a Sioux word for "people" or "nation".)

The action is part of the 13-city Truth Tour by Lakota elders and activists to draw attention to the situation of the Lakota. Between April 1 and 16, they traveled to Minneapolis, Chicago and other points east and west.

At the UN, security officers informed them that they would not be able to enter the building and present the complaint to the Secretary General. Instead, the security officers offered to take it to Ban's office, but refused to give the Lakota documentation verifying that their complaint had been received.

Charmaine White Face, a Lakota grandmother and great-grandmother, addressed the 60 people who had marched with her. "We come here as a nation. If they won't let us take our message to them, how disrespectful is that to a nation?"

Read more at: <http://truth-out.org/opinion/item/15870-going-extinct-is-genocide-lakota-elders-tour-to-raise-awareness-about-struggle>

### IS THE UN DOOMED?

That provocative question was explored at the recent **World Affairs Conference** held in Boulder at Colorado University. Offered every year during the second week of April and free to all comers, 185 sessions about current political, economic, international, social and cultural concerns deal with topics of interest and enormous variety, one of which dealt with the UN, under the heading above.

So what was the answer? All of the four panelists, from Peace Corps, NGO, international law and business backgrounds and none of whom had worked for a UN agency although they had worked with several, gave mixed opinions, with three leaning no and one yes. They agreed that the UN is a political tool of each of the member nations and therefore the primary test of its value must be its usefulness to national interests. By that measure, responses ranged from positive through neutral to negative.

Positive aspects included the essential and valuable co-operation and work of the specialized agencies and technical boards, the focus given to social and humanitarian needs by the Millennium Development Goals, and the platform afforded for venting and calling attention to issues of concern. More neutral areas were the rather constant need for institutional and managerial reforms, the need to stress undertakings which have succeeded and eschew those of weakness, tackle problems of most pressing need and allow leadership to be more widely shared with new emerging powers. The negative points maintained that regional groupings (military, trade, financial) are proving more effective than the international one, that private agencies (NGO's, business, contractors) can do a better job at solving dilemmas than the UN can, and that the UN is ill-equipped to handle conflicts involving big power interests, resource distribution and especially ideological differences (the "universality" of values, the legitimacy of "democracy").

As presentations and questions concluded, it seemed that a sort of consensus was reached that the imperfect United Nations faced serious shortcomings, did invaluable services, needed constant vigilance and growth and that the answers about its being doomed came down to "No, but ..." or "Yes, but ..."

For more enlightenment; or at least, for stimulation, try to tune in next year.

Dick Rush

### OUT AND ABOUT: UNA IN THE COMMUNITY

In March, New UNA member Susan Brand and her husband Harry Mueller made presentations at the Poudre River Public Libraries, about their experiences living and working for ten years in Saudi Arabia for ARAMCO (Saudi Arabian National Oil Company.)

## UNA-USA WOMEN IN COLORADO

**UNA-USA WOMEN** is a group within the UNA-USA membership framework that focuses on the advancement of women domestically and internationally.

The UNA-USA is dedicated to educating, inspiring and mobilizing Americans to support the principles and vital work of the UN, strengthening the UN system, promoting constructive US leadership in that system and achieving the goals of the UN Charter.

**MISSION OF UNA-USA WOMEN:** Support the work of UN Women and educate UNA-USA members and the general public about the UN's work for women.

**PURPOSE OF UNA-USA WOMEN:** Secure gender equality and the empowerment of women domestically and internationally.

Support UNA-USA in bringing greater emphasis on women's issues before the members of the UN.

### AREAS OF FOCUS FOR UNA WOMEN:

- Ending violence against women
- Peace and security as they pertain to women
- Economic empowerment
- Political empowerment
- Reproductive health
- National planning and budgeting

**Please join us for an informal gathering of UNA Women of Denver.** We'll talk about some ways to become more active as a group, learn about UNA Women opportunities, locally & nationally, and have an opportunity to get to know each other and learn more about UNA Women.

**When:** May 7th - 7-9 pm

**Where:** 16 Sedgwick Drive, Englewood, CO, 80113

Please RSVP to [ingridlantz@yahoo.com](mailto:ingridlantz@yahoo.com). Light refreshments will be served.

*Ingrid Lantz, UNA Women National Co-Chair*

## THE UN AT WORK

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

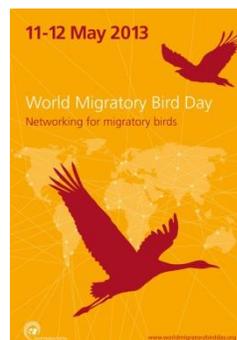
**United Kingdom provides aid. 30 April**—The UN World Food Program (WFP) welcomed a generous contribution of around \$43 million from the UK that will help provide much-needed food assistance to tens of thousands of Syrians both inside and outside their country. The UK is also helping WFP scale up its logistics capacity by providing armored vehicles and personal protective equipment to assist field monitors inside Syria move around in dangerous areas. The agency must raise \$19 million each week to provide food assistance to 2.5 million hungry people inside Syria and more than one million refugees in neighboring countries.

## 29 May is International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

UN Peacekeeping works with Member States, host countries, UN partners and regional organizations to address threats to international peace and security. Since its beginning in 1948, UN peacekeeping has evolved into one of the main tools used by the international community to manage complex crises that threaten international peace and security.

This day is an occasion to salute the 120,000 peacekeepers serving in 17 missions in some of the world's most volatile and dangerous environments. It is also a time to mourn the nearly 3,000 peacekeepers who have died devoting their lives to peace.

Currently, UN Peacekeeping operations receive contributions of military and police personnel from 116 Member States. In addition, UN Peacekeeping works closely with UN agencies, funds and programs in support of humanitarian and development work on the ground. Creative partnerships with international and regional organizations are also becoming a regular feature in UN Peacekeeping to create a common vision, build capacity and share costs. A recent example includes the African Union (AU) in the work of the joint African Union – UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur.



## World Migratory Bird Day - Raising Awareness for Migratory Birds.

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need to migratory birds and their habitats. On the second weekend each May (11-12 May), people around the world take action and organize public events such as bird festivals, education

programs and bird watching excursions.

This year's World Migratory Bird Day theme - "Networking for migratory birds" - highlights the importance of networks of sites for migratory birds along their migration routes. These connected sites act like 'stepping stones' and are important for resting, feeding, breeding and wintering. However, many are under threat from human activities and from climate change.

This year's theme also highlights the importance of networking among governments, conservation organizations and dedicated people to establish global connections and work together to conserve migratory birds around the world.

**UNICEF nutrition report shows progress in combating childhood stunting.** 15 April – A UN nutrition report shows that progress has been made in addressing stunting, a condition that affects some 165 million children across the world.

The damage done to a child's body and brain by stunting is irreversible. It drags down performance at school and later at work, and puts children at a higher risk of dying from infectious diseases.

The UNICEF report, *'Improving Child Nutrition: The achievable imperative for global progress'* notes stunting can be reduced through a series of simple and proven steps such as improving women's nutrition, early and exclusive breastfeeding, providing additional vitamins and minerals as well as appropriate food during pregnancy and the first two years of a child's life.

About 80% of the world's stunted children live in just 14 countries. Eleven have demonstrated successes in improving nutrition and policies: Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

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**Over 30,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Yemen so far this year.** 26 April—UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has recorded the arrival of over 30,000 refugees and migrants to Yemen this year, the majority of them Ethiopians, with the rest coming from Somalia and a small number of other African countries.

Since 2006, when UNHCR began gathering data, close to half a million people have arrived in Yemen. Currently, the country hosts more than 242,000 refugees, over 231,000 are Somali. Somalis arriving in Yemen are automatically recognized as refugees by the authorities, while UNHCR conducts refugee status determination for other nationals.

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**United Kingdom provides food aid to Syrians.** 30 April—The UN World Food Program (WFP) welcomed a generous contribution of around \$43 million from the United Kingdom that will help provide much-needed food assistance to tens of thousands of Syrians both inside and outside their country.

The United Kingdom is also helping WFP scale up its logistics capacity by providing armored vehicles and personal protective equipment to assist field monitors inside Syria move around in dangerous areas.

The WFP must raise \$19 million each week to provide food assistance to 2.5 million hungry people inside Syria and more than one million refugees in neighboring countries.

**Designs in humanity.** 6 April—Two finalists for 6th annual *Designs of the Year* are of interest to humanitarians. One is a design for a wedge-shaped package containing medical supplies which fits exactly into the spaces between Coca Cola bottles when they are delivered in plastic crates.



The *ColaLife* design enables life-saving medicines such as anti-diarrhea kits to be delivered in developing countries at no extra delivery cost by "piggybacking" on Coke deliveries. Inventor Simon Berry said: "*How can it be right that Coke reaches remote villages in Africa, yet simple lifesaving medicines for children don't?*"

Another finalist is a prototype pair of self-adjustable glasses for children with no access to opticians, created by *The Centre for Vision in the Developing World* in Oxford,



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**Blue helmet drones? UN prepares to send drones over Africa.** 1 May—High-tech, unarmed drones are heading to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of an intervention force to root out the rebel groups that have destabilized the region for years. The UN is also mulling the idea of sending unarmed drones to the Ivory Coast and to South Sudan, where militants are using the dense forest along the Liberian border to hide and stage attacks.

The UN has lacked a reliable surveillance strategy since the days of the Rwanda genocide in 1994. Drones could help solve that. But drones can't replace boots on the ground when it comes to peacekeeping.

Experts say unarmed drones could give often-beleaguered peacekeepers an edge in missions where they can be outfoxed by guerrillas, who often have greater numbers and more local knowledge.

But Drones raise new questions: The UN must decide how to classify and transmit the terabytes of video data collected and also how not to invade peoples' privacy during surveillance. Then there are border states--A drone's camera can peer up to 30 miles across a border.

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**UN steps up vaccination campaigns amid measles outbreaks among uprooted Syrians.** 30 April—UNICEF, working with the Ministries of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and others, has stepped up vaccination campaigns in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey amid measles outbreaks in a region already struggling to provide humanitarian assistance to millions of people affected by ongoing conflict in Syria.

## 2012 UNA/USA NOCO Board of Directors

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### WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

#### UNA, Northern Colorado Chapter:

**Webpage:** [www.unanortherncolorado.org](http://www.unanortherncolorado.org) .  
**Blog:** <http://unanoco.blogspot.com/>  
**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/225640767454752/>

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To join UNA-USA by mail, please return this form with your check to:

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

Your form and payment will be forwarded to the national office after being recorded locally. *Your dues include membership in both the local and national UNA-USA, which is a part of the Better World Foundation.*

Please make check payable to: *BWF/United Nations Association of the USA.*

To join online or pay by credit card, go to [www.unausa.org/join](http://www.unausa.org/join).

#### Select Appropriate Dues Category (US\$):

- 1,000 Lifetime  
 \$500 Patron  
 \$100 Sponsor  
 \$40 Member  
 \$25 Introductory (First year only)/Limited Income  
 \$10 Student/Model UN Participant  
 Join *Young Professionals for International Cooperation* (UNA program for ages 21-40)  
 Additional gift to local chapter: \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Preferred Chapter: Northern Colorado

Is this a membership renewal?  YES  NO

#### Member Information:

Member Name (please print)  Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  Dr

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City, State, Zip

Home Phone or Cell Phone

Business Phone

Email Address

**My check** (payable to **BWF/United Nations Association of the USA**) is enclosed in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership in UNA-USA is open to any citizen or resident of the USA who is committed to the purposes of UNA-USA.

*The BWF/UNA-USA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization (EIN/tax ID number: 58-2366765). Your donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.*



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A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION