

UPCOMING EVENTS:

UNA Informal Discussion. Sunday, 20 May, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Global Village Museum, 200 West Mountain Ave, Fort Collins. Henry Shands will present “*The Svalbard Doomsday Seed Vault.*” See Svalbard announcement, page 4.

MUN Parlor Meeting. Thursday, 7 June, exact time and location TBD. EVERYONE is welcome. See the MUN Sub-Committee report, page 3.

UNA Informal Discussion. Saturday, 16 June, TBD.

UNA Annual Picnic. Watch for the announcement of our annual summer UNA NCO picnic at the Warren Shores pool and recreation area. The date will be a week night in mid July.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

April was a busy month with preparations for the International Humanitarian Award (IHA) evening ceremony and program at the Global Village Museum of Arts and Culture as well as planning for Nasir's and my departures in June.

If you missed the IHA program, you missed learning about the many adventures of Norm Illsley, this year's recipient, in 17 countries over the past 63 years of service. You will have to ask him to relate some of his stories of his varied experiences helping farmers and needy communities. Over 70 persons filled the room to enjoy the program which included Elissa Tivona's tribute to Jeanne Nash with a 2011 recorded interview with Jeanne.

At our 14 April full board meeting, Nasir indicated that he will be resigning his position in June in order to focus on completing his doctoral program and preparing to return to Pakistan. I also noted that I will be absent June 1 through October, so the board voted, as advised by the Executive Committee, to elect Eleanor Dwight to serve as interim president during that period. I will resume serving as president when I return at the end of October, completing my term at the annual meeting on Jan. 12.

Our third informal program will take place on 20 May. See the announcement on page 4. Planning is underway for a fourth informal program, scheduled for 16 June. Information will be sent out later this month. I will miss seeing you all at the June program, the summer picnic in July, and the fall programs, but I will be kept informed through emails on all the events I will miss. Have a great summer.

Hugh Sanborn, Co-president

2012 IHA PROGRAM, A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The 2012 IHA event began with guided tours through the Global Village Museum and a social hour with light refreshments. Co-presidents Nasir Jalal and Hugh Sanborn presented the 2012 award to Norman Illsley by describing a little of his 63 years of service around the world. Following the presentation, Norm entertained us with a few of his many memories. A Q&A period ended with the suggestion--applauded by the crowd--that he should write a book! The program closed with a moving tribute to Jeanne Nash, former UNA Board Member and one of the founders of the Global Village Museum.

Norman Illsley was presented with the 2012 International Humanitarian Award for his 63 years of providing assistance throughout the world as an agricultural engineer and as a *do-whatever-is-needed* helper, especially assisting farmers and their communities with self-sustaining projects in numerous countries, including Egypt, Pakistan, Liberia, Yemen, Uganda, Peru, Mexico, Burma, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Russia, Germany, Finland, Holland, and the United States. Each country holds a unique story for Norm, some of which he shared with us during the program.

Norm started his international work in 1949 volunteering in Finland clearing and making fields ready for Finns fleeing the communist occupation. He then worked to keep a motor pool going for the Quaker Relief Service. He was in Holland following the devastating floods of '53.



After receiving formal training in international development work, he went to British Guyana for a British-sponsored land settlement scheme.

He then worked with Native Americans in the southwest and traveled to various countries working in development. He combined employment with whatever type of help was needed where he was at the time.

During the past few years, he has repaired bicycles donated to him and loaned them to international students attending CSU, meeting their transportation needs. At last report, he has over 50 bicycles out on loan. In keeping with his desire to help however he can, Norm has donated his monetary award to the Global Village Museum.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS, who have joined since our last issue, and note them in your Membership Booklet,

Giuma Hadhoud, juma_jumaadrarr@yahoo.com

Tod Huckaby, tandlhuc@verinet.com

Sam Mitchell, synsol@comcast.net

CHANGES IN CONTACT INFORMATION: (please note in your membership booklet.)

Phyllis Beckley's phone number is 520-780-6858

Nasir Jalal's phone number is 492-9031. His preferred e-mail address is: nasirjal@gmail.com. He is listed in the main body and also in the Board list near the back of the booklet.

Ed Levering's phone number is now 775-1482.

Moved and left no mail address: M. Ali Kemal and Sofia Saeed.

MEMBERSHIP BOOKLETS FOR 2012 contain a directory of our members, plus some other information about the national organization and our chapter. Most of our members picked up their copy at one of our recent meetings. Booklets were mailed to remaining members on April 18. So by now, all members should have received a membership booklet with a sticker on the front, with their last name and the month when their dues expire, according to the national office's records. If you believe there is an error in your due date, please let me know and I'll see if I can clarify the situation.

Included in the mailed copies of the booklet is a list of members who have joined since the booklet went to press. New members' names and e-mail addresses have been published in the Newsletter, and you are encouraged to note them in your booklet. If you are behind on doing that and would like a copy of the "addenda" list, please let me know.

THE ORIENTATION "GET-TOGETHER" on March 3 was well attended, enjoyable, and resulted in two members who joined on the spot. Thanks to Eleanor Dwight and Norman Illsley for hosting this event!

GREETERS are always needed at UNA meetings. Mary Kay Graver and Jacquie Huhta have been helping with this; thanks! We could always use a few more to do this important but pleasant and easy task. Let me know if you'd like to be "Greeter," helping with name tags, sign-ins, directions, etc.

WE ARE THE NORTHERN COLORADO CHAPTER OF UNA. We truly do have members in a good-sized area of Northern Colorado. Here's the breakdown of our membership: Fort Collins, 56; Loveland, 11; Bellvue, 1; Berthoud, 2; Greeley, 3; La Porte, 1; LaSalle, 1; Westminster, 1; Windsor, 1. We hope our numbers continue to grow, in all of Northern Colorado.

Margaret Smith, Chair,
493-3857, Macsmith36@aol.com

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT:

We sent out a request for those who were going to their party caucus to take along a resolution to present to their precincts. The resolution called for the US to pay their UN dues in full and on time and to support a robust U.S. engagement at the UN by the US. I got reports back from quite a few of you who read the resolution into the record. All passed very easily. Here is what our member Ed Levering had to say about the experience: "I introduced the UN resolution you gave me at my caucus last Tuesday evening. It passed overwhelmingly!! We had an excellent discussion about the UN and its immense importance to the world---I led the discussion."

I urge all of you to take advantage of the nationwide conference call-ins sponsored by the National UNA and the Better World Campaign about every month. If you are a UNA member you will receive e-mail announcements from the UNA/USA membership team a week before each call. Sometimes there are not a lot of people on the call-in line and there is a good chance that you can have your question answered by the speaker. The April call was with Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State, Victoria Holt and her first person account of work in West Africa. My report of this call can be found on page 4.

Eleanor Dwight, Chair

INDIGENOUS CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Two fundraisers have been held to support the *Peace and Dignity Journeys* (see article in the March-April Newsletter). On 15 April, Beau Jo's Pizza and, on 24 April, the Texas Roadhouse in Fort Collins honored coupons presented and donated 20% of the proceeds to the Peace and Dignity Journeys. Our thanks to these fine eating establishments and to the many UNA members and friends who turned out to enjoy some great food. Watch for information on upcoming fundraisers and about the August event when the runners will stop over night in Fort Collins.

Christinia Eala, Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Education Committee is in a state of transition, because the chairperson for several years is stepping down and a new chairperson will need to be selected. In the interim, individual committee members are heading up the various contests which have been instituted over the past few years with the hope of continuing and improving them. At a committee meeting on 9 May, topics and procedures for next year's contests will be discussed.

Dick Rush, Chair

MUN EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Our UNA Chapter has been a longstanding supporter of the high school Model United Nations (MUN) program. The MUN provides students with opportunities to participate in international diplomacy and current affairs through comprehensive academic simulations derived from vital challenges on the actual UN agenda. Students investigate topical issues from the point-of-view of the country or NGO they represent, and then engage in deliberation and debate in “mock” sessions of the UN General Assembly, Security Council or designated committees to reach resolution.

In years past, we have supported local high school MUN clubs and delegations, and served on executive panels for local and regional conferences. Recently MUN has enjoyed resurgence in Poudre School District, thanks to the dedication and hard work of Fossil Ridge High School Teacher, Tod Huckaby, newest board member to UNA, Northern Colorado.

Tod and MUN sub-committee members have been strategizing ways to foster greater participation in the MUN program in Poudre School District, expanding opportunity for a wider cross section of students. Seth Ewan, a Fossil Ridge senior and active participant in the Fossil Ridge MUN club, has set his sights on bringing a High School MUN conference to Colorado State University, where he will be a freshman next year. A number of efforts are underway to help make his dream a reality.

We have been asked by Andrea Delorey, Social Studies Curriculum facilitator for Poudre School District (PSD), to make a brief pitch for MUN at their end of the year gathering of PSD teachers (on May 8), and to invite motivated teachers from each of the schools to join us for a “drop in” Parlor Meeting sponsored by our UNA on June 7. Our committee’s goals for this meeting are to introduce the many advantages of MUN participation (for students and for teachers); share the zeal of present and past participants; and inform prospective teacher sponsors of comprehensive resources available through the Colorado MUN Website.

At that time, a joint presentation by Tod Huckaby and Devon Tivona (former Rocky MUN participant and current staff member for the Regional High School MUN program in San Francisco) will offer highlights from their MUN experiences. We welcome your participation in helping the committee move this initiative forward. Contact Elissa Tivona for more information; and, by all means, plan to join us on June 7, enjoy some light refreshment with PSD teachers, and share in Tod and Devon’s contagious enthusiasm for High School MUN. Watch for invitations with the specific time and location of this gathering.

Elissa Tivona, MUN Subcommittee Chair,
etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com

DENVER ANNUAL UNA SEMINAR

The UNA seminar was held the last weekend in April. Tim Wirth, head of the UN Foundation, gave the key note address. He was great! I do wish all of you could have been there. Senator Wirth caught us up on all the campaigns our affiliate, the UN Foundation, has going right now and about all the good work that the UN does.

Senator Wirth said the UN Foundation is putting together a campaign to offset the myths going around now with regard to Agenda 21. Agenda 21 (which I wrote about in our last newsletter) is a conspiracy theory that asserts that many progressive ideas that are presented in US communities (such as urging people to ride bicycles more) are the work of an effort by the UN to take over our country. I told the Senator about writing about instances of this conspiracy at work in Colorado. He handed me his card and asked me to send him my article!

I asked the Senator his take on the UNESCO situation. He explained why the US had come to withdraw from UNESCO. I am not quoting him directly, but he said that, in 1990, AIPAC had put in place an obscure law which said the US must withdraw support from any agency that accepts Palestine as a member. After Palestine was unable to gain admission as a state to the UN, UNESCO voted to accept it as a member.

The Senator implied that this law has had some unintended consequences and various US groups are scrambling to see how it can be circumvented. Palestine is seeking membership in other UN agencies and acceptance to these agencies will have some negative consequences to several industries, such as the film industry and the internet industry. Senator Wirth was actually animated when he told of the scenarios he saw playing out in New York around this possibility.

Eleanor Dwight

OUT AND ABOUT: UNA IN THE COMMUNITY

UNA member and grad student, Phoenix Mourningstar and the campus group he founded held a day-long observance of World Water Day on 22 March. They screened several films, hosted a speaker on water security issues, and ended with a dance.

UNA member Nancy Kain spoke at the Namaqua Forum on 15 April on *Non-Violence--The force that has no name*. Nancy has extensively researched the culture of perpetual war and how pacifist religions become militant. She shared theories of how people are brainwashed into believing that killing is the way to solve problems.

Do you belong to a group that would enjoy a speaker from the UNA? Have you made any UN-related presentations recently? Would you like to make presentations related to UN? Call Eleanor Dwight at 970-377-0863 or Margaret Smith, 970-493-3857.

SEEKING JUSTICE IN WEST AFRICA:

I joined the UNA-USA's April Conference Call on the topic, *Seeking Justice in West Africa* with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Victoria K. Holt. She had recently visited the Peacekeeping forces in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia. She said that State Department officers make it a habit of going into the field to observe firsthand the conditions there and to meet with UN leaders. She gave a brief review of the recent events in these countries, pointing out that the UN was in Cote d' Ivoire keeping pressure on the former President Gbagbo who refused to relinquish power after democratic elections. Sanctions on his personal wealth finally drove him out.

Liberia has had two unprecedented elections monitored by the UN. In Liberia there is a shift from the "blue helmets" to missions providing training for governance, return of refugees and reconciliation. She noted there are now female peacekeepers involved.

I was able to ask her about one of the newer UN agencies devoted to "peacebuilding" as I had not seen any such missions taking place. She replied that the UN Peacekeepers are actually doing a lot of the longer term peacebuilding now but that programs are being finalized this month to make them official. Extensive work is being done in West Africa on preventative approaches such as early warning systems to announce flash points for conflicts.

After several bad outcomes with UN Peacekeepers, all Peacekeepers are receiving more extensive training. The one lesson that they emphasize over and over is that they are there, first and foremost, to protect civilians. Peacekeepers are to comport themselves with high standards and to protect women especially. Peacekeepers are often handicapped because they lack necessary supplies and equipment. For example, one helicopter is shared by missions in Cote d' Ivorie and Liberia.

One caller said that he had worked with the Peacekeepers after leaving the US military. Ms. Holt said that very few US citizens are in UN Peacekeepers units. However, the US gets a great benefit from their work.

While we were speaking, Ms. Holt received word that the International Criminal Court had just found Charles Taylor guilty of multiple crimes against humanity. A first for the ICC. It was exciting to hear this news from her!!

I find these conference calls very interesting and urge you all to call in on them whenever you can. Announcements of these calls come to you in your email from the National UNA. One of the perks of membership in the UNA/USA!

Eleanor Dwight, Advocacy Chair

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Henry Shands will present

THE SVALBARD DOOMSDAY SEED VAULT

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

When: Sunday, 20 May, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Svalbard, located on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen, about 810 miles from the North Pole, preserves plant seeds that are duplicate samples of seeds held in gene banks worldwide. The seed vault provides insurance against the loss of seeds in the case of large-scale regional or global crises.

The seed vault is managed under a tripartite agreement between the Norwegian government, the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDDT) and the Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen).

Coffee and Cookies will be served.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

THANKS! LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Because the League of Women Voters of the US (and, by extension, LWV of Larimer County) has formal positions on International Relations and the UN, the local League has been including announcements of our Chapter's events in their monthly newsletter, their "Mid-Month Update," on their webpage (www.lwv-larimercounty.org) and on their Facebook page ([Facebook.com/LWV-larimercounty.org](https://www.facebook.com/LWV-larimercounty.org)).

WE APPRECIATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SPREAD THE WORD!

LWV-Larimer County also sponsors a **Great Decisions Group** to discuss issues included in the Foreign Policy Association's study book for Great Decisions.

This group meets on the first Monday of every month (Feb.-June, Oct.-Dec.) at Plymouth UCC Church, (916 W. Prospect, Ft. C.) 11:30-1:30 p.m. and you may bring a sack lunch.

League membership is not required to attend the Great Decisions meetings and ALL participants are welcome.

MARCH BURUNDI PROGRAM A SUCCESS



Dr. William Timpson led the discussion on "*Building Sustainable Peace and Development in Post-Genocide Burundi: How the U.N. helps there and our chapter can help here!*"

He told of the incredible progress building sustainable peace by collaborating with one University in Burundi. Dr. Timpson has requested help obtaining basketballs for the students and forwarded a request from another Peace and Reconciliation Builder, Patrick Mureithi, who continues his efforts in Rwanda and Kenya.

Patrick Mureithi, the filmmaker who made the wonderful film about the post-genocide reconciliation work in Rwanda and came to Fort Collins to show it, is now working on a new film about the post-election violence in Kenya. To watch the trailer please visit: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1203307090/kenya-until-hope-is-found>.

Patrick has been raising funds to complete this film. He has reached his initial target of \$10,000. If you are interested in donating to or finding out more about this project, contact:

Patrick Mureithi, (Artist in Residence)
p_mureithi@hotmail.com +1 417 496 8251
Drury University
<http://josiahfilms.com/>
Springfield, MO

THE UN AT WORK

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

Celebrate World Environment Day (WED) on 5 June. WED stimulates awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and public action. It is celebrated on 5 June, the date of the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. World Environment Day is hosted every year by a different city with a different theme and is commemorated with an international exposition in the week of 5 June. This year, the host for World Environment Day will be the Federative Republic of Brazil. The theme is: **Green Economy, Does It Include You?**

UN marks 50th anniversary of trial that convicted Holocaust organizer. On 21 April, the UN marked the 50th anniversary of the trial of Adolf Eichmann, a Nazi officer who was one of the main organizers behind the systematic mass deportation and murder of European Jews during the Holocaust, with a series of events and discussions at its Headquarters in New York.

2012 International UN Peacekeepers Day is 29 May.

International UN Peacekeepers Day is to remember those who served in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations. They also honor the memory of people who died in the name of peace.

Since the first UN Peacekeeping mission was established in 1948, 2,989 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease.

Today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law. There are currently 17 UN peace operations deployed on four continents.

Success is never guaranteed, because UN Peacekeeping almost by definition goes to the most physically and politically difficult environments. However, they have built up a demonstrable record of success over our 60 years of existence, including winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Of the 98,989 UN Peacekeepers (police, civilians, and military) deployed as of March 2012, 131 have been from the US.

Azerbaijani journalist selected for annual UN press freedom award.

17 April—An Azerbaijani journalist and human rights activist has been named this year's winner of the annual UN prize that honors those promoting freedom of expression. Eynulla Fatullayev, 35, was announced as the laureate of the 2012 UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Guillermo



Cano World Press Freedom Prize, named in memory of a Colombian newspaper publisher murdered in 1987 for denouncing the activities of powerful drug barons in his country.

Mr. Fatullayev is the former editor-in-chief and founder of the popular independent Russian-language weekly *Realny Azerbaijan* (Real Azerbaijan) and the Azeri-language daily *Gundalik Azarbaycan* (Azerbaijan Daily) newspapers. Imprisoned in 2007, Mr. Fatullayev was released last year by presidential pardon on Azerbaijan's Republic Day, 26 May. In July of last year, he founded the *Public Union for Human Rights*, a non-governmental human rights organization.

UN reparations panel pays out over \$1 billion for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. 26 April—The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC), which settles the damage claims of those who suffered losses due to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, today made a total of \$1.02 billion available to six successful claimants.

The latest round of payments brings the total amount of compensation disbursed by the Commission to \$36.4 billion for more than 1.5 million successful claims of individuals, corporations, Governments and international organizations.

Successful claims are paid with funds drawn from the UN Compensation Fund, which is funded by a percentage of the proceeds generated by the export sales of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products.

UN celebrates legacy of jazz as a force of social transformation. On 27 April, the UN kicked off celebrations for the first annual International Jazz Day with a concert in Paris, followed by another in New Orleans on the 28th, and another at UN Headquarters in New York on the 30th.

International Jazz Day seeks to spotlight the historic influence the jazz music genre has had in connecting people and igniting social change.

Why International Jazz Day?

- Jazz breaks down barriers and creates opportunities for mutual understanding and tolerance;
- Jazz is a vector of freedom of expression;
- Jazz is a symbol of unity and peace;
- Jazz reduces tensions between individuals, groups, and communities;
- Jazz fosters gender equality;
- Jazz reinforces the role youth play for social change;
- Jazz encourages artistic innovation, improvisation, new forms of expression, and inclusion of traditional music forms into new ones;
- Jazz stimulates intercultural dialogue and empowers young people from marginalized societies.

Born in the United States at the beginning of the 20th century, jazz is rooted in African traditions, draws from European musical forms, and has evolved into various styles across the globe.

At the UNESCO General Conference in November last year, the international community proclaimed 30 April as International Jazz Day, with the intention of raising awareness in the international community of the virtues of jazz as an educational tool, and a force for peace, unity, dialogue and enhanced cooperation among people.

UK to give \$25 million to UN-led program to empower farmers. 4 April—The United Kingdom today signed an agreement with FAO, the UN food agency, to donate \$25 million to support a partnership program that will improve agricultural data available to governments and farmers in developing countries. This will cover the program's first phase from 2012 to 2016.

The FAO-led program, known as the *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics*, will focus on improving governments' agricultural statistical systems and will seek to identify innovative approaches to collect, analyze and disseminate data. This will include the use of digital devices with geo-referencing capabilities such as smart phones, global positioning systems and satellites.

UN stresses importance of translation on World Book Day. 23 April—World Book Day highlights the importance of translation for ensuring that everyone has access to the tremendous potential of books.

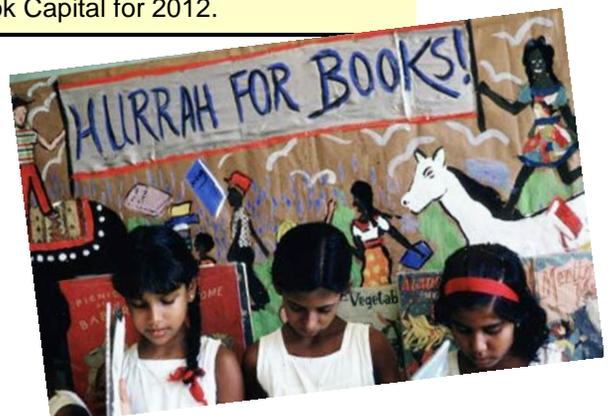
23 April was chosen because on that date in 1616 William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and "El Inca" Garcilaso de la Vega all died.

UNESCO's *Index Translationum*, the world bibliography of translations, also celebrating its 80th anniversary, contains information about published translations provided by national libraries, translators, linguists, researchers and databases worldwide.

The Index's electronic database includes over two million entries concerning 500,000 authors and 78,000 publishers in 148 countries. It reveals, for example, that Agatha Christie, Jules Verne and William Shakespeare are the world's most translated authors; the languages into which most books are translated are French, German and Spanish.

"Translation is the first step towards the rapprochement of peoples, and is also a decentralizing experience, teaching diversity and dialogue. Translation is one of the driving principles of our creative diversity, which enriches each language through contact with all the others," Ms. Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General noted.

UNESCO launched the celebrations of World Book and Copyright Day in Yerevan, Armenia, the World Book Capital for 2012.



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION, NORTHERN COLORADO (NOCO) CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
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WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

UNA, Northern Colorado Chapter:

www.unanortherncolorado.org .

On Facebook:

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

UNA national: www.unausa.org .

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

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United Nations information: www.un.org .

UN Information Center, DC: www.unicwash.org .

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

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