

UPCOMING UNA NoCO EVENTS

HAPPY UN DAY CELEBRATION. Join us for our UN Day celebration at the Old Town Library, 201 Peterson ST. FC at 3:00, Fort Collins, at 3:00 pm on Sunday, 23 October. The winners of our essay contests will share their essays and we will celebrate UN Day with a birthday cake. Please come and honor these upcoming "world leaders" and their families by your presence.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM. Save Sunday, 11 December to celebrate International Human Rights! Time and location TBD.

UNA INFORMAL DISCUSSION. Plans are underway for a presentation on the Dakota Access Pipeline protest, ongoing since April in North Dakota. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe are concerned about potential hazards on the pipeline's route under the Missouri River. Date, time, location TBD.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

As I write this, the 71st UN General Assembly is taking place. Leaders from nearly every nation in the world are gathered in New York to discuss many, many topics. Five stories to follow during UN week and into the fall are these:

1. Who will be the next Secretary General?
2. This is President Obama's farewell tour. What effect has he had? (In past years he has been known to "hang around" New York during this time to have informal talks with other leaders),
3. Fighting over Syria,
4. Refugees/migrants, and
5. The rise of antimicrobial resistance/the overuse of antibiotics (especially in agriculture). The most recent "UN Dispatch" tells way more effectively than I can about the meaning of the opening of the UN General Assembly.

(Click on <http://www.undispatch.com/5-stories-will-drive-agenda-un-week/> for more on these issues.)

I urge you to go online and sign up for the *UN Dispatch* (<http://www.undispatch.com/>) and *Dawns Digest* (<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/partners/dawns-digest/>). The managing editor of both is Mark Leon Goldberg. Some of you will remember him from when he addressed our group several years back. His reports are always concise, timely and important.

Every year, Elissa Tivona and her Outreach Committee bring us together to honor our International Humanitarian Awardee and every year it gets better and better. Our awardee this year was Meagan Cain, an outstanding young woman who has done some amazing work in Nepal even as they were experiencing a devastating earthquake! Meagan was unable to attend in person as she had just started a fellowship with CDC in Atlanta. Her parents were there to receive the award for her as were her former professors from UNC.



Meagan provided us with an animated power point presentation and took questions by way of Skype from Atlanta. This modern technology was possible due to the expertise of member Glen Blanc. Thank you Glen and Elissa!

Recently I have had several people mention that the news from around the world is so depressing that at times they can hardly continue to watch it. I too experience this numbness. Sixty million refugees is more that I can even imagine. I feel real pain for all those children living in trauma day to day. The only way I can deal with it is to try to do at least one small thing that might make a difference in one child's life. Norm and I contribute to UNICEF and UNHCR as we feel that they are able to use our small contribution most effectively.

Also, reading of the amazing work being done by the various UN bodies helps me to feel that much good comes from the UN and where would we be without it.

We are living in a time when learning of horrific events can overtake our ability to process and deal in a rational way with this knowledge. How do you deal with this feeling of despair? Share your thoughts with us in our next newsletter. As always, our newsletter editor makes the call on what to publish.

Thanks to all of you for all the work you do every day to make the world a better place.

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

ADVOCACY: UNA ADOPT-A-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

Our National UNA has been asked by the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to take on a campaign to help refugee schools. UNHCR provides the basic needs for refugees--the **60 million refugees** worldwide--and they do not have enough resources to provide schooling for refugee children. Many of these children have been in camps for several years. As you can imagine, the fallout of no school for a year or two is devastating for these kids.

UNA and UNHCR have put together an agreement to help with schools in refugee camps. The campaign has been named "Adopt a Future."

I am setting up a committee in our Chapter to work on this. If you are interested in being on this committee, please email me at Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com.

Below is a memo from our National office that explains how this campaign will work. Specific information about each school is provided in a separate pamphlet too long to include here but it will be available at our meetings.

ADOPT A FUTURE

Adoption Schools –For the first year of the campaign, UNA can have the greatest impact by concentrating efforts on a single country—Kenya--where UNHCR supports 52 primary schools and nine secondary schools in just two refugee camps (Dadaab and Kakuma) housing 600,000 people from many locations, including Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, and Rwanda. Both camps have been the subject of recent concern, as the Kenyan government threatened to close both in June (they reversed their decision after a personal appeal by Secretary John Kerry). By focusing our efforts on schools in these two camps, we would not only concentrate our impact, but also reinforce the diplomacy that forestalled their closure by showing that the American people (as well as the US State Department) understand the burden that both camps have placed on Kenya's government and are putting their money where their mouth is.

What Our Fundraising will Support – The campaign offers chapters, partners, and individuals the ability to have meaningful impact at the school level at price points as low as \$250 (school supplies for 10 students) or as high as \$30,000 (funding a school expansion project to allow a school to enroll another 40 students for 10 years). By concentrating on Kenya, we can be more specific on outcomes and impacts that can be created at many different levels of support.

UNA-USA Fundraising Assistance - All chapters will receive materials and messaging designed to demonstrate that the refugee crisis is a crisis of children. Materials include Adopt-A-Future posters, kits for hosting refugee camp virtual tours, and a dedicated portal on our website to channel donations. In addition, our speaker's corps members (both UNHCR staff and UNF staff) will be trained to speak on the refugee crisis.

Our Chapter has been given a copy of the newly published book, *The UN Association: A Little-Known History of Advocacy and Action*, by James Wurst. It documents 70 years of dedicated and independent action and advocacy for the UN and sound US policies in support of the UN by such luminaries as Clark Eichelberger, Eleanor Roosevelt, Elliot Richardson, including original archival material and interviews. If you would like to read this book, let me know.

Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com

EDUCATION: STUDENT CONTESTS

The Education committee is currently running writing contests for middle and high school students and an art contest for elementary school students in Larimer County. The top three winners in each contest will receive monetary prizes. Artwork will be displayed and top winners of the writing contests will be asked to read their papers at our UN Day Celebration on Sunday, 23 October.

If you know of any high school students or teachers who may be interested in entering, please share the following information:

UNA NoCO Writing Contest for 9-12 grade students in Northern Colorado

The Question to Be Addressed: Pick a nation in Africa where UN Peacekeeping forces (The Blue Helmets) have been deployed and access their effectiveness in bringing peace and stability to the people of that country. What factors determine the success or failure of peacekeeping operations?

Background: *"We, as peace-keepers, represent the United Nations and are present in the country to help it recover from the trauma of a conflict. As a result we must consciously be prepared to accept special constraints in our public and private lives in order to do the work and to pursue the ideals of the United Nations Organization"* (Taken from UN Peacekeeping Training Manual)

These words show the high standard to which UN peacekeepers (the Blue Helmets) must meet. They also demonstrate the main roles that UN peacekeepers must take on in serving in a conflict-torn country. However, the effectiveness of these peacekeeping forces recently has been called into question, especially in Africa.

Requirements: Analyze the major issues/problems facing the UN Peacekeeping forces (the Blue Helmets) in one nation in Africa. Identify the factors that contribute to the success or failure of these missions. The paper should reflect your research into this issue and have a clear thesis and support for that thesis. Include a bibliography with at least THREE sources you. The paper should be between 500 and 1000 words, double spaced, in Times 12 pt. font.

Submitting Your Paper: Submitted to Bob Jeffrey by email at jeffrey2co@gmail.com. Deadline is **Friday, October 14th**.

MODEL UN (MODUN) APP AVAILABLE

Below is a link to a one-hour ModUN app and some other ModUN items as well. Our national office has put together some very helpful resources and made it as easy as they can. I know other schools around the country are doing this quite successfully. For example, in Arizona, they hold an afternoon ModUN with all age groups invited to attend. Albert Cerloza who heads this project in Phoenix says he is willing to help us with plans for such an event. He would even come here! If any of you have connections to high or middle schools, please share this information with teachers and administrators and maybe we can generate some interest.

I know that we have attempted many times to get ModUN started in schools here and have not been successful. Times and players change. And we have a budget to help with some expenses. So if any of you are interested in helping with this, please let me know.

Link: <http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/model-un-mobile-app>

Thanks for all that you do,
Eleanor

INDIGENOUS CONCERNS: DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

On Monday, 3 October, Sacred Stone Camp founder Ladonna Bravebull Allard addressed the UN on behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation to request assistance in the struggle to protect Indigenous water and sacred sites from the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Ladonna Bravebull Allard:

Greetings distinguished representatives,

I greet you with a good heart today. I am Ta Maka Waste Win, an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe I am speaking regarding the participation of the over 300 million Indigenous Peoples of Unci Maka Mother Earth. Within the United Nations system, we the Indigenous peoples request that our participation be granted at the highest possible level and that our representatives be legitimate and elected by Indigenous Nations and organizations in each region. This will secure that our participation and contributions on issues that affect us are addressed in a legitimate manner. Lack of this legitimate representation and contributions on issues that affect us are resulting in violations of our equal and inalienable rights as members of the human family. As such is the current and urgent situation of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, my home, where the Dakota Access Pipeline has blatantly violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, ILO 169, the Laramie Treaty of 1868, unresolved Ihunktonwana Land Claim Docket 74A and most importantly our Mother Earth.

The organization hereby invokes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations

Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, ILO 169 to be enforced and brought to life to put an immediate stop to the Dakota Access Pipeline. We request that an observer and media team be sent immediately and permanently to Standing Rock until this issue is resolved to protect the water. This situation with Dakota Access has been going on for 6 months now. It has endured Spring, Summer, Fall and heads into Winter as we protect and defend our right to water. We demand immediate assistance and protection for our Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota sisters and brothers. Today we are here to formally denounce terrorism from transnationals against Indigenous Peoples of Mother Earth, as such is our situation in Standing Rock and also the urgent situation of our Indigenous sisters and brothers in the Amazon and many other parts of the world.

The organization remains committed to solving the challenges faced by our generation, which is to protect life and clean water for the future generations and so that all that exists can continue to exist. The Indigenous Traditional Knowledge is the only path remaining to heal the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption that is destroying our lives and the world around us. Agenda 2030, without our legitimate representatives and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples Traditional Knowledge will fail. Our knowledge can help heal Mother Earth. Without it, great and irreparable damage will lead us to destruction. We must unite to protect the Water and our Mother Earth. We, the Indigenous Peoples of Mother Earth walk to the future in the footprints of our ancestors.

Christinia Eala, Chair



HELP WANTED!

We need to set up a Facebook account for our chapter. Are you a person with some tech savvy who could do this? Our National UNA office will help where needed. Email me if you can assist.

Eleanor Dwight, Eleanor@dwightcentral.com.

THE UN AT WORK

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

International Habitat Day is the 1st Monday in October. The 2016 World Habitat Day campaign aims to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing for all in urban areas, towns and cities. Access to adequate housing is a global challenge growing fast with urbanization. Around one quarter of the world's urban population continues to live in slums and informal settlements. [Habitat III](#), the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development will take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 – 20 October 2016.

Celebrate World Teachers' Day on 5 October. "Valuing teachers, improving their status" is the World Teachers' Day theme for 2016. Teachers are not only a means to implementing education goals; they are the key to sustainability and national capacity in achieving learning and creating societies based on knowledge, values and ethics. However, they face challenges brought about by staff shortages, poor training and low status.

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics estimates that to achieve the goal of *universal primary education* by 2020, countries will need to recruit a total of 12.6 million primary teachers.

World Teachers' Day highlights the fact that teachers must be empowered as a critical step towards quality education and sustainable societies.

Celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October. On December 19, 2011, the UN General Assembly declared this date the *International Day of the Girl Child* to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

Adolescent girls have the right to a safe, educated, and healthy life, not only during these critical formative years, but also as they mature into women. If effectively supported during the adolescent years, girls have the potential to change the world--both as the empowered girls of today and as tomorrow's workers, mothers, entrepreneurs, mentors, household heads, and political leaders.

13 October is the International Day of Disaster Reduction. In 1989, the General Assembly designated the second Wednesday of October International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. In 2009, this was modified, designating 13 October as the date of commemoration and changing the Day's name to International Day for Disaster Reduction. The objective of the observance is to raise awareness of how people are taking action to reduce their risk to disasters.

Celebrate UN Day on 24 October. UN Day marks the anniversary of the ratification of the UN Charter in 1945 by the majority of its signatories: the day the United Nations officially came into being. 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

In 1971, the UN General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday.



India ratifies Paris climate pact at UN. 2 October— Bringing the Paris Agreement on climate change

closer to its entry into force, India today joined the new global accord at the UN Headquarters in New York and became the 62nd country to deposit its legal instrument of ratification.

The Agreement, which calls on countries to combat climate change and limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, will take effect 30 days after at least 55 countries, responsible for 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions, deposit their instruments of ratification.

The Agreement now only needs slightly more than 3 percentage points to reach the 55% threshold. The world's two largest emitters, China and the United States, had already joined the Agreement.

India's ratification came on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the country's independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. The UN General Assembly designated 2 October as the *International Day of Non-Violence*.

ICC finds Malian extremist guilty of war crime in destroying historic sites in Timbuktu. 27 September —The International Criminal Court (ICC) today found a Malian Islamist guilty in the first-ever prosecution of the destruction of cultural heritage as a war crime.

The judges sentenced Ahmad Al-Faqi Al-Mahdi, a member of a jihadist group linked to Al Qaeda, to nine years in prison for committing a war crime by deliberately destroying



nine mausoleums and the secret gate of the Sidi Yahia mosque in the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site of Timbuktu in Mali.

UNESCO highlighted today that the "historic" decision, a first under the ICC's founding Rome Statute, is a "crucial step to end impunity for the destruction of cultural heritage."

UNESCO added that it takes the judgment as an encouragement to continue the work engaged over the past few years to protect and rehabilitate heritage in Mali, in close cooperation with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and to preserve cultural diversity and human rights as a "lasting foundation for peace, not only in Mali but also across the world."

UNICEF launches back-to-school campaign to help millions missing out on education. 30 September –

The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), together with the Iraqi Ministry of Education, has launched a nationwide ‘Back to School’ campaign in 10 governorates.

Some 3.5 million school-aged Iraqi children are missing out on education, which means they are at increased risk of early marriage, child labor, and recruitment into armed groups.



About one million school-aged children are internally

displaced, and 70% of them have lost an entire year of school. About 64,000 Syrian refugee children living in Iraq have had their education disrupted.

The campaign has reached an estimated 1.4 million children with public information messages, transport assistance, school supplies, and other services.

UNICEF has also trained more than 2,350 education staff, helped 383 schools improve their governance practices, mainstreamed life skills education in 439 schools, and helped to reopen schools in previously inaccessible areas like Anbar.

As carbon dioxide levels hit 15 million-year high, UN urges action to curb greenhouse gas emissions. 30 September –

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) urged world leaders to take note of the profound implications of record-high carbon dioxide readings in September and appealed for their increased commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Global levels of 400 parts per million were reached for the first time ever in September.

The last time levels were this high was 15-20 million years ago. Traditionally, the lowest levels are recorded September, which translates to the unlikely of seeing levels below 400 parts per million for the foreseeable future.



A massive, 7-metre-high balloon, representing one ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

UNISDR serves as the focal point for disaster reduction coordination between the UN and regional organizations. Its work is applied to climate change adaptation; building disaster-resilient cities, schools and hospitals; and strengthening the international system for DRR.

Some 385 million children live in extreme poverty, World Bank-UNICEF study reveals.

4 October – Children are more than twice as likely as adults to live in extreme poverty, with nearly 385 million children worldwide experiencing that condition, according to a new analyses from the World Bank Group and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Half of all children in sub-Saharan Africa and one in five children in developing countries around the world are growing up in extreme poverty.



The UNICEF report, titled *Ending Extreme Poverty: A Focus on Children*, released yesterday, finds that in 2013, 19.5% of children in developing countries were living in households that survived on an average of \$1.90 a day or less per person, compared to just 9.2% of adults.

The recently released World Bank Group report, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016: Taking on Inequality*, also found that some 767 million people globally were living on less than \$1.90 per day in 2013, half of them under the age of 18.

The global estimate of extreme child poverty is based on data from 89 countries, representing 83% of the developing world’s population.

UNICEF completes mobile health campaign aimed at children and women in Yemen. 30 September –

UNICEF has reported that, along with its partners, the agency has completed a drive reaching more than 600,000 children under five years old and some 180,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women in conflict-torn Yemen with critical health and nutrition services.

The 24-29 September nationwide health and nutrition campaign included vaccination, vitamin supplementation, deworming, screening for malnutrition and treatment for childhood infections, as well as antenatal and postnatal care for women. More than 34,000 health workers supported by 880 supervisors and monitors spread across Yemen’s 333 districts, many riding donkeys or simply walking long distances on difficult terrains to reach children and women in far-flung corners of the country.

UN World Health Organization (WHO) declares elimination of measles in the Americas. 28 September –

The region of the Americas is the first in the world to have eliminated measles. The announcement was made during the 55th Directing Council of Pan American Health Organization of the UN World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). Measles is the fifth vaccine-preventable disease to be eliminated from the Americas, after the regional eradication of smallpox in 1971, poliomyelitis in 1994, and rubella and congenital rubella syndrome in 2015.

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WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

UNA, Northern Colorado Chapter:

Webpage: www.unanortherncolorado.org .

Blog: <http://unanoco.blogspot.com/>

Facebook:

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

UNA national: www.unausa.org .

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

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/> .

UNICEF U. S. Fund: www.unicefusa.org .

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/.

FREE UN E-PUBLICATIONS:

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UNA-USA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

**UNA of Northern Colorado,
Eleanor Dwight, Membership Chair
907 Sailor's Reef, 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.

Select Appropriate Dues Category (US\$):

- \$1,000 Lifetime
- \$500 Patron
- \$100 Sponsor
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- \$25 Introductory (First year only)/Limited Income
- FREE 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

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

Questions? Contact our Membership Chair at 970-377-0863, Eleanor@dwrightcentral.com

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

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