

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION-USA Boulder County

Spring 2010 Newsletter



President's Corner

Mobilize to Support UN's Work

By Meg Knox

Our packed calendar of the past six months reminds me of how much can be done, through diplomacy, politics, and non-profit work, to improve opportunities for health and prosperity around the world.

Our Haiti fundraiser brought in nearly \$15,000 to provide clean drinking water for the Starthrower teen center in Cap Haitien. Our United Nations Day celebration drew a crowd to hear Douglas Gardner, director of the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy, discuss strategies that work.

We honored Torkin Wakefield, founder of Bead for Life, with our International Human Rights Award. And Clean Energy Action founder Leslie Glustrom urged our annual meeting participants to fight global climate change by agitating to retire Colorado's coal-fired power plants.

Board member Bill Kellogg single-handedly launched an educational photo project, printing and matting beautiful pictures of the United Nations in action around the world. Look for these at our events. We also hope to lend them to schools.

Our Dialog Series of lectures, the Discussion Sessions at the public library, and the Ernie Smith International Affairs Lecture Series remain popular, and the board continues to support Model UN clubs. We have also begun reaching out to foreign students at CU, and have recruited some as resource people for the Discussion Sessions. As we go to press, we are getting ready to host the John Murphy Reception at the Conference on World Affairs at CU in April.

Good news from Washington! In December, with the support of the White House, Congress approved full funding of the United Nations and UN peacekeeping missions. Back payments have also been made. And although UN climate talks in



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Copenhagen did not result in a binding agreement, President Obama helped craft an accord asking countries to submit emissions targets by January, in preparation for further talks.

Our UNA-Boulder membership still hovers below 100, and the national office has launched a membership drive, February through June, to help chapters boost their numbers. If you'd like to help by luring your friends to join, please let us know and we'll show you how to use the materials and website.

In a world ravaged by war, disease, and climate change, it is often the work of the United Nations that addresses the most basic human needs. Through UNA, we help educate, inspire and mobilize Americans to support that work!

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Our Mission: The UNA-USA is dedicated to strengthening the United Nations System and the role of the United States in that system, and to promoting multilateral efforts to advance the goals of the United Nations Charter.

Haiti ■ *By Nancy Allen for the Haiti Committee*

Update on Water for Wellness

Cap Haitien, site of the UNA-Boulder County water project, is 81 miles northwest of Port-au Prince and did not experience the severity of the earthquake that has devastated the capitol city.

Nevertheless, strong tremors and aftershocks were certainly felt in Cap Haitien. At the Starthrower Center wall cracks occurred and a crack in the water tank on the rooftop resulted in all the water for cooking and washing to be lost. Clean drinking water was in short supply and often unavailable even for purchase. Our UNA-BC project to buy potable water from usual city sources was not possible immediately after the quake.

Currently refugees from Port-au-Prince are pouring in, students' homes were damaged and medical supplies are scarce and often non-existent. As a result of the tremors and aftershocks, most Cap Haitien schools are still closed, few banks are open, available plumbers with replacement parts to repair the leaking toilet at the center, for example, are difficult to find.

The staff at Starthrower is exhausted and some have lost loved ones who were working and living near Port-au Prince. Post traumatic stress is common among staff, students and their families. But the good news is that Sharon Gaskell, Founder/Director of the Starthrower Center has returned to supervise repairs and recovery. Her top priority is to restore water for drinking, washing and cooking and because of your donations there are sufficient funds to purchase clean drinking water for years.

Looking back to the UNA-BC "Water for Wellness in Haiti" project and September benefit, Sharon, who was the recipient of the funds raised through this project, unexpectedly came to Boulder for the fundraising



event. She gave a vivid account of conditions in Haiti, described the need for clean water and thanked attendees for their donations.

Sharon was introduced by Jan Arney, a member of the Starthrower Foundation board, who proposed the Haiti project to our board. The program also included a presentation by Ken Wright water engineer and expert on water contamination. There were brief talks by Model UN students from Boulder High School and the University of Colorado and a welcome and comments from Meg Knox, the chapter board president.

For two years the Haiti Committee and the board have worked to raise \$15,000 to purchase clean drinking water for the orphans, teens and students who come to the Starthrower Center. Boulder High School Model UN alone contributed \$1000 from conference registration fees, board members and volunteers donated money, time and effort to help us exceed our goal by 50%. We are confident that Sharon and her loyal staff will gradually restore the Starthrower Center to full operation and our donations will provide the essential of clean drinking water to help this to happen. From the UNA board and the Haiti Committee a warm "thank you" to all who gave so generously to this humanitarian effort.

International Human Rights Award ■ Torkin Wakefield, BeadforLife.org

78 people gathered at the Leanin' Tree Museum on December 16, 2009, to honor Torkin Wakefield, founder of BeadforLife.org as the winner of the 14th annual International Human Rights Award of the UNA-Boulder County. Beadforlife provides sustaining employment for hundreds of African women by distributing their handcrafted beads in the developed world.

Clovis Morrisson detailed Torkin's story for her friends and UNA members, and Meg Knox presented her with the framed certificate proclaiming the award. Clovis also thanked Sara Sheldon, retired Associate Curator of the Museum, for her 14 years of assistance to UNA with these receptions and presented her with a \$50 gift card to Barnes and Noble.

UNICEF ■ *By Virginia McConnell*

TAP Project 2010 is Underway

Across the country, during the week of March 21-29, diners in restaurants in cities, towns and villages are asked to donate one dollar for a glass of tap water.

The Tap Project 2010 is getting underway in Boulder County under the guidance of UNICEF volunteers who report that in 2009 more than \$2 million was raised in this nation-wide effort to help provide clean water projects in communities in developing countries. Every dollar raised provides a child clean drinking water for 40 days. This year funds will go to children in Haiti.

Last year 26 Boulder County restaurants participated and it is expected that many more will take part this year as the Tap Project becomes known.

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Sheila Malcolm at sheilamalcolm@comcast.net or go to UNICEF Tap Project at www.tapproject.org.

Testimonials ■ *By Members of UNA-Boulder County*

How I Came to the UNA

Bob Cohen

In 1945, while stationed at the U.S. Navy base on Treasure Island, San Francisco, in training to become an electronic technician, and happening to be on 'liberty' at the right time, I fortuitously chanced to attend one or two United Nations formative sessions at the San Francisco Opera House.

Adlai Stevenson was among those officiating. While in San Fran I was also able to be part of the historic V-J Day celebration. Late that year I was sent to serve for six months aboard two landing ship tanks in China waters.

These were valuable broadening experiences that increased my awareness of international affairs and about what life is like in the less-developed world. So in adulthood, conditioned by these experiences, I came to appreciate the importance of the United Nations in reaching solutions to global problems through diplomacy.

Jim Wolf

I first became aware of the United Nations Association of Boulder County when I was invited by Virginia McConnell, a Board member, to attend a benefit dinner to support the Landmark Removal project of the chapter.

The funds collected were directed to land mine fields in Mozambique in southeastern Africa, and, as I had taught African history at the University of Colorado, Denver, since 1969, I had a personal interest in the event.

Although the speaker that evening was mediocre, I found the people who attended to be an outstanding group of community leaders.

When Rev. Bruce McKenzie a short time later asked me if I would consider running for the chapter board, I was both flattered and pleased. Once on that board, I found my colleagues to be bright, energetic, and, most importantly, committed citizens.

While I cannot name all of them, I would like to compliment our former president John Beynon, and board members Clovis Morrisson and Nancy Allen for their initiative and dedication to the ideals of the United Nations Organization.

My terms on the Board were fulfilling and personally satisfying knowing that what we were doing and what we cared about were in some small measure beneficial to our problem-ridden world.

Nancy Beal Allen

What perked my interest in the Boulder County UNA?

Seeds were sown early, junior year at Thayer Academy, when my American History teacher, Grace Osgood, traveled to New York City in 1948 to hear Eleanor Roosevelt speak before the United Nations. Grace returned wildly enthusiastic about what she had learned and the plans for the newly formed UN organization. As students we were encouraged to follow UN events, read newspaper articles and periodicals about the UN and report on them in class.

“My terms on the Board were fulfilling and personally satisfying knowing that what we were doing and what we cared about were in some small measure beneficial to our problem-ridden world.”

That is probably an unconscious reason why I said “Yes” to Bruce McKenzie, chairman of the nominating committee in 2004 when he asked if I would serve on the UNA-BC board. But it wasn't the only reason. Recently I had attended a UN Day celebration and heard Jim Mitchell and John Beynon talk about plans to build schools in Afghanistan and, at that point, a trip to Afghanistan was in the wind for the coming summer. I was excited!

The project focused on building girl's schools as well as schools for physically challenged students. Having graduated from a woman's college and having taught homebound and physically challenged students in K-12, this project peaked my interest.

I joined the committee on Afghan Ed and that was my introduction to Boulder UN events and activities. Fascinating and competent people were leading this committee and it would be a pleasure to work with them.

Now, five years later, I have enjoyed working on Afghan Ed and a UN committee on family planning and consciousness raising education for women in the developing world, chaired the Water for Wellness in Haiti project, served as vice president and secretary of the board and newsletter editor.

So, interesting humanitarian projects and inspiring people attracted me to UNA-Boulder County.

Model UN ■ *By Dan Baum***Judging Model UN: An Antidote to Pessimism About the Future**

Anybody given to dismissing teenagers as slackers ought to judge a Model United Nations conference. I've had the privilege twice, and it's a wonderful antidote to pessimism about the future.

An MUN meet is a grueling day. Students distribute position papers reflecting a tremendous amount of research, and then plunge into seven hours of rigorous parliamentary debate. They dress for business and scrupulously boil the "likes," "you knows," and other teenage rhetorical quirks from their language.

The challenge is more than mastering facts and arguing logically. The delegations -- usually two-person -- must argue *from the point of the view of the country they represent*. In the first Security Council I helped judge -- a historical simulation about integrating the FARC into Colombian civil society -- two young women representing Russia cared less about Colombia than about flummoxing the United States and dividing it from its ally, the United Kingdom. They were dutifully re-enacting the Cold War.

Councils are run by strict parliamentary procedure, and one of the most fascinating motions is for five minutes of unmoderated caucus. When such a motion is seconded and approved, the students rise and mill about the room whispering to each other.

At first, I figured this was break time, and they were

discussing the previous night's episode of "Lost" or swapping music on their iPods. I approached a group to listen in, and was astonished to find they were still in character, feverishly debating the pros and cons of manipulating Venezuelan export credits to deny arms to the FARC. Unmoderated caucus, it turns out, is where a lot of the serious horse-trading takes place.

After four hours of debate, the students got a one-hour lunch break and came back for two more hours.

As the delegations were nearing agreement on a plan of action for Colombia, the door banged open and a teacher walked through handing out copies of a faux news story: The FARC had attacked a town in southern Colombia and taken hostages, including foreigners. (A crisis is apparently a regular feature of MUN Security Council debates.)

The delegations paused, read the bulletin, and after a few minutes of debate, decided to ignore it. They were close to an agreement of long-term utility to Colombia, and it wouldn't serve to be distracted.

It was a long day, and I learned a lot about Colombia and how Latin American affairs figure into global politics.

But I learned even more about the quality of young minds when set to a chewy, complicated intellectual task.

Boulder High School Model UN Team Update ■ *By Andy Aiken*

The 95 members of the Boulder High School Model U.N. team (Photo on P. 11 of this newsletter) had a busy fall and winter, participating in four, one day Model U.N. conferences in Colorado and the National H.S. Model U.N. in New York City. Over 250 students from 18 high schools engaged in international negotiations and resolution writing at the Dec. 5, Boulder H.S. MUN that focused on human rights and peace building in Asia and the Balkans. The six BHS MUN officers wrote well researched background documents on the following issues that were discussed and debated:

Beginner Security Council

1. Conflict in Pakistan and Afghanistan,
2. UN responsibility to protect civilians in Myanmar.

Intermediate Peace Building Commission

1. Pre-planning for long-term peace and stability in Iraq,
2. Maintaining long-term peace and stability in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Advanced Human Rights Council

1. Human rights violations in Tibet and Xianjiang,
2. Regulating enhanced interrogation and cross-border rendition of detainees.

Fourteen BHS MUN team members served as Presiding Officers or facilitators in the seven total councils, reflecting the emphasis in Model U.N. on student organized and run activities. A highlight of the year thus far was the Jan. 23 University of Colorado H.S. MUN. The CU MUN team organized and ran a very high quality, university style Model U.N. for 17 high schools. Organized like a university MUN, the CU background documents, parliamentary procedure, and expectations of student research, speeches, and resolution writing were higher--demanding more sophistication.

Twenty-two BHS team members participated in a four day, National High School Model U.N. in New York City in March. In New York, they toured the United Nations building, ate a variety of international food, and visited a few museums, but most of their time was in U.N. style councils and committees negotiating and writing resolutions related to issues currently before the United Nations. After returning from New York City, the BHS team will participate in the last MUN conference of the year at the Denver Center for International Studies magnet high school in April. BHS Model U.N. will provide logistical help and presiding officers for this first ever DCIS conference.

UNA-Sponsored Discussion Groups ■ *By Bill Kellogg*

Here's How You Can Get Involved

The UNA in cooperation with the Boulder Public Library sponsors two discussion sessions each month. One session, the third Thursday of the month at noon, focuses on issues related to the United Nations and International Affairs (IA). The second session, the last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m., focuses on issues that fall under the broad title of Geopolitics.

UNA Board member, Bill Kellogg, moderates most sessions. Bob Cohen, the co-organizer of the sessions posts readings related to the topic a week before each session on both the library website (www.boulderlibrary.org) and the UNA website (www.unaboulder.org). Attendees are encouraged to suggest readings. For most sessions an invited resource person makes a few personal observations on the issue.

Discussions are held in the Boulder Creek Meeting Room at the Main Library Building. Discussions are free and open to the public.

Recent topics discussed in the UN and IA sessions include the Goldstone Report, the function of different UN agencies such as WHO, and the UN and control of nuclear proliferation. Recent geopolitics discussions have focused on the failure of U.S.-Russian relations since the end of the Cold War, the impact of the financial crisis on emerging

markets, and finite global resources.

Topics under consideration for the summer and fall include the impact of minorities on Russian geopolitical decisions, coal and electric power as finite global resources, cultural differences and their impact on geopolitical decisions with a focus on South America, especially Brazil, and foreign aid and problems created by foreign aid.

UN and IA Discussion Sessions – Noon to 2 p.m.

March 18: "Cap-and-trade vs. a carbon tax: Can either help control global warming?"

April 15: "Redefining 'development', can its counterproductive features be reduced or eliminated?"

Geopolitics Discussion Sessions – 1 pm. to 3 p.m.

March 25: "The illusion of American omnipotence: Whither Afghanistan and Pakistan?"

April 29: "Global corruption: What is it?"

Membership ■ *By Bruce MacKenzie*

Update on New Members, How to Renew, and an Invitation to Get Involved

Our new members in 2009 are: Jean Dinwiddie, Mary Williams (transfer from the Denver Chapter), June Howard (after a long lapse), Roland Cohen, Bill and Ann Kellogg, Celeste Landry, Carlo S. Martins-Filho, Joyce and Elwin Barrett and Cynthia Irion.

If you know any of these folks, seek them out and welcome them to our Boulder Chapter of the UNA.

This year we had one death, Ernest Smith. Ernie was a founding member of our chapter and one of its prime movers. We will miss his many gifts and leadership.

Dues and Contributions: The New York office will send you a renewal notice when it's close to the time to pay your dues. That office also sends out requests for contributions.

When you renew your dues, be sure to use the dues renewal form. If dues are sent with a contribution request, the entire amount is credited as a contribution.

If you wish to make a contribution along with your dues, there is a place on the renewal form to indicate that.

Or you may wish to make your contribution to our Boulder Chapter with a check written to Boulder County Chapter, UNA-USA and mailed to our Chapter Treasurer, Tom Cimino, 3970 Newport Lane, Boulder, CO 80304.

Is anyone interested in putting together a Membership Booklet? We believe that it would be a good idea to have one. If you would like to work on this project, I will be glad to work with you. Please contact me at (303) 447-2470.

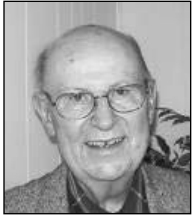
Now for the Magic Number: Including all members who have renewed and are up to date, and those who are in the process of renewing, my records indicate that we have 120 members of the Boulder UNA-USA Chapter.

As Vice President Nancy Allen says, "It's a great group of stimulating and fun people. We invite you to become active by working on a committee and attending UN events. Board meetings are open and new committees are forming. This is a good time to join us. You will receive a warm welcome and be happy that you did."

Tribute ■ *By Clovis Morrisson*

Remembering Ernie Smith, a Founding Member of UNA-Boulder County

Ernest "Ernie" K. Smith died Wednesday, October 21, at age 87. Ernie meant many things to the United Nations Association in Boulder County. He was a founding member along with Bruce MacKenzie and Cathy Wrenn.



He was treasurer of the organization for its first nine years. Always pushing to fulfill the educational mission of the organization, Ernie founded the Athenaeum Foreign Policy Lecture Series near the end of the first year of our existence.

Highly successful, this series brought three or four lectures a year to audiences numbering 35 to 105. It was modeled on the Council on World Affairs dinner lectures held all over the United States for many years. When he moved to Frasier Meadows Retirement Community, he founded the Dialog Lecture Series that was less formal and met on Saturday mornings.

His intelligent comments during Board meetings were very helpful on a wide variety of issues.

Born and raised in China and armed with a PhD. from

"All of us who knew Ernie will remember his gentle humor, his strong belief in internationalism and his beautiful smile."

Cornell, Ernie had a noteworthy professional career in electrical activity in the ionosphere. He was active in his church and in many organizations in several locations during his life.

All of us who knew him, and that encompassed hundreds of people, will remember his gentle humor, his strong belief in internationalism and his beautiful smile.

Ernie is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Louise, and daughters Priscilla Varland (Cy), Nonny Smith (Murray Johnson), and Cynthia Jackson (Robert), as well as eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Lecture Series ■ *By Jim Wolf*

Athenaeum/Foreign Policy Lecture Series Renamed In Honor of Ernie Smith

February 9 marked the end of the United Nations Association, Boulder Chapter's Athenaeum/Foreign Policy Lecture Series and marked the beginning of the Ernie Smith Foreign Policy Lecture Series.

Ernie Smith, who passed away earlier this year, was the founder and guiding spirit of the lecture/dinner functions; with his passing the Board of the Boulder chapter voted to honor him for his contribution with the change of name.

Over the years, this series has featured local, national and, occasionally, international experts speaking on contemporary foreign policy issues; the spring meeting always coincides with the World Affairs Conference of the University of Colorado and features one of its noteworthy participants.

The dinners are preceded by a social hour and followed by the speaker, and are announced by a postal card to all chapter members and by e-mail announcements; however the meetings are not restricted to our membership.

Our February meeting featured Barbara Engel, Professor of Russian History on the Boulder campus and one of the few who hold the title of "Distinguished Professor" of the University of Colorado.

Her topic "Vladimir Putin in Historical Context" presented a clear analysis of the political, cultural and diplomatic environment in Russia that led to Putin's power and his continued popularity. In talking with many of the 55 attendees, I heard unanimous approval of Professor Engel's presentation.

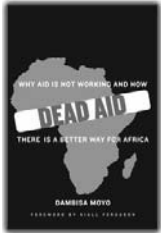
This year the guest speaker during the World Affairs Conference is Lewis M. Simons.

Mr. Simons is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who began reporting from Asia in 1967 and has contributed articles to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic*, *the Smithsonian Magazine* and *National Geographic*.

The dinner and lecture will be on Wednesday, April 7, at the Outlook Hotel. Watch for the blue-card announcement that will arrive in the mail.

Book Reviews ■ *By Bill Kellogg*

Dead Aid, by Dambisa Moyo, and True Compass, by Edward M. Kennedy



Dead Aid, Dambisa Moyo, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, N.Y. c. 2009

Dead Aid, published last year, had a major impact on the aid community and several African nations. Its subtitle, “Why aid is not working and how there is a better way for Africa.” reveals why. While it has been generally accepted for a number of years that a large percentage of foreign aid has not achieved its goal, there has been very little done to change the culture of government aid on a nation-to-nation basis.

Ms. Moyo offers a radical approach to changing the culture. Her proposal was widely discussed among economists until the economic crisis took the front burner and reforming foreign aid slipped from the headlines. This is regrettable, as Ms. Moyo makes very clear, changes are needed. The earthquake disaster in Haiti has focused some attention on the aid issue again. Recent articles in the *New York Times* state that traditional aid to Haiti has not worked and call for new approaches. But what should the new approach be and how is the inertia of the massive international aid bureaucracy to be overcome?

Ms. Moyo’s position on the failure of aid is not a unique perspective today. However, she states the situation boldly and succinctly in saying, “Millions in Africa are poorer today because of aid: misery and poverty have not ended but have increased. Aid has been, and continues to be, an unmitigated political, economic and humanitarian disaster for most parts of the developing world.” She clearly and briefly brings together many examples of this failure often driven by the misplaced altruism of leaders of pop culture.

The failure of such aid is illustrated in her story of the mosquito net manufacturer who had a small private business that employed ten people. Foreign activists, some from Boulder County, desired to stop malaria and swamped the country with free nets. This drove him out of business, and the 150 employees’ dependents into poverty, achieving just the opposite of the desired goal of foreign aid, which is to help a nation grow an economic base. She presents other illustrations and this is the best part of the book.

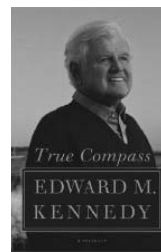
Ms. Moyo’s multi-faceted solution is less satisfactory and reflects her background – a PhD in economics from Oxford and eight years at Goldman Sachs. One very important facet is freer trade, especially agricultural, and the end to agricultural subsidies given to farmers in developed countries. (Did you know that each cow in the EU gets the equivalent of \$2.50 a day in subsidies? Compare that to the incomes of many Africans.) Another facet of her solution is support for micro-finance that encourages the development of basic economic knowledge among

individuals at the local level. Both of these ideas appear very reasonable. Her main solution, however, is less so. It entails reliance on the free market and loans obtained from the developed world’s financial markets.

Her theory is that in order to achieve a return on investment, the market will demand honesty, openness, and efficiency. Under present aid arrangements corruption and inefficiency are rampant. Often reliable transport infrastructure is lacking, as is an educated workforce. Ms. Moyo believes the free market will correct this and lead to economic growth and prosperity. It is an optimistic and, I suspect, unrealistic position.

Foreign aid was conceived as a way to achieve growth, and has failed as Ms. Moyo clearly illustrates. A culture of paternalism and dependency has not worked. The need is for a restructuring of society, but how? To wait until a country achieves a new structure before providing access to funding appears even less attractive as a solution than foreign aid.

In spite of this negative analysis, I do recommend the book for a quick reading (it is only 154 rather small pages with 34 pages of references that can be helpful.) Ms. Moyo’s analysis of how aid went wrong and of the negatives of agricultural subsidies are worth hearing and some may find her major solution to “dead aid” compelling.



True Compass: a Memoir, Edward M. Kennedy, Twelve, N.Y. c. 2009

This memoir covers the 1930s to the election of President Obama and whether you lived throughout those years as I have, or whether you are just becoming aware of public affairs, I recommend it as an entertaining and reflective record of the “American Century.” Of course, as with any memoir, it is biased and seen through the eyes of one individual. However, unlike some political memoirs, this individual from his earliest childhood was a member of a family that was at the heart of political power and decision-making. As the threat of war grew in Europe in the late 1930s, young Ted Kennedy was living in England.

His father was the U.S. ambassador to Great Britain and a friend of President Roosevelt. At the end of his life, Ted Kennedy’s endorsement of Barack Obama for president is considered an important factor in his election. Throughout his life Ted Kennedy was involved in many of the major political developments of the century and his description of these events is brief, revealing, and, depending on your age, a great summary or reminder of those events.

Kennedy’s perspectives on President Kennedy’s handling of the Cuban Missile crisis and relations with

the Soviet Union may be the more interesting sections to members of the United Nations Association.

To me, the discussions of Vietnam, in which Afghanistan could be substituted for Vietnam in almost every sentence, was fascinating. Does history repeat itself? On the domestic front, the same type of relationship can be found between the Clinton attempts at health reform, in which Kennedy was deeply involved, and the current attempts.

Aside from his perspective on the major political developments of the past eighty years, the memoir provides intimate and very personal insights into the Senator's life and relationship with his siblings and family. While many may not care for the Kennedy clan, the closeness and rivalry of its members are complex, and illustrate the importance of human relationships in the making of major political decisions – both here and abroad.

Issues ■ *By Nancy Allen*

Ambassador Tom Miller, president of UNA-USA, Speaks in Colorado

On February 20, Tom Miller, CEO of the UNA-USA, addressed 50 Colorado chapter leaders and active members with an open and candid talk on the realities and challenges facing the UNA-USA. He outlined constraints on action, the tool box, major challenges and the role of the UN today. Miller spoke about the Millennium Development Goals as so broad, and though commendable, the truth is we can't afford to finance them.

He talked of "massive resource constraints" and emphasized that he has heard of no serious discussion by American leaders to address this basic problem.

Miller said, "Americans have a short attention span and foreign policy interests are a mile high and an inch deep."

Although the Obama administration advocates multilateral diplomacy and the need to listen to international leaders, Obama has to think first about his core supporters. Americans want their leaders to be decisive but we are not good at patience. The US president's role at the UN is a very complex one. Foreign aid is less than 1% of the federal budget. "Get the word out The US population doesn't know much about the UN." Currently, Americans are focused on jobs and domestic policy trumps foreign assistance.

What is in the UN tool box? It provides use of the military but as a last resort. Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq drain US spending on domestic interests; crises in Arab-Israel, North Korea, Sudan, though important, are not our first concern. What role does the UN play? Miller asked. Although as peacekeepers the UN is not always successful the fact is that committing a UN force is 1/8 the cost of national troops. In small regional conflicts such as Cyprus the UN does a good job. In climate change there is US hope of getting a bill through the Senate.

Do not give up on writing your Congresspersons Miller urged. When I represent 120 chapters across this country everywhere I talk with members of Congress they listen. Your letters count. Let's do our best to support our goals and get more funding to achieve them.

After lunch Eleanor Dwight, president of the Fort Collins chapter, arranged for Tom to meet chapter leaders in a workshop when they shared concerns, and questions

about our role in the larger UNA operation. Tom urged chapters to keep on with what they were doing. "I'm a states rights person, old fashioned as that may sound." Tom values the quality and autonomy of our volunteers as a very precious resource.

On February 26 Tom sent an e-mail to all UNA-USA chapters stating the prospect that the UN Foundation may take over the UNA-USA. This is not certain but negotiations are underway. In Tom's opinion this would be a very good move. In the same e-mail Tom Miller resigned as president and CEO of the UNA-USA as of March 15.

■ In Pasadena: Amb. Miller's Take on Mobilizing Support for the UN

By John Beynon

Pasadena, 30 September 2009. "Hi, I'm Tom Miller" said the man as he interrupted our conversation and thrust out his hand. The man behind the bold hand and firm voice looked like the "most popular boy" in everyone's 1965 high school yearbook; played halfback, got on well with the guys in spite of his excellent grades and was every girl's dream. It sure wasn't the stuffed shirt "Your Excellency the Ambassador" that Valerie and I expected when we sat in the front row.

He spoke for only 15 minutes or so. His message was upbeat for the future of US-UN relations pointing out that 70 percent of the American public still supports the UN in spite of the anti-UN ranting on the radio and television.

He then described his previous week of being at the UN; listening to President Obama tell the General Assembly how important the UN is (he implored us all to read the speech); watching the US President preside over the Security Council as it passed a resolution supporting a nuclear free world; following president Obama's meeting with all the African leaders who were attending ("too often we forget the world's poor"); following the president's meeting with all the countries involved in the conflicts centered on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and finally, meeting with all countries that provide peacekeepers. And on top of all that, there was a stirring speech by the Secretary

General on the importance of addressing climate change.

For Tom, this was one of the most important weeks of his 30 year plus diplomatic career.

These events, he said, make it all the more important for the UNA to pursue its aims. And of these aims probably the most important would be to get the US to take a more positive approach to signing treaties.

To do this, grassroots organizations such as UNA would need to educate the public - and our Congresspersons on why it matters that the US support treaties that reflect American values. He cited the Law of the Sea, CEDAW and Children's rights as examples.

The Q&A went on for an hour. Amb. Miller stressed that the UNA should focus on education, policy and advocacy.

When talking about what the chapters can do that makes the most impact, he stressed education. Global Classrooms and Model UN, he feels reach the youth and help them understand issues of development as well as diplomacy. When asked what he would say to president Obama should they ever meet, he replied that in his two

minutes he would stress the issue of treaty signature.

While advocacy is one of the three "Miller-pillars" of UNA-USA, he was cautious about how we address our elected government representatives lest we endanger our tax-free status. Educate, he says, don't lobby. He also pointed out that we should concentrate on important issues that other bodies are avoiding (e.g. treaties) and

not spend energy on issues that others are now attacking successfully, such as climate change.

UNA is not a partisan body, he stressed, so when he created a panel to review the work of UNA he made sure that it included respected personalities for both main parties and the middle of American politics.

Thanks to the panel's composition the report was well-received. In answer to a question of why the Boulder Chapter had failed for six years to find an internationally minded Republican to join the board, he said, diplomatically:

"Maybe there are no Republicans in Boulder but I found plenty of good candidates for the national review panel."

The implication from what he didn't say: Boulder needs to try harder.

He pointed out that we should concentrate on important issues that other bodies are avoiding (e.g. treaties) and not spend energy on issues that others are now attacking successfully, such as climate change.

Programs ■ *By Kathy Goncalves*

Update on the Status of Adopt-a-Minefield

After ten years of active participation, Adopt-a-Minefield – Colorado Initiative will change its method of operation, conforming to the changes in the UNA-USA Adopt-a-Minefield organization in New York.

The Colorado Initiative raised more than \$160,000 in funds, adopted 11 minefields in Mozambique, impacted the lives of thousands of its endangered citizens and raised awareness of this ever-present menace for thousands more, locally, nationally and internationally. As reported previously, the UNA-USA Adopt-a-Minefield humanitarian program finished its mission under that name at the end of 2009.

UNA-USA New York will be dealing directly with the United Nations Mine Action Teams under the supervision of the UNOPS department of the United Nations. Collected funds will go directly to that entity. Correspondence can still be directed to Adopt-a-Minefield in the UNA-USA New York office.

However, the demining of designated areas containing minefields will be incorporated into a new structure—one

that addresses not only locating and demining land mines, but also the rehabilitation of landmine victims, education of the population about the danger, as well as identification and handling of landmines in infected areas.

Continuing vigorous support for the Landmine Ban Treaty in banning all landmines from being used in any capacity for any reason anywhere will be an important role of the new organization.

The Night of 1,000 Dinners will be the major fundraising arm of this reorganized entity. Millions of landmines still remain in the world to be demined.

So there is still much to be done! Many, many thanks to those who have so generously supported the Colorado Initiative in the past ten years.

Now we move onward to continuing success in helping free endangered peoples of the deadly peril of landmines and associated tragedies. Thank you again!



UN Day ■ *By Judith Green*

Doug Gardner of UNDP Speaks On Global Partnership for Development



The annual UN Day Celebration was held on Sunday, October 25 at the First Methodist Church in Boulder.

The theme was global partnership for development, the eighth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and anchor of the first seven. We were honored to have Douglas Gardner, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director

of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as our guest speaker.

Mr. Gardner has worked with the UN for more than 20 years, serving as the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Burma, Mongolia, the Ukraine and Cambodia—clearly a seasoned authority on issues of global partnership.

Speakers often end a presentation with “Here’s what you can do.” Mr. Gardner began with this advice “Call UNA and tell them what you want” and ask, “What is your plan?”

Mr. Gardner then gave a brief history of the UN and the masterful work of Eleanor Roosevelt in promoting the Declaration of Human Rights, which is, he said, still the basis for talking about rights, world-wide.

Mr. Gardner spoke briefly about the creation of the MDGs in 2000 and described the role of the developed nations as part of the “grand bargain” that would, through global partnership, end poverty at its roots. Mr. Gardner pointed out that the MDGs focus on the basics of society, such as education and health care, and incorporate ways in which even the least developed countries can lift themselves out of poverty.

But, he said, achieving the goals depends on good governance and security. Disorganized, “off track” and corrupt governments hinder the good work of the UNDP and its partners.

Mr. Gardner talked about progress on several goals and gave specific examples of interventions that make a difference “on the ground” such as microfinancing in Mongolia, reducing drug related HIV/AIDs through education of young users in the Ukraine and putting oil money into primary education in Cambodia.

“The goals are not mysterious” Gardner said, but political will and resources are essential.

Success however, is shaky. The global economic crisis has reversed progress on several goals. The total picture is described in detail in the 2009 United Nations MDG Gap Task Force Report, [Millennium Development Goal 8: Strengthening the Global Partnership for Development in a Time of Crisis.](#)

This impressive data-intensive document was distributed to the attendees. The Boulder Chapter also received copies of [The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2009.](#) If you would like a copy of either document, please contact Judith Green, 303 642-0481.

Mr. Gardner referred to climate change as the most urgent problem that the UN is addressing because uncontrolled climate change would negate progress on the MDGs, putting the poorest nations into deeper poverty and disorder.

In this case, Gardner asked us to tell our representatives in D.C. to bring the UN into the discussion, noting that the UN should be included but is not.

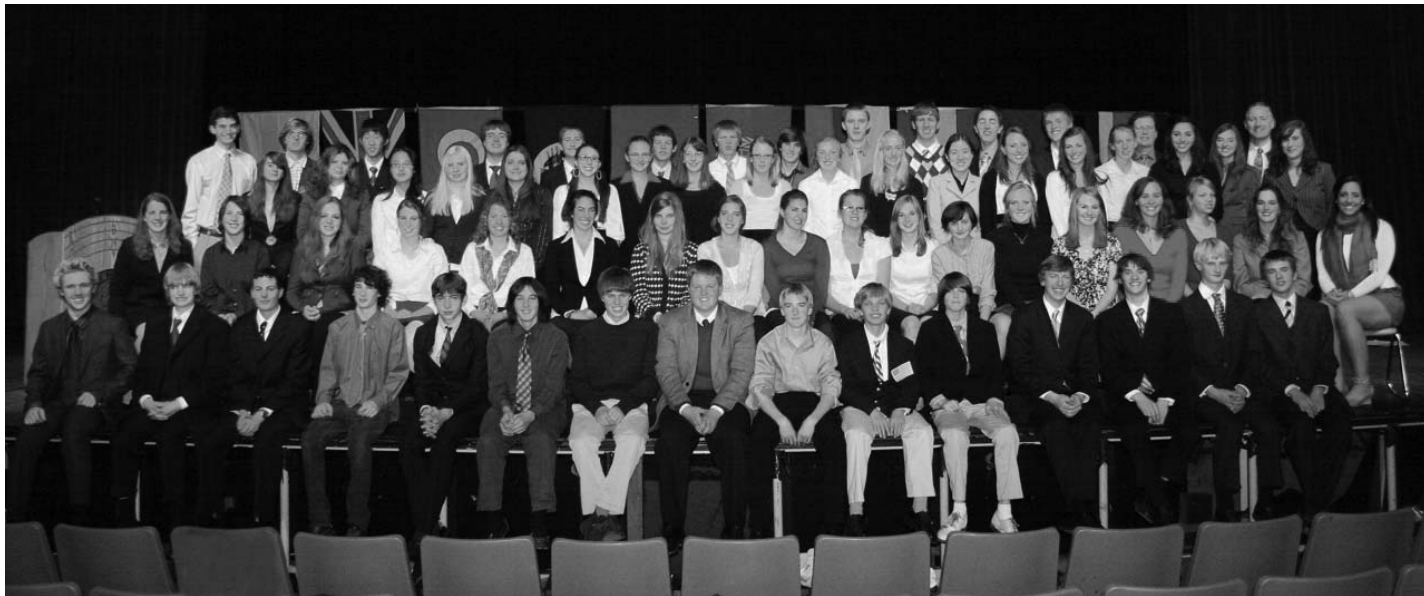
Time constraints limited Q & A that could have continued all afternoon. Questions concerned the food crisis, the role of banks in climate change solutions, helping poor countries preserve forests, stopping corruption, and whether or not people world-wide, not just officials, appreciate the problem of climate change.

In his answers, Mr. Gardner referred to the “global common good” and said that investment in women and girls is crucial. He also described a new approach that the UNDP is taking to climate change—bringing representatives of the world religions together to discover their common beliefs in love and protection of the earth.

Mr. Gardner concluded his presentation with this reminder “We create the future, and in doing so we create both ourselves and the future.”



Boulder High School Model UN Team



UNA-Boulder County Annual Meeting ■ *By Judith Green*

Agenda: Climate Change Talk, Board Nominations and the Year in Review

The Boulder County Chapter held its annual meeting on Sunday, January 31, at the First Congregational Church in Boulder. Following snacks and coffee, attendees moved to the Heritage Room where President of the Board, Meg Knox opened the meeting.

Clovis Morrisson then introduced the guest speaker, Leslie Glustrom, a founding member of Clean Energy Action. Several years ago Leslie left her career in biochemistry to dedicate herself full-time to ending our reliance on fossil fuel energy.

She has campaigned against new coal-fired power plants in Colorado and is a powerful force in getting Xcel Energy to shift its focus to solar power. In addition, Leslie is tireless in bringing to the public her message of the "fierce urgency" of moving to clean energy.

In her presentation "Climate Change—Science and Policy" Leslie shared her persistent work with Xcel and the Public Utilities Commission, but focused primarily on climate change data, the destructive aspects of coal plants in addition to CO₂ emissions, and shrinking coal supplies around the country. "CO₂," Leslie said, "is like a temperature gauge on the planet."

The good news is that in the west, plans for 110 coal plants have been "scrubbed" and solar technology is advancing rapidly. Decarbonization of the energy grid is the goal. In spite of seemingly endless hard work, Leslie reminded us that leadership is fun. Judging from her energy and dedication, this must be true.

The next order of business was nominations and vot-

ing for incoming board members, conducted by Clovis.

Deborah Hayes is returning to the Board as Secretary. Deborah is a past president of the League of Woman Voters, is active in her church and is a retired Associate Dean of the College of Music at CU.

Two new Directors were elected, Al Alrubaiy and Kristin Shewfelt. Al is a first generation US citizen, born in Iraq. He is a retired Professor of Education and is an active participant in Chapter programs. Kristin is Project Manager, Residential Services, for Architectural Energy Corporation, a firm that works with construction projects to provide energy-efficient and environmentally sensitive solutions. She has a degree in Spanish, has taught abroad, and attends Chapter activities throughout the year.

Board Director Tom Cimino was elected Treasurer, replacing David Taylor who retired from the Board. Jim Wolf and Bob Cohen also retired as Directors.

These long-time board members are greatly appreciated for their continual service to the chapter. Jim coordinated the Athenaeum Foreign Policy Dinner Lectures (renamed the Ernie Smith Foreign Policy Lecture Series in honor of Ernie) and is replaced by Priscilla McCutcheon. Bob Cohen continues to work with Bill Kellogg on the discussion series at the library (see Calendar for the schedule and location).

Meg Knox concluded the annual meeting with an overview of all the activities of the Chapter, and with thanks to the Board, Chapter members and all those who contribute to our work for another good year.



**United Nations Association-USA
 Boulder County Chapter
 PO Box 1181
 Boulder, CO 80306**

TO:

UNA Puzzle - See Reverse

Calendar

Additional Information Inside or visit www.unaboulder.org

Chapter board meetings: Open to the membership and their guests, on the second Tuesday of the month, 5 p.m., Faith Center (3rd floor), First Congregational Church, Broadway and Pine.

UN and International Affairs Discussion Sessions – Third Thursday of the month, Noon to 2 p.m., Boulder Public Library, Arapahoe Avenue and 11th St.

Geopolitics Discussion Sessions – Fourth Thursday of the month, 1 pm. to 3 p.m., Boulder Public Library, Arapahoe Avenue and 11th St.

Ernie Smith Foreign Policy Lecture Series – Three events with guest lecturers in fall, winter and spring.

The UN in the World Today Dialog Series - First Saturday of the month at 10 a.m., Frasier Meadows Retirement Community, 350 Ponca Place.

Credits

Newletter Editor: Priscilla McCutcheon
 assisted by Judith Green
 Layout and Design: Lindsay Konzak
 Mailing: Tom Cimino and Volunteers
 Printed by Colt Reproduction

**Coming Soon:
 John Murphy Memorial Tea**

April 6, 4-5:30 p.m.
 University Memorial Center, Room 457
 Tea, coffee and sweets provided
 sponsored by the UNA-Boulder County,
 Model UN Club of CU, and the Model UN
 Clubs of BVSD High Schools

Come chat with the next generation of internationalists, diplomats and scholars!

UNA Puzzle

Without consulting a map, can you name the 10 nations that have only four letters in their name? Answer inside on page 10.