

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION-USA Boulder County

Fall 2010 Newsletter



President's Corner

UNA-USA in Midst of Change

We're in the midst of big changes at the national level of UNA-USA, with a vote pending on whether to affiliate with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and its advocacy wing, the Better World Fund. An alliance seems natural. The UNF sprang to life in 1998 to support UN causes, with a whopping billion-dollar gift from Ted Turner; its BWF educates and advocates primarily through the internet. Meanwhile, the 130 chapters and divisions of our much older UNA-USA do similar work, at the grass-roots level.

There's a good bit of overlap in the outreach of all three organizations to students, non-profits, and the business community. The consensus of the board of UNA-Boulder County is that there is much to be gained financially in the alliance, and little that is likely to constrain our activities. The UNA-USA Board of Directors has endorsed it, and chapters will vote online, during a conference call—a Special National Convention—on October 12. We designated board members Nancy Allen and Clovis Morrisson as our delegates to the conference, and they will vote for the affiliation.

At a time of such changes, it's good to have the depth of experience of A. Edward Elmendorf of North Carolina, a longtime UNA chapter leader who became president of UNA-USA in March. Elmendorf started his career in the Foreign Service at the US Mission to the UN under Adlai Stevenson, then became a UN staff member, and eventually worked thirty years at the World Bank, concentrating on policy planning, loan programs, and negotiation with North African countries. On the other side of the proposed alliance, UNA-Boulder County members have had many chances to get to know the UNF and BWC president, Colorado's former US Senator Timothy Wirth.

At the national level, the US continues to make progress in peacemaking and in relations with the UN. In April President



Obama signed a new START Treaty, the first arms control agreement with the Russians in nearly a decade, calling for modest nuclear reductions and guaranteeing data exchanges and regular inspections of both country's arsenals. And in a sharp and welcome turn-about, the US is now participating in meetings and expanding cooperation with the International Criminal Court.

Here in Boulder, UN Day is the highlight of our Autumn calendar. This year, having covered the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals, we'll step out of the lecture hall and into the theater on October 24, joining the Boulder Public Library in sponsoring a one-woman show portraying Eleanor Roosevelt and the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You'll find the usual information and refreshment tables in the library lobby. We're also beginning the search for our next International Human Rights Award winner, so please send us your nominations within the next few days. And a film committee that sprang from our retreat last Spring has started reviewing videos on various aspects of UN work, with a view toward sponsoring a film series at venues around the county.

We take pride in our Model United Nations (MUN) clubs, and it's been good to see Boulder High School taking the lead statewide, sponsoring training sessions and gathering materials to help many other schools get involved. Many of our members have volunteered to serve as judges for this year's Boulder High conference. Our drive to shore up the UNA-Boulder County fund for MUN travel scholarships raised \$1,667 this year, bringing the fund to nearly \$3,500. Thanks to all of you who contributed! (continued on next page)

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Coming Soon

UN Day Celebration "Eleanor Roosevelt"

Sunday, October 24
Boulder Public Library
2 pm - 5 pm

Chapter Annual Meeting

January 2011

Treasurer's Report

As of July 31, 2010:

General fund: \$7,128
Student support fund:
\$3,467
CU scholarship fund:
\$8,743
Contingency fund:
\$1,118

Please contribute to our funds and action project by making checks payable to Boulder County Chapter, UNA-USA, and send to PO box (return address on newsletter).

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.

Our Action Project committee continues to be a magnet for new members. Over the years, committee members have gotten hands-on, close-up experience of development work through fundraising partnerships with UN agencies and NGOs. This year's project will raise funds for a girl's school in Uganda, through the non-profit *Educate!*, whose founder, Eric Glustrom, won our International Human Rights Award in 2006.

It's been painful to watch news of the flooding in Pakistan, but inspiring to see the depth of the UN involvement. Our chapter sent \$500 in August to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, to help with flood relief.

There are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved with your chapter, so please use this newsletter to stay informed and turn out for advocacy work, discussion groups, lectures, fundraising and celebrations of the UN!

Action Project ■ *By Nancy Allen*

Girls' School in Uganda

The UNA-USA Boulder County Chapter is proud to announce our action project for 2010-2011. The project supports the Budadiri Girls' School in rural eastern Uganda. This private, underprivileged girls' school is located in a small farming community in Mbale district near the border of Kenya. The board has elected to work with *Educate!*, an NGO that provides a leadership and empowerment curriculum to Ugandan youth. Students in junior and senior years of high school are selected for the program because they are motivated to better themselves, their families and their community.

Educate!, founded and directed by Boulder resident Eric Glustrom, needs funding to begin an after-school mentorship program with 15 Budadiri girls. The program develops creative and critical thinking skills and encourages students to start small business enterprises and non-profits that will help their families and communities tackle poverty, disease and environmental degradation.

Enterprises and non-profits started by *Educate!* scholars include girls mobilizing their fellow students to clean a local well to provide their community with safe drinking water, establishing an orphanage, creating a jewelry business with 36 women, and planting 20,000 tree seedlings to defend against deforestation.

Educate! provides programs in 24 high schools across Uganda for approximately 830 students, both girls and boys. The curriculum is designed to train leaders to find creative solutions to community problems. More than 50% of Uganda's population is under 18 years, which means that this group will have to take a leadership role in one generation.

Educate!'s two-year program works with youths in diverse settings—urban, rural, privileged, underprivileged, private and public. Weekly feedback from mentor/teachers to *Educate!* staff members focuses on curriculum elements that are successful with a particular group and what changes would be beneficial.

Through this action project our chapter is supporting the March 2010 United Nations Foundation and UNA-USA joint statement pledging to "intensify efforts to protect the rights of adolescent girls." By educating girl advocates as the *Educate!* program will do, Budadiri girls have a real opportunity to become leaders and find creative solutions



Students at Budadiri Girls' School in Uganda with *Educate!* founders and staff.

to community problems. Empowering girls provides help for families and communities, as described by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn in *Half the Sky*. This book is a "must read" for all members, and is a testimonial to the importance of this action project for Ugandan girls.

The Action Committee is planning a gala benefit for Budadiri Girls' School on Saturday, April 30, 2011. Watch for details in the spring newsletter and e-mail alerts. We are excited about this leadership project and are working hard for girls' education in Uganda.

Dialog Series ■

The Dialog Series had a great year. The session is held on the first Saturday of the month, 10 am, at Fraiser Meadows Retirement Community, 350 Ponca Place, Boulder.

Watch for the email announcement of the October topic and speaker. On November 6 the guest speaker is Terry Fostvedt, a Language Arts teacher at Centaurus High School in Lafayette. Terry is the recipient of the 2010 Margot Stern Strum Teaching Award. Her students are developing a partnership with a school in South Africa and use Skype as a forum for rich discussions of issues of justice and democracy. They also work with the Darfur Dream Team program, providing quality education to every refugee child from Darfur. This informative and inspiring presentation will focus on empowerment through education.

December 4 features a special program by Rosa Baum. Rosa is a Boulder High School student and leader in the Model UN program. She will share an up-to-date report on what's going on in Egypt—issues facing the country, its role in peace brokering, and the role of the UN in Egypt's development—based on her experiences and impressions in Egypt this summer.

Educate! ■ *By Nancy Allen*

Meet Eric Glustrom, Founder & Executive Director of Educate!

Eric Glustrom grew up in Boulder from age eleven and graduated from Fairview High School. In the summer before his senior year when he was 17, he had a life changing experience—he visited a refugee camp in Uganda. Here were refugees from Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo making a life in mud huts. The first person he met at the camp was 18 year old refugee, Benson Olivier. At the end of the summer working in the camp Eric asked Benson, “What can I do to help?” Benson replied, “Help me to get an education!”



The seed was planted. Eric knew that Benson was right. Yes, education is the way up and out of the problems facing young people in Uganda. In 2002 after the summer in Uganda he founded Educate! and began providing scholarships to 22 students from the refugee settlement, including Benson. Eric went on to Amherst College and continued fund-raising for scholarships for Benson and others. He also recruited Amherst students to go with him to Uganda on summer trips to select more students and support students in their communities.

Eric graduated from Amherst with a biochemistry major and was accepted by Teach for America but decided to take a year off to go back to Uganda in 2007. Eric was inspired by several school programs focusing on leadership and entrepreneurship and saw how this focus transformed students, enabling them to make changes in their lives and

in their communities. He also saw models for mentorship and lifetime alumnae support that students need to succeed. Eric incorporated these ideas with his own in developing the curriculum for Educate!

Today Educate! mentor/teachers go to 24 high schools across Uganda, working with 15-20 students at each school in a two year after-school program. The students are Educate! scholars.

The national education system is based on memorization but Educate! Scholars learn how to think creatively and critically about the problems in their communities. An essential part of their program is to create an enterprise or NPO to help solve community problems of poverty and disease, and to protect the environment through sustainable development.

In Uganda only 5% of students go on to university. Educate! is vital in preparing students who do not continue formal education to be community leaders. Educate! is a practical program that promotes socially responsible leaders on a grass-roots community level.

Eric credits much of his work with Educate! to inspiration from his father, an excellent teacher, and his mother, a strong environmental activist and founding member of Clean Energy Action. “It makes sense that I’m advocating to improve the way education is done, combining lessons from both my father and mother,” says Eric.

From Eric: “Your Boulder County Chapter of UNA has chosen to support Educate! in training and mentoring Educate! Scholars in Budadiri Girls School in rural eastern Uganda. Thank you for your dedication and inspiring leadership. Recently Educate! was chosen to write the social entrepreneurship component of Uganda’s national education curriculum. This is good news and truly validates the value of our program.”

Human Rights Award ■ *By Clovis Morrisson*

Nominations Open for the 16th Annual International Human Rights Award

The competition for the 16th annual International Human Rights Award is almost concluded. The 15th annual award went last year to Torkin Wakefield, founder of Beadforlife, an outstanding organization that has brought a decent standard of living to hundreds of African women.

The award honors people who breathe life into the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promulgated in 1948.

Candidates for the award must be Boulder County residents and must have contributed significantly during the previous year, or over a lifetime, to one or more of the provisions of the Declaration. The campaign was announced this August, and the UNA Board will choose the

winner at its October meeting.

You are all invited to the reception honoring the winner, which this year will be held in the Sky Lounge of Frazier Meadows Senior Center. We try to schedule the reception as close to December 10 as possible. That is the date of the formal signing of the UN Declaration. Invitations will be sent when all the details are firmed up.

Boulder County is filled with people who contribute greatly to realizing the human rights of the world’s peoples. Watch each August for the announcement of the beginning of the competition, and nominate someone you know who has toiled in this field.

Questions? Call Clovis Morrisson, 303-828-4257.

UN Day ■ Sunday, Oct. 24 - Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe, 2-5 p.m.

Hammering Out Human Rights: Eleanor Roosevelt at the United Nations

A new decade, a new location, and a new format make this UN Day celebration a special event for our UNA members and the community.

Thanks to Bill Kellogg's dual role as UNA Boulder Chapter board member and member of the Boulder Public Library Foundation, we will partner with the library in presenting "Hammering Out Human Rights: Eleanor Roosevelt at the United Nations" portrayed by actress and storyteller Susan Marie Frontczak.

Susan Marie has given over 250 living history presentations as Marie Curie, Mary Shelley and Eleanor Roosevelt in the U.S., Scotland and Canada.

Susan Marie writes, "Eleanor Roosevelt speaks of the ground-breaking, grueling, tempestuous, and eventually triumphant development of the Universal Declaration of Human Right, a Magna Carta for humankind. You may be surprised to find out how important Human Rights are to your life, and to the potential longevity of the United States."

This event also features displays of our action projects (see the article on Educate!) and the UN and Millennium Development Goals, information on our co-sponsors, UNICEF gift bags and cards for purchase, an information and membership table, and of course, coffee and the annual UN birthday cake, this year provided by the Zonta Club of Boulder County. Thank you Zonta Club. This joint



Eleanor Roosevelt displaying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

UN Day event is the perfect opportunity to "meet and greet" non members with our welcoming enthusiasm. A large crowd is expected and we all need to be there as UNA ambassadors.

The UN Flag Flies Again ■



Again this year Pat Shannon and Virginia McConnell of the UNA-USA Boulder Chapter board arranged to have the United Nations flag flying high and proud on the flagpole in front of the Boulder Courthouse during the week, October 17 to October 24.

Stop by, gaze up and breathe a sigh of relief that we have the United Nations—then think of something that you can do to support its many causes. If we can help you or you can help us let us know at info@unaboulder.com.

UN Effort in Pakistan ■ *By Meg Knox, president*

Boulder Chapter Donates to Pakistan Flood Relief

Like everyone else, I watched in horror as massive monsoon rains flooded Pakistan in August, displacing millions of people. So the email message from Tom Cimino, UNA Boulder County Chapter treasurer, struck a chord:

"Meg, a suggestion. Why don't we send some money (maybe \$500) . . . ?"

The United Nations had by then delivered food to 800,000 people and medical supplies to 1.8 million. They'd provided access to clean drinking water to almost 1.4 million. Nearly half of the UN's requested \$4.6 million had been pledged. But the need was overwhelming.

I forwarded Tom's suggestion to the board, and the response was immediate and positive. The only question was to whom to make the donation: UNICEF, The World Food Program, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), or the State Department, which was supporting diverse efforts.

It was easy to see that all efforts were worthy, and with a little back and forth by email and phone, we soon reached consensus of the thirteen board members within reach that, as an organization devoted to supporting the United Nations, Boulder UNA should send its \$500 con-

tribution to UNHCR. Tom sent the check on August 24, a drop in the bucket compared to the need, but a big gesture for our small organization, and an inspiration to our members, we hope, to keep giving!

Membership ■ *By Bruce MacKenzie*

Are we breaking a record? Not yet, but membership is up seven members, for a total of 127—more or less. Our up-to-date membership number is always "iffy" because the UNA office sends membership updates only quarterly. The New York office will notify you when the time to pay your dues is close, and I follow-up.

Our new members are Jyotsna Raj, also a new board member, Alison and Jon Sharley, Carol Christenson, Duane and Pat Haugen, Karen Janson, and Nicolette Mullenix.

We honor our long-term members and welcome the new. If you know a new member, say "hello" and invite your friend to an event. 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."

Model UN ■ *By Andy Aiken, faculty co-sponsor*

Boulder High School Model UN Team Expansion

The Boulder High School Model UN team, with 100+ members, is expanding its goals and travel this year. To encourage more statewide Model UN participation, the BHS MUN team organized two statewide workshops, "Introduction to Model UN" held in Denver and at Boulder H.S. Over 110 new Model UN student delegates from 10 high schools participated, with highly favorable reviews.

Monarch, Centaurus, and the Nederland Chinook West alternative high schools are starting Model U.N. clubs with the help of the Boulder H.S. team. Fairview H.S. has a long established club.

350 student delegates from 17 high schools participated in the annual Boulder High School Model UN conference September 25. Boulder UNA board members, BHS MUN graduates, and parents served as judges. As with most MUN activities, the conference was organized and run primarily by the students. Two BHS MUN members presided over each of the nine councils and team officers wrote 6-11 page background documents for the six issues.

The BHS MUN Conference focused on these issues and councils:

Beginners: Security Council

1. Darfur, Sudan: protection of civilians, humanitarian workers, UN peacekeepers and refugee camps; actions to end conflict.

2. The sinking of the Cheonan, a South Korean navy ship near a disputed maritime border between the ROK (South Korea) and the DPRK (North Korea).

Intermediate: Human Rights Council

1. Political, economic, and human rights for Kurds.

2. Israel and Palestine: Palestinian access to economic and humanitarian aid and Palestinian rights within Israel.

Advanced: World Health Organization

1. Preparing for next transnational disease pandemic.
2. Reducing the threat of biological warfare.

The BHS team will travel to Cornell University this March for their national Model UN conference. Cornell offers small crisis councils based on current and challenging issues, and high quality background documents. Students from 5-8 foreign countries participate at Cornell, plus eastern private and public schools. The high quality, university-style Model UN hosted by the CU Boulder Model UN team is the other highlight of the year and is outstanding preparation for national conferences like Cornell.

Boulder High School 2010-2011 Schedule

Saturday, Nov. 13: Regis Jesuit H.S. Model UN Conference

Saturday, Jan. 22: University of Colorado, Boulder, High School Model UN Conference

March 10-13: Cornell Model UN. Conference, Ithaca, NY National & International H.S. MUN at Cornell University

April: Conference in Colorado, to be determined

Judges are needed for the conferences, and they end the day with enthusiasm and admiration for students and the Model UN program. If you are interested in being a judge at the Regis MUN conference please contact: Caroline Howard at choward@regisjesuit.com.

A Slice of Life at NHSMUN ■

By Rosa Baum and Peter Repucci

NHSMUN. National High School Model United Nations. Exhaustion. Picture a room with thirty aspiring diplomats duking it out over solutions to the 1969 Southern Rhodesian crisis. Franco's Spain pushes a thinly disguised Fascist agenda, while Zambia boasts improvements after shaking off its own minority-rule government.

It's March, and these students have spent the past three months painstakingly preparing their position statements. They must inhabit the thoughts of their countries even more convincingly and thoroughly than in any other regional conference. Now it's the big leagues.

Students convene in New York for a grueling three-day conference where they debate anything from the 1969 Situation in South Rhodesia to the Legal Implications of Odious Debt. Delegates in the advanced Security Councils face a special challenge.

At one o'clock in the morning on the second day of NHSMUN coordinators pound on their hotel room

doors waking the delegates from cherished rest. Forced from their pajamas back into formal western attire, they file down to the conference rooms to debate unexpected crises. Their only consolation prize for the early rise—a piece of greasy pizza.

Focusing on the 1969 Historic Security Council, Franco's Spain fights a losing battle for continued white minority rule against the entire council, while other delegates debate the controversial minutia of the resolutions. How exactly would voting rights be settled? How should Southern Rhodesia be treated by the United Nations?

Just one word can alter an entire resolution. Resolutions themselves circle the room as amendments quickly follow in their paths. Everyone has something to add, change, or delete.

Tensions run high and stress overcomes those who aren't well prepared. However, the vast majority of students leave with a heightened sense of self-worth and empowerment, having spent three days solving the world's problems.

Model UN ■ *By Michael De Cesare, president*

University of Colorado Model UN Plans Another Busy Year

Model United Nations at the University of Colorado at Boulder had both a busy and rewarding year. Our first conference was held in Washington D.C. where we represented Kenya, Somalia, Burkina Faso and Thailand and we are pleased to announce that we won Outstanding Delegation as a school. Our success escalated from there as we went on to host our second annual High School Conference in January. It was an even bigger event than last year.

The next month we followed up by hosting esteemed economist and author of the New York Times bestseller John Perkins. More than 400 people attended his presentation. We concluded our year with a bang by attending the largest conference of the year right in the heart of New York City where the United Nations is located.

We represented Iran and Burundi. Iran proved to be a daunting country to represent but it mattered not because

we promptly proceeded to win Outstanding Delegation for the first time at the New York conference.

This year we intend to take our conference to the next level—the international level. Our first conference will be in Montreal, Quebec instead of Washington D.C. At the local level, our high school conference will host high schools outside of Colorado as we intend to invite high schools from neighboring states to participate. We will also host another speaker, so watch for our announcement of this exceptional event.

Finally, we will conclude the year again in New York City. This year is shaping up to be the best one yet, which is certainly an arduous task considering how fruitful our last conference was. Our other officers are vice president Marni Spott, high school conference coordinator Wendy Guardado and speaker coordinator Amanda Fendrick.

Book Reviews ■ *By Judith Green*

Three Books on the UN

Three books on the United Nations provide an extensive **overview** of the work of the UN over the years and across the globe. Read any book and learn more than imagined about this giant, complex and sometimes perplexing world organization. I say “overview” because a single book cannot describe in detail all the organizations, committees, departments and agencies that make up the UN, plus the hundreds of organizations that work with the UN and the “specialized agencies” such as the World Health Organization, the World Bank and UNESCO. Those seeking more information are given references and web sites to explore.

These books are not an “easy” read mainly because the UN deals with poverty, tragedy and war, and tackles threats to human rights and every global concern—climate change to terrorism and drug trafficking, telecommunications and the uses of outer space, to clean water. Each book covers these topics in greater or lesser detail and briefly describes the historical roots of the humanitarian crises handled by the UN. This alone makes them valuable resources.

A Global Agenda: Issues Before the United Nations 2009-2010, a publication of the United Nations Association of the USA, is a compendium of 53 articles, with 45 contributors, some are interns with the UNA, others have had long careers in the UN. The introduction is by Sir Brian Urquhart, a founding father of the United Nations who dedicated 40 years to its development. His perspective on the evolution of the UN, with changing global issues and need for reform is a perfect prelude to the text. *A Global Agenda* has seven chapters: Maintaining International Security; Efforts for Peace; Protecting the Environment; Humanitarian Assistance; Economic Growth and the MDGs; Protecting and Advancing Human Rights; Promotion of international

Justice and the Rule of Law; Adapting the United Nations to the 21st Century.

The articles under each topic are brief and specific, and well-written. For example, Jacques Fomerand, former member of the UN Secretariat, wrote most of the section on human rights. In the first article, “Improving the work of the Human Rights Council (2006-2008)” he describes the handicaps of the original Commission of Human Rights (including back-stabbing and back-patting among members who themselves have poor human rights records) and why the new council was formed. Fomerand asks, “Has it proved to be a new beginning?” and answers with an in-depth analysis of continuing problems, pointing out that “a culture of dialogue and cooperation” essential to the work of the council has failed to take root. However, Fomerand writes that the Universal Periodic Review, through which the council examines human rights records of all countries, is innovative and “. . . is the first time in UN history that human rights of all countries can come under scrutiny of the UN membership.”

An Insider’s Guide to the UN by Linda Fasulo (Yale University Press, New Haven, 2009, 2nd edition) has a narrative style and although not really an insider’s guide, Fasulo, formerly a news correspondent at the UN, interviews people who are insiders and quotes from many others. Their comments on the difficulties of managing UN affairs and the inadequacies of the General Assembly and the Security



Council are frank and informative. Fasulo uses sections of the UN Charter to describe the organizational structure of the UN and the functions of its main bodies: the Secretariat; the Security Council; the General Assembly; the Economic and Social Council; the International Court of Justice. In addition to guiding the reader through the UN system and such operations as peacekeeping, *Insider's Guide* is filled with cases and "insider" details that make interesting reading, including these chapters, "Rubbing Elbows and Egos in the UN Village," "Stars in the UN Firmament," and "Making a Career at the UN."

The United Nations Today is a publication of the UN Department of Public Information, printed in 2008. In the forward, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon writes that this book "... seeks to promote understanding of the UN's worldwide activities and invites the reader to participate in them. It is meant as a concise yet invaluable reference tool for the seasoned diplomat and the interested lay-person." Indeed, this book is loaded with facts and figures and a seemingly exhaustive if brief description of more than 79 (count the acronyms) organizations within the UN system and 34 of 62 peacekeeping operations. This 357 page book has seven chapters: The United Nations

Organization; International Peace and Security; Economic and Social Development: Human Rights; Humanitarian Action; International Law; Decolonization. Illustrating the comprehensive coverage of the book—and the UN—the chapter on economic and social development has 51 sections describing the activities of the UN under this umbrella. I was somewhat exhausted myself when I finished the book—and in awe of the extensive, complex and difficult work of the UN.

This trilogy, while overlapping in topics, are complimentary resources that together provide a broad understanding of the workings of the UN, yielding a deep appreciation of its challenges and successes.

Film Series in Works But Not in the Can ■

Our recently organized film series committee is having fun viewing films, researching, and locating documentaries for our as-yet-unnamed series on topics related to United Nations projects and concerns—just about anything. If you would like to suggest a film or DVD for this series, please contact board member Kristin Shewfelt at kristinshewfelt@comcast.net. And get the popcorn ready!

Virginia McConnell Receives Women Who Light the Community Award ■



Every year the Boulder Chamber of Commerce and the Boulder Business Women's Leadership Group honor four women at the Women Who Light the Community luncheon. Women who have made significant contributions to the local, regional or global community are selected. This year our own Virginia McConnell was chosen for this special and well-deserved honor.

Virginia is a founding member of Boulder Friends of UNICEF and has been on the UNA Boulder County Chapter board from the beginning, as a director and UNICEF liaison. She was nominated for the Women Who Light the Community award by Dianne Ladd who has worked with Virginia for 30 years and describes her as "a devoted person" in her concern for children and her work to make the world a better place for children.

Virginia came to Boulder with her family in 1975 and soon began working for UNICEF in Boulder. She has a Master's Degree in early childhood development and her passion is children, whether it is the rights of children to play, go to school or have access to health care. "I am particularly aware of the needs of children, here and around the world" she says. Virginia has been raising money for UNICEF and promoting community awareness of UNICEF for 34 years.

In 1986, Virginia initiated the Boulder CROP WALK for the hungry, raising funds for those in need in our community and abroad. When Virginia learned about the UNA-USA Adopt-a-Minefield program in 1999 she immediately joined forces with the Boulder Chapter and the

October is UNICEF Month in Boulder ■

Once again October is designated UNICEF Month in Boulder, with Trick-or-Treat (TOT) activities in schools and churches, and community and library displays. At the Meadows Branch library we will have the main exhibit case featuring: "What's happening in the world this Halloween (floods, fires, poverty and famine)." The displays show how collecting funds for UNICEF is a way of helping alleviate problems facing children and their families and communities.

If you would like to participate, contact Ingrid Swords, TOT volunteer coordinator, at 303 413-1630.

Denver Division of UNA, and became a key member of the Adopt-a-Minefield/Colorado Initiative that led a successful ten-year project, raising more than \$160,000 and adopting eleven minefields in Mozambique that were de-mined.

Virginia says, "When I learned that one third of the world's landmine victims are children, I got our two groups together in a concerted effort to raise awareness and funds to clear up landmines, provide assistance to victims and to alleviate this serious and tragic outrage."

She continues, "In many parts of the world children cannot safely walk to school, collect firewood or go for water, visit neighbors or go to a health clinic, or play, without risking losing a limb or being killed." It is clear to Virginia that this man-made scourge will not be over until the UN treaty banning landmines is ratified. The U.S. is one of only two countries that have not ratified the treaty.

Congratulations Virginia!

Discussion Groups ■ *By Bill Kellogg*

Discussion Series Still Going Strong

The UNA-Boulder County library discussion sessions are held twice a month—the United Nations and International Affairs (UN & IA) on the third Thursday and Geopolitics on the last Thursday (except during the December holiday period).

The spring and summer sessions this year were successful, with an average of 17 participants. At one session, two school counselors visiting Boulder dropped in. At the end of the session they thanked the group for providing the most stimulating two hours they had had in years. This is a fine compliment, reflecting the interest, knowledge, and openness of the participants who contribute so much to the discussions. We continue to invite local or visiting resource persons who have special knowledge of the topic to these discussions.

We continue to invite a brief overview of the topic and related issues from their perspective and answer questions while engaging in discussion with other participants. This approach works well to deepen understanding of international issues.

This Web site is the best: <http://www.google.com/notebook/user/16856056956749335607>. It is where you find reading references for each topic in the discussion sessions. Or find a link at **unaboulder.wordpress.com**. Readings relevant to each session are posted one week before the session. Reading references provide both background and a range of perspectives on the session topic. The Web site is open to the public. UNA-Boulder County encourages its use by other chapters and organizations interested in such topics.

discussion of education in the developing world, the founder of an NGO dealing with education will be a resource person. And for a discussion on sex-trafficking and slavery, students from CU's Society Against Slavery will participate.

These sessions are co-organized by Bob Cohen and me, and we are both on the lookout for qualified resource persons. I continue to moderate the majority of the sessions, while Bob handles communications and Internet operations.

We select topics based on our own ideas and suggestions from discussion participants and people like you. We welcome suggestions from the UNA membership for topics, candidate resource persons, and choice reading references.

Please email your suggestions to Bob Cohen, r.cohen@ieee.org. We hope to see many of you at upcoming discussion sessions dealing with topics in the realm of international affairs that are of interest to you. Schedules and topics are posted at www.unaboulder.org.

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All our resource persons have been stimulating, and they reflect the rich human resource that we have in the Boulder community. For example, for the discussion on Haiti one resource person was the Director of the Colorado Haiti Project, and another was the granddaughter of the founder of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Deschappelles, Haiti.

For the discussion on global water scarcity, a visiting professor from China spoke about water projects in that country. The resource person for the discussion on corruption in government was the founder of an NGO operating in Uganda.

Upcoming resource persons include a teaching assistant from CU who spent most of the last year in Russia researching Buddhist minority groups. For the

Discussion Series Calendar

The discussion sessions on United Nations and International Affairs and Geopolitics are held at the Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe, Boulder, 1 pm to 3 pm in the Boulder Creek Conference room on the main floor.

United Nations and International Affairs

Thursday, October 21: Can the United Nations and the international community deal effectively with sex-trafficking and slavery?

Thursday, November 18: How effective is the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

Thursday, December 16: vacation

Geopolitics

Thursday, September 30: Mexican drug wars: Who benefits from them?

Thursday, October 28: The influence of NGOs on developing nations: Are their approaches more effective than policies of sovereign states?

Thursday, December 2: What is the influence of ethnic minorities on Russian geopolitical decisions?

Thursday, December 30: vacation

Model UN Fund Drive ■

By Clovis Morrisson

Several months ago, UNA Boulder Chapter President Meg Knox asked you to contribute to a dedicated fund for Boulder High School and University of Colorado Model UN clubs. To date, you have donated \$1,717 to this fund. Added to the \$1,800 we have from your generosity five years ago, we now have \$3,517 in this dedicated fund.

Monies are used to support travel for students to Model UN conferences as far away as New York City. Both the college and high school clubs have won numerous awards for their scholarship, their debating skills and their organizing abilities at these mock UN sessions. The students are simply amazing, and they are very grateful to you for your support, as are we!

If you have not yet contributed and would like to, please make your checks payable to UNA, write "student support fund" in the memo line, and send it to UNA, Box 1181, Boulder, CO 80516. Thank you.

Impact ■ *By John Beynon, roving reporter*

Ask Not What the UNF-BWF Will Do to Us; As Rather What UNA-USA Can Do to Them

What happened? In a nutshell, the world changed while the old UNA-USA, Inc. was napping. Waking up from a self-delusional dream that the past is the present, it is being swallowed by a whale of an organization—at our own request.

Why did this happen? The UNA was spending its endowment and losing prestige while the UN Foundation is gaining strength, thanks to its generous funding and wise leadership.

Leaders of the two organizations started to ask, “What do they have that we don’t?” The answer was that the UNF has resources and vision, the UNA has tradition and grass roots members. Thus the friendly “affiliation” emerged. So what’s next? Get digested and rejected? Or graft into the more powerful organism and become an indispensable new member?

The first impact is that UNA-USA as we know it will survive—for now—but as UNA-USA, LLC. The second is that if we want to survive over the long run, evolution is essential. The nap is over so UNA-USA members need to take a look at the new environment and ask “How do we stay alive in this strange new place?” then Google away!

Start by checking out the largely overlapping list of directors of the UN Foundation and its advocacy arm, the Better World Fund, to which UNA-USA will be attached. The new overseers are world personalities from 12 countries with a variety of backgrounds—academic, international relations, community development, national politics, international organizations, and, very selectively, business and finance. Mediocrity will not earn their allegiance.

The new UNA-USA will be aided by a high-level council. No doubt this council will have a strength of character similar to the UNF and BWF boards. Clearly we will have to do things that will make nationally known, distinguished personalities way more than pleased. We need to make them proud.

Then Google the UNF and BWF web sites to see what they are doing. There are programs that tackle major world problems, there are alliances with a variety of nongovernmental groups and there is support for the work of specific UN programs.

There are grant-giving bodies and fund-raising arms. To be effective in this new environment, we have to fit into this mixture of activities by becoming useful to all and indispensable to several.

BWF describes itself as sponsoring a “world class communication, education and advocacy movement” that supports the UN family. But just what do they expect from us? Answer: to be “world-class” too.

BWF promises to provide us with documents about the UN and electronic means to reach a large audience.

Evidently our new overseers (the Council of the UNA-USA, LLC and the UNF leadership) expect us to be seen and heard in our communities—and to grow. We need to become evangelicals.

Now read carefully the obligations of the new UNA-USA and the chapters under sections 4 and 5 of the Chapter Affiliation Agreement. It is reassuring that we will be able to maintain our education activities. Fund-raising for development projects is foreseen. The annual conferences are preserved. The future could be a lot like the past but with major emphasis on raising quality.

Then there is all that stuff in the Agreement about what not to do. No more “UNA-Boulder” or “UNA-BC.” Henceforth it is “UNA-USA Boulder.” Our “action projects” with NGOs as beneficiaries may need HQ approval or be replaced with projects that directly benefit UN actions. We may need to do some evolutionary rethinking.

The legalese and strict tone of the Chapter Affiliation Agreement raises questions. Can chapters host “Great Decisions” groups? Will the chapters be used as water-boys for decisions taken elsewhere? Will we be allowed to generate ideas, share them with other chapters and adopt policy recommendations? We should be ready to stoutly defend current practices that we feel make the chapters strong—and jettison activities that have minimal impact.

Finally, check out the job description of the “Executive Director, United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA).” It states that she/he will “serve as a team player with other UNF/BWF teams.” This gives us the opportunity to speak authoritatively, and more broadly, to our members and fellow citizens about the work of the UN system. *Vise-versa*, it gives us the potential to become the voice of the American public speaking to the BWF and UNF.

Our new leader will report to the UNF Vice President for Public Policy and Public Affairs who is just a heartbeat away from Tim Wirth, the UNF President. If we have solid points to make and are loud and clear about them, we can expect to be heard.

Now recall those phrases in the Agreement about a “Chapter Handbook developed by UNA-USA in consultation with the Council of Chapters and Divisions Steering Committee.” The old UNA-USA Inc. handbook has faded from the picture in recent years. Our future hinges on what the new one says.

Will these guidelines be a straightjacket that dampens our free spirit or will they be a catalyst for working together and a booster rocket for creativity? Can we, the UNA-USA membership, make this a bigger and better organization, and thereby become an essential organ of UNF?

That’s a whale of a challenge.



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

TO:

**What is the best Web site?
 See page 8 for the answer!**

Calendar

Additional Information Inside or visit www.unaboulder.org!

Chapter board meetings: Open to the membership and guests; on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 pm, 3rd floor conference room, First Congregational Church, Broadway and Pine, Boulder.

General membership meetings: this year the membership meeting will be in April at the Educate! action project fundraiser. Details will be in the spring newsletter.

UN Day and Human Rights Day: Annual celebrations of the work of the UN family, in October and December (see articles for details).

The UN in the World Today Dialog Series: First Saturday of each month at 10 am, Fraiser Meadows Retirement Community. **The UN and International Affairs Discussion Series.** Third Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., Boulder Public Library.

Geopolitics Discussion Series: Last Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., Boulder Public Library.

Ernie Smith Foreign Policy Dinner Lectures (formerly called the Athenaeum Lectures): three dinners with guest lecturers, fall, winter and spring. Watch for the blue-card announcement.

Credits

Newsletter Editor: Judith Green
 assisted by Kristin Shewfelt
 Layout and Design: Lindsay Konzak
 Mailing: Kristin Shewfelt and volunteer team
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Coming Soon:
**UN Day Celebration
 "Eleanor Roosevelt"**
 Sunday, October 24
 Boulder Public Library
 2 pm - 5 pm

Chapter Annual Meeting
 January 2011