

# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION-USA Boulder County

Fall 2011 Newsletter



## President's Corner

I'm writing this from the road, en route to a ghost-writing assignment that will keep me on the east coast for six months. Vice-president Nancy Allen has stepped up to assume the duties of president this fall, and I hope to make myself useful from afar as we move toward nominations and board elections in January. I'm grateful to Nancy for adding the board president's duties to her other volunteer responsibilities in Boulder County and nationally. It has been an honor to chair an innovative and energetic board these past three years.

We're excited to have new leadership on many committees. Joe Richey heads the advocacy committee—a chapter role emphasized by UNA-USA. He shares the urgency of the national office to shore up congressional support for the UN and the Millennium Development Goals. We hope you'll respond when he taps the membership for coordinated letter-writing. Kristin Shewfelt is the new host of our popular Ernest K. Smith dinner-lecture series. A newly formed speakers bureau will support her, sharing ideas for lecturers at all of our regular events. In particular, the speakers bureau hopes to tap the resource persons who facilitate the Discussion Series to give lectures at the monthly Dialog Series.

Our chapter runs a busy schedule of events, and we don't always have surplus energy to travel to distant meetings. So this year, we funded one of Boulder High School's stellar Model United Nations students, Aidan Milliff, to represent us at the annual UNA-USA meeting in Washington, D.C., in June. He generated lots of interest among other chapters when he talked up our close work with MUN clubs at the high school and college level. He was well prepared with talking points for the Day on the Hill and got to know some of the Better World Campaign staff, our newly affiliated partners, and has a possibility of an internship next summer.

A goal of our outreach program is to bring educational events about the UN to other communities. In July we partnered



with the Mountain Forum for Peace to bring a film and speakers on water and the MDGs to Nederland. We always look for a panel member who can link international and local issues, and Bob Crifasi, water resource manager for Boulder's open space, did a great job of it, discussing, among other issues, our "water footprint."

Our Spring Festival fundraiser in May for the non-profit, Educate! exceeded our expectations. As the school year gets under way, your donations are working to break the cycle of poverty in northeastern Uganda. Early marriage and motherhood, long treks for water, and scarcities of food and shelter have long burdened the girls of Budadiri village. The school we funded is the first in the community to offer girls an education.

It was a pleasure this year once again to award the Catherine B. Wrenn Scholarship to a senior at CU, and by the time you read this we should have a good cluster of nominees for our International Human Rights Award. We're delighted to have Al Alrubaiby handling the event. At a farewell party for the creator of the award, former board member Clovis Morrisson, many people recounted their initial skepticism as to how many worthy recipients we would find in Boulder County. The award reveals the depth of talent and dedication in this county to human rights globally. The hard part is choosing among candidates.

Don't miss our celebration of United Nations Day on Sunday, October 23, at the main campus of Naropa University, with speakers on the Arab Spring. I wish I could be there with you to browse the tables and sample the UN birthday cake provided by Zonta—and for all the exciting events of the fall and winter. See you in spring!

## Board of Directors

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## Puzzle

**1 Across:** One thing the UN tries to prevent (3 letters); **1 Down:** Secretary-General from Austria: Kurt \_\_\_\_ (8 letters)

Want more? Go to:  
[library.kentlaw.edu/  
collection/puzzle/  
FunWithTheUnitedNa-  
tions.html](http://library.kentlaw.edu/collection/puzzle/FunWithTheUnitedNations.html)

## Membership Report

Members, both up-to-date and recently lapsed: 141 (more or less)

We welcome new members: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Becker, Arunachalam Lakshminarayanan and Michael Percival.

-Bruce MacKenzie, membership chair

**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.

## UN Day ■

### Annual Celebration: October 23

Our annual UN Day Celebration will be on Sunday afternoon, October 23rd, 2011, at Naropa University's Nalanda Campus, 6287 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the main meeting hall.



A panel discussion on the Arab Spring is being arranged, with local people, professionals and students from Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya who have direct knowledge of this historic wave of change. A reception follows the panel and our traditional UN birthday cake will be served. We are celebrating the UN's 66<sup>th</sup> birthday. This free public event promises to be informative and inspiring, with both the panel and local sponsors.

The City of Boulder has graciously agreed to display the UN flag at the Sister Cities Plaza from Tuesday, October 18 to Tuesday, October 25 and the mayor, Susan Osborne, will issue a UN Day proclamation.

## Travel ■

### South Africa Trip Offers Opportunity

Jose and Kathy Goncalves are again arranging an exciting journey, this time to **South Africa, April 8, 2012 to April 22, 2012** (tentative dates).

The journey includes diverse culture experiences—encounters with the Zulu and Ndebele tribes and exploring the influence of the Dutch (Boer), Indian, and Portuguese on present day South Africa, and the extraordinary natural beauty of the country—beaches, mountains, bushveldt savannahs. **Kruger National Park**, the beautiful city of **Capetown, Robben Island** (Mandela's former prison home and UNESCO World Heritage Site), and **Cape Point** (Cape of Good Hope) are on the tour, and much more. An extension to spectacular **Victoria Falls** (UNESCO World Heritage Site) is also offered.

Jose was raised in Mozambique and educated in South Africa and has arranged many tours for UNA chapters, Kathy was our liaison with the Metro Denver Chapter for many years.

A donation of \$100.00 per traveler is given to the Boulder Chapter. If you are interested in this tour contact Jose Goncalves, J-G Travel, Inc., [josaytrav@msn.com](mailto:josaytrav@msn.com) or 303-777-1835.

*Nancy Allen and the Fundraising Committee: Brenda Byrne, Minerva Canavan, Tom Cimino, Nicki Haller, Semay Nelson, Bruce MacKenzie, Jyotsna Raj, Alison Sharley, Barbara Werner*



Left: Attendees at fundraiser. Below: Educate! founder Eric Glustrom speaks.

## Educate! Fundraiser a Great Success ■



In May the chapter held a gala Spring Festival Fundraiser to support our project with Educate!, founded by Boulder's Eric Glustrom when he was 17 years old and a student at Fairview High School. Educate! is a leadership and social entrepreneurship program in Uganda that trains selected

high school juniors and seniors in how to start their own businesses and community initiatives. The board chose Educate!'s program for Budadiri Girls High School as our action project for the year.

With 80 percent unemployment among Ugandan youth, Educate! attracted the attention of the International Labor Organization as a way to assist young Ugandans in creating their own jobs and recently Educate! was chosen to write the social entrepreneurship portion of Uganda's national education curriculum. Clearly Educate! has influence in Uganda.

Guests at the Spring Festival Fundraiser arrived in colorful African and Indian attire, and Boulder's best casuals, and everyone enjoyed the African music, international foods, games, stories and the silent auction with 71 items—vacation homes, restaurant dinners, handmade jewelry and much more. The home of Theresa Noland afforded large gardens and outdoor space for children and adults to play and take in the splendid mountain views.

Eric Glustrom updated guests on Educate!'s recent achievements and future plans. His presence and interaction with guests—answering questions and visiting with the Boulder community of the UNA-USA—helped make the event a great success. Eric's sincerity, competence, and integrity demonstrate the trust that our chapter felt in selecting Educate! for our fundraiser this year.

The committee is happy to announce that a total of \$15,714.91 was raised for Educate!'s program at Budadiri Girls High School. To all our guests and members who attended the Spring Festival and in economically challenging times contributed so generously to this project—a thunderous thank you.

## Interview ■

### Aidan Milliff Talks with UNA-Boulder County About UNA-USA Annual Meeting

Editor's note: Aidan was active in the Boulder High School Model UN for three years, first as a delegate and presiding officer, then as an officer and delegate, and finally as the Secretary-General and delegate. He attended three national conferences with the BHS team, winning awards twice. Aidan is attending the University of Chicago and plans a career in international diplomatic and economic issues.  
- Judith Green



USA and the Foundation. Capsulate his remarks for us, if possible. What is your sense of the reaction of the UNA members—any particular concerns?

*Senator Wirth was also excited at the prospect of the UNA/UNF merger. At various points, he referred to the UNA as an important voice in support of the UN and as a grassroots organization for international cooperation. Senator Wirth also referred to polling data recently released by the UNF*

*that shows overwhelming support among American citizens for the work of the United Nations. It was heartening to hear that the UNA, which in a lot of ways is a small organization, is working toward goals supported by the majority of the American public. Of course, concerns about the future of the UNA still exist—the median age of members is well above 50—but again, other representatives were mostly excited about recent changes.*

JG: Thanks so much Aidan for attending the UNA-USA annual meeting in DC, the first meeting as an affiliate of the United Nations Foundation. Let's begin with how you became our representative at the meeting.

*I ended up at the UNA-USA meeting with help from Mr. Andy Aiken. As one of two Boulder High Model UN advisors, he was at a UNA board meeting where Meg Knox raised the possibility that I go to DC both for networking and to represent the Chapter. The whole thing came down to a month or so of notice, but it was an opportunity and honor that I couldn't pass up.*

JG: Yes, this was short notice. Where did you stay?

*The Boulder Chapter was very kind and found accommodations for me with Karen and Fritz Mulhauser. Karen is the President of the UNA National Capital Area board, and a political consultant in DC. I truly thank them for their hospitality and for all of the connections they helped me make during my stay.*

JG: So you had a chance to be an insider, so to speak! The conference schedule was packed with plenary sessions, policy updates, break-out sessions and training sessions, ending on the last day with the annual Advocacy Day on Capital Hill. Wow. The first plenary was an address by Patrick Madden, the new UNA-USA executive director. Tell us about that first session, and what Madden said about the merger with UNF.

*Mr. Madden, along with his staff, was very excited about the UNF merger. He spoke about the new operational and administrative capabilities that the UNF can offer the UNA, like better publicity, better fundraising, a better speakers bureau and so on. In the Q&A that followed, chapter representatives expressed equal excitement about the merger and the state of the UNA. With much work ahead, the outlook for the organization appears bright.*

JG: Tim Wirth, President of the UNF spoke on UNA-

JG: As I understand it, UNA created the Model UN program, which is now in high schools and colleges across the U.S. Was the Model UN program featured at the conference?

*Yes, the UNA's Model UN program was featured at the conference. It fills a special niche in Model UN. The UNA's Global Classrooms Program focuses on incorporating Model UN into the curriculum of struggling urban schools, bringing real world issues, along with the concepts of public speaking, research and debate to these settings in new ways.*

JG: As an aside here, you will be attending the University of Chicago. Does Chicago have a Model UN club, and are you planning to continue?

*In fact, Chicago's Model UN team is large and extremely competitive on the national circuit. I am excited to continue Model UN through the University, competing and staffing conferences, and I hope to get involved in Global Classrooms Chicago as well.*

JG: I see on the conference schedule that there were concurrent sessions on several topics—health, securing peace, empowering women and girls, energy, increasing membership. What sessions did you attend, and what did you learn?

*I attended sessions on Energy and Increasing Membership. The energy session addressed some interesting new ideas to bring electricity to rural areas in developing nations. Especially exciting is the idea of energy cooperatives that provide*

jobs and clean electrical power in rural areas, operated by local leaders and the community. To increase membership, successful chapter presidents discussed strategies to get their communities involved in the UNA, from free events, piggyback advertisement at philanthropic events, to sponsoring Model UN clubs.

JG: From your experience at the conference, what would you say are the challenges facing the UNA-USA?

*As I mentioned earlier, a high median membership age will become an increasing challenge. The UNA functions today on a strong base of globally-minded Americans who are retirement age. For the UNA to remain relevant and gain influence in the future, more people my age need to be brought into the community of UN supporters. Also, the UNA needs to find a way to engage passive supporters of the United Nations in advocacy and education. The new polling data affirm the popular support for our efforts, but it also highlights an enormous segment of Americans who appreciate the UN but don't get involved. The UNA needs to reach into that segment. Also, I talked with several chapter leaders who were impressed by the connection between the Boulder Chapter and our Model UN program—our team leaders often attend your board meeting, keeping you informed of our activities, and you support the team. I think that if this were true for all chapters more young people would get involved.*

JG: Did you have a chance to participate in Advocacy Day on Capital Hill?

*I did. Meeting with Representative Polis's legislative aides, and briefly with Polis himself, was energizing. He supports the UNA's work and even mentioned an interest in greater interaction with the Boulder UNA chapter. The meeting with Senator Udall's office was less positive. I have great appreciation for the Senator as a conservationist, but his office did not*

*appear to be interested in pushing treaties like the Convention on the Laws of the Sea, or the Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, through to ratification by the full Senate. The picture painted by Sen. Udall's aide was that the goals of UNA are too unpopular to be worth a fight. I do believe however that Sen. Udall's office would respond to constituent input. If Washington is going to move forward on important issues regarding the UN, it will be at the behest of globally-minded and vocal voters.*

JG: Yes, vocal voters is the key isn't it. Next question, every interviewer asks, "What were the highlights of the conference for you?"

*Hearing an address by Susan Rice was certainly a highlight. But really, the whole atmosphere, being around people so excited about supporting such an important organization was amazing. Highlights abounded.*

JG: Is there anything else that you would like to tell our readers about the conference or UNA-USA in general?

*I just want to reiterate the message from the UNA leadership: that the UNA is in a great position to move forward, and to accomplish great things with the support of the American public, but that it has to work toward being a dynamic and vital organization. The UNA needs new members, young members, and more members to affect results, especially in Congress.*

JG: Thank you so much Aidan for sharing the annual conference with us, and for your excellent work with the Model UN program. We have no doubt that we will be hearing from you again, perhaps as a young leader in the organization! Best wishes from the Boulder Chapter as you head off to the University of Chicago.

*Thank you Judith.*

## The Responsibility to Protect ■ By Judith Green

### Strengthening the Universality of Human Rights

Normative change of great magnitude can be slow and uneven, as was the development of human rights norms—from the Enlightenment to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1966 Covenants on political, social, economic and cultural rights. And while the Declaration sets the standard for state conduct vis-a-vis citizens it has little impact in preventing crimes that in international law define the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing—mass atrocities.

In contrast, following a decade of humanitarian crisis in which millions of civilians were displaced, murdered and raped while the Security Council dithered and UN peacekeepers stood by—the genocides in Rwanda and

Bosnia being only the worst—a new norm, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) evolved in a single decade and may eventually be preventative. In 1999 Kofi Annan challenged the General Assembly to find a way to reconcile state sovereignty and human sovereignty saying, “. . . if humanitarian intervention is, indeed, an unacceptable assault on sovereignty, how should we respond to a Rwanda, to a Srebrenica—to gross and systematic violations of human rights?”

The Canadian government took up the challenge, creating the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty with twelve members from eleven nations. The Commission dealt with the dilemmas in the Charter of the United Nations that weaken our commit-

ment to the **universality** of human rights: (1) state sovereignty and the principle of nonintervention, the bedrocks of world order so strongly stated in the Charter; (2) veto power given to the permanent members of the Security Council that politicizes and paralyzes action even when human rights are violated; (3) the fact that the proscriptions and prohibitions in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions, various Covenants and Accords, are meaningless without potential enforcement, but the means for enforcement are not given in the Charter and are dependent upon Security Council consensus, the commitment and political will of individual states, and forces like NATO and the AU; (4) the Charter strictly limits intervention to “threats to **international** peace and security” but in post Cold War conflicts, killing, torturing and displacing civilians within their own country is the new *modus operandi* and atrocities are often committed by “nonstate” actors—militias, warlords, mercenaries; (5) peacekeeping forces are small, cannot use force and must remain neutral, which enabled the slaughter of 7,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica; (6) the requirement that intervention of any sort must be requested, or at least consented to by the state—a requirement that led to inaction or ineffective action as the slow-moving genocide in Darfur progressed; (7) sovereignty and security of the state are enshrined in the UN Charter but the sovereignty and security of humans *per se* are not. Against this backdrop of dilemmas and atrocities, the need to rethink intervention and sovereignty was starkly apparent.

After a grueling year of worldwide consultations and debate, a new conceptualization of state sovereignty emerged—sovereignty as responsibility. The state has the responsibility to protect citizen’s rights and security. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon refers to this fundamental responsibility of sovereign states as the first pillar of R2P. The corollaries are of equal magnitude—if a state will not or cannot protect its citizens, or is the perpetrator, then the international community assumes the responsibility to protect, first by assisting the state in its responsibility—the second pillar.

If this fails, then it is the responsibility of the international community to intervene—the third pillar—beginning with preventive measures. If these measures fail and a mass atrocity is occurring or is anticipated, only then and only with Security Council authorization, can the international community assume the responsibility to intervene militarily for human protection purposes. In this rare case, the principles of state sovereignty and nonintervention are superseded by the rights of citizens and the responsibility to protect. The final phase of R2P is to help the state rebuild, a lesson learned from the apparent UN success in East Timor followed by chaos. Recently a fourth aspect of R2P is raised, the responsibility to prosecute and use of universal jurisdiction.

The commissioners found that when the concept of the responsibility to protect was put forward it was almost universally accepted. That was the “easy” part. The most

difficult task, ongoing today, is formulating the scope of that responsibility and how it should be operationalized. Responsibility to protect is meaningless without a clear sense that speedy and decisive intervention is required when crimes that “shock human conscience” are occurring or are eminent.

Early on it was agreed that the veto power would not be used in this case. But following the criteria for military intervention established by the Commission—right intention, last resort, proportional means and reasonable prospects—is complex. Yet, in contrast to interminable discussion and inaction by the Security Council in the past, the resolution in February ‘11 authorizing sanctions against Libya and in March authorizing military action was speedy, triggered finally by Gaddafi’s threat to “cleanse Libya house by house” in Benghazi. A strong element of R2P is involvement of regional actors and the Arab League played an important role in this case.

The slowness of the initial response to the killing and torture of protestors in Syria highlights concerns of Security Council “selectivity” but gradually the international community is taking responsibility, even Iran, by condemning the crack-down and initiating sanctions. If the killing continues (and we can ask the disturbing question, “How many deaths does it take?”) the conditions that trigger military intervention may exist. The hope is that the endorsement of R2P by the international community will, in itself, deter violence.

At the World Summit in 2005 the General Assembly debated R2P, agreed upon the general principle and agreed to continue the discussion. In that year the African Union embraced R2P, and the norm is fundamental to the African Peer Review Mechanism. Some post-colonial countries for whom sovereignty was hard won reject R2P as a cover for imperialism masquerading as humanitarianism. In the 2009 General Assembly discussion Sudan rejected the norm saying, “R2P is like giving a lion the responsibility to adopt a lamb,” a self-serving rejection for sure. Proponents of R2P acknowledge the legitimacy of mixed motives, for example, preventing a mass exodus of refugees, but the constraints on unilateralism, the mandatory authorization by the Security Council and requirement of regional support for intervention are safeguards. For those being slaughtered, the motives of the interveners are probably immaterial.

Although the U.S. invasion of Iraq was a setback for R2P, the nonmilitary intervention in Kenya after the December 2007 elections led by the AU and Kofi Annan, averted mass atrocities and is considered an example of R2P swiftly applied and successful. Every year the discussion continues and R2P constraints and proscriptions are clarified. In 2010 the focus was on early warning and prevention, in 2011 Ban Ki-Moon asked the General Assembly to discuss the role of regional and sub regional “arrangements” in R2P and in 2012 the focus will be the third pillar, intervention.

While genocides in Darfur, the Democratic Republic

*Universality of Human Rights, continued from page 5*

of Congo and Northern Uganda were not stopped by the international communities' sense of a responsibility to protect and while cases like the NATO bombing in Kosovo warn of action too soon and too much, and the political will to engage forces and resources to save lives and stop tyrants elsewhere and to "stay the course" may be hard to muster, the norm called "the responsibility to protect" appears to be launched.

Although we will never know if "never again" came true, and zero tolerance for violence is just a dream, advo-

cates of R2P view it as a sea change for humanity. Of all the responsibilities that humans have, the responsibility to protect distant people threatened by atrocities must surely be the most fraught with difficulty, but perhaps it is the greatest hallmark of our species.

*References: Humanitarian Intervention, Thomas Weiss; The Responsibility to Protect, Ramesh Thakur; The Responsibility to Protect: Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty; International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect; Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect; Global Responsibility to Project Journal.*

**Book Reviews ■** *By Bill Kellogg***Big Citizenship by Alan Khazei, Public Affairs Books, NYC, 2010**

If you want an upbeat read, this is recommended. Big Citizenship is the autobiography of Alan Khazei, co-founder of City Year and more recently of Be the Change, two effective domestic NGOs that focus on national service. City Year recruits 18-26 year olds for a year of service in needy city schools, as tutors, mentors and role models.

City Year opens in Denver this fall, the 23<sup>rd</sup> city location (including London and Johannesburg). Be the Change undertakes national programs for change that combine "grassroots—the people—and the top roots—those with power" to effect such change as the passage of the 2009 National Service Law. As we watch "people movements" around the Middle East and North Africa, it is interesting to read about "people movements" in this country as described by Khazei. He shows that idealism and service are not dead in the U.S.

**Citizens of London by Lynne Olson, Random House, 2010**

This excellent account of World War II in London focuses on local workers and G.I.s, military commanders and

political leaders—all citizens of London who experienced together the tensions, the excitement, the horror, the relaxed morality and the heroism of war time. A thread of continuity runs through the story of three Americans—Ambassador John Gilbert Winant, Lend Lease Coordinator Averell Harriman, and newscaster Edward R. Murrow. These three played crucial roles in developing the 'special relationship' between Britain and the U.S. Olson describes their personalities and relationships with the Churchill family.

She also tells many personal stories, of leaders and of housewives, revealing both sacrifice and massive egos. One wonders how the relationship was ever cemented and the war won.

Winant was an idealist and saw a post-war world very different from Churchill's ideas and tried to get Roosevelt to accept advance planning for its achievement, including the role of the United Nations. I find it sad to contemplate what might have happened if Roosevelt had heeded his advice. The book is well written, and with its emphasis on social history provided me with much new information. If you are interested in the origins of today's political and economic relationships, this is a good place to start.

**Lunch with Lindsay, UNA Newsletter Designer ■**

Ever wonder how so much news and information can be crammed into a one-stamp newsletter? Lindsay Konzak knows. She joined the board in 2006 as President of the Young Professionals for International Cooperation Group of the UNA in Colorado and for several years has done the layout for the newsletter, working with three editors, making last-minute changes and getting it off to the printer on schedule.

In June board members treated Lindsay to a "thank you" lunch to express our appreciation for her continuing work on the newsletter. Lindsay has a Bachelor's in Journalism from the University of Nebraska and an MBA from CU, Boulder. She works at Gale Media as Editor of Modern Distribution Management. We are so fortunate to have Lindsay on our team. Thank you Lindsay—and please squeeze this in somewhere.



Photo by Judith Green

## Catherine B. Wrenn Scholarship ■

### CU International Affairs Program Student Awarded Scholarship

Camilo Andres Florez, a senior in CU's International Affairs Program, was awarded the Catherine B. Wrenn scholarship for 2011-2012.

Our chapter established the Wrenn award in memory of Catherine Wrenn, who helped found our UNA chapter in 1995 and served as its second president. Catherine Wrenn was an authority on the history, functions, and organization of the United Nations and was an instructor in CU's political science department. Chapter board members presented Camilo Florez with the \$500 award on September 13th, in the presence of Catherine's daughter Elizabeth, who brought greetings from her father, John Wrenn.

A native of Colombia, Camilo Florez moved to Broomfield with his mother at the age of fifteen. He finds that although he had a superb education in Colombia, some people in the U.S. assume it must have been lacking. Fearing that "much Third World intellect is dismissed and lost," he plans to work internationally to strengthen education programs. Receiving the Wrenn Scholarship, he says, has encouraged him to keep working hard toward



his goals.

Camilo was recently granted U.S. citizenship which allows him to travel abroad. After graduation he may pursue an internship with an educational organization based in Budapest, Hungary. Congratulations, Camilo Florez!

## Boulder HS Model UN ■ *By Andy Aiken*

### Update and Schedule of Student Model UN Events

The Boulder HS Model United Nations team begins its seventh year giving students opportunities to develop strategies to resolve real world problems by participating in various simulated U.N. committees, councils, and agencies. Model U.N. students work in pairs as diplomats representing a specific country. They participate in Saturday conferences at different high schools or universities in Colorado and may qualify to go to a four-day, national MUN. In United Nations-style councils, student delegates give formal and informal speeches, collaborate with allies, write, amend, and try to pass resolutions to solve international problems from the point of view of their country.

BHS MUN helps newer MUN teams or clubs and their sponsors by holding an Introduction to Model U.N. early in the school year. New student delegates learn the basics of MUN and are led through the procedures of a Beginner Security Council by BHS team members. Highlights of the schedule this year are the MUN conferences at University of Colorado, Boulder and the new University of Denver MUN organized by BHS grad Emily Thompson, our own BHS MUN, and the North American Invitational MUN in Washington, D.C. sponsored by Georgetown University. Senior Sophie Harrington is our Secretary-General this year. Richard Trinkner and I are co-sponsors.

#### 2011-12 BHS MUN Schedule



Sat. Sept. 17 - Introduction to Model U.N., Boulder H.S., 12:45 to 3:00 pm (statewide opportunity to practice serving in a Beginner Security Council)

Sat. Oct. 1 - Regis Jesuit H.S. Model U.N., Denver, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Sat. Nov. 5 - University of Colorado/Boulder H.S. Model U.N., all day

Sat. Dec. 3 - Colorado Springs School Model U.N., overnight trip, all day Sat.

Sat. Jan. 21 - Boulder H.S. Model U.N., 8:30 to 3:30 pm

February 17-20 - North American Invitational MUN in Washington, D.C. organized by Georgetown University

Sat. April 14 - University of Denver H.S. Model U.N. conference, all day



Clovis Morrisson receives gifts from Meg and Nancy.

and I, a relative newcomer, gained a greater appreciation and understanding of the people who founded the chapter and served it over the years.

As a token of appreciation, we presented Clovis with a Boulder Bookstore gift certificate and a pen—to stay in touch.

In response Clovis said, "More than anything else I cherish each of you as a friend and as a devoted soldier in the struggle to help the public understand the United Nations. You have all pitched in and helped with the activities, and I just cannot imagine a better UNA chapter anywhere. The amount of good it has done, literally around the world, is remarkable." - *Judith Green*

## UNICEF Participates in CU Volunteer Fair: 66 Students Sign Up ■

On September 6 members of the Boulder Friends of UNICEF participated in the CU Volunteer Fair on campus, an annual event that gives students the opportunity to get involved in service organizations. Sixty-six students signed up at the UNICEF table.

These students have all been invited to an informational meeting on September 27, hosted by the Boulder Friends of UNICEF with the help of the CU Volunteer Resource Center. The participants will learn about the UNICEF Campus Initiative and how to proceed in forming a UNICEF group on campus. This story will be continued.

At the UN Day Celebration, October 23, the Boulder Friends of UNICEF will be selling fabric bags and helping Denver UNICEF sell those delightful UNICEF cards. See you there.



## Honoring Clovis Morrisson ■ Long-time Board Member Wished a Fond Farewell

Past and current board members gathered on 3 September at the home of vice-president Nancy Allen to express deep gratitude for the work that Clovis did over the years and to wish him and Marilyn a fond farewell.

Humorous and serious stories were told, events remembered, successes applauded,

## Survey Shows: Americans Support the United Nations ■

To observe the latest polling data, the UN is basking in a very favorable public view from Americans, if not rolling in the money. But in any economy, we would be pleased with the results.

The bipartisan poll conducted nationwide this spring, surveyed 900 registered voters and shows overwhelming support for maintaining an active role in the UN. Sixty-one percent of voters polled believe that the US presence in the UN is *very* important; 85% believe the US must keep an active role in the UN, which is considered an important global forum and organization that has relevance in the world today.

When it comes to monetary issues and funding the support level drops, of course, and yet 69% of voters believe that the US should pay its *peacekeeping* dues in full, and a solid 60% believe that the UN should receive dues payment on time and in full.

The percentages regarding funding are comprised of a majority of Democrats and Independents and a plurality of Republicans, and are consistent with an October 2010 survey conducted by the UN Foundation and Better World Campaign. Interestingly, when asked to rate their overall view of the UN itself, 59% of responders said "favorable" while 28% said "unfavorable." Certainly the UN glass is more than half full.

Peter Yeo, VP of the UN Foundation and Executive Director of the Better World Campaign observed, "Anyone who wants to perpetuate myths about negative American perceptions about the United Nations is ignoring the data. American voters want the US to take the lead role in addressing the world's toughest challenges, and they know that leadership starts with a purposeful, strong presence in the United Nations."

For the Executive Summary of the survey, go to: <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/news-room/articles-editorials/full-findings.html>.

- Summarized by Karen Janson

## Annual Human Rights Award: Nominations Open ■

Boulder County is rich with people who help communities around the world through volunteer and selfless work promoting peace and combating poverty, disease, hunger and injustice. Now is the time to nominate a county resident for the Human Rights Award; nominations will be accepted through 28 October. Please email a brief description of your candidate(s) activities and two letters of recommendation to Al Alrubaiy, [ctowers808@comcast.net](mailto:ctowers808@comcast.net).



## Library Books for Haiti ■

### Chapter Donates to Effort by Students for a Positive Future at BHS



With a donation of \$200 from this chapter, Students for a Positive Future at Boulder High School sent 15 boxes of books in French and English to supply a small library in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti.

The library was founded by 17-year old Ancito Etienne with help from Partners in Health. Ancito attended a summer program at Brown University, where he met Boulder High School student Flora Richey.

Flora, along with classmate Kaylin Rochford, collected books at Boulder High and local bookstores, garnered free frozen yogurts for winners of the book drive, and appealed to the chapter board for help with the postage. Students for a Positive Future has been renamed: Boulder High Student Activist. The group is planning to host a "hunger banquet" during the school year.

## Film & Discussion Series Continues in Nederland ■

The second film in the series, "Water First: Reaching the United Nations Millennium Development Goals" was shown to a good crowd in Nederland, thanks to the help of board member Bill Kellogg and members of the Mountain Forum for Peace, Dianne Fleming and Barbara Werner who also arranged for free food from Whole Foods. "Water First" addresses the poignant fact that without access to good and plentiful water, none of the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved.

The health and nutrition issues are obvious. Not so obvious is the fact that young girls who must fetch water every morning, sometimes walking long distances, may be unable to go to school—and universal primary education is one of the goals. Without near and adequate water supply education suffers, as does safety, fighting chronic diseases, environmental sustainability and gender equality, all essential to achieving the goals.

Following the film Jan Arney described the water

project for the Starthrower Foundation's teen center in Cap Haitian, Haiti, the focus of our action project and fundraiser in 2009. Several options for providing clean water to the center were considered, including a new well, but all were expensive or not feasible, highlighting the difficulties of good water supply everywhere. Closer to home, Bob Crifasi, water resource manager for Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Division, spoke about the "early days" when water for the town came through ditches that horses used.

Crifasi also enlightened the group with a concept used increasingly today, "water footprint," that refers to the amount of water used by an operation or project (a housing project for example). Watermelons from Mexico have a large water footprint that Mexico bears, for our picnics. Like our "carbon footprint," we must be aware of and reduce the water footprint of our daily activities. Thinking globally about water puts our footprint in perspective.

## Honored Guests at Board Meeting ■

James and Haru Landes, great supporters of our local UNA projects, attended the chapter board meeting in September. They were especially important in supporting the Adopt-a-Minefield program, and have continued their support of other action projects. James and Haru are retired career missionaries for the United Church of Christ in Japan and both received their graduate degrees in Economics at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

While in Boulder in the early 60's they were active in the First Congregational Church. Both taught for 40 years at Ayogama University in Tokyo. They have been active in the Japanese Peace Movement and in anti-nuclear activities for years, and Haru was the executive director of the Tokyo YWCA for many years.

We deeply appreciate their generous financial contributions to our UNA projects and were delighted to have them at the board meeting as guests of Bruce MacKenzie.



## Calendar

Additional Information Inside or visit [www.unaboulder.org](http://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.

**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:** Second Saturday of each month at 10 am, Fraiser Meadows Retirement Community. Watch for announcements. No meeting in October.

**The UN and International Affairs Discussion Series.** Third Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., Boulder Public Library. Oct. 20: "Will a UN General Assembly vote to recognize a Palestinian state have any impact on the peace process?"

**Geopolitics Discussion Series:** Last Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., Boulder Public Library. Oct. 27: "Pakistan: Friend or foe?"

**Ernie K. 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 Bob Shellenberger

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Coming Soon:

**THE ERNEST SMITH LECTURE SERIES  
of the UNA-USA Boulder County Chapter**  
invites you to a dinner/lecture:

MIKE BEARD, Deputy Dir., Better World Campaign  
SUPPORTING STRONGER US-UN TIES  
Thursday, October 20, 2011  
A Spice of Life Event Center,  
5706 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80303

Drinks 6:00, Dinner 7:00, Lecture 8:00  
\$25.00 per person. Cash bar.

Ten lecture-only seats available for \$10 by reservation.  
Make your reservation by Mon. morning, Oct. 18  
Kristin Shewfelt (720) 226-5647 or  
[kristinshewfelt@comcast.net](mailto:kristinshewfelt@comcast.net)



**United Nations Association-USA  
Boulder County Chapter  
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**TO:**

**Like Crossword Puzzles?  
See inside!**