



UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

Northern Colorado Chapter

November-December 2018

Volume 14, Number 4

Northern Chapter of UNA invites you to

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY and

The 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration and to

HONOR THE UNA NoCO 2018 INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

DR. AMY FRANKLIN

When: Sunday, 10 December, 2:30 pm

Where: Old Town Library, 201 Peterson St, FTC



Dr. Franklin founded Farms for Orphans, Inc. in 2015 following the adoption of two children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Seeing the poor nutritional status of orphaned and street children and the dismal conditions they exist under there

motivated her to improve access to nutritious food and education for orphaned and disadvantaged children around the world, starting in the DRC.

Prior to founding FFO, she worked on a number of research projects including *habitat use of translocated Asian elephants* in Malaysia, *songbird abundance and diversity in old-growth forests* in Alaska and the *ecology of giant geckos* in New Caledonia.

Dr. Franklin holds a B.S. in Forest Resource Management from West Virginia University, an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from Villanova University and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State University.

She has cared for mountain gorillas in Central Africa with the *Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project* and wolf/wolf-hybrids with the *Wolf Sanctuary* in Colorado, and domestic animals of all varieties. When she's not in the DRC, she practices honeybee veterinary medicine in Colorado.

Dr. Franklin lives in Loveland, CO with her husband, three children, two mammoth donkeys, three dogs, one fat rabbit and a flock of chickens. She enjoys traveling with her family, hiking with her mammoth donkeys, beekeeping, reading and archery.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our chapter has actively supported the CSU Model UN Club through our donations and helping the CSU students to prepare for a Model UN Conference at UNC in Chapel Hill, North Carolina the first of November. Last spring, the students attended a Conference in Los Angeles with our chapter donating money to help defray the cost of the trip. Two members of the chapter, Margaret Benson and Maria Byers-Alexander, sit on our chapter's Board of Directors. We have reached out to CSU students to encourage them to become GEN UN members.

Why has our chapter reached out to these students? What is Model UN and why is it important? Model UN bridges the gap between the student's education and the need to create global citizens. According to a recent article on the UNA of the United States' website,

"Model United Nations is an authentic simulation of the UN General Assembly, Un Security council, or other multilateral body, which introduces students to the world of diplomacy, negotiations, and decision-making."

Participation in Model UN can often be a life changing experience. It helps students to think more globally. This bridge leads many to pursue careers in international organizations or to bring a global perspective to businesses and government agencies. According to the UNA of United States' article,

"In fact, quite a few of today's leaders in law, government, business, and the arts participated in Model UN during their academic careers – from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, to Chelsea Clinton and actor Samuel L. Jackson (Pulp Fiction)."

These young people are the future and need our support. I would encourage folks to reach out to support these students. If you would like to make a financial contribution, checks can be made out to:

Model United Nations of Colorado State University

and should include the

SOFA account number: 2338640.

You can mail your contribution to:

Margaret Benson
601 Native Plant Way #1128
Fort Collins CO 80526

Bob Jeffrey, President
UNA/USA Northern Colorado



UPCOMING EVENTS

14TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH VIGIL AND SLEEP-OUT. ON Saturday, 1 December, starting at 5 pm, the Plymouth UCC Congregational Church, UCC, 916 W Prospect Rd, will hold a community-wide, interfaith vigil. See Vigil, page 3 for details.

UNA HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PROGRAM. Saturday, 1 December, 2:30 pm at the Old Towne Library, 201 Peterson St., Fort Collins. Join UNA and ACLU in celebrating **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY** and honoring this year's International Humanitarian Award recipient, Dr. Amy Franklin. Details on page 1.

INTERNATIONAL HOUR FOR PEACE. On Monday, 31 December, **4:45 am**, will be the 33rd annual Fort Collins Observance of the International Hour For Peace. The ceremony will honor long-time community leader Bob Geller as well as celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Armistice Day. For more information, see www.HourForPeace.org.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 101. ON Sunday, 27 January, 2:00-4:00, at the Global Village Museum, members of the UNA Board will present the 17 UN SDGs.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

We have lost our student intern, Navya Immadiesetty, who did such great work on our UNA NoCO website and *Facebook* page.

Our board members, Margaret Benson and Maria Byers- Alexander have agreed to monitor our online presence until we can find another intern. If you have any recommendations, please contact me at Eleanor@dwightcentral.com.

In the meantime, please check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/una.colorado.5>. Add us to your Facebook and let me know of any corrections, or additions. Thanks for all your hard work, Navya!

Eleanor Dwight, Chair

OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

We have reviewed all nominees for the International Humanitarian Award and submitted our selection to the Executive Board for approval. Now we are focused on our UNA/USA/UNHCR Adopt-a-Future (AAF) Campaign. We have raised about one half of the total pledged, but we need new ideas to raise the rest. If you have any fund-raising ideas or just want to be involved in this project, please email me at Eleanor@dwightcentral.com.

Eleanor Dwight, Chair

INDIGENOUS CONCERNS COMMITTEE:

The *Oglala Lakota Cultural and Economic Revitalization Initiative* (OLCERI) project on Pine Ridge Native Reservation project that Chairman Christina Eala has been working with for many years was featured in the *Positive Impact Journal: Spreading News of What Works*, Volume 1, Issue 2, September 2018: "Grassroots resiliency points the way to global solutions," by Elissa Tivona.

Christiana Eala, Chair

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:

The Advocacy Committee is preparing congratulatory letters for our newly elected representatives to be mailed in January when they take office.

Ed Levering, Co-Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Our committee once again enjoyed looking through and reading this year's entries for the elementary school art contest, topic "*Helping Hands Around the World*", and the middle school writing contest dealing with how robotics may affect work by the year 2030. That topic is in keeping with *UN Sustainable Development Goals #8 and #9*. Art entries were displayed at our UN Day meeting on October 27th and winning middle school authors read their entries. Top winners are provided in this newsletter for your enjoyment.

Our committee is planning two programs in early 2019. Following our International Human Rights Day program on 1 December, where we will present our 2018 International Humanitarian Award, our focus will be on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a topic requested by our members.

The first program will be in 'UN 101' format, where seventeen of us will each introduce one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs touch on the major concerns facing our world, from poverty and education through gender issues, the environment and on. So far, we have volunteers for SDGs #1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, and 14, but if you would like to participate in this program and want to take on a particular goal, please call Dick rush at (970) 667-5077 or e-mail [<crush@frii.com>](mailto:crush@frii.com).

As the saying goes, "*The best way to learn is to teach*". For the second 2019 program, we hope to feature a speaker about some aspect of the SDGs, details to follow.

Dick Rush, Co-Chair

14th ANNUAL INTERFAITH VIGIL AND SLEEP-OUT

At 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 1 December, at Plymouth Congregational Church there will be a community-wide interfaith vigil. The purpose is to stand united as a faith community in support of those who, for a various reasons, find themselves homeless in Fort Collins. All members of Fort Collins faith community are invited to attend.

Donations going to *Neighbor to Neighbor's Homeless Prevention Initiative* will be collected before and after the Vigil. Gently-used outdoor gear will also be collected and donated to *Homeward Alliance*.

That evening, youth from several faith communities will be participating in educational activities centering on the challenges of being homeless. To further raise awareness and donations, the youth will also be sleeping out in cardboard boxes that night.

FALL PROGRAMS

Our September kick-off program, *Global International Order*, by Dr. Robert Drysdale, was met by an enthusiastic audience of about 30 people. They listened to Dr. Drysdale, a former Country Director for the World Bank, discuss the importance of international agreements and the current state of the world and peppered him with questions. He ended by quoting Leonard Cohen's "ANTHEM." In response to requests from attendees, he sent us a recommended reading list (see page 7)

Our **UN Day Celebration** was attended by over thirty people who came to view our Elementary School art work, hear our Middle School winners read their creative works, and share the UN 'birthday' cake. Winning pictures and stories are provided on the following pages for the benefit of those unable to attend.

UN 101 for CSU UN Club. On October 22, Dick Rush and Eleanor Dwight talked to the newly formed Model UN club at CSU. 25 young people were in attendance. Eleanor gave a short talk about the structure of the UN and Dick gave a rousing report on the UN special agencies. The students asked very good questions. Several members will be attending Model UN competitions in North Carolina and Denver. Over the last two years, our chapter has helped them financially and they are truly appreciative. They have worked as greeters at our programs and talked with students at our UN Day program about Model UN. The co-presidents are on our Board of Directors and are very helpful there. We received a nice thank-you note (signed by nearly all in attendance) telling us how much they appreciate our support and kindness. *"It has been wonderful to be involved with the UNA and we are eager to work together in the future. . . Can you please come talk to us again!"*

ANTHEM by Leonard Cohen

The birds they sang At the break of day
Start again I heard them say
Don't dwell on what Has passed away
Or what is yet to be

Ah the wars they will Be fought again
The holy dove She will be caught again
Bought and sold And bought again
The dove is never free

CHORUS Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

We asked for signs The signs were sent:
The birth betrayed The marriage spent
Yeah the widowhood Of every government
Signs for all to see

I can't run no more With that lawless crowd
While the killers in high places Say their prayers out
loud

But they've summoned, they've summoned up a
thundercloud

And they're going to hear from me

You can add up the parts You won't have the sum
You can strike up the march There is no drum
Every heart, every heart To love will come
But like a refugee

UNA NOCO CONTEST WINNERS

Below are the winning entries from the 2018 Elementary School Art and Middle School Writing contests, presented in no particular order.



THE HELPING WORLD

"Kids and parents or just adults and how they help in the world and saying, 'thanks', to people who help them"

COLTIN KREILING

5th Grade, Laurene Edmondson Elementary, Mrs. Tucker



2030

AIDAN SCHNEIDER

Grade 8, Webber Middle School, Dr. Hollingsworth

The year is 2030 and mankind has become heavily reliant on the advancement of robots and artificial intelligence. The United Nations is reflecting on the previous decades to create new Sustainable Development Goals for the next generation. The world has changed significantly with the advancements of artificial intelligence and robots. The US government has easily adapted to the evolution of technology by making use of the highest-functioning AI and the simple programming manufacturing robots. There are three main agencies to divide the usage of the new technology, Medical, Manufacturing, and Government.

AI has been in use with the medical community for years helping doctors research new ways of changing the world. However, no use of artificial intelligence has changed the world quite as much as it has with direct statistics of patients. In 2023, the FDA approved the use of the P.A.I.D. intelligence software in major hospitals across America. P.A.I.D. stands for Prognosis Artificial Intelligence Doctors. This software allows doctors and nurses to be given the life expectancy of a patient based on the probable prognosis to determine the treatment plan for which the patient is qualified. This new artificial intelligence software saved hospitals millions of dollars and patients years of possibly unnecessary agony. The European Medicines Agency faced a plethora of controversy for considering implementing P.A.I.D. The founder of P.A.I.D. released an official statement saying, "Humans have a hard time making the tough decisions, but the algorithm used in the P.A.I.D. application reaches its verdict based on cold, hard facts." In 2025, the EMA slowly began the use of the P.A.I.D. software.

Development for the new high-functioning "robot surgeons" began shortly after the European implementation of P.A.I.D. The benefit for these robots is that it may reduce inaccuracies during surgery. These "robot surgeons" most likely won't be coming for a few years as the hardware is ahead of its time. The body of the surgeons need to have quick reflexes in order to save the life of the patient if and when difficulties arise. The software is currently in Beta testing.

Robots have been in use in car manufacturing since 1962 and now they are functioning at a much higher pace and are working far more efficiently. In 2020, the top 5 car manufacturing companies around the world (Toyota, Volkswagen, Hyundai, General Motors, and Ford) made an agreement to ensure that all of their innovations, automotive and manufacturing, were 100% environmentally friendly. Something that all of these major car corporations have in common are their manufacturing robots. They all use the latest model of AMAR-U which stands for Automotive Artificial Robot Units. These robots are solar-powered and are constructed from 100% renewable materials from scrap cars. These robots save the automotive industry money and reduces error during manufacture; their precision is unmatched. As the implementation of robot manufacturers increases, factory jobs decrease.

The US government uses high-functioning artificial intelligence throughout all of the branches, Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. Artificial intelligence is used by both the House of Representatives and the Senate in the Legislative Branch before the bills are given to the Executive Branch. The Executive Branch uses AI to ensure the President makes the correct decision in vetoing or approving a bill presented by the Legislative Branch. The Judicial Branch uses AI to enforce the laws and also it replaces the need of a jury since the software makes its decisions based on logic and physical proof. However, in the event a difficulty occurs, such as a woman possibly murdering her husband after being abused by him for years, juries with human members will be employed when compassion is required. The US government also uses another form of artificial intelligence that is hidden from the general public. A Top Secret department nicknamed the Department of Action Necessary oversees the actions of the high-functioning AI program A.I.D.A.N. which stands for Artificial Intelligence for the Department of Action Necessary. This department deals with Transactions involving the US and nations unfriendly to the US. This program translates any language (if necessary) and drafts an appropriate response.

What does the advancement of technology mean for employment of the world? It can mean many things. AI eliminates the need for paid workers to work in factories which saves that industry money, but leaves millions of people throughout the world without a job. Jobs in industry are disappearing everyday, so this increases the need for people to become more educated in order to be self-sustained.

The global economy has skyrocketed in the past decade. Thanks to the new technology, GDP has increased by 26% and added \$15.7 trillion to the global economy -- \$6.6 trillion from improvements in labor productivity and \$9.1 trillion from the increase in consumer demand. If demand for artificial intelligence continues at a steady rate, it could mean everything for the state of the world.



HELPING HANDS AT THE BEACH

"You should clean up the ocean so the wild life inside it does not die!"

ADDISON YEBRA

2nd Grade, Bennett Elementary, Molly Babcock

2030

THE YEAR THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

OLIVIA SMITH

Grade 7, Webber Middle School, Ms. Sovine

From driverless Cars to robotic workers, the future is going to be here before you know it. Many emerging technologies that you hear about today will reach a tipping point by 2025, according to a recent report from *The World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Software and Society*.

The council surveyed more than 800 executives and experts from the technology sector to share their timeline for when technologies would become mainstream.

From the survey results, the council identified 21 defining moments, all of which they predict will occur by 2030. During the next 14 years, 90% of the population will have unlimited and free data storage. Here's a look at the technological shifts you can expect. Deleting files to make room for files is going to become a thing of the past. In fewer than three years, about 90% of the population will have unlimited and free data storage that will ultimately be ad-supported, according to the report. We are already seeing some companies offer cheap or completely free service. For example, Google Photos already offers unlimited storage for photos and Amazon will let you store an unlimited amount of whatever you want for just \$60 a year. A big reason companies are able to do this is because hard drive cost per gigabyte continues to fall. This has spurred more data to be created than ever before. According to the report, it's estimated about 90% of all data has been created in just the last two years. Still, there are signs this may not be the case. Microsoft recently killed its plan that offered unlimited storage on its cloud service OneDrive.

The first robotic pharmacist will arrive in the US 2030. Robots already have a big presence in the manufacturing industry, but as they become more

advanced, we will see them enter new service-oriented jobs. In fact, respondents predict that by 2021 we will even have first robot pharmacist in the US. This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social, and environmental.

As the cost of sensors continues to decline and computing power increases, all kinds of devices will increasingly become connected to the internet. From the clothes you wear to the ground you walk on, everything will come online. And as early as 2022, its predicted 1 trillion sensors will be connected. According to the report "every (physical) product could be connected to ubiquitous communication infrastructure and sensors everywhere will allow people to fully perceive their environment."



HELPING THE WORLD

"No one is too small to help"

MACKENZY KIM WELSH,

2nd Grade, Bennett Elementary, Molly Babcock



HELPING HOMELESS

"I think it shows sometimes maybe you can help homeless people by giving them some money."

GRACE HALE

2nd Grade, Bennett Elementary, Molly Babcock

Thrive

BENNETT JOHNSON

Grade 8, Kiinard Middle School. Mrs. Thorson

The year is 2030, and things are going as good as ever. The human education rate is up, we have decreased poverty, we have advanced our medical technology, but with things firing on all cylinders, we still are lacking to communicate with each other face to face, and ever since the Iphone gen8model.30 has been released, we have not spoken a word face to face, all it has been is just texting, and holographing, every day for the past 5 years. I guess it is for the best thought, because we are creating new things every day. Just the other day I heard something on the daily hologram, it is basically when our morning newscaster comes up on our projector and gives us the daily information, but anyway I heard about this man in Virginia that had just invented a full body teleporter, why I heard that you can get from station to station in under 5 seconds! It seems that every day they are coming up with crazy inventions that actually work, despite previous predictions we actually don't have flying cars, but we do have self driving cars, and now that everyone has one, we have streets with tracks, so that we can avoid more crashes.

We also have cars so efficient that they practically give off zero emissions. We have perfected how we genetically modify our food and now our food is very neutricitional, and still tastes good. We are now able to prevent total war between countries, because we now know our history, so we do everything in our power to prevent it from being repeated.

Here in Colorado we were able to prevent global warming by modifying our air and oxygen levels to change the air temperature and make the overall temperature cooler. Through all of our technological advancements we have been able to betterment our overall well-being by shaping our future through invention. With the help of our government we have been able to follow the guidelines set by our forefathers and all 17 SDGs are currently being



BE NICE TO NATURE

"Person 1 (far left) is helping an orphaned red panda. Person 3 (left) is getting a restoration area started. Person 3 (right) is biking to reduce emissions. Person 4 (far right) is caring for an injured penguin."

EMILY ROBERTS

5th Grade, Bennett Elementary, Molly Babcock

worked at so we can attain them all. With new government programs and a president that puts his people first, we have been able to achieve so much in so little time. We were able to get education rates up 2% across the world, and we were able to make it so we can change the genes of babies so we can prevent birth defects, and disabilities. It also allows us to provide more jobs, and we are able to make all babies have a genetical structure that benefits them in their ageing, so we now have an average life of 110 years! This opens up the window for a whole new world full of educated people, long living people, and a government that not only supports the people but makes the people thrive. Now after having the 17 SDGs her in 2030, we are as good as ever. The United Nations still helps us today and they are still coming up with great ideas today. So with all the guidance from all our history in our past we now know what it takes to thrive.



A WAY TO HELP

"A person's hands holding the symbol of help below the Earth."

BRITT KUGELER

4th Grade, Coyote Ridge Elementary, Ms. Andersen

DR. DRYSDALE'S RECOMMENDED READING

Books

- Albright, **Fascism, A Warning**, Harper Collins Publishers, New York, 2018
- Andrew J. Bacevich, **The Limits of Power**, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2008
- John Lewis Gaddis, **The Cold War, A New History**, The Penguin Press, New York, 2005
- Richard Haass, **A World in Disarray**, Penguin Books, New York, 2017
- Arlie Russell Hochschild, **Strangers in Their Own Land**, The New Press, New York, 2016
- Walter Isaacson and Even Thomas, **The Wise Men, Six Friends and The World They Made**, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1986.
- Tony Judt, **Postwar, A History of Europe Since 1945**, Penguin Books, New York, 2005
- Mervyn King, **The End of Alchemy, Money, Banking, and the Future of the Global Economy**, Norton and Company, New York, 2016
- Edward Luce, **Time to Start Thinking, America in the Age of Descent**, Atlantic Monthly Press, NY, 2012
- Edward Luce, **The Retreat of Western Liberalism**, Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2015
- George Packer, **The Unwinding, An Inner History of the New America**, Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, NY, 13
- Thomas Piketty, **Capital in the Twenty-First Century**, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 2014
- Robert D. Putnam, **Our Kids, The American Dream in Crisis**, Simon and Schuster, New York, 2015
- Carmen M. Reinhart and Kenneth S. Rogoff, **This Time Is Different, Eight Centuries of Financial Folly**, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2009
- Stephen C. Schlesinger, **Act of Creation, The Founding of The United Nations**, Westview Press, Cambridge, Mass., 2003
- Timothy Snyder, **The Road to Unfreedom**, Duggan Books, New York, 2018
- Timothy Snyder, **Bloodlands, Europe Between Hitler and Stalin**, Basic Books, New York, 2010
- Benn Stell, **The Battle of Bretton Woods, John Maynard Keynes and Harry Dexter White, and the Making of a New World Order**, Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ, 2013
- Benn Stell, **The Marshall Plan: Dawn of the Cold War**, Simon and Schuster, New York, 2018
- Martin Wolf, **Fixing Global Finance**, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD, 2008
- James Wurst, **The UN Association-USA, A Little-Known History of Advocacy and Action**, James Wurst, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, 2016

Journals

- Foreign Affairs, Quarterly, Foreign Policy, Quarterly Project Syndicate, Weekly

THE UN AT WORK

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

UN international designations. The UN designates specific days, weeks, years and decades as occasions to mark particular events or topics in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the UN or of a specialized agency of the UN (e.g., UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO).

2017 was declared the *International Year for Sustainable Tourism for Development* and 2019 has been declared the *International Year of Indigenous Languages*, the *International Year of Moderation*, and the *International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements*. **But, 2018 is undeclared**—the first undeclared year since 1997.

20 November is Universal Children's Day. The 2018 theme is “*Children of today, our keepers tomorrow.*” Universal Children's Day aims to create a day of international fraternity and understanding between children around the globe and to promote the objectives and ideals of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The UN adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. The US drafted and signed this treaty, but is currently **the only member country that has not ratified it**—meaning the US is not legally bound by the Convention.

29 November is International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On that day in 1947, the UN adopted the Partition Resolution, which provided for the establishment in Palestine of a “Jewish State” and an “Arab State”, with Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* under a special international regime. Of the two States to be created under this resolution, only one, Israel, has so far come into being. The International Day of Solidarity traditionally provides an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and that the Palestinian people have yet to attain their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly

10 December is International Human Rights Day. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 70 this year! It is important to remember that

- Human rights are relevant to all of us, every day.
- Equality, justice and freedom prevent violence and sustain peace.
- Whenever and wherever humanity's values are abandoned, we all are at greater risk.

Celebrate with us on **1 December** (see Invitation, page1).



18 December is UN Arabic Language Day to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization.

18 December is also International Migrants Day. The 2018 theme is *Democracy under Strain: Solutions for a Changing World*. This year's International Day of Democracy is an opportunity to look for ways to invigorate democracy and seek answers to the systemic challenges it faces including economic and political inequalities, making democracies more inclusive, innovative, and responsive to challenges such as migration and climate change.

Coffee, cows, and sustainable farming. 12 November—Small-scale farms in Panama are helping to heal land degraded by extensive cattle ranching and extreme rainfall or drought associated with climate change, thanks to a project supported by the UN Development Program, (UNDP). The farms are combining trees, food crops, fodder for animals and cattle rearing, a type of farming known as silvopastoral agriculture or agroforestry.

In the Azuero Peninsula region of the Central American country, which is dominated by a tropical but relatively dry forest, farmers have adopted silvopastoral techniques which improve food security and promote reforestation, as well as the sustainable use of water and land. They have been growing coffee, sugarcane and plantains, as well as raising cattle.

US must abide by humanitarian refugee accords. 9 November—Responding to President Trump's proclamation denying political asylum to migrants crossing illegally into the country, the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, released a statement saying that the US must abide by international refugee protection accords.

The agency noted that, among the people on the move northward, many are fleeing life-threatening violence or persecution and need international protection: "*UNHCR expects all countries, including the US, to make sure any person in need of refugee protection and humanitarian assistance is able to receive both promptly and without obstruction, in accordance with the 1967 Refugee Protocol to which the United States is a party.*"

The UNHCR offered to support the US, to guarantee that any person fleeing life-threatening violence or persecution is able to reach safe ground and is able to have their claim reviewed, noting that "*national security and dignified reception of refugees and asylum-seekers aren't mutually exclusive, but rather mutually reinforcing.*"

Congo Prospers from Environmental Protection.

13 November—Families in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are being supported by their government and the United Nations to protect the environment and build what the UN Development Program (UNDP) calls "climate-resilient lives."

People in the coastal region of the vast African country are being encouraged to combat the effects of climate change by changing the way they live and work. For example, those who used to cut down mangrove trees to turn into charcoal is now making a living by manufacturing and selling energy efficient stoves. The eradication of protective mangrove forests can lead to flooding and increased coastal erosion.

And small market gardens have been established to provide employment to women, improve the supply and quality of food locally and increase environmental sustainability.

Plastic-busting fungi help tackle pollution, climate change.

31 October—When it comes to helping green our world, organic mushrooms from the local market may be just the tip of the iceberg. A new United Nations-backed report reveals that fungi could help ween the world off its plastic addiction, by degrading polyurethane in just a matter of weeks.

Every year, at least eight million metric tons of plastic end up in the sea, sometimes decomposing into tiny microplastics that make their way into our food chain.

According to the first [State of the World's Fungi](#) report, scientists at London's Kew Botanical Gardens reported that these organisms have the potential to break down waste plastic—an important advance in a world where momentum is building to reverse the toxic tide of plastic that is killing marine life and polluting the ocean.

This report showcases the kind of pioneering thought that will be at the heart of the fourth UN Environment Assembly in March, on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production."

Other fungi and microorganisms are also being explored for their potential to degenerate different types of plastic, explaining that "by understanding how the fungi break down these bonds and what the optimal conditions are, you can then increase the speed at which they do it."

Nobel Peace Prize goes to UN Goodwill Ambassador and Congolese doctor, highlighting sexual violence.

5 October—Nadia Murad, a Yazidi rights activist and the first Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Denis Mukwege, a gynecologist who helps victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), were awarded the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

2018 UNA/USA NOCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

UNA, Northern Colorado Chapter:

Webpage: www.unanortherncolorado.org .

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/una.colorado.5>

UNA national: www.unausa.org .

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

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

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

United Nations information: www.un.org .

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

Our World 2.0—a web-magazine produced by the UN University: ourworld.unu.edu/en/.

Dawn's Digest—a community of global news consumers inspired to support compelling global humanitarian storytelling: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/partners/dawns-digest/>

FREE UN E-PUBLICATIONS:

The Advocacy E-News, the national UNA-USA bi-weekly online newsletter.

E-Action Alerts Sign Up: <http://capwiz.com/unausa/mlm/>

UN Wire, the UN Foundation daily email news.

Learn more about *UN Wire* at: www.unwire.org.

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The InterDependent: unausa.org/interdependent.

UNA-USA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

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

**UNA of Northern Colorado,
Eleanor Dwight, Membership Chair
907 Sailor's Reef, Fort Collins CO 80525**

Your form and payment will be forwarded to the national office after being recorded locally. *Your dues include membership in both the local and national UNA-USA, which is a part of the Better World Foundation.*

Please make check payable to: *BWF/United Nations Association of the USA.*

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Member Name (please print) Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr

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

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

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

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