



**UNITED
NATIONS
ASSOCIATION
OF
NEW
YORK**

Winter 2006

801 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10017
212-907-1353 PHONE
212-682-9185 FAX
INFO@UNANYC.ORG E-MAIL
WWW.UNANYC.ORG WEB SITE

President's Message: Looking Forward

Peter V. Rajsingh

Dear Fellow Members of UNA/NY,

It's a great honor to become President of UNA/NY at this significant time in our history. Let me first pay tribute to the work of my predecessor, Henry Sanchez, for his excellent stewardship during a period that represents a genuine inflection point for our organization. We begin the New Year inspired by the success of our 60th Anniversary UN Day Gala and with the Chapter in an unprecedented position of strategic and fiscal strength. For this we must thank the dedicated individuals on our Board and the sound vision of past leadership that set the wheels in motion to bring us to where we are today.

The year ahead presents many interesting opportunities and challenges. We have an ambitious agenda to expand the breadth and reach of our programs, including our lecture series, YPIC and the Student Alliance. We shall endeavor to raise our profile in public and private advocacy and governmental relations activities. We hope to sustain our present growth trajectory of acquiring new members.

These goals, and all our other activities, are possible because we have a dynamic and energetic Board and an extraordinarily able and talented Executive Director. As an organization dedicated to supporting the work of the United Nations, it is incumbent upon us to tell the UN story. Indeed, no intelligent individual would deny the importance of the UN as a significant arena for multilateral diplomacy. Nor would any right thinking person challenge the exemplary humanitarian and aid initiatives conducted under the UN aegis that improve the quality of life of countless individuals around the world.

We are also advocates of the reform process. We know the defects of bureaucracies: the need to make organizations more transparent, responsive and accountable. By being attuned to both its strengths and weaknesses, we are more effective supporters of the UN, whilst at the same time being better agents for redressing pervasive misconceptions. The truth is that the UN is an indispensable global institution. At the local level, it's a huge boon to our New York City economy and as for cost, its budget is less than the combined budgets of the New York City Police and Fire Departments! It's well known that nations committed to the process of deliberative discourse and diplomacy are much less likely to wage war and more inclined to be responsible members of the civilized world. In the words of former Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, "the UN was not created to take the world to heaven; it was created to save it from going to hell . . ."

We have our work cut out for us. I look forward to serving with you and deepening our partnership in advancing our important core mission.

Thank you for your support.

President's Report: 2005

Henry Sanchez

Dear fellow UNA/NY members,

I'm proud to report that UNA/NY has had another record year for membership growth, development, quality of programs and program attendance. We have exceeded our projections in certain areas so much so that we are confident our chapter will soon become one of the most effective in the country. As you read our winter newsletter, you'll discover our progress and see

the results of the outstanding UN Day Gala at the UN in October. Our Vice President and Dinner Chair Desiree Watson deserves all the praise we can offer for guiding us this year. She has become an indispensable member of our board of directors. There are many other people to thank for the success for 2005, but I especially want to single out Executive Director Ann Nicol for her hard work and diligence.

I have served as president since January 2004 and it has truly been my honor to help lead this chapter. During the last two years it was my personal goal to leave the chapter in better standing than when I became president. I feel comfortable that with the help of my colleagues on the board I fulfilled my objective. So I write my last report and inform all my fellow members that I am resigning as president and board member of the United Nations Association of New York (See "Report," continued on page 6)



Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan is greeted by UNA/NY Executive Director Ann Nicol and UNA/NY board member Edward Gray at the October 21 Gala reception. (See details inside.)

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the UN at Our Gala Dinner

October 21, 2005



Cherie Blair, president of the Loomba Trust, chats with Gillian Sorensen, UN Foundation senior advisor, and Secretary-General Kofi Annan.



Master of Ceremonies Harry Smith with Dinner Chair Desiree Watson



Dr. Gladys Gary Vaughn, honoree and national president of The Links, Inc., greets UNA/NY Executive Director Ann Nicol and Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

•The Links, Inc. is an organization of professional women, which has contributed significant service through community work in the areas of education and health. Their signature program entitled "Education Across the Miles . . . Schools for Africa," begun in 1997, has improved the quality of life for disadvantaged South Africans by providing basic education facilities.

UNA/NY'S BENEFIT GALA DINNER commemorating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations took place on October 21, 2005 at the United Nations and 300 guests attended the event.

The gala evening was opened by Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan who, in his usual gracious manner, spoke encouragingly about the work and growing membership of our chapter. He was also very positive about the potential of UNA chapters to further the aims of the United Nations.

The Gala dinner was held in the UN Delegates Dining Room. General Assembly President Jan Eliasson gave an inspiring keynote speech followed by an address by our president, Henry Sanchez. Harry Smith of the CBS Early Show acted as master of ceremonies.

During the evening, we presented United Nations Day awards to the International Federation of Health Plans, The Links, Inc., and Liya Kebede, a Goodwill Ambassador for the World Health Organization for Maternal and Child Health—all for their outstanding contributions to bettering global health and education.

We also recognized The Loomba Trust, an organization that supports the families of widows in India and many other countries. The president of The Loomba Trust, Cherie Blair, wife of the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, together with Raj Loomba, founder of the Trust, gave short addresses to launch the Trust in the United States.

A portion of the funds raised will be donated to UNA-USA's HERO campaign, supporting the education of children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. We will be directly supporting four schools in Namibia. *(See article far right.)*

The guests were entertained throughout the evening by an international group of musicians from Trinidad/Tobago and Mexico, by Morley, a jazz singer from the US, and by the Agape children of South Africa.

We are grateful to our corporate sponsors for their generous contributions that will ensure that our programs are funded this year. We thank both our guests and donors for supporting this event so willingly and our team of volunteers whose dedicated efforts made our gala a huge success, ensuring that our programs are funded this year.

Ann Nicol
Executive Director

Desiree Watson
60th Anniversary Dinner Chair



**Secretary-General Kofi Annan opening the
UNA/NY Gala**

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**Above: The Children of Agape performing during the Gala dinner
Left: Honoree Liya Kebede**



•Ms. Kebede was born and raised in Ethiopia and has achieved international recognition as one of the world's leading supermodels and the first woman of color to represent Estee Lauder. As a WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, she is working to raise global awareness of the life-threatening struggles faced by mothers and children in developing countries around the world.

•International Federation of Health Plans is the leading global network of the health insurance industry with one hundred member companies in 25 countries promoting excellence in health care in many regions of the world, and assisting in the maintenance of high ethical and professional standards throughout the industry.



UNA/NEW YORK ADDRESSING THE EMERGENCY NEEDS OF SCHOOLS IN NAMIBIA

Following are excerpts
from the UNA-USA
HERO office press release,
December 16, 2005.

More information is on
the HERO web site
www.heroaction.org

UNA-USA's New York City Chapter's generous contribution to the HERO Campaign will be used to fund the emergency needs of four of HERO's most vulnerable and under-resourced schools in Namibia: Ekoka Primary School, Ekoka Kindergarten, Eendobe Kindergarten and Onamatadiva Kindergarten.

The chapter's donation of \$24,000 will meet all of the most urgent needs of these schools including the construction of a kitchen and security fencing at the primary school, as well as a new classroom, clean water and a feeding program for the younger learners at all three kindergartens.

UNA-USA will report back to the NYC Chapter once funds are distributed to the field. Chapter members will have access to progress reports from the school, photos, and stories from children and local community members on the difference their funds have made.

HERO Pilot Site: Ohangwena, Namibia

Located in the north of Namibia, along the Angolan border, Ohangwena is among the poorest and most densely populated regions in Namibia. It is home to 230,000 people, about 13% of Namibia's population. The average woman lives until she is 45 years old and the average man just 43 years. Thirty-two percent of households are classified as poor and 10% as extremely poor. Just 11% of households in Ohangwena have access to a toilet facility. Malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are rampant in the region and most of the population has poor access to health care.

Ohangwena's San Community

The Ohangwena Region has an indigenous population of San, known as the country's first settlers. There are at least 518 San families comprising almost 2,000 individuals in the region. Although still maintaining partial links with their traditional culture, they do not have access to resources like cattle

or land – on which the San, as hunter-gatherers, traditionally depend for survival. While they constitute a large percentage of the school-aged population, San children generally do not participate in the education system to the same degree as children of any other language group. There are only 108 San children of all ages registered in schools in this region.

There are a number of reasons why San children are not able to attend school, including a lack of food security and basic needs. Many do not attend schools as their families are continuously in search of food and the children are sent into town to beg for money or food.



Implementing Partner: UNESCO

The UNESCO Cluster Office in Namibia started working in Ohangwena in 2001 and soon identified that while the San community represents a substantial portion of the local community, there were no San children enrolled in local kindergartens. UNESCO worked with the local government to devise ways of encouraging San children to enroll in school.

Ekoka Primary School

Located in Ekoka village, Ekoka School was established in 1970 to provide learning facilities for the San who had been resettled in the area, as well as the growing number of non-San community members. Ekoka is located 77 miles from the nearest town. Many students attending this school live in the school's 'hostels' or dormitories, which was constructed in 2002 because children were traveling up to 30 kilometers each day to get to school. The dormitories accommodate up to 96 children.

While the school provides students with dormitories and toilets at the

school, parents are responsible for providing food and other necessities. Students cook their own meals, but there is not a proper kitchen facility. They cook in the open air inside of a corrugated iron shack, hang their cooking utensils on the branches of trees around the hostel and store the remaining food under their beds.

Ekoka Kindergarten

Located next to Ekoka Combined School this kindergarten has a student population of 37. About 20 of these children are San. Ekoka Kindergarten has one classroom, two small storerooms (one for general supplies and one for food), one corrugated iron shade for cooking, a half-fenced play yard, and one locally built water reservoir. There is no electricity or running water.

Eendobe Kindergarten

There are 34 students at Eendobe Kindergarten, however, only eight of these are San. The school has one classroom, however the windows do not have frames and are not sealed closed. There are two small storerooms and a thatched shade for cooking.

Onamatadiva Kindergarten

There are 37 students at this school and two teachers. Approximately 20 students are from the San community. Onamatadiva Kindergarten has one classroom, two small storerooms, a corrugated iron shade for cooking and a play yard. Its classroom facilities are very poor; the room only has three walls and students are exposed to wind, dust and rain.

All three kindergartens are in similar situations in terms of the lack of resources available to them. Each school has only one classroom where all children, regardless of their age, learn. All of the existing classrooms need repair; as noted above, some barely protect learners from the weather. All three schools are all without water and electricity.

With funding for the continuation of the feeding program, these kindergartens will be able to attract new learners.

Chapter News

Student Alliance: Forging a Path to Success

By Daniel Gregoire, UNA/NY intern

My role at UNA/NY has afforded me the opportunity to be a part of the Student Alliance program in New York City. I coordinate our outreach efforts to area high schools out of the chapter office. This initiative is in its preliminary stage and we are slowly building our capacity for effective outreach to high school students. We are beginning to cull our experiences into a substantive modus operandi that will ultimately enhance our membership and improve our ability to advocate for the United Nations in New York City. Our goal for this initiative is to introduce the Student Alliance program in a fun and engaging way.

On October 13, we inaugurated the initiative with a presentation at the United Nations International School. National Membership Director for UNA-USA George Garland and I appeared before an assembly of 150 9th- and 10th-grade students at the invitation of Model UN advisor and history teacher Jean-Baptiste Bassene. Our presentation featured a slideshow on how students can be agents of change through the Student Alliance program. We highlighted the role of the UN in safeguarding child health and welfare through the Millennium Development Goals.

The presentation described programs including Adopt-A-Minefield, and H.E.R.O. At the end of the assembly students were invited to join Student Alliance and start a club at the school.

Since the presentation, many students have expressed an interest in joining Student Alliance. We expect about 30 UNIS students to form a Student Alliance Club in early January 2006. Additionally, we are actively working to secure access to other city schools. In early December I made a presentation at Lyceum Kennedy/French School at the invitation of the Head, Eyves Rivaud. We are also in contact with the administrations of Birch Wathen Lenox School, The Browning School, Dwight International School and Hunter Science High School. In total we are working with eight schools in addition to the Parent's League of New York City.

The Student Alliance initiative presents the opportunity for increased interaction between our chapter and area students. It fosters a dynamic membership base that features new ideas, new partnerships and a new presence in New York City. Our chapter has everything to gain from this "win/win" initiative. Students become connected to the United Nations in a tangible way, and we become connected to the students and the wider community. Each new Student Alliance member is a voice for change in their community. New York City school students gain valuable skills and experience in effecting change while promoting and supporting the work of the United Nations. The success of the Student Alliance initiative will be measured by each new supporter of the United Nations that our chapter's outreach engenders.

Program Notes

Please note: Many of our programs have been videotaped and are available for viewing on our web site.

UNA/NY programs in fall 2005 were varied and well-attended. Some highlights follow. Leon Sigal, was guest speaker at the November 17 briefing, "The Regional Consequences of Misplaying North Korea." On December 1, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, spoke on her grandparents' legacy. She was joined by David B. Woolner, executive director of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, in discussions on the importance of FDR's Four Freedoms and its influence on the UN charter.

Most UNA/NY programs are held on Thursdays at the Church Center for the United Nations, 1st Avenue at 44th Street. Please see our Calendar on page 6 for upcoming events and check our web site for updated information on programs and special events.

Did you know? UNA/NY has a fulltime executive director! As of December 1, 2005, Ann Nicol moved from part-time director to full-time. UNA/NY is one of only a handful of US chapters large enough, and financially sound enough, to staff this essential position. Congratulations Ann and UNA/NY!

Board Members Lead Career Event

by Dinesh Kumar

With the objective of familiarizing young professionals and students with various career options in the areas of global outreach, UNA-YPIC of New York launched a major career development series. The inaugural event, "Careers in International Finance," attended by over 75 people, was held at the Hungarian Mission to the United Nations on November 2, 2005.

While enjoying delicious Hungarian food during the reception, the participants also benefited from a networking opportunity with other aspiring young professionals. It was very heartening to find out that almost every participant was not merely interested in excelling in their respective fields, but also wanted to be a part of the growing global community committed to making a difference in the world. And this is what the UNA and the UN stand for.

Three successful professionals from the finance industry, including board members Peter Rajsingh and Lena Sene, as well as Ron Shah, led the panel discussion. The innovative resume-reviewing session became an instant hit with the participants. The event was so much appreciated that all 34 non-member participants joined UNA on the spot in order to benefit from our upcoming career events as well as to enjoy other benefits of UNA membership.

Our next event, "Careers at the United Nations," is on January 12. Gillian Sorensen, Senior Advisor to the UN Foundation and former Assistant Secretary General at the UN, will be the featured speaker.

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801 Second Avenue

New York, NY 10017

212-907-1353

212-682-9185 fax

info@unanyc.org

www.unanyc.org

Ann Nicol, Executive Director

Peter V. Rajsingh, President

(“Report,” continued from page 1)

effective after the adjournment of the December 13 Board of Directors meeting.

While serving intermittently as a director on the Board since 1995, I have had many opportunities to help this chapter to make a difference in shaping the local debate about the value of the UN to the US and to all New Yorkers. I want to take this opportunity to thank so many current and past members who have helped guide and counsel me and have made my life with UNA/NY so satisfying. I leave as President knowing that the chapter is in excellent hands and stands to do great things in the near future.

I encourage all members to stay informed, speak out on behalf of our United Nations in our home of New York and to always ask yourself, “Did I do enough to make a difference today?” I’m sure the answer will be yes.

Au revoir!

ANNOUNCING

UNA/NY Gift Memberships

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www.unanyc.org

We welcome the following members to our UNA/NY Board. Look to meet them at our programs.

Ishik Kubali Camoglu was born in Istanbul, Turkey. She received both a BA and MA in Political Science, focusing on Turkey and the Middle East, from the University of Chicago. Ms. Camoglu speaks Turkish, English, and French. She has two children, a son, Eser, who turns 22 this January and a daughter, Etkin, who is 19. For the past 15 years, Ms. Camoglu has been active in the cultural, educational, and artistic life of Arizona. She has been an active board member and fund raiser for the Phoenix Symphony, Ballet Arizona, and the Arizona Museum of Science and Technology. Ms. Camoglu is currently running a private investment firm, Sarp LLC., headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona. She is also currently involved in a joint effort between the Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Talented Youth to recruit and fund scholarships for the underprivileged academically talented youth in the Arizona public school system and Indian Reservations.

Polly Franchini is the art director for Acanthus Press, a publisher of architecture and design books in Chelsea. Her career has included design positions at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, the Smithsonian Institution, and the American Association of Museums, where she was managing editor of *Museum News* magazine. A recent transplant from Washington, DC, she was an

active member of the UNA/National Capital Area and chaired their annual fund-raising auctions. Her other volunteer efforts in Washington included fund raising for All Souls Church, Unitarian and for the Washington International School, as well as initiating their upper school volunteer program at Food for Friends. She received her BA in English from the University of Oregon and is enrolled in a master’s program at Georgetown University. Her daughter attends Smith College and is spending her third year in Geneva. Ms. Franchini is editor of *UNA Today*.

Lena Sene was raised in Senegal, Russia and the Ukraine. She is fluent in English, French, Russian and Wolof. Lena graduated from Bates College with a bachelor’s degree in Economics. Currently, she is an investment representative in the Private Investment Management division of Lehman Brothers. Prior to that, she was a banker at the JPMorgan Private Bank. While at JPMorgan, she co-founded the Global Private Banking Analyst Forum, an initiative which has resulted in a worldwide exchange of best practices in the Private Bank. She was selected as the JPMorgan Chase Rising Star for the Annual Women’s Bond Club Award Dinner in 2003. Ms. Sene volunteers as Ambassador for WorldLinks, and is one of the founding members of Network 20/20, a start up not-for-profit organization targeting promising young leaders interested in actively engaging in substantive debate on foreign policy issues.

2006 UNA/NY Calendar

January 12 **YPIC Program: Careers at the United Nations**
Gillian Sorensen, Senior Advisor to the UN Foundation and former UN Assistant Secretary General
Sandra Haji-Ahmed, Director, Operational Services Division, UN Human Resources Management
The Polish Consulate General, 233 Madison Ave. at 37th St.

January 19 **HERO and UNESCO Representatives**
Program on UNA/NY-sponsored projects in Africa
UN Church Center, 1st Ave. at 44th St.

February 16 **Lawyers Without Borders**
Founder and President Christina Storm and Executive Director John Meyers
UN Church Center, 1st Ave. at 44th St.

May 6 **Visit to Hyde Park**

Please check our web site for more information: www.unanyc.org