

UNATODAY

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK

FALL | WINTER 2010-11



United Nations Association of New York

United Nations Association
of New York

801 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
212 907 1353
unanyc.org
info@unanyc.org

Paula Rice Jackson
PRESIDENT

Ann Nicol
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Importance of Support

PAULA RICE JACKSON | PRESIDENT

We welcomed Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Mrs. Ban to our gala dinner last October, where we honored Feike Sijbesma, CEO of Royal DSM and Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. This dinner is our major fundraising event for the year and was well attended by delegations from as far afield as Holland and China. We thank all who attended for their support and recognition of our honorees rewarded for their commitments for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

We had an active winter of public programs, outreach to



colleges and universities in the form of Student Alliances, as well as focused programs such as The Worldview Institute, which has been a continued success.

A new series, BookTalkUNA, has been presented twice and shows great promise as a showcase for authors presenting significant books on geopolitical or global issues.

This year, in concert with other national chapters, one of the main platforms of our advocacy effort is concerned with ensuring the timely disbursement of our national contribution to the United Nations annual budget. We trust that, along with peace loving people throughout the world, the importance of our support for the UN is maintained as

we progress towards fulfillment of the MDGs.

We thank you for your commitment to the New York chapter and we look forward to seeing you at our programs and events in the future.

UNA-USA and UN Foundation: A New Strategic Alliance

The United Nations Association of the USA and the United Nations Foundation have worked side-by-side for more than a decade to promote a stronger U.S. relationship with the United Nations. After many active discussions between the two organizations, their new strategic alliance will effectively build on their complementary strengths and capacities.

For more information and updates UNA members can visit: www.unausa.org



UNATODAY

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK
FALL | WINTER 2010-11

Through the work of the United Nations Association of New York and the over 175 community-based chapters around the country, UNA-USA creates a powerful national constituency for a United Nations that advances American interests in a global system. UNA offers each and every American the opportunity to connect with the critical issues confronted by the U.N. — from global health and human rights, to the spread of democracy, equitable sustainable development, and international justice. UNA educates Americans about the work of the United Nations, and builds public support for more effective U.S. engagement in the U.N.

BookTalkUNA: New Literary Salon Series Arrives

Our inaugural **BookTalkUNA** series opened to an exciting September 27th evening, in the Kaufman Center at the Institute of International Education. The book we discussed was "Strength in What Remains," by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Tracy Kidder. Our special guest was Deogratias (Deo) Niyizonkiza, founder of Village Health Works in Burundi and whose personal journey is the subject of Mr. Kidder's book. We had an overwhelming turnout for a rainy night, which started with a wine and cheese reception, followed by the talk and visual presentation by Dr. Niyizonkiza. Random House donated the books for sale and



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Expanding Our Programs in the Host City

ANN NICOL | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



At a recent gathering of our Board and Advisory Council members, we reviewed the year and formulated plans for 2011. We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of Advisory Council members we can call on for advice and a Board that is energized, supportive and truly enthusiastic about the United Nations and our chapter.

Our new BookTalkUNA series joined a solid line-up of programs that we offer to the public, and we are looking forward to a long partnership with the Institute of International Education that hosts the programs. The film committee has received excellent feedback also on our film discussion events where

we bring together topical films, film makers and an interested, motivated and eclectic audience in the Tribeca Grand Hotel's screening room.

As one of the largest UNA chapters in the country, we value your membership and ask that you encourage others to become engaged with our programs.

This spring we are planning a career event to highlight opportunities in foreign affairs reporting, and putting together a panel on the impact of new media communications on global affairs.

We look forward to being able to host you at one or more of our upcoming events this spring whether a film, a seminar, or a topical presentation.

UNAWORLDVIEW

FALL 2010

Last November saw the opening of our **Fall 2010 Worldview Institute** semester. This was our sixth session and we continue to draw participants from a wide variety of globally oriented organizations.

This fall class was attended by 25 participants and discussions ranged from the political situation in Iraq to global energy, nuclear disarmament, climate change, the role of the EU at the UN, US-North Korea relations and challenges for

the new Brazilian government.

Sessions were held at different missions and firms throughout Manhattan. The sessions started with an informal light supper followed by the presentations.

Memorable evenings were a

visit to the Iraqi, Danish and Belgian Missions to the UN, where we were joined by the Permanent Representatives of the Missions.

Several seminars were rescheduled due to inclement weather but, notwithstanding the climate, we were able to have all the seminars.

The semester came to a stimulating close with a dinner at the National Arts Club and featured Neil MacFarquhar, New York Times Bureau Chief at the UN, as our keynote speaker.

The **Spring 2011 Worldview** semester is scheduled to run Wednesday evenings from **April 13 – June 15**. We have designed a program reflecting topical issues of the day with seminars ranging from the current situation in the Middle East to the recently launched UN agency, UN Women.



UNA-NY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Remember friends and family on birthdays and anniversaries with this special gift.

\$25 introductory price!

Visit our website for details:
www.unanyc.org

Linking Youth to a Global Future

DR. CHONITA A. SPENCER | EDUCATION COMMITTEE



UNA-NY's Education Committee celebrated **Black History Month** and 2011 as the **United Nations International Year for People of African Descent**, with the Young Scholars Institute of Trenton, New Jersey and the Youth for Understanding International Student Exchange Program of New York and Boston.

Over one hundred students, grades 6 through post-secondary high school, as well as parents and educators, gathered at the Tribeca Grand Hotel in New York to see the Screening the Issues presentation of **FROM SELMA TO SOWETO**. The film depicts a critical era in African and African-American history, wherein America's political and educational involvement in peaceful efforts and protests brought an end to apartheid in South Africa.

In collaboration and partnership

with The Links, Incorporated (Central New Jersey Chapter), the evening presented post-screening special guests. Counsellor Thembela Ngculu from the South African mission to the UN was on hand (replacing the originally scheduled South African Ambassador Batso Sangqu, who was called away to an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council), as well as the former Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, Jennifer Davis.

Both of them spoke of their political work and journeys, and encouraged students to meaningfully and purposefully engage in career work and service that will end social injustice of human-kind, not only here at home, but throughout our world's diasporas.

UNA-NY's Education Committee, in conjunction with the CNJ Links Chapter, arranged for the students and parents to receive a pre-international education and awareness

program earlier that week from Haitian American and UNA-NY Film Committee member, Christie Desir. Ms. Desir previewed the film with the students and families, after which she rendered her career and educational experience as a Haitian and now Haitian-American. Her message provided encouragement to "seek world-wide career endeavors through occupations and service, that will compassionately make a difference in promoting peace and goodwill throughout our world."

Students and families from both Young Scholars and Youth for Understanding will engage in post-UN activities of student exchange, whereby UN committee chairs Leila Zubi and Chonita Spencer will continue UNA-NY's efforts of further promoting Student Alliances and the UN Millennium Development Goals.

NEW UNA-NY BOARD MEMBERS

UNA-NY welcomes two new members to our Board and Advisory Council. Look to meet them at our programs and events.

Trisha Bauman
Ambassador
Ahmad Kamal

We are pleased to welcome to our Board of Directors, Trisha Bauman and Ambassador Ahmad Kamal to our Advisory Council.

Trisha Bauman is the CEO-Founder of Sightlines, a New York City firm guiding international businesses and not-for-profits in the areas of strategic communications. Her clients range from Fortune 500 companies to arts institutions and NGO's. Trisha is an internationally renowned performer and her career extended two decades as a dancer, actress, lecturer and writer. She graduated from Bowdoin College with a double



major in Economics and History and also studied French at the Sorbonne. She spent her childhood in Portland, Oregon and Sydney, Australia, where her father was the Senior Representative of the United Nations in Australasia.

Ambassador Ahmad Kamal served as a professional diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan for close to forty years until his retirement in 1999. During this period he held diplomatic postings in India, Belgium, France, the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, and the United Nations both in Geneva and in New York.

During his decade long assignment as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, he held many of the highest elective posts, as Vice President of the General Assembly, President of the Economic and Social Council, Chair-



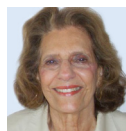
man of the Consultations on the Role of NGOs at the UN, Chairman of the Working Group on Informatics, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the UN Institute of Training and

Research, and a member of the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. He continues to be a Senior Fellow of the UN Institute of Training and Research, and was Founding President and CEO of UN's Ambassadors Club.

He has authored several important publications; on disarmament, on management, on multilateralism, on global economic issues, and on technical aspects of informatics and information technology. He is an Honorary Visiting Professor at several universities in the U.S.

UNA ADVOCACY

IS ADVOCACY STILL RELEVANT? JOAN LEVY | ADVOCACY CHAIR



In the face of shifting government, dire warning signs from the new congress, and an image of a backward slide to the not so distant past, the answer is a resounding YES! Advocacy is more important than ever.

For those of us who tend to be cynical at times, saying "what can one call, one letter, one meeting really do?" — we can take to heart as an example the most recent lame duck congress. Who would have predicted that it would accomplish all that it passed by the final session? Certainly not those of us who had been following the stalling techniques of the past two years.

On February 2nd, a UNA-USA Advocacy Conference Call was held. Leading the nationwide discussion was UNA-USA Director Ed Elmen-dorf, UNA-USA Advocacy Chair Steve Dimoff, and UN Foundation Senior Advisor Gillian Sorensen. Participants included the UNA NY Chapter alongside many others. Roger Nokes, Coordinator of Membership, chaired the discussion. The topic was the UNA-USA Chapter and Divisions' 2011 Advocacy Agenda.

This year's agenda will include:

UN Funding. In recent years, the United States has lived up to its commitment and paid its dues in full. The importance of this cannot be minimized since our contribution to the UN budget goes to vital

programs such as Peacekeeping, UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the UN Population Fund. The election of a heavily Republican House of Representatives has budget cutting, including the reduction of money given to the UN, as a strong priority. Congressional representatives should be urged to vote against a proposed bill to make UN Funding voluntary, rather than an assessment, since it affects U.S. national security, U.S. legitimacy abroad and once again, would cause severe financial problems for the UN.

Human Rights. Since the UN Human Rights Council was created in 2006, it has been a source of severe contention because of accusations of unfair practices and prejudices. Although the U.S. initially opposed the Council's creation, under the Obama administration, it has become a member and is in a position to effect positive change. The Council comes up for review this year and it would be helpful for constituents to talk to their representatives about how improvements could be made.

International Treaties. United States ratification of some important international treaties has been held up for a long time, and the number of senators who support ratification has been reduced with the recent elections. Among the treaties in question are the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Treaty on the Rights of Persons with Dis-

abilities, as well as others. It is of vital importance for grassroots organizations to actively support this administration's commitment to treaty ratification.

Millennium Development Goals. Although the 2010 world summit reaffirmed governments' support for achieving the MDGs by 2015, the severe world financial crisis has put these goals in danger. Polling sponsored by the UN Foundation found that Americans support the MDGs and the U.S. meeting their financial pledges. The NYC Chapter of UNA has an annual gala and each year, the theme is one of the eight Millennium Goals. The MDGs reflect basic human needs and strong support is needed by grassroots organizations to push congress into fulfilling this country's commitment to achieving these goals.

The support and participation of all UNA members is essential. This support is best achieved by ongoing individual and personal contact with congressional members. You can find your representative by using Google. The message given by the leaders of the conference call was clear and concise: "Congress is accountable to us, their constituents. We are better informed about our needs than they are."

Wise words. Let us follow them.



Clockwise from top left: Amir Dossal, Feike Sijbesma, Petra Nemcova, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. Photo: MelanieQuinnPhotography.com

UNA-NY Presents 2010 Humanitarian Awards and Celebrates the 65th Anniversary of the UN

The United Nations Association of New York hosted its Annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner in New York on October 21, 2010. The event observed UN Day, the 65th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter, and acknowledged the work of individuals and corporations who further the UN Millennium Development Goal of global partnerships, ending poverty and eliminating world hunger.

This year's theme, "Partnerships to End Poverty and World Hunger," highlighted initiatives of corporate partnerships and corporate social responsibility, in particular those partnerships formed with the United Nations World Food Program. Mr. Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships, and Mr. Feike Sijbesma, Chief Executive Officer of Royal DSM (the Netherlands), were honored for their accomplishments and commitment to fostering global partnerships and corporate social responsibility respectively.

DSM, a world leader in vitamins and nutritional ingredients, has been active in helping to make progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). By partnering with the UN World Food Program, DSM has made a commitment to fight hunger around the world and has been raising awareness of the pressing issue of malnutrition. DSM provides not only products but especially technical and scientific expertise and has developed tailored nutritional solutions that are specifically designed to meet the nutritional requirements of people in the developing world.

"It is an honor to receive this award as an acknowledgement of DSM's commitment to addressing the issue of hidden hunger," said Mr. Sijbesma. "For me this award is given to all employees of DSM worldwide who are inspired and motivated to contribute to helping those people in the world who need our help urgently. At DSM we feel that it is our responsibility to raise awareness of, and find solutions for, nutrition security in order to improve the lives of millions of people in need and mobilize individuals, organizations and businesses around the world to act."

At the United Nations Office for Partnerships, Amir Dossal, has done pioneering work in bringing together

the public and private sectors to address global challenges through creative partnerships and alliances. His "top down" approach of engaging government leaders, captains of industry, leaders of civil society, and social entrepreneurs, through intellectual and emotional involvement in the MDGs, has resulted in well over a thousand new initiatives over the last decade.

"My colleagues and I are very grateful for this special recognition. Our success only comes because of the deep commitment of our partners, to make a lasting difference," said Mr. Dossal. "We are very grateful for the opportunity to provide a partnership platform and to serve as a voice for the voiceless."

The evening's glow was given an extra sparkle and warmth by the presence of the two presiding Masters of Ceremonies, ABC anchor Dan Harris and Petra Nemcova, founder of Happy Hearts Fund.

LOOKING FORWARD...

Save the Dates!

April 13 - June 15
Worldview Institute
Spring Semester

March 10 • BookTalkUNA
"How the West Was Lost"
with Dambisa Moyo

March 15 • Screening the
Issues presents "Waste Land"

April 5 • UNA Careers
"Foreign Affairs Reporting
Today" with Michele Mitchell

April 18 • BookTalkUNA
Shirin Ebadi's "Golden Cage"

May 11 • Spring Luncheon

May 24 • Ambassador Series

May 26 • New Media Panel

October 20 • Humanitarian
Awards Dinner 2011

UNA-NY AMBASSADOR SERIES

WINTER 2010



On February 17, we invited Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN, to give a lecture in an **Ambassador Series** program held at the Columbia University Club of New York. He spoke on aspects of the recent global financial crisis in a presentation entitled **Global Governance: The G20, The UN and The 3G**, and explored what role the UN could play in helping to restructure global governance mechanisms to suit the needs and demands of the 21st century.

Ambassador Menon presented his credentials as Singapore's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York on 16 September 2004.

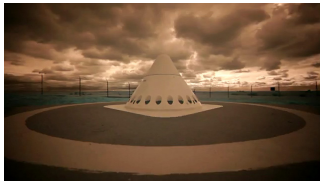
Before assuming his post in New York, he was Singapore's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and concurrently accredited as Singapore's Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey.

Ambassador Menon joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in June 1985. He served as First Secretary in the Singapore Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from March 1988 to April 1991 and as Counsellor and later Minister-Counsellor in the Singapore High Commission in Kuala Lumpur from November 1994 to November 1997. On his return to Ministry HQ, he was appointed as Senior Deputy Director at the Policy, Planning and Analysis Directorate I in December 1997 and became its Director in December 1998. He has been a Foreign Service Officer since June 1985.

Look for more forthcoming Ambassador Series events this spring.

UNA-NY FILMTALK SCREENING THE ISSUES

Our film-talk series **Screening the Issues** presented stimulating and thought-provoking films and discussion events this past fall and winter at the Tribeca Grand Hotel in New York. This series has grown in popularity and is an important part of our outreach program to educate and motivate members of civil society.



COUNTDOWN TO ZERO, a film on nuclear disarmament, kicked off our fall film series. The speaker for the discussion afterwards was Randy Rydell, Senior Political Affairs Officer in the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The film traced the history of the atomic bomb from its origins to its present status as a significant factor in global affairs.

We broke our previous attendance records at the screening of **BHUTTO**, chronicling the life, rise



and assassination of Benazir Bhutto. With approximately 130 people in attendance, every seat of the theater was taken. The screening was fol-

lowed by a discussion with Mark Siegel, the producer of the film, a friend and speech writer for Benazir Bhutto.

On February 18, we recognized Black History Month with a full house for the showing of **FROM SELMA TO SOWETO**. With this film



we also commemorated 2011 as the United Nations International Year for People of African Descent.

Dr. Chonita Spencer, a member of our board, in collaboration with the Links, Inc., brought a large group of students from the Trenton school district to the program. After the screening, Jennifer Davis, who appeared in the film, and Thembele Ngulu, a representative from the South African Mission to the United Nations, held a spirited discussion that engaged the audience. Jennifer Davis was Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa and under her leadership the organiza-



tion assisted in the organizing of a national US campaign to cut the flow of US dollars supporting the South African regime.

On **March 15**, we will screen Lucy Walker's much acclaimed film **WASTE LAND**, a documentary which was nominated this year for an Oscar in the best feature documentary category. Vik Muniz, the artist whose work we follow in the film, will be the speaker after the screening. We are also honored to host Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations.

BookTalkUNA: New Literary Salon Series Arrives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all the proceeds from the sale of the books were donated by UNA-NY to Village Health Works.

On November 30 we were joined by Eliza Griswold who discussed her book "The Tenth Parallel." An award-winning investigative journalist and poet, Eliza has spent the past seven years traveling between the equator and the tenth parallel: in Nigeria, the Sudan, and Somalia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philip-

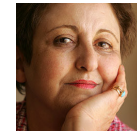


ines. The stories she tells in the book shows us that religious conflicts are also conflicts about land, water, oil and other natural resources, and that local and

tribal issues are often shaped by religious ideas.

COMING UP

The next Book-TalkUNA program is scheduled to take place on **March 10**. Our special guest will be international economist and author, Dambisa Moyo, who will discuss her forthcoming book "How the West was Lost." In 2009 she was named by Time magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential People of the World," and was nominated to the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders Forum.



On **April 18** we will host the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, human rights activist and author, Dr. Shirin Ebadi who will discuss her forthcoming book, "The Golden Cage."

UNCAREERS2010 WITH FRANCESCO ADDIS

Over 200 interested professionals and UNA-NY members strategized and discussed employment opportunities offered at the World Bank with Francesco Addis, who manages their Young Professionals Program. The event was held at the Hungarian Mission to the UN on November 22, 2010. The program was preceded by a wine and cheese reception from 6 to 7 p.m.

Francesco joined the World Bank as a young professional in 1997 and has held various positions leading up to his current assignment. He described his various career moves, which included project management in Asia and Africa and operational duties in the Finance and Planning department where he managed key changes within the Bank's internal resource management processes.

The Young Professionals Program at the World Bank is designed for motivated individuals skilled in areas relevant to the World Bank's operations such as economics, finance, education, public health, social sciences, engineering, urban planning, and natural resource management. The minimum qualifica-

tions one needs to be considered for the program are 32 years of age or younger when entering the YP Program in September 2012; have obtained a Master's degree or equivalent; have a minimum of three (3) years of relevant professional and policy-level experience, or continued academic study at the doctoral level; specialize in a field relevant to the World Bank's operations; be fluent in English and be fully proficient in one or more of the Bank's working languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and/or Spanish.

Our **2011 Spring Career Event** is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, **April 5** also at the Hungarian Mission to the UN. This next program will explore careers in foreign affairs reporting with Michele Mitchell. Michele is an award winning broadcast journalist formerly with CNN Headline News and has reported extensively from various parts of the world. She will discuss jobs in new and traditional media and communications.