



UNATODAY

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK

WINTER 2013



United Nations Association
of New York

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Cover image
UN PHOTO / Rick Bajornas

Through the work of the United Nations Association of New York and the 120 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.

Here's to Boots on the Ground!

PAULA RICE JACKSON | PRESIDENT



Our UNA-NY Board continues to take great pleasure in bringing to you, our membership, the

very best films, authors, UN-based speakers and sponsored gatherings and programs we can produce.

After last summer's party at the SoHo Grand Hotel—for which 900 of you signed-up—our busy fall schedule began with the film **Under Fire** which focused on the highly dangerous work of war correspondents, with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Rohde present to help our audience recover from the brutal footage the film contained. September brought us together again at **The Asia Society** to greet His Holiness the

Gyalwang Drukpa for a screening of **Pad Yatra**, documenting a 700-mile trek through the Himalayas of the Buddhist faithful, led personally by the Drukpa.

This was followed by our sold-out successful annual **Humanitarian Awards Dinner**, attended by His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The former UN Ambassador from Qatar, Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser, outgoing President of the 63rd General Assembly, was honored. He has been appointed head of the Alliance of Civilizations which devotes itself to improving understanding and communication among nations.

Our **BookTalkUNA** events saw writer and TV producer Robin

Wright present her new book **Rock the Casbah**, followed by Vaddey Ratner and **Under The Shadow of the Banyan**.

At this writing UNA-NY's eighth **Worldview Institute** semester has begun, totally sold out within hours of its announcement.

To jump-start our New Year, a sold-out **Ambassador Series** lecture was given by Christopher Hill, former State Dept. Ambassador to Iraq. And just two weeks ago, we presented **Portrait of Wally**, a film about World War II repatriation of priceless art, an initiative described by UNESCO's deputy Claire Stark as worldwide in scope.

And—UNA-NY's **Screening the Issues** may have a new venue soon. We'll keep you posted.



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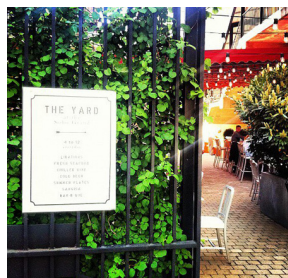
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UNA-NY Holds First Summer Soirée for New Members

Over 500 people gathered in The Yard at SoHo Grand Hotel in Tribeca in July for the United Nations Association of New York's first **Young Professionals Summer Soirée**. The event attracted existing UNA-NY members and potential hopefuls in a fun, relaxed setting aimed at facilitating networking and camaraderie throughout the 700-plus member strong organization.



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Moving Forward!

ANN NICOL | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The United Nations Association of New York is moving into 2013 with a broad outreach, a continued energetic engagement with our members and strong dedication to our mission of informing and involving New Yorkers with issues before the United Nations. We are fortunate to have the support of a board that is forward looking and embraces many innovative programs and activities. I am happy to report that our programs are attended and actively supported by a wide spectrum of our membership and the public. We are very pleased to be able to host you at events that are of interest!

Awareness of the United Nations and its work has been steadily

growing in the last few years. At UNA New York, we see this in the growing number of groups that request information or help in organizing visits to UN Headquarters. As the host-city chapter, we are fortunate to be able to function literally as a bridge to the UN for the general public.

Our summer soirée, a hugely subscribed event, took place outside, under candle-lit canopies on a warm evening in Soho. It was thrilling to see such enthusiasm, interest and diversity among the guests. The event felt like a microcosm of the UN itself and confirmed that our outreach was making a real difference in terms of consciousness, knowledge and support for the United Nations.

We really hope you will continue to attend and participate in our programs. In return, we will continue to make every effort to offer you the most interesting, thought-provoking and important facets of this international organization.

UNAWORLDVIEW

WINTER 2013

LOOKING INTO WORLDVIEW

The Worldview Institute

continues to provide a successful forum in which New York professionals can engage in discussions covering global issues, with experts in foreign policy and international affairs.

Each semester draws an average of 30 participants. Varied topics have included diplomacy and terrorism, US-Pakistan relations, foreign policy and the BRIC contingency, challenges for the Asia-Pacific region, and the question of Palestine at the United Nations.

Sessions were held at different missions and venues in New York, starting with informal light suppers followed by the presentations.

Memorable evenings have included visits to the Indian, Hungarian, Indonesian and UK missions to the UN, some of which hosted diplomats and guest speakers.

Our last semester closed out with a stimulating dinner engagement at the National Arts Club and featured as our keynote speaker the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Ioannis Vrailas.

The current **Worldview Institute Winter 2013** semester runs from January 16 to March 20 and is fully booked. Some program highlights are: women in the world of banking, the Eurozone crisis, transitions in the Arab world — with a separate focus on Syria, the realities of contemporary slavery, and a presentation about China at the UN by the counsellor from the Chinese mission.



UNA-NY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

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www.unanyc.org

UNA-NY Donates to UN Women for Peace



Our 2012 **UN Day Gala Dinner** saw the sale of its pièce-de-résistance item:

the "Dove of Peace" vase custom-designed by world-renowned potter, Miranda Thomas, who has supported UNA-NY for many years by creating limited edition pieces for our annual gala dinners. The porcelain envelope vase was hand painted in 24K Dresden Gold, each one unique, and the entire limited edition was completely sold out at the silent auction.

On this occasion, the proceeds from the sale were donated to the **UN Women for Peace**, in support of their campaign to End Violence Against Women.

UN Women for Peace was founded in 2008, under the patronage of H.E. Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The organization aims at promoting, strengthening and advancing the

goals of academic and charitable organizations whose mission is to allow women to participate in the global peace building process through social, cultural, educational and women empowerment programs.

The Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women is a leading global donor in the struggle to end violence against women and girls. It was established by the UN General Assembly in 1996 and is administered by UN Women. To date, the UN Trust Fund has delivered more than USD 86 million to 351 initiatives in 128 countries and territories.

We are pleased to support the UN Women for Peace in their effort to address such violence in all its forms, by supporting effective initia-



Mrs. Ban Soon-taek

tives which demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be systematically countered, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated.

"The dove on this vase is determined and committed, passionately believing in its mission of hope... it is emblematic of all our hard work towards peace," said Miranda Thomas about her symbolic vase.

AMBASSADOR SERIES

A STIMULATING FORUM OF HIGH-LEVEL ETHICS AND PURPOSE

A special edition of our continually successful **Ambassador Series** drew many people to the midtown Columbia University Club, as world headlines were dominated by the European debt crisis. The panel entitled **A Modern Evolution: The Role of the European Union in Global Affairs** served up a high-level debate featuring several invited guests who examined the role of the European Union as actor in international affairs.

With an overview by a select group of participating Ambassadors from several countries, the audience was treated to a wide range of international views on the current status of the European Union and the future of Europe, as well as a demystification of how EU foreign policy works.

The lively and interesting interaction among the panelists covered many pertinent topics, such as how other countries interact at the United Nations and with the European Union. Also discussed:

- EU External Action Service
- European Union engagement with the United Nations and its management of external relations
 - The appraisal of powerhouses, such as India and Mexico, of EU actions on the international stage
 - How the economic and euro crisis impacts decision-making in Europe and a look at their impact on European Union external relations

Following the forum, a reception allowed all attendees to discuss the issues in more detail.

PANEL MODERATOR



The event was moderated by **Ambassador Thomas Mayr-Harting**, who

took up his post as Head of the EU Delegation to the UN in 2011. He previously served from 2008 as the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations. In 2009-10 he represented Austria on the UN Security Council. He was President of the council for November 2009. In his former capacity as Austrian Ambassador to the UN, he also served as Vice-President of the 66th General Assembly.

THE PANEL



Until her 2009 appointment as Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN,

Ambassador Anne Anderson was her country's Ambassador to France since July 2005; and concurrently since Jan. 2007, as non-resident Ambassador to Monaco. From 2001-05, she served as Permanent Representative to the EU in Brussels; before which she was Ireland's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, where her responsibilities also included Chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights (1999-2000); Vice-President

of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (1997); and Chair of Trade Policy Review Body, WTO.

A career diplomat since 1983, **Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora** is currently the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN, a position assumed in 2011. He previously served



as the Special Representative and Chief Negotiator for the Climate Change summit in Cancun in 2010. Between March 2004 and July 2009, he served as the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, and during his time in Geneva he was designated as the first President of the Human Rights Council, a position he held from June 2006 until June 2007.

As India's current Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, **Manjeev Singh Puri** joined



the Indian Foreign Service in 1982, after completing his Masters in Management Sciences and BA (Honours) in Economics. In the course of his Foreign Service career, Ambassador Puri has served twice in Germany (Bonn, 1984-86 and Berlin, 1991-94), Bangkok (1986-89), Caracas (1989-91), Cape Town (1998-2002) and

Muscat (2002-05). He was Joint Secretary (UN Economic & Social) in the Ministry of External Affairs from March 2005 to March 2009 prior to taking over his present assignment in New York.

At a more recent, and very sold-out, January engagement at the same venue — **Forging Consensus: US-Asia Policy in the Next Administration** — we welcomed **Ambassador Christopher R. Hill**, who offered an engaging delineation of the Obama administration's record in Asia as well as discussing some of the challenges and tasks for the future.



Ambassador Hill is the Dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at The University of Denver, a position he has held since September 2010. He is a former career diplomat, a four-time ambassador, nominated by three presidents, whose last post was as Ambassador to Iraq (from April 2009 to August 2010).

The Ambassador received the State Department's Distinguished Service Award for his contributions as a member of the U.S. negotiating team in the Bosnia peace settlement, and was a recipient of the Robert S. Frasure Award for Peace Negotiations for his work on the Kosovo crisis.

Rapid Response and the Importance of Successful Advocacy

JOAN LEVY | ADVOCACY CHAIR

As we enter 2013, the Advocacy program of UNA-USA remains a vital part of our present and future agenda. The Advocacy Leads of the nationwide Chapters and Divisions have recently completed a survey requesting priorities that UNA-USA should consider for the 2013-2014 advocacy agenda.

One of the most successful pieces of previous advocacy efforts has been the Rapid Response. Chapter Presidents and designated Advocacy

Leads are notified by the UNA-USA National Office as soon as a possibly troubling and/or vital vote is anticipated in Congress. Those who are notified can immediately contact their Congressmen and women and ask chapter members to do the same. Experience has shown that the more individual responses Congress receives, the more pressure it feels to vote for the will of their constituents.

Some of the items in the survey include continued emphasis on

issues of UN Funding, Human Rights, International Treaties/Conventions and the Millennium Development Goals. Other items to consider for the coming year, include Environment, Gender Equality, Education and Health.

The results of this year's survey are being compiled and will be announced soon. In the interim, we continue to advocate for the ideals and programs that are so important to the UNA.

The Importance of STEM Education for Linking Youth to Global Leadership, Careers and Service

DR. CHONITA A. SPENCER | EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The United Nations Association of New York is committed to empowering youth to excellence for global leadership, careers and service of the future. Through sustainable national and international initiatives, we establish programs and seek partnerships for the educational and academic challenges which we face nationally and internationally — as we, the United States of America, are now ranked 25th in the world, in Mathematics and Science, with African American students and girls demonstrating further disparaging achievement gaps of learning.

UNA-NY recognizes **STEM** — Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math — as the national educational initiative for all students that is critical to the U.S. standing and competitiveness in the world. Emphasizing STEM education, especially for girls, is one of the

most important educational efforts the U.S. can make, if it hopes to produce college and career-ready students with a capacity to compete globally in leadership, careers, and service throughout the world.

Our vision this year is to educate and inspire students from **Union County TEAMS Charter School and Leadership Academy** — so that not only will they discover their own talents, interests, and creativity — but through a STEM education, students will self-discover and set goals for a global society which embraces STEM careers, now and in the future.

Our Education Committee, in sustained community-based collaboration with CNJ International Trends and Services, has developed initiatives to deliver relevant programs that recognize the common mission and goals of our orga-

nization. These initiatives are aligned with the **United Nations Millennium Development**

Goals: achieving universal primary education, reducing child mortality rates, promoting gender equality and empowering women, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS/Malaria and other diseases, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development.

UNANY's Education Committee and the American initiative 'Race to the Top' require that we develop programs and services that address our educational challenges and deficiencies, both here and competitively abroad, and that we educate

and empower our youth to be well versed in the STEM fields.

UNA-NY is hosting students in a leadership, diversity, career and service training program, as well as a February 27 field trip to the UN, where representatives will privately host participants in a STEM panel discussion with scientists, engineers, and attorneys. There, students will hear STEM professionals talk about their educational journey, their aspirations, and career choices. And the students of TEAMS charter school will embrace an international community service initiative: The Survival of Haiti for Women and Girls.



New Summer Soirée for Young Professionals Kicks into High Gear

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Guests mingled among themselves and the white-draped divans of the chic urban sanctuary, while Executive Director Ann Nicol provided a warm welcome, stopping to greet new faces and UNA-NY President Paula Rice Jackson was on hand to answer new membership questions.

"We wanted to bring together this group of young professionals who have expressed an interest in supporting the humanitarian and global issues in which the UN engages," said Ms. Nicol. "It is important that all of our members and

those who want to join us realize they are part of a bigger picture and their involvement with our organization counts."

The evening's festivities began with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and kicked into high gear with music by SoHo Grand DJ Tennessee Thomas.

Silent auction prizes were also featured including items donated by Coach, Destiny Day Spa, Grand Hotels NYC, the Mama Necklace, Smile Boutique Dental, and Zubi Rosner, LLP.



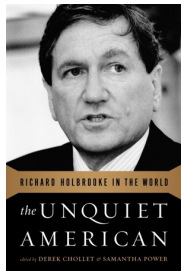
BOOKTALKUNA

IN-DEPTH, CONTROVERSIAL, ENGAGED REFLECTIONS

Our **BookTalkUNA** series, in partnership with the Institute of International Education, focuses on current books and authors. This bright complement to our film-talk presentations features books and their authors whose work is in-depth, politically and ethically engaged, far-sighted and often controversial.

We host writers and thinkers who illuminate many complex social and political realities that challenge assumptions, while offering inspiration, ideas and understanding which can create possibilities for a better world. Their valuable presentations complement the far-reaching work of the UN and its vital goals.

At our last Annual Meeting, we invited award winning journalist **Kati Marton** to discuss the life of her late husband, Richard Holbrooke, on the occasion of the publication of the biography, **The Unquiet American, Richard Holbrooke in the World**.



The book is both a tribute to an exceptional public servant and a backstage history of the last half-century of

American foreign policy. Holbrooke, who died in December 2010, was a pivotal player in U.S. diplomacy for more than forty years. A special envoy for Iraq and Afghanistan under President Obama, he also served as assistant secretary of state for both Asia and Europe, and as ambassador to both Germany and the United Nations. He had a key role in brokering a peace agreement

among warring factions in Bosnia that led to the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995.

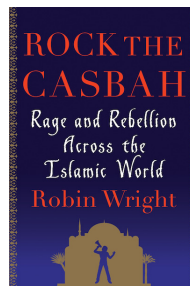
Widely regarded as possessing one of the most penetrating minds of any modern diplomat of any nation, Holbrooke was also well known for his outsized personality, and his capacity to charm and offend in equally colossal measures. Marton shared her experiences of these attributes and much more in her warm presentation (see article on page 8).

In partnership with The Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University, we also hosted **James Fallows** who discussed his latest book **Is China Really Taking Off?** For three decades, China's economic juggernaut seemed unstoppable. But recent political transitions, and environmental, social and business limits pose challenges that the modern Chinese economy has not confronted before. Fallows, national correspondent for The Atlantic and renowned China expert, considered China's potential to rise to a new level of technological success, and the change which that evolution may demand of the Chinese system.

Based in Washington, Fallows has worked for the Atlantic for nearly 30 years, during which time he has also lived in Seattle, Berkeley, Austin, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai and Beijing. He also spent two years as chief White House speech-writer for Jimmy Carter, two years as editor of US News & World Report, and six months as a program designer at Microsoft.



Our fall BookTalk opened with **Robin Wright** focusing on her book, **Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion across the Islamic World**. This award-winning journalist predicted in 2008 that the Middle East was on the edge of inevitable and epic change. She then spent three years exploring the emerging players and evolving ideas that are today visibly transforming the world's most volatile region, and



empowerment early this century. This title won the 2012 Overseas Press Club's Cornelius Ryan Award for the best non-fiction book on international affairs.

As the first novel by a survivor of the Cambodian genocide to be published in English, **In the Shadow of the Banyan** follows in the footsteps of classic Holocaust memoirs, such as Elie Wiesel's *Night*, and distinguished novels of human



endurance and triumph, such as **The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini and Toni Morrison's **Beloved**. We were honored to have **Vaddey Ratner**,

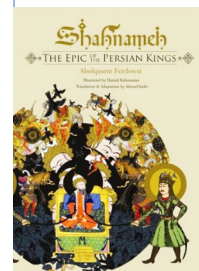
who now lives in the U.S., relate her own experiences and those of her family. In addition, "I wanted readers to see Cambodia before it became synonymous with genocide, before it became the 'killing fields,' it was once a place of exquisite beauty. I try to show that, not only by locating readers in the loveliness of the natural world, but also by immersing them in the rhythm of a people's thoughts and sentiments, in its literature and art. Only when we know what existed can we truly mourn what is lost," she said.

Ratner's work is a profoundly moving testament to the sustaining and healing power of language that allows her to portray above all the unquenchable human desire to live, and the universal power of stories to help us transcend suffering, loss, and tragedy.



COMING UP

On March 6, our co-presentation with The Asia Society will focus on **SHAHNAMEH: The Epic of the Persian Kings**, a new, lushly illustrated rendition of the classic work by the great Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi. An epic poem that is part myth, part history, the Shahnameh

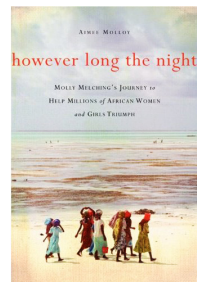


begins with the legend of the birth of the ancient Persian nation and its tumultuous history. It contains magical birds, superhuman heroes, and

centuries-long battles.

Originally written in couplets, the new translation and adaptation, by Iranian expert and sociology professor **Ahmad Sadri**, retells the mythological tales in a fresh, scintillating prose format, along with over 500 pages of spectacular illustrations created by award-winning graphic artist and filmmaker **Hamid Rahmanian**. Both of them will be joined in a conversation with **Sheila Canby**, a curator of Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

For May 2, our special guest will be **Molly Melching** herself to discuss Aimee Molloy's book **However Long the Night: Molly**



Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph. Inspirational and beautifully written, the book tells the story of Melching, an American woman whose experience as an exchange student in Senegal led her to found **Tostan** and dedicate almost four decades of her life to the girls and women of Africa.



2012 UN Day: Humanitarian Awards Gala Dinner Celebrates the 67th Anniversary of the UN

On October 25, the United Nations Association of New York honored **Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser** with its 2012 Humanitarian Award for his leadership of the 66th General Assembly and accomplishments in mediation, cross-cultural understanding and dialogue. He was also recognized for his strong commitment to realizing the vision of a world free of intercultural conflicts.

Ambassador Al-Nasser was recently appointed by the Secretary-General to be the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. The UNAOC Secretariat, which is based in New York, works with a global network of partners, with states, international and

regional organizations, civil society groups, foundations, and the private sector to improve cross-cultural relations between diverse nations and communities. It also works at the grassroots level, promoting innovative projects that build trust, reconciliation and mutual respect. It operates in four particular areas — youth, media, education and migration — to support such projects.

Our 2012 annual event also raised funds for The Worldview Institute, a UNA-NY corporate executive forum for young leaders that fosters greater understanding of political, economic and social issues around the world.

The **2012 Humanitarian Awards Dinner**, the eighth of its kind, also celebrated the 67th Anniversary of the United Nations. With close to 200 guests at the Essex House in New York City, it was well-attended by diplomats, business leaders, local dignitaries and other distinguished guests, including Richard Lui, anchor and correspondent for MSNBC. They were served

a sumptuous dinner and delectable hors d'oeuvres, accompanied by fine wines, elegantly created by the Executive Chef Achilles Poliviou. They were also treated to a captivating performance by the musical guest, the Jordanian virtuoso singer Farah Siraj. Among other surprises of the evening was an exclusive auction of handmade vases by Vermont pottery ShackletonThomas, the proceeds of which benefited the UN Trust to End Violence Against Women.

However splendid the evening, its most inspired moments expressed the sentiments and aspirations for this **67th Anniversary of the UN**, as it looks forward to continued success promoting the political and humanitarian causes of all peoples on the world stage. On this special occasion, among the many reflections by philanthropists and international leaders who help realize the Millennium Development Goals, the keynote address for the 2012 Humanitarian Award was delivered by the UN Secretary-General himself, Ban Ki-moon.



LOOKING FORWARD...

On Now

January 16 - March 20
The Worldview Institute
Winter 2013 Semester

Coming Up

February 27 • Students Tour of the United Nations

March 1 • Screening the Issues presents "War Witch"

March 6 • BookTalkUNA "SHAHNAMEH: The Epic of the Persian Kings" with Dr. Ahmad Sadri, Hamid Rahmanian and Sheila Canby

March 14 • Pakistan Mission

April 3 • BookTalkUNA "Escape from Camp 14"

May 2 • BookTalkUNA "HOWEVER LONG THE NIGHT: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph"

SCREENING THE ISSUES

INSPIRING, PROVOCATIVE, FULL-HOUSE CINEMA

Our ever popular film-talk series **Screening the Issues** continues to present stimulating and thought-provoking films and discussion events all throughout the New York seasons. Now in its fourth year, the series provides a meaningful adjunct to the work of the UN with films that educate while addressing important issues.



We broke attendance records with a sold-out advance screening of **THE LADY**, from leading French director Luc Besson, chronicling the extraordinary story of Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and her British husband Michael Aris. The Lady was warmly played by Michelle Yeoh (well-known from "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"), who was able to meet with Suu Kyi briefly when she was still under house arrest, and received tremendous inspiration from the encounter, which shines in her memorable performance. The screen-

ing was followed by an enlightening discussion on Burmese matters with **Maureen Aung-Thwin**, the director of The Burma Project at the Open Society Institute.

June provided several cinematic offerings, starting with our presentation of **FIRE IN OUR HEARTS**, an extraordinary debut film by a young girl in India, which she made to highlight her struggles to obtain her own education and freedom from the poverty surrounding her and her family. When seven, **Jayshree Janu Kharpade** was taken out of school so she could help raise her four younger brothers. Exceptionally bright and motivated, she pleaded for years with her parents to let her return to her studies. When they finally agreed, she rose to the top of her school and, at 16, made this film under the mentoring of **Joyce Chopra**, a renowned pioneer of documentary cinema. The film was produced by the non-profit organization **BYkids**, which pairs master filmmakers with youth (ages 8-21) from around the world, to create short documentaries that educate about globally relevant issues.



June also saw our participation in the **2012 Human Rights Watch Film Festival** in New York, as we sponsored the screening of three films.

In **Brother Number One**, a man retraces his brother's final days before his death at the hands of the Khmer Rouge, while the film deals with the trauma that grips all Cambodia: the struggle to forgive in the face of immeasurable anger.

The story of two refugees whose paths collide with those of an

altruistic tourist and a Canary Island police officer, changing the course of all their lives, **Color of the Ocean** offered a thought-provoking and ethical tale which was called "immensely impressive."

Highly inspiring was **Salaam Dunk**, delivering a tale of hope and inspiration, courtesy of one winning group of Iraqi women basketball players at the American University in

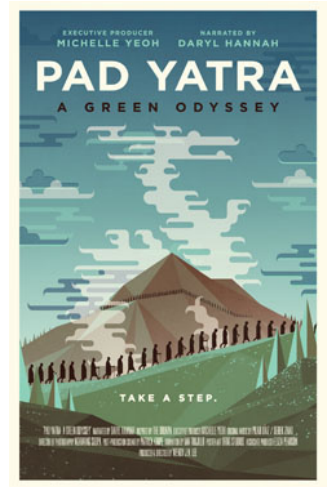


Sulaimani, Iraq. Through interviews and personal video diaries, we learn about the women, their families and their experiences since the U.S. invasion in 2003. Their narratives provided a rare look into Iraqi lives and recent events.

Journalism in times of war has become an increasingly lethal and traumatic endeavor, as depicted in our July offering, **UNDER FIRE: JOURNALISTS IN COMBAT**, which clarified the plight of international journalists today as natural targets of combatants. Our post-screening guest was **David Rohde**, a Pulitzer Prize winning investigative reporter, who shared some remarkable career highlights, including his kidnapping by members of the Taliban, and his escape after seven months in captivity.



A special co-presentation with **The Asia Society**, our fall cinematic highlight was **PAD YATRA: A GREEN ODYSSEY**, which depicted the adventure of 700 people trekking across the Himalayas with a call to save the planet's "3rd Pole," a glacial region now devastated by the climate chaos associated with global warming. Battling the most treacherous terrain on the planet, the trekkers spread their message



of ecological compassion through a human being's most basic means: showing through example by walking on foot, village to village, while surviving harrowing injuries, illness and starvation at high altitudes. The trek was led by **His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa**, a Buddhist spiritual leader in the Himalayas. Our special guest on stage after the film, he shared some inspiration on ecological responsibility.

On **March 1**, we will screen Canadian director Kim Nguyen's engrossing drama **WAR WITCH**, which centers on a 12-year-old African girl, who is abducted from her village by vicious armed rebels and forced to wage war as a child soldier. Managing to be neither sentimental nor sensational, the film tells its story from the heart, and from the simple, straightforward viewpoint of young heroine Komona, warmly played by Rachel Mwanza in her film debut. It was met with nearly universal critical acclaim at its Berlin premiere, and this extraordinary story will capture audiences and festival prizes, and is an official Canadian entry for the upcoming Academy Awards.



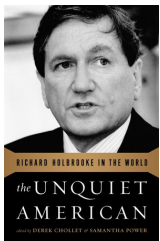
Be Fearless

Kati Marton on Richard Holbrooke

As invited guest speaker at our premiere **BookTalkUNA** series of events, award-winning journalist **Kati Marton** shone brightly for our attendees in her inspiring and highly moving tribute to her late husband, Richard Holbrooke, who died in 2010, and is the subject of a recent book to which she contributed the introduction.

Although mentor and friend to many whose fond recollections and assessments fill the pages of **An Unquiet American: Richard Holbrooke in the World**, he was also a sometimes controversial figure who, while passionately disallowing cynicism and defeatist attitudes, also maintained his own uncompromising standards and occasionally promoted himself with high opinion.

Marton mentioned in passing that her husband helped dedicate the building which housed the evening event's co-host, the International Institute of Education, "in the part of the city that was the pillar of



Richard's New York life," she remarked. "He was brought here when the UN was just a construction site by his father, who was

a refugee from both Communist and Nazi oppression, and who told his little boy that the building to come would represent the hope of the world... that we would never go back to the anarchy and the bloodshed of the twentieth century because of this building." Subsequently, the request by President Clinton in Holbrooke's later life — for him to take on the U.S. ambassadorship to the UN in 1999 — held



deep meaning for him.

Uncomfortable in the office but adept in the field, Holbrooke's aversion to bureaucracy went hand in hand with his purposive drive, allowing him to achieve a wide range of accomplishments, "because he was so dogged, and wasted no time," according to Marton. These traits undoubtedly played a part in the 1995 Dayton Accords, his signal diplomatic achievement in Bosnia, where his key role helped broker a peace agreement among warring factions there. It was clear that such a highly determined individualism was one in which personal ethics effectively operated at the forefront of a quest for an inclusive diplomacy which left no one out.

"It made him a living legend in Europe... It was the privilege of my life to have been with Richard in Dayton and to have observed him bring some of the toughest and most ruthless warlords to the conference table. He made them not only talk to each other but, ultimately, to end the war and to hammer out the outlines of a future state... Richard knew he had his place in history."

Holbrooke first met Marton, whose own parents survived the Nazis in Budapest and were imprisoned by the Soviets, after she'd published her first book on the Holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg. Her husband carried her book around at length, even during meetings with Milosevic. When asked how he could sit down

with "all these horrible people," Holbrooke simply responded, "Wallenberg sat down with Eichmann... To save lives I'll sit down with anyone."

Those aforementioned qualities could account for his acceptance of his last mission as UN special envoy to Iraq and Afghanistan. "He loved going to terrible places... because they most challenged him and presented the most complicated problems," Marton said. Citing an educational background in physics as a source of his analytical gifts, she saw Holbrooke as a problem solver who could see "how all the pieces fit" even when considering the regional scale of complexities encompassing Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and the Taliban.

Other remarkable feats of diplomatic engineering were seen during Holbrooke's two years as UN ambassador, wherein he managed to facilitate the belated payment by the U.S. government of its back dues (nearly one million), as well as converting the resistant Rep. congressman Jesse Helms to become an advocate for UN concerns. While head of the Security Council, Holbrooke established the African AIDS crisis as a major priority for UN endeavors on the continent, convincing a then resistant Secretary General Kofi Annan that this grave health issue was also one related to security.

His effectiveness was readily reflected in a personal motto cited by his wife: always have an outcome at every meeting.

"You had to be a pretty big person in every sense of the word to let a man like Richard into your heart," she mused warmly, addressing his outsized character. "He fit George Bernard Shaw's great line about the unreasonable man as the one who makes progress... You had to be unreasonable, to shake things up in order to get things done, and Richard was an unreasonable man when it came to saving lives and righting wrongs. His diplomacy was unique, the reason we're here talking about him... his brand of diplomacy was: one human being at a time."

Among the many notable qualities in this unquiet American, Marton includes her husband's search for mentors in his early years (at 13 having lost his father), and his subsequent mentorship for many young people who encountered him throughout his life, fulfilling a presence many public officials at his level seldom adopt. "Why? Because he gave a damn — that sums up Richard's life."

At the close of the evening, an inspired young Nigerian at NYU asked about possibilities for Africa's future, aware of Holbrooke's passionate interest in the continent. Marton reflected back on her husband's abiding resourcefulness and strength, and replied: "Be fearless, about controversy, about your goals, but also be strategic in your thinking. Like Richard, be a builder of relationships. He knew more people in more countries than any other human being on the planet."

US at the UN: Opportunities for Renewal

JOAN LEVY | ADVOCACY CHAIR

The 2013 Mid Atlantic Regional Conference-Members' Day was held on February 4th in New York and, as in previous years, was a huge success. Six hundred UNA members, students and other interested people gathered at the North Lawn Building of the UN to enjoy a day of learning and networking.

Deputy-Secretary General **Jan Eliasson** and **Kathy Calvin**, President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation were the keynote speakers. Program topics in the panel discussions included: Rio+20: Moving Forward, Global Economy, Education and Youth, and Finding Solutions to Stubborn Conflicts.

Conference participants also

heard from **Brooke Loughrin**, the 2012 first Youth Observer at the United Nations. Brooke spoke about her UN experience and stressed the importance of youth involvement starting at an early age in order to learn first hand about the work of the United Nations.

Co-Chairs **Patrick Madden**, Executive Director of UNA-USA and **Jeanne Bestock Stillman**, President, UNA-USA Southern New York Division, spoke about the importance of membership and how to advance the goals and programs of UNA-USA.

This well attended and significant day brought congratulations to all for a job well done!