



# UNATODAY

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF NEW YORK

**SPRING 2014**

United Nations Association  
of New York

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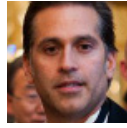
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Cover: Dag Hammarskjöld (photo UN/DPI)  
See special feature on page 7.

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.

## Facing the Challenges Together

ABID QURESHI | PRESIDENT



Dear New York  
Chapter Members

With the many cross-border challenges that the world faced in 2013, the value and the importance of the United Nations, and the promise for international cooperation that it represents, was once again paramount. While the Secretary-General had an active year of crisis management, the UN's many specialized agencies continued their global mission of addressing problems without borders such as human trafficking, climate change, food production, and myriad other global concerns.

I am pleased to report another fruitful year of fulfilling our mission

to engage the New York public in global issues, to provide a forum for discussion and debate, and to facilitate constructive and stimulating dialogue between New Yorkers and diplomats from around the world.

We are proud to be the largest UNA chapter in the United States, and the host chapter of the United Nations. Our membership has grown over this year and we thank you for your interest and support.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events — in order to learn more about, to discuss, and to consider the many critical issues faced by the United Nations in its mission to better the world.

## UNFCU Welcomes UNA-USA

And now, some really good news for UNA-NY members: an exciting offer for an exclusive UN benefit—your very own Membership to the **United Nations Federal Credit Union!**

United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) is excited to announce a new alliance with the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU). This alliance extends UNFCU membership to UNA-USA members, who can now benefit from all of the financial products and services exclusively available to the UN, its staff, retirees and their families worldwide.

For more information and to join UNFCU, please visit [www.unfcu.org/unausa](http://www.unfcu.org/unausa).



# UNA TODAY

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
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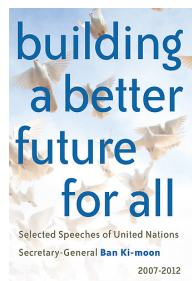
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## Champions for Change

LILY KHIDR | WORLDVIEW ALUMNUS

Last year **The Worldview Institute** was one of six academic organizations cordially invited to attend a special event with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, to engage in an open discussion about the recent book **Building A Better Future**



**For All.** The book is not about the Secretary-General, nor is it written by him. It is as much a book about the United Nations and

its mission and core principles, as it is a selection of Ban's speech moments along the way of a six-year tenure,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## UNA Host Chapter's Active Presence

ANN NICOL | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members  
We are very pleased to report once again on another year of successful events, constructive advocacy and productive fundraising for our chapter. Our mission of engaging the New York public in issues before the United Nations was well served by the general support of several permanent missions and personal presentations by UN ambassadors.

In this regard, our special thanks go to the Columbia University Club of New York, the Institute of International Education, Steelcase, Inc. and the New School for their support and collaboration on key programs this year.

We would like to also thank Akin Gump, UBS, Phillips Nizer and

McCarter & English for their continued support in offering venues for our board meetings as well as our signature Worldview Institute seminar programs.

Your consistent presence and attendance have continued to make our chapter in New York one of the most active in the region, and we hope to sustain your support this year with more exciting and stimulating events and activities. We are proud of our station as the host city chapter of the UNA and look forward, with you, to maintaining our advocacy, outreach and the high diplomatic recognition accorded our major events.

Now entering its eighth year, **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.

Some of our recent topics have included: 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.

Each semester draws an average of 30 participants. As a corporate executive training program of the United Nations Association of New York, these seminars are not open to the general public. Rather, we are seeking the best and the brightest young professionals between the ages of 25 and 40.

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of three years of professional experience or relevant graduate work.

# UNAWORLDVIEW

## WINTER 2014



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

Our current **Worldview Institute Winter 2014** semester just completed its course, and ran

from January 15 to April 2. Some of its highlights were: global dialogues on moving forward with the MDGs post-2015, the UN and public diplomacy, the moral dilemma of the international community regarding Syria, the Venezuelan challenge in recent economic and political developments, the current state of

relations between the U.S. and Iran, and Japan's role in some of the new health technologies.

The season closed out with a stimulating dinner engagement at the National Arts Club, and featured New York Al-Jazeera correspondent Kristen Salomey as our keynote speaker.



## UNA-NY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

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## Champions for Change

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reflecting the implementation of UN principles.

With nearly 250 guests housed in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, the Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, moderated what turned out to be a very candid questioning of the UN Secretary-General. His diplomatic acumen was surely put to the test, as a natural poise expected in an environment of experienced diplomacy, and one which was completely offered to the



audience of young minds present, who all held a passion for facilitating humanitarian change. From being addressed incorrectly as "Mr. Moon," to a criticism of "compromising the security of the 'Holy Land' against nuclear Iran by giving Palestinians non-member state status at the UN," the Secretary-General was able to quell the flames by highlighting a

culture of education with clarity and compassion. There was nearly no topic untouched or page unturned.

The book's collection of speeches, delivered in over 150 countries to diverse audiences ranging from heads of state to youth groups, truly illuminate the person behind the position. Although varied in length, they all share this unified vision: to push world leaders to promote and protect the full panoply of human rights.

Ban's message was clear to this audience as well: igniting the majority of the world, the young generations and women, to tackle the overwhelming breadth of global issues that plague humanity. We are no longer from one country, "we are interconnected" he says, a concept reflecting the gravity of the social and political issues that affect us all, geographies notwithstanding.

While there was an appreciated admittance on his part of an inability to solve all the issues, and that right decisions usually take time to emerge, the call was clearly made to this next generation — to implement peace, justice and change.



# UN DAY 2013

# The Humanitarian Awards Gala Dinner Celebrates the 68th Anniversary of the UN

As a fresh New York autumn was beginning to make its colorful presence felt, especially throughout the grand magnificence of Central Park's vistas, another spectacular occasion of colorful human philanthropy unfolded in the posh environs of the Marriott Essex House. This year the **Humanitarian Awards Dinner**, held by the United Nations Association of New York, saw more than 250 guests in attendance, to celebrate the meaningful contributions of corporations and individuals in promoting and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The October 23rd fête warmly honored **Dr. Norbert Reithofer**, Chairman and CEO of the BMW Group, which was recognized as a responsible leading company exemplifying environmental sustainability, leadership, innovation and technological excellence, committed to corporate governance and environmental impact consistent with the principles of the UN Global Compact and the MDGs. Their efforts, and this year's award theme, correspond with **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's** initiative, Sustainable Energy for All, which brings together partners from government, NGOs and the private sector to promote and expand sustainable energy.

Indeed, Ban's endorsement of the evening's undertaking reflected his own desire "to address the economic, social and environmental aspect of development in an integrated way... Your decision to focus this year's annual gathering on sustainability shows a keen understanding of the overarching challenge of our time," he remarked in his commendation, delivered by the Assistant UN Secretary-General Franz Baumann.



It was an understanding also echoed in the words of the gala's keynote speaker and honorable guest **Madame Madeleine K. Albright**. The illustrious former U.S. Secretary of State addressed the occasion with her usual winning combination of unexpected humor and serious purpose, as she delineated many of the aspects of the ongoing global energy crisis, as well as the Millennium Development Goals. Over the years, her own diplomatic career offered her several opportunities to join her talents with the efforts of the United Nations, not least in her collaboration with previous UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan when they worked together

to develop the MDGs, which were intended to foster widespread economic and social advances.

"Mr. Reithofer's commitment to the goal of environmental sustainability should be an inspiration to us all," she said. "Sustainable energy is a goal within our reach, and while governments can point us in the right direction, success depends on the innovation and technical expertise that is more often found in the private sector. Which is why public-private partnerships can become so important — and why BMW is so worthy of our encouragement and recognition here this evening."

"As a company active in about 140 countries in the world, Dr.

Reithofer and the BMW Group stand out as a worldwide leader in corporate governance, social responsibility and the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals," said **UNA-NY President Abid Qureshi** in his welcoming remarks.

"This evening we celebrate corporate excellence in achieving one of those Goals. BMW Group has embraced wholeheartedly the Secretary-General's initiative, making them a clear leader in the area of environmental sustainability, innovation and technological excellence. BMW's achievements extend well beyond their all-electric car, and they have made great strides in reducing their own energy consumption, while continually advancing their production technology," he continued. "BMW has also been a long-time private sector partner of the UN, particularly the UN Alliance of Civilizations, sponsoring an award for intercultural innovation."

The **UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**, under the auspices of the UN, aims to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions. Early last year, our 2012 Humanitarian Award honoree, **H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, assumed the position of UN High Representative for the Alliance.



"Sustainability is important to ensure the long-term viability of our planet, and of course, of any company as well," commented Dr. Norbert Reithofer in his acceptance address. "For us, it comprises three pillars: the economic, ecological and social. But without economic success, there cannot be progress for the other two. Once you generate the economic success, the other two can better develop... The work of the United Nations has made our world a safer place and promoted peaceful co-existence among nations... and as a company, we can only succeed in a world of global peace, as well as free trade.

"In all of our locations worldwide, it has always been important for us to act as good corporate citizens, promoting the interests of our associates and their families at the local level, and supporting cultural and societal projects, such as our South African campaign involving HIV-prevention," Reithofer continued. "We also consider our

partnership with the UN Alliance of Civilizations historic, as it represents a new level of cooperation between the private sector and the UN. Together the two organizations have established the Intercultural Innovation Award. Its mandate is to recognize and support highly innovative grassroots projects that promote dialogue and intercultural understanding, and make vital contributions to prosperity and peace in global societies."

Early in the proceedings, guests viewed a newly-made video produced by UNA-NY Board Member and Treasurer **Dr. Peter Rajsingh**, offering a succinct look into the history and meaning of the United Nations and its mission, presenting a world organization which offers not only vital diplomatic interventions in the workings throughout the international governing complex at large, but also provides the means by which a better world can evolve.

**Ioannis Vrailas**, the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the Euro-



Vrailas outlined many such contrasts and deficits, offered EU perspectives on energy consumption, "eco-innovation" and the virtues of clean beaches, all the while fulfilling his invited role as "party-poofer." And in the end, his complex survey of all the economic reasons for doing the right thing were unquestionably inspiring.

The evening also featured an auction of another exclusive and memorable creation by international artist and potter **Miranda Thomas**, a lovely porcelain bottle vase in a limited edition of thirty, representing the dove of peace. It represents a dove which is, in her words, "determined and committed, passionately

believing in its mission."

However in all events, the most essential part of the gleaming success of our gala on this colorful autumn evening was the ongoing passion and commitment of our attendees and sponsors — all of you who generously continue to acknowledge and support the important work of the UN, as well as our role in New York as the host chapter of the United Nations Association. To you all we express our deep gratitude.



pean Union to the United Nations, opened the evening with his own trenchant views on sustainability and poverty eradication, while entertaining various degrees of relevance such as contrasting the plentiful servings of dinner and wine being served to attendees with the severe lack of food and water facing the impoverished millions in the world at large. With speedy intelligence



## LOOKING FORWARD...

### Coming Up

#### April 21 •

UNA AMBASSADOR SERIES with Amb. Thomas Pickering  
IRAN-U.S. RELATIONS: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

#### April 30 •

BookTalkUNA presents  
THE SECOND ARAB AWAKENING with Dr. Marwan Muasher

#### May 9 •

UNA-NY Screening the Issues  
SEEDS OF TIME

#### May 14 •

UNA Careers  
GLOBAL HEALTH

#### June 17 •

UNA-NY Screening the Issues  
HOME IS WHERE YOU FIND IT  
A BYkids Special Event

#### August 6-8 •

WFUNA Student Training Program at the United Nations

#### October 29 •

UN DAY 2014 HUMANITARIAN AWARDS DINNER

# AMBASSADOR SERIES

## A STIMULATING FORUM OF HIGH-LEVEL ETHICS AND PURPOSE

Our successful **Ambassador Series** continues to draw many people to the Columbia University Club, where our guests examine the roles of their countries as actors in international affairs and on the UN diplomatic stage.

In March such an overview was provided by **Ambassador Masood Khan**, who was appointed by the Government of Pakistan as its Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in October 2012.



Our NY members enjoyed his presentation, which covered many interesting topics and aspects of Pakistani culture and politics, as well as a nice buffet of Pakistani cuisine that was graciously offered by the hosting Mission.

Before his current appointment, Ambassador Khan served as Pakistan's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, and other Inter-

national Organizations in Geneva. He has worked as Director General (UN) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad and also served as Director General (Disarmament). In 2003, he was appointed Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a position he held till March 2005.

Ambassador Khan has worked in various diplomatic positions in Pakistan's Embassies in Beijing, The Hague and Washington DC. He worked in Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN (1993-97).

Over the years, Khan has also specialized in multilateral diplomacy, holding various positions in intergovernmental forums, and has represented Pakistan at many UN conferences and summits as delegate, representative and leader of delegation. He has spoken widely at various national and international forums, think tanks and academic institutions on Pakistan's foreign policy, peace and security issues, and disarmament diplomacy.

Amb. Khan also has expertise in security and disarmament issues, hu-

man rights, and social development as well as Pakistan's relations with major countries and regions.



More recently **Ambassador Rosemary A. DiCarlo**, who was sworn in as U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in 2010, was invited to discuss aspects of U.S. policy as they related to the United Nations.

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, she previously served as U.S. Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs to the UN, and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs at the Department of State. Ambassador DiCarlo has also served as the Director for United Nations Affairs at the National Security Council and Washington Deputy to the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

## 2014 Advocacy: More Important Than Ever

JOAN LEVY | ADVOCACY CHAIR

When the United Nations annually plans its agenda for the oncoming year, advocacy matters loom large in the conversation. This year is more important than ever. Some of the urgent goals are insuring adequate funds for the UN budget, peace-keeping funds, ratification of the Disabilities Treaty and consideration of other, long delayed treaties. Complicating approval of these items in Congress is the realization that this is an election year and all of the House of Representatives and one third of

the Senate are up for re-election and the involved members, unless they are retiring, are spending their efforts on getting re-elected.

The United Nations Foundation and the national UNA-USA have been extremely helpful to the membership, issuing weekly advocacy bulletins, scheduling advocacy conference calls and informing, discussing and instructing representatives of Chapters and Divisions how to most effectively educate our constituents to lobby and take action. Chris Whatley, the recently appointed Executive Director of UNA-USA, has been tireless in his efforts to advance the advocacy agenda. He leads an enthusiastic staff who are always accessible for questions and advice on how to make our job easier. We urge all of civil society to contact their district representatives to show them that we care about what they are, and are not, doing to legislate important matters for the country.

## WFUNA Student Training Program at the UN

Committed to engaging youth in the work of the UN, the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) is launching the **Training at the United Nations** program for high school students this August, in a partnership with UNA-NY.

WFUNA is the only global organization whose primary mission supports the principles and purposes of the United Nations, making it a natural partner for such a program. Besides offering students a rare and intimate view into the workings of the UN, our education partners are aiding in the career development of youth at U.S. high schools.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

WFUNA promotes the effective participation of youth in UN work through one-week training courses in New York and Geneva, with thematic programming on the three pillars: Peace and Security, Sustainable Development, and Human Rights.

Seminars and workshops on global governance, civil society mobilization and engagement, and the work of UN agencies and partners complement the training as well as provide networking opportunities for students.



### COSTS

A course fee per student participant is \$1500 and payable by check only. Class size is limited, so all enrollment submissions should be in by July 1. More details can be found by visiting: <http://bit.ly/1qrIHSY>

For further assistance, please contact UNA-NY Executive Director Ann Nicol at 212-907-1353 or by email: [anicol@unanyc.org](mailto:anicol@unanyc.org).

# UNANY SUMMER SOIRÉE 2013



A lot of energetic, globally-minded and ethically-psyched New Yorkers came together again to celebrate the United Nations Association of New York's **2nd Summer Soirée**.

This year's shindig unfolded at The Hudson Terrace last July, attracting UNA-NY members and their guests in a fun, relaxed setting aimed at facilitating networking and camaraderie throughout the 800-plus member strong organization.

More than 300 guests talked and mixed inside the discreetly decorated salon as well as cooling off on the breezy Garden Terrace at this very chic urban sanctuary which, tucked along the Hudson River, featured a magnificent urban vista.

The evening's festivities began with two for one drinks and a complimentary taco bar. DJ's were at the ready and spun their cool sounds, adding an ambient kick to the warm evening.

UNA-NY's President **Abid Qureshi**, Executive Vice President **Robin van Puyenbroeck** and Executive Director **Ann Nicol** provided a warm welcome to all, along with several other board members and interns who were on hand to answer new members' questions.

As the host chapter to the United Nations Association, UNA-NY is dedicated to raising public awareness of the UN and its work, as well as to promote the general goals of the UN. As such, our July event is intended as a fun and

sophisticated networking and social affair for all new and prospective members to meet some of those who have already been around the UNA-NY tableau for a while.

See you in July 2014!



## UNANY MIXING IT UP IN STYLE

### The Worldview Institute Alumni Reunion + Networking



We invited all Worldview Institute alumni to come in from a warm June evening last year, for a cool mixer at one of New York's destination spots: The World Bar.

Young professionals attending unwound in style in this elegant eastside lounge opposite the UN, as they enjoyed an evening of networking with fellow Worldview Institute alumni — as well as others who were ready to share their experiences from past Worldview semesters some might have missed.

There was plenty of fun catching up in the sophisticated ambiance, with a cash bar and specially-priced drinks to keep the evening smooth.

We'll be sure to give you a heads-up when we throw our next shindig!

# The Inner Faces of Dag Hammarskjöld

At our **BookTalkUNA** event observing the 60th anniversary of Dag Hammarskjöld's inauguration as second Secretary-General of the UN, Signe Burgstaller, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN, also attempted to highlight some of the significant attributes of her distinguished fellow countryman.

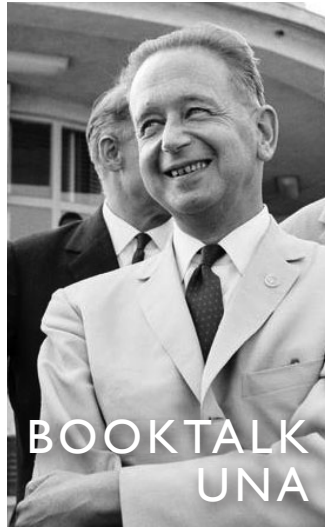
"It turned out that Hammarskjöld was much more than an efficient administrator of the UN Secretariat. He came with a very clear vision for the UN, constantly striving for it to be a dynamic instrument in the hands of its member states... His efforts to assert the independence, integrity and dignity of the organization indeed bore fruit, and his work in preventative diplomacy blazed a trail for the Secretary-General's direct diplomatic engagement as a mediator.

"Understanding his life, mind and service is to also understand something about the evolution of the UN itself. A great contribution in this regard is the new biography of the man by Dr. Lipsey."



It was an evening of special insight as scholar Roger Lipsey revealed many facets of Hammarskjöld's mind and

character. Drawing on previously unpublished sources and correspondence, and directing our attention to the more substantial within all of the surfaces and details of Hammarskjöld's life, Lipsey has created in his book **Hammarskjöld: A Life** a work of great scope and penetrating access, and one which can stand beside Brian Urquhart's equally monumental 1972 work on the subject. While the latter's lastingly important status remains without question in its depth of portraiture and event, the more subtle and



profound intricacies of the subject — wherein the conjunction of inner life and outer reality evoke mirrored effects and alchemy — emerge in the rather pronounced difference of Dr. Lipsey's sophisticated account of Hammarskjöld's spiritual journey.

"Our topic tonight — one of UN diplomacy, with the purpose of re-establishing peace with justice — is to speak of that in Hammarskjöld's terms as a profound cultural and creative act. That was how he lived it, and how he taught it," Dr. Lipsey began, while choosing a slideshow as a rather special way to engage our sensibilities, by summoning images of Hammarskjöld from his life — his places and abodes, his moments of encounter, his body language, his writings — as well as something more intriguingly elusive, which nonetheless could be discerned as he selectively guided our regard through the monochrome photographs.

One of Lipsey's favorite photos "shows a clever man, a shrewd man. It is a highly intelligent face... In that raised eyebrow and wrinkled brow is an entire look of someone who has been around the block."

The event that thoroughly tested Hammarskjöld, and also created his reputation among the delegations to the UN, was the mission to Peking (now Beijing) in 1955, where he attempted to secure the release of American prisoners of war captured during the Korean War, by flying to China (then without a seat at the UN), and tried to meet with Premier Zhou Enlai. People around him strongly advised against the visit.

Yet without official entourage or his own interpreter, Hammarskjöld was able to state the following during one of their private sessions:

"It does not mean that I appeal to you or that I ask you for their release. It means that — inspired also by my faith in your wisdom and in your wish to promote peace — I have considered it my duty as forcefully as I can, and with deep conviction, to draw attention to the vital importance of their fate to the cause of peace... Their fate may well decide the direction in which we will all be moving in the near future — towards peace, or away from peace... Against all odds, [this case] has brought me around the world in order to put before you, in great frankness and trusting that we see eye to eye on the desperate need to avoid adding to existing frictions, my deep concern both as Secretary-General and as a man."

Extended negotiations over 10 months were finally successful, clearly demonstrating his patience and seriousness of purpose to the world. The success in China of his "splendid and harrowing" encounter with Zhou also depended on a newly expanded sense of duty which demanded him to pass through, as Lipsey writes in his book, a "heightened challenge and awareness in which his ordinary experience of "I" yielded to another identity..."



These negotiations were far from the safety of solitude, and perhaps well illuminated by an excerpt from Hammarskjöld's private journal: "At high altitudes, a moment's self-indulgence may mean death."

There were two sides to Hammarskjöld: one was the diplomatic genius of his time, the other was the solitary journal keeper, an activity revealed only after his death. When a close friend into whose hands the

journals were entrusted decided on their publication, generations of readers entered into the intimacy of the volume entitled **Markings**, to which both the poet W. H. Auden and Jimmy Carter contributed forewords.

Although he had early rejected his family's Lutheran faith, his search for spiritual meaning continued throughout his life, and led him to read the writings of Christian mystics like Meister Eckhart and Thomas à Kempis, as well as finding additional nourishment and spiritual access in eastern traditions such as Buddhism and Taoism. Hammarskjöld's journal provides many glimpses into the actualities of his experiences, and reveal something of the intersection at which he found himself, where the spiritual conjunction with the mundane compelled him to perform many profound transitions beyond personal limitation. Much of the meaning of his life emerges from this sense of living on the threshold of experience, which can often threaten to demand everything, and yet effectively produce great achievements.

Until his death in a plane crash while en route to negotiate a ceasefire in the Congo Crisis in 1961, Hammarskjöld also made efforts to improve ties between Israel and its Arab neighbors, as well as helping diffuse the Suez Crisis. His use of UN forces in the Congo to keep the peace in the newly-independent nation against secessionist armies

earned a reproach from the Soviet Union, which demanded his removal from office. The plane crash was officially ruled an accident, but questions remain about the circumstances of his death — which has been

the focus of a special investigation that will announce new findings.

Hammarskjöld posthumously received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1961.

We are grateful for Roger Lipsey for sharing so generously from his illuminating considerations of Hammarskjöld's life and his meaning for us today.



# BOOKTALKUNA

IN-DEPTH, CONTROVERSIAL, ENGAGED REFLECTIONS

Our **BookTalkUNA** series, in partnership with the Institute of International Education, features current books and 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.

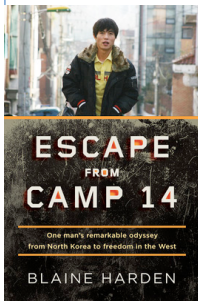
This past year has provided a full-house of fresh faces as well as award winning writers, exploring many issues.

In March, our co-presentation with The Asia Society focused 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

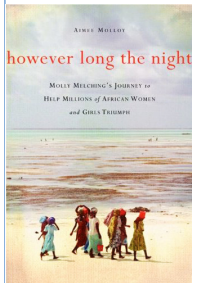
of spectacular illustrations created by award-winning graphic artist and filmmaker **Hamid Rahmanian**. Both of them were joined in conversation with **Sheila Canby**, a curator of Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



Following in April was acclaimed journalist **Blaine Harden**, who brought us a shocking story of one of the few people born in a North

Korean political prison to have escaped and survived.

In **Escape from Camp 14**, a gripping, terrifying memoir with a searing sense of place, Harden tells the story of Shin Dong-hyuk and through the lens of Shin's life unlocks the secrets of the world's most repressive totalitarian state, where Shin knew nothing of civilized existence. An unequalled inside account of one of the world's darkest nations and a riveting tale of endurance, courage, and survival.



In May, our special guest was **Molly Melching** herself, who came to discuss Aimee Molloy's book about her, **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.

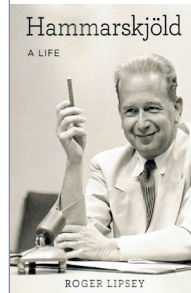


After 40 years, **HAMMARSKJÖLD: A LIFE** arrives as the definitive new biography of one of the previous century's most enlightened leaders.

To celebrate its publication and to observe the 60th anniversary of Dag Hammarskjöld's inauguration as second Secretary-General of the UN (1953-1961), we invited scholar **Roger Lipsey** to share his insights into Hammarskjöld's rich life with a sophisticated account of his ethical as well as



spiritual journey. In his thoroughly researched work Lipsey details the political challenges and personal crises he faced, while confirming without question the once-famed



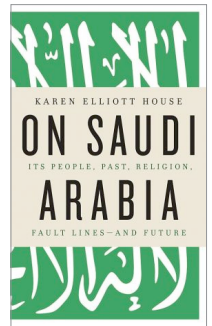
diplomat's eminent place in mid-20th century history as well as his ongoing legacy and influence.

In September, we were very happy to welcome **Karen Elliott House** to discuss her book **ON SAUDI ARABIA**. She is not only a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, but also the former president of Dow Jones International as well as publisher of The Wall Street Journal.



House spent 30 years visiting the country while covering international politics for the Journal. As the world's largest exporter of oil, Saudi Arabia is a key U.S. ally and one of the last absolute monarchies. She was determined to understand the Saudi society at large and to uncover the complex forces at work there, while gleaming an overview with perspectives on the future prospects and stability of the country.

With extraordinary access to this society, the author interviewed most of the key members of the very private royal family, many key religious leaders and dissident imams, women at universities and impoverished widows, government officials and young successful Saudis, as well as those who chose the path of terrorism. House argues that most Saudis do not want democracy but seek change nevertheless, in their demands for more transparency and a government based on law instead of royal fiat.

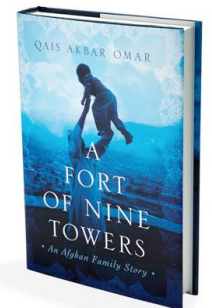


We were also privileged that month with a visit by the young Afghani writer **Qais Akbar Omar**, whose

book **A Fort of Nine Towers** was named for the place his parents first sought shelter during the war in Afghanistan.

It is the story of Qais's family and their remarkable survival. When the fighting came, this group of tenacious and deeply loving people was buffeted from one part of Afghanistan to the next, setting up camps on the plains, in the Buddha caves at Bamiyan, and later with Kuchi nomads, before they were finally able to return to Kabul, where they discovered their trials were just beginning.

One of the rare memoirs of Afghanistan to have been written by an Afghan, the book reveals the richness and suffering of life in a country whose history has become deeply entwined with our own.





# A People Uncounted

## The Untold Story of the Roma

Our recent **Screening the Issues** event honored Holocaust Remembrance Day with a presentation of the film **A PEOPLE UNCOUNTED**, which illuminated the story of the Romani people, exploring their rich culture as well as their suffering at the hands of others throughout history. Victims of varying degrees of racism on the one hand, and stilted romanticized images in popular culture on the other, the real-life intolerance and persecution of the Roma has historically been largely ignored. Commonly referred to as Gypsies, their tragic experience reached an extreme when an estimated 500,000 of the Roma were murdered during the Holocaust.

Linking their present state to the tragedies of their past, director Aaron Yeger interviewed dozens of the Roma, among them historians, activists, musicians and Holocaust survivors, in order to bring the history of this neglected people to life and inspire those seeing the film to “stop and think before they make judgments about others.”

Although the film mainly surveys their Holocaust experiences, its first third investigates details of Romani history, allowing us to see how stereotyping and social conditions made it necessary for Roma to undertake migration, panhandling, and to become public performers of

their cultural heritage. Called “gypsies” as they were thought to come from Egypt, scholars posit India as a more likely origin. Their dark skin cast them as the “noble savages” of Europe, while laws preventing them from owning property enforced their nomadic lifestyle.

Until recently, there was relatively little research on the Roma. In the past the most detailed studies were the work of Robert Ritter and Eva Justin, who identified and catalogued “gypsies” for the Nazis, as part of an integral step of their genocidal program. Indeed, the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 identified two groups, Jews and Gypsies, as “non-Aryan” subjects.

Through interviews with Holocaust survivors as well as academics, a painful and traumatic narrative emerges of what the Romani suffered, comparing all too familiarly with the Jewish experience, as the film delineates the basic steps enabling the genocide: identify, marginalize, execute. Already under long-standing discrimination, the Romani were effectively regarded as mostly expendable.

Yet their catastrophe was little recognized after the war, and no Roma were called to testify at the subsequent trials. Consistently disenfranchised, this ensured their reputation as “travelling beggars, thieves and whores” would prevail — at least until more recent times when welcome developments have sought to change their dismal trajectory.

Our guest speaker this evening was **David Marshall**, a human rights expert and lawyer in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), who recently returned from South Sudan where he conducted legal interven-

tions in local human rights cases.

“What struck me, after watching this film, is that although we have seen victims coming into a more prominent focus in the international community’s attention, we still seem to be stumbling over accountability,” he said. “But there is a growing search for truth, a historical consensus about what happened, why it happened, and who is accountable. Also, we’ve moved beyond persons and are looking at institutions, which are often responsible, whether it’s the ministry of housing, education or the security apparatus...”

Current difficulties in addressing the Roma condition have been seen at a time when right-leaning and neo-Nazi movements are growing more prominent in Europe, but there have been some important developments toward meeting the urgent needs of the Roma population, and underlining a protection of fundamental rights.

One major example, the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-15), seeks to improve the socio-economic status of the Romani minority across Europe, and represents the first multinational project in of its kind.

Additionally, in 2011 the European Commission adopted an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, up to 2020. In

of Roma life. Other encouraging signs include a Roma Holocaust center, planned to open in southern Hungary by the end of 2014.

Mr. Marshall’s invocation of accountability registers strongly with respect to the situation of the Roma, and raises demanding questions for today’s European society, where the bias against Romani integration in matters of housing, education and employment has been well-documented, and where hate crimes and negative media depictions all bespeak an ongoing pervasive racism and a continued liability to condemnation.

Yet issues of accountability may well track right alongside issues of culpability: one could readily ask how might certain attitudes in non-Roma society, which undoubtedly played into their destruction — not only during the war, but in many other instances of genocidally-inclined activity throughout history — still be operating unchecked, even today? What will it take to finally effect an ethical and social acceptance of the Romani as another part of the widely variegated global human family? If these kinds of questions do not become real in everyone’s mind, then even this represents an ongoing lack of accountability, enabling injustice to continue.



the same year the European Council also endorsed the strategy, committing member states to implement national Roma integration policies.

At the local level, pilot projects seek improved Romani access to education and health services, and financial provisions for Roma entrepreneurs, while raising awareness outside the Roma community, as they aid research and provide policy makers with views of the situation on the ground.

There is even an International Romani Film Festival, now in its fourth year, highlighting the realities

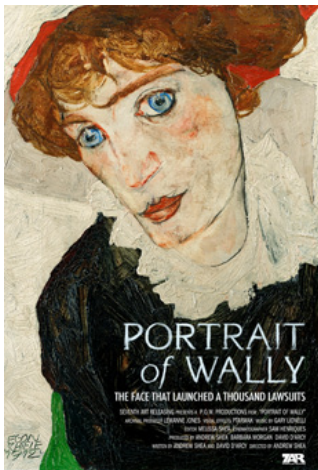
As suggested by a scholar in the film, in order to combat the negative developments which take place at the local level of our societies, and which lead to tragic circumstances of exclusion, persecution and worse, there needs to be an active vigilance on the part of conscientious individuals everywhere — to bear witness, to vocalize their dissent and to denounce these kinds of negative conditions.

In the end, accountability is nothing less than an on-going mandate which implicates all of us in our daily human life.

# 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, currently in partnership with various New York venues. Now in its fifth year, the series provides a meaningful adjunct to the work of the UN with films that educate while addressing important issues.



Our 2013 run began with a screening of **PORTRAIT OF WALLY**, co-presented with the New School, to honor Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The film traced the history of an iconic image: artist Egon Schiele's tender picture of his mistress, Walburga ("Wally") Neuzil, which for 13 years was locked up in New York, caught in a legal battle between an Austrian museum and the Jewish family from whom the Nazis seized the painting in 1939. Following the journey of its fate through episodes of

theft, post-war confusion, subterfuge, contested ownership and criminal prosecution, the film played out as a kind of thriller.

But the 13-year battle over "Wally" was more than a dispute over property stolen from Jews during the Holocaust. It was a battle over history and memory. And in time, truth won.

The case was resolved dramatically in 2010, and brought the story of Nazi art loot into the open, eventually forcing museums in Europe and the U.S. to return art to Jewish families, proving institutions could be held accountable for holding property stolen during that time.

The screening was followed by a discussion with **David D'Arcy**, the film's co-producer and UNESCO liaison officer **Clare Stark**.

In March we screened Canadian director Kim Nguyen's engrossing drama **WAR WITCH**, which centers on a 12-year-old Sub-Saharan African girl, who is abducted from her village by vicious armed rebels and forced to wage war as a child soldier.

Neither sentimental nor sensational, the film tells its story from the heart, and the simple, straightforward viewpoint of young heroine Komona, warmly played by Rachel Mwanza in her film debut. Initially met with

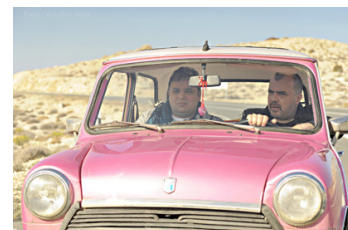


critical acclaim at its Berlin premiere, this extraordinary film went on to capture many audiences and festival prizes alike.

In June we continued our participation in the **2013 Human Rights Watch Film Festival** in New York, once again co-sponsoring the screening of choice films from a festival line-up of inspiring documentaries and dramas that challenged audiences and generated debate.



Srdjan Dragojevic's **PARADE** takes a comedic look at Serbia through the lens of one group's fight to hold a Gay Pride parade in Belgrade. The tragicomic film tells the story about the ongoing battle between two worlds in contemporary post-war Serbian society: the traditional, oppressive, homophobic majority and a liberal, modern and open-minded minority. A surprise success in the Balkans, it premiered to sold-out



cinemas across Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Croatia.

The other offering, **BORN THIS WAY**, was a story of what is possible in the global fight for equality. There are more arrests for homosexuality in Cameroon than in any other country in the world, homosexual relations are subject to punishment of up to five years in



prison, and it is almost impossible to come out to one's own family. With intimate access to the lives of four young gay Cameroonians, the film steps outside the genre of activist filmmaking and also offers a vivid and poetic portrait of day-to-day life in modern Africa.

August brought an opportunity to showcase another new film from **BYkids**, a non-profit organization pairing master filmmakers with youth from diverse cultures. This mentoring allows young people to create short films which educate audiences about their issues, and encourages international understanding and engagement by giving viewers concrete ways to respond.

In **DISPLACED BUT NOT DEFEATED**, an inspired and

inspiring young filmmaker reveals how her family and community endure displacement through maintaining their sense of hope. **María Ceballos Paz**, a 16-year-old Colombian girl living in displacement for the past nine years as a result of Colombia's civil war, is only one of approximately 4 million Colombians forced from their homes.



While living in less than ideal circumstances, she intimately brings us into her world. Through her lens and mentored by Hollywood television producer Susan Hoenig, María directed, filmed and narrated this award-winning documentary showing us her family, friends and community as they rebuild their lives.

# CAREERS AND CONVERSATIONS

MOTIVATIONAL MIXERS & TOPICAL, TIMELY TALKS

## UNCAREERS

YUKA SAKAMOTO  
UNICEF

Our **UNA Careers** events draw interested young professionals and UNA-NY members who seek to explore the ins and outs, background and basic essentials of particular employment opportunities with global organizations as The World Bank, as well as not-for-profits and international companies.

As usual, the relaxed settings for these events mix highly informative presentations, receptions with tasty samples of distinctive national cuisine, and ample time for conversation and networking.

Our November career evening was hosted by the Hungarian Mission to the UN, **Are You Thinking of Working for UNICEF?**, and featured UNICEF Human Resources Officer **Yuka Sakamoto**.

She addressed committed and creative professionals with a passion for making a lasting difference in children's lives, and who are comfortable working in challenging environments.

As a representative of the world's leading children's rights organization, Sakamoto provided insights into the way the organization works, day by day, to improve the lives of individual children around the world. Attendees also obtained a better idea of how their skills and interests might fit with the needs of the organization.

Working in the New Talent Unit at UNICEF's New York headquarters, Yuka's primary responsibilities include recruitment, training and development, outreach, donor relations and partnership development, internship and volunteer programs.

Drawing upon a background of experience with Fortune 500 compa-



nies and academic institutions, Yuka endeavors to provide the best training programs for Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) and their supervisors. She recruits the most capable young talents to help achieve UNICEF's noble mission, and works to improve donor commitments through talent development.

Just visiting the UNICEF website allows someone interested in working for the organization to learn that a day at the office can mean many things: like talking with a 14-year-old former child soldier about their

experiences, or finding funding for vital supplies for children during an emergency, or dedicating one's efforts to eradicating killer diseases. However, much

of the organization's work is all but invisible: securing funding for HIV/AIDS or immunization programs, for example, or chipping away at political inertia, or setting up structures for effective emergency response. There's also the vital task of building alliances with local communities, helping them to ensure the education, protection and wellbeing of their own children.

Yuka strives on a daily basis with the belief that her contributions will ultimately be reflected in the quality of the programs offered to the children and families that UNICEF supports.

Desiring work that was meaningful, she was inspired to work for the UN by her grandmother, a survivor of the bombing of Nagasaki.

"Working for UNICEF means that I get to work for the betterment of children and to be a part of the great mission of UNICEF," she says.

A vital part of UNA-NY's educational outreach are topical panels and lecture events, featuring guest presenters delineating important issues, such as the impact of new media communications on global affairs, as well as human rights efforts to combat forms of trafficking.

For this evening event last April, in partnership with the Japan Society in New York, **Yukiya Amano**, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, discussed nuclear energy, its applications and future prospects.

Nuclear power remains set for continued growth despite the international focus on nuclear safety following the Fukushima Daiichi accident. Nuclear applications are also expanding in areas fundamental to human well-being: health, water management and food production.

Mr. Amano discussed the IAEA's efforts to make nuclear power safer globally through the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. He also covered the IAEA approach to nuclear verification, safeguarding issues in Iran

## UNSPEAKS

YUKIYA AMANO  
IAEA

and North Korea, and the Technical Cooperation Programme, which assists developing countries.

The IAEA, an intergovernmental organization based in Vienna, is the global centre for cooperation in nuclear applications, energy, science and technology. Established in 1957, the Agency works with its Member States and partners to promote safe,

secure and peaceful nuclear technologies and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Amano served as Chair of the Agency's Board of Governors from September 2005 to September 2006. He was Japan's Resident Representative to the Agency from 2005 until his election as Director General in July 2009. He assumed

his duties as IAEA Director General in December 2009. He has extensive experience in disarmament and non-proliferation diplomacy, as well as nuclear energy issues.

