



UNATODAY

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK

WINTER 2015

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 Critical Issues Together

ABID QURESHI | PRESIDENT



In 2014, the UN was again at the forefront of a host of issues confronting the international community. With human rights and the rule of law under attack in many corners of the world, the UN was there: from a new peacekeeping operation in the Central African Republic, to supporting the international community's response to the Ebola crisis, to assisting refugees around the world, to countless other missions by the UN's many specialized agencies. An unprecedented gathering of world leaders and the business community also took place right here in New York, at UN headquarters: the UN Climate Summit. The United Nations and its agencies pursued countless other missions to help the world's most

vulnerable people in the world's most dangerous places.

UNA-NY had another fulfilling year, engaging and educating New Yorkers on many of these issues. We hosted many successful events, especially our annual gala, where we celebrated the accomplishments of H&M, UN Women, and The Loomba Foundation (see page 3).

We are proud that, once again, UNA-NY is 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 UN in its mission to better the world.

UNA-NY Summer Scholars Program in 2015 Debut

This summer, UNA-NY is excited to launch its inaugural **Summer Scholars** program, as part of its ongoing commitment to educate and engage youth in UN work.

Two fellowships will be awarded to a pair of graduate college students with unusual promise and leadership in their field of study. The program will enhance their knowledge of the international community, and provide a three-month independent work experience and travel with a UN agency or an NGO located outside the U.S., while fostering a direct knowledge and understanding of the United Nations and international organizations.

The responsibility for each fellowship intern will be undertaken by the co-sponsoring partners. In one

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK
WINTER 2015

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Cover: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with one of our 2014 Humanitarian of the Year award recipients, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Remembering Richard Diesing and Sylvan Barnett

This past December a former president of UNA-NY, **Richard Diesing**, passed away after a long illness. Under Richard's leadership, UNA-NY's first advocacy program was created.

Born 1925 in Springfield, IL., Richard was the Director of Hudson Neighborhood Conservation Corp and a Social Worker at Volunteers Of America for many years. In 1946 he worked for Church World Services delivering livestock to Poland and Germany as part of war relief. He eventually became an original volunteer to the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration that was created in the wake of WWII. It was here that he biked around Europe to observe the destruction for himself.

A natural adventurer, Richard hitchhiked across the United States

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Well-prepared for a Transitional Year

ANN NICOL | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This year was the target for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the UNA, along with the rest of the United Nations organization, now enters a new transition to focus on global sustainable development.

2014 saw a significant increase in our membership and we continue to be the largest UNA chapter in the United States. This is particularly gratifying, since our position as host chapter of the United Nations Association gives us access to many diplomatic missions and consultates, so we are often the channel through which missions interface directly with the American public.

Our range of varied programs continues to be very popular and well attended. One program of note

was an evening career initiative centered on providing information on jobs in the global health sector, which attracted a wide audience of interested young professionals.

Our Worldview Institute seminars entered its eighth year with a strong faculty and a continued interest from young international managers and academics.

We hope this year to broaden our outreach further with new international programs such as our UNA-NY Summer Scholars Program.

We trust that we can count on your continued support and attendance at our many events, and various programs and activities. We look forward very much to seeing and hosting you in 2015.

THE WORLDVIEW INSTITUTE 2015

Entering its eighth year, **The Worldview Institute** continues to provide a successful forum in which professionals can engage in discussions covering global issues, with experts in foreign policy and international affairs.

Some of our recent topics have included: the UN and public diplomacy, the international moral dimensions of the Syrian crisis, 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.

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 brightest professionals between 25 and 40, although older and more seasoned professionals

are warmly welcomed.

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

Seminar topics are designed to stimulate informal but academic discussions with practitioners in the international arena and to illuminate and explore business,

political, economic and social trends in different regions of the world.

Our current **Worldview Institute 2015 Winter** season is just beginning, and runs from February 11 to April 15. The discussions will include among other things: the UN Post-2015, the economic outlooks of Russia and China, the future of the World Food Programme, and

the new government of India. (See below for a complete list of 2015 Winter topics scheduled.)

In general, these are often practical seminars on multi-cultural considerations necessary for success in doing business in various regions of the world. Where appropriate, the program also addresses the role of the United Nations within these contexts. Our discussions are led by distinguished lecturers including UN ambassadors, noted academics and leaders in global business.

Each semester includes dinners with wine per seminar, as well as a three-course graduation dinner at the prestigious National Arts Club, featuring a cocktail reception and specially-invited keynote speaker. Seminar dinners are usually catered by the different national missions to the United Nations and provide informal opportunities to chat with the presenters.



Worldview 2015 at a Glance

SEMINAR 1 : February 11 **UN Post-2015: Opportunities for Transformation**

The opening seminar will highlight the opportunities for the next UN development agenda, with a focus on ending poverty, protecting the planet and transforming all lives.

■ **Faculty:** Amina J. Mohammed, UN Special Adviser, Post-2015 Development Planning

SEMINAR 2 : February 18 **Bear Trap: How Sanctions and Cheap Oil Will Crush Russia's Economy**

Falling oil prices threaten to send Russia's economy into a deep recession, which will test Putin's grip

on power and send reverberations through the global economy.

■ **Faculty:** Matthew Philips, Associate Editor, Bloomberg Businessweek

SEMINAR 3 : February 25 **The 70th UN Year: Embracing New Challenges**

At the 70th anniversary UN General Assembly session, heads of state and government will draw up a new road map to succeed the current MDGs. How will 193 member countries implement it?

■ **Faculty:** H. E. Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN, Seventieth President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

SEMINAR 4 : March 4 **Global Citizenship Without World Government**

The ideal of world citizenship might imply global government. However, the tradition of cosmopolitanism suggests a different picture, with respect for different communities to choose distinct ways of life.

■ **Faculty:** Kwame Anthony Appiah, Professor, Philosophy and Law, NYU

SEMINAR 5 : March 11 **Chaos in Syria: A Political-Diplomatic Way Forward**

An in-depth look at the prospects for a sustainable diplomatic and political transition in Syria.

■ **Faculty:** Ambassador Frederic Hof, Resident Senior Fellow, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Atlantic Council



SEMINAR 6 : March 18 **The Soviet Collapse and Its Consequences**

25 years after the Soviet collapse, and U.S. emergence as sole super power, Putin blames the west for its expansion. Today's geopolitical problems trace back to geopolitical shifts of 1989-1991.

■ **Faculty:** Diana Negroponete, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Latin America Initiative, Brookings Institution

SEMINAR 7 : March 25 **The Zero Hunger Challenge**

Despite great progress, the new Post-2015 development agenda brings further opportunity for the global community to work together to eradicate hunger in our lifetime.

■ **Faculty:** Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, World Food Programme

SEMINAR 8 : April 1 **A Visit to the United Nations**

A private tour of the UN, followed by restaurant dinner.

SEMINAR 9 : April 8 **The Twilight of Hyper-Growth in China**

Extraordinary economic growth in China has also had negative consequences, especially for social equity and environment. With signs of growth ending, we will examine its significance for China.

■ **Faculty:** Charles Riskin, Senior Research Scholar, Adjunct Professor of Economics, Columbia; Distinguished Professor of Economics, CUNY

SEMINAR 10 : April 15 **India: The New Government**

■ **Faculty:** Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

DINNER : April 17 **Worldview 2015 Winter Graduation Dinner**

Keynote Speaker: TBA

UN DAY 2014

The Humanitarian Awards Gala Dinner Celebrates the 69th Anniversary of the UN

On October 29th, the United Nations Association of New York presented attending honorees its annual **Humanitarian of the Year Awards**, during the celebratory gala dinner commemorating the 69th Anniversary of the United Nations.

Receiving the award this year was **Stefan Persson**, Chairman of **H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB**, and **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. In addition, a Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Lord Raj Loomba**, CBE and **The Loomba Foundation**.

This year's UN Day theme was **Empowering Women, Promoting Peace and Progress**, and the honorees selected were individuals and organizations which have shown extraordinary commitment to social entrepreneurship, gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the world.

"Each year the board and selection committee of UNA-NY considers individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to social entrepreneurship, gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the world. Honorees have accomplished important strides in achieving the Millennium Development Goals," said **Abid Qureshi**, president of the United Nations Association of New York (UNA-NY).

Championing gender equality has been H&M's mission since its founding in Sweden in 1947. H&M today employs more than 116,000 people, of whom 77 percent are women. H&M also helps to create more than a million jobs for women in the textile industry in Asia, where H&M's sustainability work is dedi-



cated to long-term development.

In addition, the non-profit **H&M Conscious Foundation**, supported by the Persson family, works with the humanitarian organization CARE in some of the world's poorest communities in addition to supporting the work of UNICEF and WaterAid.

"We are very grateful and honored that the United Nations Association of New York has chosen to recognize the work of H&M in empowering women," said H&M chairman **Stefan Persson**. "By investing in the economic empowerment of women we can help transform the lives of individuals and families, we can fight poverty and bring positive development for entire communities. This work will not only help women here and now but aims for lasting and positive change."

Representing UN Women was **Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, honored for being a strong champion for women and girls, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels. With the creation of UN Women in 2010, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

UN Women strives to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, to empower women and achieve equality between women

and men as partners for change and beneficiaries of development and human rights. Twenty years after the landmark Beijing Platform for Action that continues to define the gender equality agenda, UN Women has undertaken a major public campaign to accelerate its implementation to benefit women and girls.

"As we look around the world, we see conflict and destruction, at the same time as progress and change," said Mlambo-Ngcuka. "Women and girls bear the brunt of war, but they are also champions for peace. Empowered women are the best drivers of economic growth, best hope for reconciliation, and best buffer against radicalization and repetition of cycles of violence."

Lord Raj Loomba, CBE, and founder of **The Loomba Foundation**, received a Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing his pioneering work raising awareness for the plight of poor widows and educating their children. There are an estimated 245 million widows around the world and 500 million children.

Lord Loomba was behind the global initiative to name June 23rd **International Widows Day**, the date on which his own mother became a widow at 37. The UN adopted the IWD Resolution on December 22, 2010 at the 65th UN

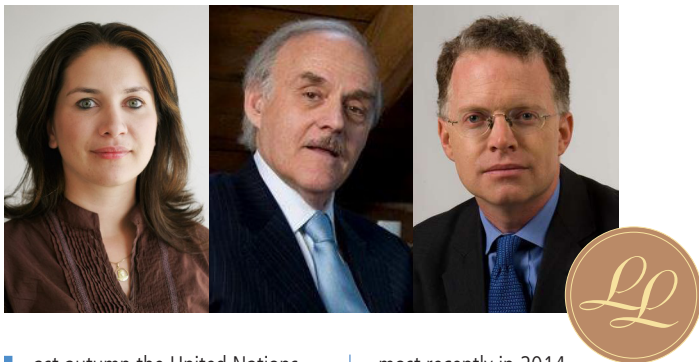
General Assembly.

"One area we have been involved since the inception of the Loomba Foundation is the education of children belonging to widows," said Lord Loomba. "I know from personal experience how important this is and also, when a woman becomes a widow in India, there is usually no money for living purposes let alone educating their children. As a result children are quite often forced to work either in the streets or in factories. Sending children to school is a cost widows can't afford."

At the heart of the work of **The Loomba Foundation** is empowering widows and educating their children. The Loomba Foundation does this by making widows self-sufficient through skill building, training, provision of business start-up capital and other programs for economic empowerment. This also has an important impact on widows' psychological well-being, allowing them to become self-confident and to develop self-worth. The Foundation also seeks to change attitudes towards widows and expand human rights through legal reforms. It has conducted programs in many countries including India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Syria, Rwanda, Malawi, South Africa and Guatemala.

LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

ENGAGED & RIVETING DISCUSSIONS IN A FORMAL SETTING



Last autumn the United Nations Association of New York inaugurated a new series of events, co-partnered with the Columbia University Club, **The Leadership Luncheon**. These events are formal seated luncheons where invited guests speak about special topics in a relaxed panel format.

The debut offering took place on December 8, covering the topic of **Reporting in the Age of Kidnapping**. In an age where reporting from conflict areas has fundamentally changed, and in which journalists and aid workers have become vulnerable targets, many questions arise not only as to what can be done but what measures are necessary for obtaining news in the future.

Covering some of these questions and others, our distinguished guests included New York Times foreign correspondent Rukmini Callimachi, in conversation with Philip S. Balboni, the president and CEO of GlobalPost, as well as investigative reporter and Pulitzer Prize winner David Rohde.

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI joined the New York Times in March 2014 as a foreign correspondent, covering al-Qaeda and Islamic extremism. She is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist,

most recently in 2014 for her series of stories based on a cache of internal al-Qaeda documents she discovered in Mali. She is also the winner of multiple Overseas Press Club Awards and the Michael Kelly prize. Before joining the Times, she spent 7 years covering a 20-country beat in Africa, first as a correspondent and later as West Africa bureau chief for The Associated Press. She began her career as a freelancer in India in 2001, where she was lucky enough to get one of the last seats on a plane to the state of Gujarat on the day of a catastrophic earthquake, filing her first story for Time magazine.

PHILIP BALBONI is the President and Chief Executive Officer of **GlobalPost**. He is the Founder and for the past 16 years was the President of New England Cable News (NECN), the nation's largest and most honored regional news network, reaching more than 3.6

million homes in the six-state region.

Mr. Balboni has long been an innovator in quality television programming. He is a pioneer in the development of 24-hour local cable news, and has built one of the most distinguished and successful records in journalism in the United States, serving as chairman, president or board member of numerous national organizations.

On November 2008, having been invited to interview a Taliban commander, **DAVID ROHDE**, his interpreter, and their driver, were abducted outside Kabul while Mr. Rohde was researching a book about the history of U.S. involvement in the country.

The winner of two Pulitzer Prizes in journalism, Rohde is an investigative reporter for Reuters and a contributing editor to The Atlantic. From September 2011 to January 2014, he worked as a foreign affairs columnist for Reuters. From 1996 to 2011, he worked as a reporter for The New York Times. He is the co-author of **A Rope and a Prayer: A Kidnapping from Two Sides**, written with his wife Kristen Mulvihill, and author of **Endgame: The Betrayal and Fall of Srebrenica**.

David won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1996 for a series of stories in The Christian Science Monitor that helped uncover the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia. He won his second

LOOKING FORWARD...

On Now

February 11 - April 15
The Worldview Institute
Winter 2015 Semester

Coming Up

April 22
UNA-NY Members-Only Evening
at the Consulate: IRELAND

May 13
THE AMBASSADOR SERIES
SPRING 2015 PANEL

May 21
SCREENING THE ISSUES
presents a byKids film:
POET AGAINST PREJUDICE

June 8
LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON
with Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl
WuDunn, discussing their book
"A Path Appears"

Summer 2015
UNA-NY SUMMER SCHOLARS

October 22
UN DAY HUMANITARIAN
AWARDS DINNER 2015

in 2009 as part of a team of New York Times reporters for their coverage of Afghanistan and Pakistan. His weekly Reuters column, The Global Middle, focuses on foreign affairs and the global middle class.



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. Our NY members always enjoy these presentations, which cover many interesting topics and aspects of political life as well as diplomacy.

In recent years, Iran and the U.S. have been moving toward resolving differences over Iran's nuclear program. Last April's presentation by our distinguished guest **Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering** addressed both obstacles and possibilities of success in their efforts.



Ambassador Pickering is Vice Chairman at Hills and Company, providing counsel to international U.S. enterprises, and formerly Senior Vice President of International Relations and a member of the Executive Council of The Boeing Company, which he joined in 2001.

Holding the rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the U.S. Foreign Service, Ambassador Pickering's diplomatic career spans five decades. He has served as U.S. ambassador to

the Russian Federation, India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He has also served assignments in Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

From 1997 to 2001, Ambassador Pickering served as U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. From 1989 to 1992, he was Ambassador and Representative to the United Nations in New York. He also served as Executive Secretary of the Department of State and Special Assistant to Secretaries William P. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger.

The ambassador entered active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1956-1959, and served in the Naval Reserve as Lieutenant Commander.

Between 1959 and 1961, he was assigned to the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the State Department and later to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and from 1962 to 1964 in Geneva as political adviser to the U.S. Delegation to the 18-Nation Disarmament Conference. In 2012, Ambassador Pickering chaired the Benghazi Accountability Review Board at the request of Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton, which made recommendations on

improving security stemming from the attack on the US Mission at Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012, and the loss of the lives of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

The ambassador received a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Bowdoin College and a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Melbourne in 1956, receiving a second M.A. In 1984, he was awarded an honorary doctor-in-laws degree from Bowdoin College, and has received similar honors from 12 other universities.

In 1983 and 1986, Pickering won the Distinguished Presidential Award and, in 1996, the Department of State's highest award: the Distinguished Service Award. He is a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies and the Council on Foreign Relations. He speaks French, Spanish and Swahili and has some fluency in Arabic, Hebrew and Russian.

In our October event we looked at the current situation in Honduras with **Ambassador Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake**, who has been a leading political figure there. Her father Carlos Roberto Flores was President of Honduras (1998-2002).

In 2014, the ambassador was re-appointed by the new government of President Juan Orlando Hernandez to represent Honduras as UN Ambassador. She was previously the first female Ambassador representing the Government of Unity and Reconciliation in 2010.

In 2011, Flores Flake became a Member of the Executive Board of International Association of



Permanent Representatives. She was endorsed by the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and was elected Vice-president of the United Nations General Assembly's 67th Session in the 2012.

A leading political figure, Ms. Flores Flake was elected to public office with the highest percentage of votes in the country. She also became the youngest and the first woman to hold the position of the First Vice-President of the National Congress of the Republic of Honduras (2006-2010).

Ms. Flores Flake is a collaborator with the World Bank in The Norwegian Trust Fund for Private Sector Infrastructure (NTFPSI) Grant, for Central America Infrastructure and Small Scale Private Sector Development for Coastal Cities of Honduras and Nicaragua. She also participated in the "Fifth Language Congress," sponsored by Spain's Royal Language Academy, publishing a paper on Intercultural Bilingual Education assisting development of indigenous groups in Latin America.

In 2007 she was chosen by the World Economic Forum to be part of the Young Global Leaders initiative and attended the summit in China.

Ambassador Flores Flake graduated with a Bachelor in Mass Communication in 1997 from the University of Loyola in New Orleans. She also received a Law degree from the National Autonomous University of Honduras in 2009.



BookTalkUNA series 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.

Our spring BookTalkUNA event, which followed our annual meeting, featured scholar, statesman and diplomat **Dr. Marwan Muasher**, who was invited to present his latest work, **The Second Arab Awakening and The Battle for Pluralism**.

Dr. Muasher's new book is founded on his long experience as a diplomat and a deep understanding of Arab history. Many in the West were profoundly disappointed that the "Arab Spring" did not yield the results of their expectations. His important book is not about immediate events, policies or responses to the Arab Spring, but instead takes a long, judicious view of political change in the Arab world, beginning



with the first awakening in the nineteenth century and extending into future decades when, if the dream is realized, a new Arab world defined by pluralism and tolerance will emerge.

A former foreign minister of Jordan, Muasher asserts that all sides—the United States, Europe, Israel, and Arab governments alike—were deeply misguided in

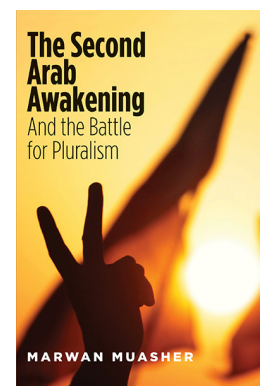
their thinking about Arab politics and society when the turmoil of the Arab Spring erupted. He explains the causes of the unrest, tracing them back to the first awakening, and warns of the forces today that threaten the success of the Second Arab Awakening, ignited in December 2010.

Hope rests with the new generation and its commitment to toler-

ance, diversity, the peaceful rotation of power, and inclusive economic growth, Muasher maintains. He calls on the West to rethink political Islam and the Arab-Israeli conflict, and he discusses steps all parties can take to encourage positive state-building in the freshly unsettled Arab world.

His work is both practical guide and wakeup call, urging all people who care about democracy toward more informed positions and effective actions on behalf of pluralism.

We appreciated this evening's presentation by Dr. Muasher, whose previous book, **The Arab Center**, was asserted by President Bill Clinton as "a must read to understand how to address the challenges facing the Middle East today."



UNANYMONTHLYPROGRAMS

Our **Monthly Programs** are the main interface with our members and the public, featuring expert speakers from various backgrounds, panels that focus on subjects relevant to the UN... along with some fun stuff too!

Some of the highlights of this year included a February visit from lawyer and professor **David Crane** who



examined the role and significance of the media in the exposé of atrocity crimes. With his background in international criminal law, he also discussed the Syrian Accountability Project, which he chairs at Syracuse University.

In March the educator and civil society activist **Amowi Phillips** delineated the role of her **Playtime in Africa** Initiative, a project which is pioneering the design of child-centered spaces in Ghana's capital city Accra, through local and global collaboration. She works as an advocate for women and children, developing creative content for children through the cultural non-profit Mmofra Foundation.



In a July visit, **Leslie Gelb**, from the Council on Foreign Relations, outlined American interests and capabilities vis-a-vis solutions for Africa, Syria and the Middle East.



In our **UNA-NY Members Only** schedule, there were two enjoyable consular visits. The September evening at the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China, with **Ambassador Sun Guoxiang**, was replete with scintillating musical entertainment and an amazing and sumptuous banquet of delicious Chinese-style offerings to rival some of the best Chinese restaurants in New York. Our members also found much to enjoy at our other special consulate evening in mid-December,



when we visited with the Austrian Consul General, **Georg Heindl**.

Last but not least, our **Third Annual UNA-NY Summer Soirée** took place in August in a reprise at the Hudson Terrace, where hundreds of energetic, globally-minded New Yorkers came together in a hip, relaxed setting for lots of networking and fun.



Summer Scholars 2015 Fellowships Begin in Lesotho and Paraguay

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case, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will oversee the Lesotho fellowship, involving Social and Behavioral Change Communication, which is part of its adolescents and youth program. The second student fellowship will take place in Paraguay, overseen by Plan International.

Applicants must be enrolled in a university as full-time graduate students, and submitting a proof of enrollment will be required. They will also submit a CV or resumé, along with a statement of purpose letter, and three letters of recommendation.

The Summer Scholars fellowship provides a stipend to cover all travel and living expenses. The award recipients are expected to participate in a UNA-NY program related to their fellowship experience, during the fall of 2015. The recipients are also expected to keep a blog of their twelve-week summer experience and, at the end of their involvement, submit a letter documenting the results of the research project.



Costs associated with participation in the program will be assumed by the United Nations Association of New York, which will provide the required financial assistance to the student for the duration of the internship. The grant will cover round-trip airfare to and from the selected country, as well as housing and food, and will be issued upon confirmation of the awardee's study dates.

The award recipients are responsible for ensuring that all passports and necessary visas are in order, as well as providing necessary immunization and vaccination certificates. Proof of medical and evacuation insurance must also be submitted prior to departure.

Remembering Diesing and Barnett

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



several times and once on a merchant marine ship travelling to Japan in 1947. These experiences led him to become an advocate for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, for Planned Parenthood, as well as for various United Nations organizations.

He was an active member of the United Nations Association of New York and the Southern New York Division for many years. He served as President of the New York UNA Chapter from 1994 through 1996 until he was slowed by illness. One of his signature achievements was to launch an advocacy program which led one of the first chapter visits to Capital Hill after the 1994 congressional elections.

A Bach and classical music devotee, Richard also devoted his life to others.

He is survived by his sister Lois R. Diesing of Arlington, MA and Terrence McCafferty, his longtime friend and loyal caregiver.



Sylvan S. Barnett died on January 7 after complications from cancer surgery according

to his family. He was 95. Barnett, of Rotary International and member of our Advisory Council, received a Distinguished Service Award at our annual meeting in 2007.

Known to the chapter as "Barney," he was honored for his tireless personal service and deep appreciation of international ideals. He was former president of UNA-NY and chair of our Advisory Council. We were indebted to him for his advice and counsel over the years and dedication to the New York chapter.

His career spanned 70 years in international communications in the fields of publishing, public relations, and government and as a long serving representative of Rotary International to the United Nations. He received many honors for his varied efforts, and in 2006 the UNA gave him its Eleanor Schnurr award for his tireless service to the UN NGO community. Rotary also bestowed a special lifetime-of-outstanding service honor.

He graduated both Yale University and the U.S. Naval War College.

Advocacy Chair Joan Levy Awarded Recognition at UNA-NY Annual Meeting



Foremost on our agenda at our **UNA-NY Annual Meeting** last spring, was the warm recognition given to our long-standing Advocacy Chair **Joan Levy**. Bestowing the Distinguished Service Award allowed the board members to honor Joan for all of her sincere efforts over the years. Thank you so much, Joan!

UNA Advocacy 2015



JOAN LEVY
ADVOCACY CHAIR

2015 promises to be a challenging year for Advocacy

Leaders and the entire UNA/USA Membership. While there is a split government in place and great differences in philosophy among the various factions in Congress, President Obama has sent his 2016 budget requests to Congress, one that continues to be very favorable to the United Nations.

Looming large in funds are those allocated to peace and security, global health and related issues. The United States is dedicated to cooperating at the UN with other countries to strive for international peace. Along with the United Nations, the United States is committed to supporting goals around sustainable development, which themselves advance the UN Millennium Development Goals, a set of

objectives that will be undergoing a renewal process this year. Homeland Security funding is already a topic for debate in Congress.

The role of UNA advocacy is—and continues to be—constant and ongoing, and is best served by lobbying individual members of Congress, use of the media for favorable publicity, educating neighbors and friends about the humanitarian work of the UN, and demonstrating best practices of Chapters and Divisions across the country.

The national staff, based in Washington DC, has a monthly conference call with UNA Advocacy Leaders and other interested parties. These calls have proved to be extremely valuable as they enable participants to exchange ideas and deeds from all parts of the country.

Keep tuned in to UNA advocacy progress as the year continues. We do need your active support!

SCREENING THE ISSUES

PROVOCATIVE, INSPIRING, FULL-HOUSE CINEMA

Ever popular, our 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 sixth year, the series provides a meaningful adjunct to the work of the UN with films that educate while addressing important issues.



Our 2014 screenings began with our annual presentation honoring UN Holocaust Remembrance Day. **A PEOPLE UNCOUNTED** told the true story of the Roma, whose historical experiences have left them struggling to overcome their past, even as they face a frightening resurgence of racism and persecution in present-day Europe.

Interviewing dozens of Roma — including Holocaust survivors, artists, historians, musicians, and intellectuals — the film documents the culturally rich but often difficult lives of the Roma people throughout Europe. It takes us back through history to the little-known story of the

Roma genocide at the hands of Nazis during World War II. The history of the Roma comes to life through their poetry and music, along with compelling first-hand accounts from survivors of concentration camps.

“For a complete understanding of the Holocaust, we must teach their story,” said the film’s director **Aaron Yeger**. “There is rarely any understanding of how they came to be in their present situation and with any genuine sympathy.”

Our guest speaker was human rights expert and lawyer **David Marshall**, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Our Spring offering was **SEEDS OF TIME**, a powerful and cinematic portrayal of one man’s mission to warn the world of the potentially dire consequences of our dwindling agricultural diversity.

The film follows crop diversity pioneer Cary Fowler as he travels the world, educating the public about the dire consequences of our inaction. Along with his team at The Global Crop Diversity Trust in Rome, Cary struggles to re-invent a global food system so that it can, in his words, last forever. He aims to safeguard the last place in which much of crop diversity is left intact: the world’s vulnerable gene banks.

From Rome to Russia and, finally, a remote island under the Arctic Circle, we bear witness to Fowler’s



passionate and personal journey, which may yet hold the key to saving the one resource we cannot live without: our seeds.

A new premiere from **BYkids**, a non-profit organization pairing master filmmakers with youth from

diverse cultures, took place in June. Their mentoring program allows young people to create short films which educate audiences about their personal lives and issues.



Alcido Soares is one of the 500,000 Mozambican kids who lost both parents to AIDS. Two film luminar-

ies helped this 16 year old make a short film about his life as an AIDS orphan in Maputo, Mozambique. **HOME IS WHERE YOU FIND IT**, Alcido’s documentary about finding family, is both intimate and inspiring. The two renowned filmmakers, Chris Zalla (2007 Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner) and Neal Baer (Executive Producer of Law & Order: SVU), went to Maputo, Mozambique in August 2007, to help a child who had lost both parents to AIDS make a film about his life. With Chris and Neal, the boy learned the art of filmmaking and was able to tell his story as a boy living alone in the world. Alcido’s life reflects that of an entire generation of Mozambican children: over 500,000 of them have lost their parents to AIDS.

The film displays the courage of a boy whose faith and ingenuity have enabled him to pull together a home and a sense of family, while raising awareness of some of the challenges and responses of AIDS orphans in Mozambique. Ultimately, **HOME IS WHERE YOU FIND IT** shows how storytelling through film can deepen our understanding of important global issues.

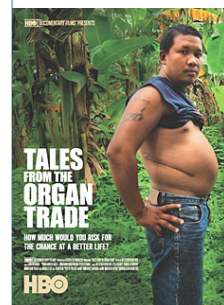
With stunning impact and terrific performances, our

August film **HORSES OF GOD** examined the recent history of Morocco and its position within the Islamic world, while revealing the all-too-human dimension of the many indoctrinated individuals who are often media-portrayed as monsters.



10-year-old Yachine and his 13-year-old brother Hamid live in Sidi Moumen, an impoverished slum on the outskirts of Casablanca. Though just a child, Hamid works hard to sustain his family by any means. Eventually falling in with the “wrong crowd” and becoming one of the local neighborhood bosses, he fiercely protects Yachine. One day he is thrown into prison, and after years in jail, Hamid returns home a changed man: he is now an Islamic fundamentalist, and persuades Yachine and his pals to join him. They will eventually commit the deadliest act of terrorism in Morocco’s history.

Following the screening, a Q+A featured special guest **Alexander Evans**, coordinator of a UN Security Council expert team, appointed by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.



December saw a special UN Human Rights Day film-panel event: **21st Century Organized Crime:**

Organ Trafficking and Human Rights, which featured a screening of the multi-award winning, Emmy-nominated film **TALES FROM THE ORGAN TRADE**. This HBO documentary examines the participants of the over \$500-million-a-year black market trade in organ transplants in dozens of countries.

Our guest panel featured executive director of Global Bioethics Initiative, **Ana Lita**, as well as two university medical professionals expert in transplants, **Bruce Elliot Gelb** (NYU) and **Lloyd E. Ratner** (Columbia).

CAREERS AND CONVERSATIONS

MOTIVATIONAL MIXERS & TOPICAL, TIMELY TALKS

Our **UNA Careers** events draw many interested young professionals and as well as an assortment of 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.

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



Our special careers panel in May, hosted by the Hungarian Mission to the UN, **Careers in the Global Health Field**, featured outreach from several representatives and professionals.

On hand to share their knowledge and offer helpful advice were four public and global health professionals: **Fatima Khan**, an External Relations Officer from the WHO Office at the United Nations; **Jennifer Gottesfeld** and **Tali Shmulovich**, both Representatives from the Global Health Corps; and **Tej Nuthulaganti**, Director of

UNCAREERS

SPECIAL UNANY PANEL:
CAREERS IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH FIELD

Human Resources for Health at the Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc.

Public health professionals are agents for health promotion and disease prevention. Using research and education, public health professionals aim to protect the health of individuals, families, and communities in the United States and abroad. A career in public health opens the door to opportunities in several sectors such as international agencies, research and academic institutions, private and non-governmental organizations (NGO's), disaster relief organizations, in-country field consultants, immigrant/refugee

health organizations, governmental agencies (USAID, in-country ministry of health) and multilateral agencies such as the World Health Organization at the United Nations. Public health professionals are in high demand, with career paths filled with opportunities to advance.

International/global health is an area addressing the health of people living in developing countries. Developing countries are facing a dual burden of disease and must address not only infectious and tropical diseases, but also chronic and non-communicable illnesses. Global health professionals may ad-

dress mental illness and the health consequences of trauma, violence, war, and displacement. Maternal and child health is another top priority because so much of the morbidity and mortality in the developing world is due to a lack of access to good obstetric care and treatments for childhood illness.

Key to global health are organization, financing, and management of health service systems. Global health experts help developing countries to establish an effective and efficient health care system and infrastructure.

Through placing a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide, careers in the global health sectors are endless and rewarding, as demonstrated at this panel by our guests and their valuable insights.

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

For this evening event last March, organized by Japan Society in New York, **Japan's New National Security Strategy**, the invited guests were **Masashi Nishihara**, President of the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS) in Tokyo, and **George Packard**, President of the United States-Japan Foundation.



UNSPEAKS

MASASHI NISHIHARA & GEORGE PACKARD
JAPAN'S NEW NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

The 21st century has seen significant changes in the global balance of power alongside the emergence of serious regional threats, such as North Korea's nuclear arsenal, and transnational threats such as cyber-terrorism. In response to these potential threats, in December 2013 Japan established a new National Security Council and adopted its first national security strategy, central-

izing its existing security apparatus under the new policy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace." While it is uncertain how this new system will operate, it has already changed the landscape of security in East Asia.

In his presentation, Dr. Nishihara discussed the implications of these policy changes on regional security and the Japan-U.S. alliance. He covered issues concerning potential threats Japan faces today, such as an insecure North Korea, long sea lines of communications, as well as China's fast military expansion, which relates to disputes over Japanese island chain boundaries and the overlapping of Air Defense Identification Zones.

The strategies which Japan is using to confront these and other challenges while managing tensions, were amply discussed in the exchange between Dr. Nishihara and Mr. Packard, and in the Q+A coda.

