



UNATODAY

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK

SPRING 2016

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.

A Fresh Commitment for Meeting the New UN Goals

ABID QURESHI | PRESIDENT



In 2015, the United Nations adopted a bold, new global agenda to end poverty by 2030.

This new Sustainable Development Agenda was unanimously supported by all 193 Member States of the United Nations at a summit at UN Headquarters here in New York, attended by more than 150 world leaders. At the core of this new agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals that recognize the immense challenges the world is facing, ranging from climate change to widespread poverty and increasing inequality. As Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated at the summit:

“The true test of commitment to Agenda 2030 will be implementation. We need action from everyone, everywhere. Seventeen Sustainable

Development Goals are our guide. They are a to-do list for people and planet, and a blueprint for success.”

The United Nations Association of New York is once again doing its part to engage and educate New Yorkers about this new agenda, as well as many of the other global issues that the UN and its agencies confront. At our recent annual gala, we once again celebrated the worthy accomplishments of honorees who help realize UN goals. Throughout the year, we hosted a multitude of terrific events, including BookTalk guest Janine di Giovanni with her Syrian report “The Morning they Came for Us,” an Ambassador Series special with the Cuban ambassador to the UN, a luncheon with Nobel Prize winner Professor Joseph Stiglitz, and the screening of

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UNA-NY Summer Scholars Program: The First Edition

Stephanie Mikkelson and **Tyler Bird** were the winners of our inaugural **Summer Scholar** fellowships for intern work abroad.

The Summer Scholars Fellowship is a pilot program established by UNA-NY to enable two students in graduate degree programs to experience work abroad with the United Nations or its agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations. The program’s mission is to foster direct knowledge and understanding of the United Nations and international organizations.

The two fellowships awarded were situated in Lesotho and Paraguay, as part of UNA-NY collaborations with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Plan International respectively.

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Cover: Photo taken by Tyler Bird in Paraguay during his internship with Plan International, one of UNA-NY’s 2015 Summer Scholars fellowships.

UNA-NY’s Inaugural Winter Soirée is a Smashing Success

This February, the United Nations Association of New York was delighted to offer its inaugural winter soirée, entitled **A Winter Masquerade**. Conceived in the same spirit as our popular summer soirée, it added mystery and an elegant atmosphere which warmed up this February 25th winter evening in grand style.

The night of fun, music, drinks and food was hosted at the National Arts Club in Gramercy Park, which normally opens its doors to its members only. However, on this occasion, fortunate UNA-NY members, their friends and guests had the privilege of setting up a rare rendezvous for themselves, relaxing and networking while enjoying an exclusive view of one of the most

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Navigating a Busy and Successful Year

ANN NICOL | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



New events and innovative programs recently marked our chapter’s calendar.

We sent two students abroad to Paraguay and Lesotho in our new Summer Scholars program, which will soon include three interns. We also began a series of events focused on women candidates for the upcoming Secretary-General elections. We were honored to host Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO and Natalia Gherman, former Foreign Minister and former Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova.

In another pair of “firsts,” we were pleased to host the Cuban ambassador to the UN, Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez, who spoke to us about a new chapter in U.S.-Cuban relations; and launched our Winter Masquerade party where over 150 young professionals danced the night away at the National Arts

Club. More recently, members were privileged to attend a very special reception at the residence of the Consul General of Switzerland and learned about the country as well as its position at the UN.

Otherwise, stars were bright: our gala dinner last year recognized UNICEF’s Anthony Lake, and Marco Bizzarri, CEO of Gucci. As the Secretary General’s term ends this year, a special award was given to Madame Ban who, with her husband, have been staunch supporters of our chapter during their active UN lives.

Last but not least, the World-view Institute seminars continued to pull enthusiastic young NY area professionals with a fresh faculty.

Our chapter’s growth has been sustained for the past five years and with your support, participation and attendance at our events we hope to make the coming year as exciting, active and engaging as we can.

UNAWORLDVIEW

WINTER 2016



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.

Our recent **Worldview 2016 Winter** semester ran from February 17 to April 20. Some of the topics under discussion were: multi-faceted problems and challenges to governance in the 21st century, reviving pluralism in the Middle Eastern holy lands, womens rights in Saudi Arabia, the China-Africa engagement, the new horizon for Canadian foreign policy, and a survey of the recent Paris climate summit and its outcomes.

Closing out our season, the graduation dinner engagement at the National Arts Club featured Jean Krasno as our keynote speaker, who addressed the prospects for a woman to be seriously considered for Secretary-General in the upcoming UN elections.

Worldview 2016 at a Glance

SEMINAR 1 : February 17

A 21st Century Governance Revolution

■ Dr. Robert C. Orr, UN Under Secretary-General; special advisor on climate change

SEMINAR 2 : February 24

The Russian Engagement in Ukraine and Syria

■ Nina Khrushcheva, Professor, Graduate Program of International Affairs, The New School

SEMINAR 3 : March 2

What's Next for Canada

■ Ambassador Michael Grant, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

SEMINAR 4 : March 9

Outcomes and Results of the UN Climate Summit

■ Selwin Hart, Director, UN Secretary General's Climate Change Support Team

SEMINAR 5 : March 16

A Visit to the United Nations

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

SEMINAR 6 : March 23

Is the EU Going Through an Identity Crisis?

■ Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the EU to the UN

SEMINAR 7 : March 30

First Time Rights for Women in Saudi Arabia

■ Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Saudi Arabia to the UN

SEMINAR 8 : April 6

Continents in Motion: The China-Africa Encounter

■ Howard W. French, Associate Professor of journalism, Columbia University

SEMINAR 9 : April 13

Holy Lands: Reviving Pluralism in the Middle East

■ Nicolas Pelham, Journalist, The Economist

SEMINAR 10 : April 20

Brazil's Growing Political and Economic Challenges

■ Ambassador Julissa Reynoso, former United States Ambassador to Uruguay

GRADUATION DINNER : April 22

Worldview 2016 Winter Graduation Dinner

Keynote Speaker: **Jean Krasno**, Lecturer, Columbia University and Yale University

New UN Goals

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two Oscar nominated films, "Timbuktu" from Mali and "Mustang" from Turkey.

I am also very pleased to report that in 2016 UNA-NY will again be sending very deserving and accomplished New York area students abroad to experience first-hand the challenges of confronting issues the UN faces every day. Those students—who this year will be going to Lebanon and Senegal to work with the United Nations Population Fund and Plan International, respectively, as well as to South Korea to attend the UN NGO/DPI conference—will have life changing experiences. They will also come back to their campuses to share them, enlightening colleagues and engaging professors on global issues that impact us all.

As the Secretary General told the world leaders gathered at UN Headquarters last September, success in achieving the SDGs requires action from everyone. The UNA-NY is doing its part, and we look forward to your ongoing support in furthering our important mission.

Diplomats, business leaders, local dignitaries and other distinguished guests gathered on October 22 at the J. W. Marriott Essex House in New York, when the United Nations Association of New York announced the honorees for its annual **Humanitarian of the Year Awards**, during a celebratory UN Day gala dinner which commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations.

This year's gala honored several Humanitarians of the Year: **Marco Bizzarri**, President & CEO of Gucci and **Anthony Lake**, Executive Director of UNICEF. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to **Madame Ban Soon-taek**, spouse of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

This year's selected **UN Day** honorees were recognized for an extraordinary commitment to gender equality, empowerment of women and girls throughout the world, and corporate social responsibility.

Abid Qureshi, president of the United Nations Association of New York, announced the theme of the 2015 annual award given by UNA-NY as **2015 and Beyond: Education and Equality for All**.

"Each year the board and selection committee of UNA-NY considers individuals who have accomplished important strides in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals," said Qureshi. "The leadership and dedication of Marco Bizzarri to gender equality, women's empowerment and education make him an inspiration to all of us and a worthy recipient of our annual award."

Corporate responsibility has always been a business imperative for Gucci and for its parent company Kering. Gucci's longstanding commitment to education and gender equality is exemplified by its unique



partnerships.

"As a company we care about values that go well beyond individual products," said Gucci CEO & President **Marco Bizzarri**. "This is not because we are obliged to do this, but because we feel that it is the right thing to do. And we recognize the capacity we have to stimulate a discussion and bring awareness to these critical themes.

"We stand at a point in history when unprecedented social change is possible, and we know that girls and women play an essential role in this," he continued. "Through our 10 year partnership with UNICEF,



through our CHIME FOR CHANGE campaign and now through our partnership with Global Citizen, Gucci is committed to seeing a world where all girls and women are empowered with equal opportunities for education, health and justice."

In the moments before collecting his award, Mr. Bizzarri was introduced by **John Legend**, the Grammy Award winning musical artist who is also an activist and CHIME FOR CHANGE advisory board member.

Anthony Lake, representing UNICEF, was honored at the dinner for the commitment and efforts of UNICEF to improve and transform

the lives and future of children everywhere, especially the most disadvantaged.

UNICEF is committed to promoting the rights and wellbeing of every child. Together with partners, UNICEF works in over 190 countries



and territories to translate that commitment into practical action. Action that strengthens children's rights and their survival, development and protection.

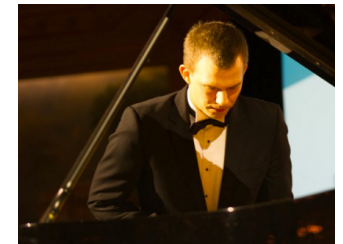
Madame Ban Soon-taek received a Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her 40 years of work and involvement in advancing the cause of women and children, in promoting women's empowerment, and for her activity in the **UN Women for Peace Association**.



UN Women for Peace is dedicated to activities that promote tolerance and respect toward the creation of a peaceful world. Founded in 2008, the UNWFPA helps advance goals of academic

and charitable organizations which provide opportunities for women to partake in the global peace building process, through social, cultural, educational and gender empowerment programs. It is also committed to the prevention of violence against women and girls.

This celebration of the 70th anniversary of the UN enjoyed a special appearance by **Adam Gyorgy**, the concert pianist and Steinway artist who began the evening with some passionate keyboard fireworks.



The evening also featured an auction of another exclusive and dazzling creation by international artist and potter Miranda Thomas — the lovely Golden Dove vase in a limited edition, representing the dove of peace. It represents a dove which is, in her words, "determined and committed, passionately believing in its mission... It represents each of us, facing the many challenges ahead. The dove is emblematic of all our hard work towards peace," she said about her work.

And we were very pleased to have on hand the two winners of our inaugural **Summer Scholars** program — Stephanie Mikkelson and Tyler Bird — each of whom presented brief videos of their experience in the program while working in Lesotho and Paraguay.

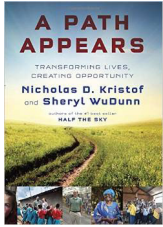
To them, and to all of our gala attendees and sponsors, who generously continue to acknowledge and support the important work of the UN, we express our deepest gratitude for their ongoing passion and commitment.

The United Nations Association of New York is the host NY chapter of UNA-USA. It is dedicated to supporting the principles and vital work of the United Nations, strengthening the UN system and promoting constructive U.S. leadership.

The Leadership Luncheon

Events are formal seated luncheons, which we present in a co-partnership with the Columbia University Club, where invited guests speak about special topics in a relaxed panel format.

Our Spring 2015 offering took place on June 8, when our invited guests were Pulitzer Prize winning reporters **Nicholas Kristof** and **Sheryl WuDunn**, who came to present their latest book, **A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity**.



In their number one New York Times best seller *Half the Sky*, husband-and-wife team Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

brought to light struggles faced by women and girls around the globe, and showcased individuals and institutions working to address oppression and expand opportunity. *A Path Appears* is even more ambitious in scale, offering nothing less than a sweeping tapestry of people who are making the world a better place and a guide to the ways that we can do the same.



LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

ENGAGED & RIVETING DISCUSSIONS IN A FORMAL SETTING



With scrupulous research and on-the-ground reporting, Kristof and WuDunn have identified successful local and global initiatives, and shared astonishing stories from the front lines of social progress, allowing us to see the compelling and inspiring truth of how real people have changed the world, upending the idea that one person can't make a difference.

In February, we were very pleased to welcome **Joseph E. Stiglitz**, Winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, as special guest to our Winter 2016 Leadership Luncheon. Dr. Stiglitz discussed his newest book, **Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy**, in a compelling presentation of how reforms will simultaneously lead to improved economic performance.

A graduate of Amherst College, Dr. Stiglitz received his PHD from MIT in 1967, became a full professor at Yale in 1970, and in 1979 was awarded the John Bates Clark Award, given biennially by the American Economic Association to the economist under 40 who has made the most significant contribution to the field. He has taught at Princeton, Stanford, MIT and was the Drummond Professor and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He is now University Professor at Columbia University in New York, where he is also the founder and

Co-President of the university's Initiative for Policy Dialogue. He is also the Chief Economist of the Roosevelt Institute. In 2001, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for his analyses of markets with asymmetric information, and he was a lead author of the 1995 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2011, Time named Stiglitz one of the 100 most influential people in the world. He is now serving as President of the International Economic Association.

Stiglitz helped create a new branch of economics, "The Economics of Information," exploring the consequences of information asymmetries and pioneering such pivotal concepts as adverse selection and moral hazard, which have now become standard tools not only of theorists, but also of policy analysts. He has made major contributions to macroeconomics and monetary theory, to development economics and trade theory, to public and corporate finance, to the theories of industrial organization and rural organization, and to the theories of welfare economics and of income and wealth distribution. In the 1980s, he helped revive interest in the economics of R&D. His work has helped explain the circumstances in which markets do not work well, and how selective government intervention can improve their performance.



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



Our two events last year were both “Special Editions” in which several ambassadors participated in panel discussions. The first panel, **South-east Asia in the International Arena** was held in May, and featured a select group of participating Ambassadors from several ASEAN countries (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), who discussed their political systems and trends currently in the regional ASEAN mix, as well as topics of recent history, the increasing momentum of their countries’ economic developments, and their status as international players on the world stage.

The ten countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations covers a land area of 4.4 million km., 3% of the total land area of the earth and represents a collective market of 620 million people, 8.8% of the world’s population. They are home to a young, large, and grow-

ing labor pool, as well as a developing an increasingly consumption-oriented middle class. In 2012, ASEAN countries combined GDP was over \$2.2 trillion, and many economists expect that number to double by 2020. ASEAN’s five core countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand — have been growing as fast as any other regional grouping

in the world over the past five years.

For this edition our insightful and informative guests surveyed the dynamic ASEAN economic forecast now unfolding. On the panel were: **Ambassador Kyaw Tin**, the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations; **Ambassador Karen Tan**, Singapore’s Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and **Ambassador Desra Percaya**, who is an Indonesian diplomat and current Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN.

In November our important panel discussion focus was to **Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate: Illegal Trade in Wildlife**.

On July 30, 2015 the United Nations General Assembly passed a sweeping resolution that targets the global problem of wildlife trafficking, calling on all 193 UN member states to take on a series of actions to

“prevent, combat, and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife.”

Adopted by consensus, the resolution recognizes the intrinsic value of biological diversity to human well-being, while expressing concern over widespread poaching and trafficking—particularly of elephants and rhinos.

The Governments of Gabon and Germany initially proposed the resolution, and then led efforts among member states to garner support, and draw up the language.

Heading up the panel was **Ambassador Heiko Thoms**, who has been the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN since July 2013. He currently serves as Vice-President of the Executive Board of UNICEF, and also chairs the Group of Friends of UN Police and the Group of Friends against Illicit Wildlife Trafficking.

The Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN, **Ambassador Charles Themban Ntwaagae**. He was previously Chief Executive at the National Secretariat of the National Conservation Strategy (Coordinating) Agency, charged with promoting conservation and sustainable utilization of Botswana’s natural resource base.

Do Hung Viet is current Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations. He is also Minister Counselor at the Mission since 2013.

The panel was moderated by **Elizabeth (Liz) Bennett**, the Vice President for Species Conservation at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Earlier on as Director of the Hunting and Wildlife Trade Program at WCS, she worked with field staff to develop policies on bushmeat trade in Central Africa and a strategy to address illegal wildlife trade in China. She provided technical sup-



port to WCS field staff working on hunting and wildlife trade issues in 65 projects and 30 countries worldwide. Her current role involves overseeing WCS’s species conservation programs in more than 60 countries across the globe and in WCS’s Living Institutions in New York.

This year the Ambassador Series invited its members to attend **A New Chapter in U.S.–Cuban Relations**, a conversation between **Ambassador Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez**, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, and **John H. Coatsworth**, Provost of Columbia University.



Until his latest appointment, Mr. Rodríguez was Cuba’s Permanent Representative to the UN Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland since 2009, having held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1990. He has participated in various conferences and summits held by the UN. He has also engaged in regional processes relating to Latin America and the Caribbean, Ibero-America, as well as to the relationship between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU. He has also received several Cuban awards and medals.

Dr. Coatsworth is the Provost of Columbia University, as well as Professor of International and Public Affairs and of History. He is a leading scholar of Latin American economic and international history.



UNA-NY Schedules “WomanSG” Programs in April



In the wake of Ban Ki-moon’s campaign for gender equality, the stage may well be set for a decisive victory to install the very first woman in the UN Secretary-General’s chair.

These coming months before the election of a new Secretary-General at the end of 2016, provide a time for a fundamental consideration of women candidates for election to a role which has become increasingly visible and important in world affairs. Our current era has witnessed the elevation of the importance of women and their place in society, with due respect for their rights and

abilities, especially their ascendance in global leadership.

In February 2015 a group of like-minded women came together to launch a campaign to elect a woman as UN Secretary-General when Ban Ki-moon steps down at the end of 2016. The working group represents women from academia and civil society with a long record of engagement with the UN. Through several discussions they decided the time had come for a woman to lead the organization, forming a core planning group to initiate the campaign. At their web-

site womansg.org you can look over some of the biographies of current women candidates: outstanding women who demonstrate the depth and richness of talent and experience in high-level positions from all regions of the globe. You will also see that the current pool of women candidates may likely come from the Eastern European block of countries.

Many came out and joined us on April 14 to welcome **Natalia Gherman** (above right), the former Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova, who is a candidate formally nominated by

her country, and on April 21 to meet **Irina Bokova** (above left), who currently serves as the Director-General of UNESCO and is nominated by her country, Bulgaria.

Jean Krasno (above center), WomanSG Campaign Chair and professor of political science at City College of New York, joined them to discuss the strengths of women for the role, highlighting issues and changes involved in this upcoming UN-SG election, which is currently undergoing its own makeover, including a greater degree of transparency in the election process itself.

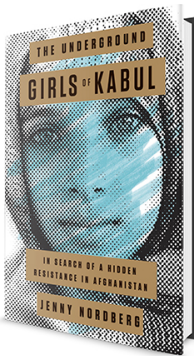




BookTalkUNA features current books and authors whose work is in-depth, politically and ethically engaged, far-sighted and often controversial.

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 BookTalk events kicked off last year with an appearance by investigative reporter **Jenny Nordberg** with her new book, **Underground Girls of Kabul**, in



which she uncovers a secret in Afghanistan that asks what it means to be female and to be free, producing a defiant piece of women's history that no one has gone looking for until now.

In Afghanistan, where society is ruled almost entirely by men, the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is often mourned as a failure.

A bacha posh (literally "dressed up like a boy" in Dari) is a third kind of child — a girl who will be raised

as a boy and presented as a son to the world. Nordberg, who broke this story for The New York Times, constructs a dramatic account of Afghan women and girls clandestinely living on the other side of the gender divide that grants half its population almost no rights and little freedom.



Our summer BookTalk's honored guest was **Dr. Alejandro Toledo**, the former President of Peru, who presented his new book, **The Shared Society: A Vision for the Global Future of Latin America** (see top photo). In 2001, Dr. Toledo was the first Peruvian president of indigenous descent to be elected in five hundred years. Toledo fought against poverty by prioritizing investments in health care and education. With the resulting economic growth and social policies directed to the poorest of Peru, extreme poverty was reduced by 25 percent during his term, and the Peruvian economy grew at an average rate of 6 percent, making it one of the

fastest growing economies in Latin America.

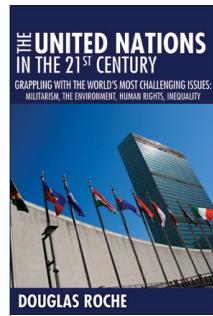
Dr. Toledo has lectured in more than 45 countries on issues related to economic growth, poverty and inequality reduction and democracy, as well as on the benefits of human capital investment. He has received 62 honorary doctoral degrees from prestigious universities in Peru and around the world, and has written 18 books (so far).

We were quite fortunate to host such a distinguished guest for our BookTalk lecture series, and express our gratitude for all that this exemplary world leader had to share with us in a most congenial and inspiring evening. Hope you were there!

The United Nations in the 21st Century was our book for October.

In this work **Douglas Roche**, who has spent his lifetime in the cause of peace as a Canadian member of parliament, ambassador, and senator, offers a brief account of the role of the UN in the world today.

He focuses on the important issues: the use of military force in conflicts, the challenges of global warming and climate change, deep disparities between rich and poor, and the ongoing battle for equal human rights for all. Roche describes the wide range of activities of the UN in these areas. He acknowledges the organization's failures and weaknesses, while pointing out its many successes— some little known to



the world's citizens. Roche documents how the UN is working to address key issues that threaten humanity's future, using

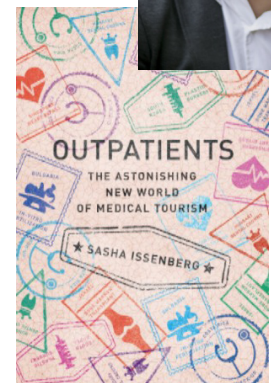
its unique position in the world to promote the ideals that gave it birth. Though its success is far from assured, he sees the UN as humanity's best hope for the future.

February's book **OUTPATIENTS: The Astonishing New World of Medical Tourism** by **Sasha Isenberg** asks: is medical tourism the future of health care?

The story of how Hungary became Europe's dental chair is a case study in the booming practice of medical tourism. We can witness more people travel to Hungary each year for dental care than to any other country in Europe.

Isenberg went to Hungary to see how a small country builds a medical tourism business from scratch and markets it to the world. He tells the story of the region's embrace of medical tourism, and considers whether the phenomenon is destabilizing one of the last remaining pillars of the traditional welfare state.

Sasha Isenberg is Washington correspondent for Monocle and a contributor to Bloomberg Politics.



UNA-NY Summer Scholars Program: First Edition

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The **UNFPA** internship focused on Social and Behavioral Change Communication, as part of the UNFPA Adolescents Program in Lesotho (East and Central African Region). UNFPA works in more than 150 countries, with a mission to ensure pregnancies are wanted, births are safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled. The 3-month program focused on youth and adolescents, with priorities in supported programs addressing a high HIV prevalence, as well as high maternal mortality and morbidity, particularly among young people.

"My project is on adolescent health, specifically in HIV/AIDS, with a focus on GBV (gender-based violence)," Stephanie shared on her blog. "I provide support to partners through planning joint UN agency youth initiatives, visiting various youth centers and GBV facilities throughout the country, as well as creating a GBV mapping and assessment toolkit to prepare the office for implementation. I am excited about filling information gaps around GBV through generating and populating a data collection tool for future programming. I look forward to presenting these final products, since I know that they will significantly benefit the office and community as a whole."

Stephanie is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Public Administration in Development Practice from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. Prior to attending SIPA, she worked in a rural Tanzanian village, where she taught at a public secondary school for over a year, and where she discovered a deep passion for gender equality, which initiated an adolescent girls leadership program as a result.

In Paraguay, Tyler Bird's fellowship with **Plan International** focused on Institutional Positioning and Communications, a part of its outreach to help raise the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries. Plan currently works with more than 25,000 sponsored children in Paraguay, while also benefiting around 150,000 people in nearly 500 local communities.

Among his efforts, Tyler participated in Plan's campaign **Because I am A Girl**, which supports access by girls to education and work, in promoting their rights and protecting them from abuse.

"I support these campaigns by disseminating information in both Spanish and English via social media, bulletins to be distributed internally as well as on the Plan International website, and to write life testimonies of children and adolescents who participate in Plan's programs," Tyler reported. "I have met several girls who are enrolled in courses offered by Plan which range from Manicure and Pedicure, motorcycle mechanics, computer classes, and other capacity building and skills training programs that help girls and boys alike to participate in the local economy and empower themselves economically."

Using GPS devices, Tyler also launched a pilot mapping project utilizing the power of data to demonstrate, geospatially, the impact of isolation and remoteness on levels of education, malnutrition, and health in rural Paraguay.

Tyler received his Master's Degree in International Affairs and Urban Development from The New School. Upon earning a Bachelor's Degree in International Affairs at the University of Colorado, he spent over two years in Colombia where he worked in post conflict development, with a focus on programs which benefited and empowered women and children.

For more information on the Summer Scholars fellowships, as well as links to the blogs kept by Stephanie and Tyler, please visit our website at unanyc.org.

LESOTHO | STEPHANIE MIKKELSON



PARAGUAY | TYLER BIRD



“Winter Masquerade” a Smashing Success

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wonderful private art collections in New York, extending through the many rooms of this venerable old world Club.

UNA-NY’s Executive Director Ann Nicol welcomed the revelers, who made their way through the rooms, as they explored an evening of scintillating comederie, while enjoying an open bar, delicious Tuscan hors d’oeuvres, and DJ-spun dancing.

As you can tell from some of these images, those attending displayed the inspirational creativity typical of the New York community, in their selection of mask and costumery! In festive garb, they met and mingled with other guests who shared a passion for international affairs and the work of the United Nations.

See our full online gallery of Winter Soirée images at this link — <http://bit.ly/226rOlp>



UNANYMONTHLYPROGRAMS

Providing a regular interface with our members and the public, our **Monthly Programs** feature expert speakers from various backgrounds, panels that focus on UN-relevant subjects, as well as fun social events.



From among our recent highlights, March saw a visiting expert from the European

Commission, **Ambassador Mara Marinaki**, who was in New York

for the Commission on the Status of Women held at the United Nations. This UNA-NY Members-Only luncheon and lecture, entitled **Gender Gaps and Womens Empowerment**, provided an intimate setting to discuss important questions on women’s equality and empowerment issues. Ambassador Marinaki is the EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender and on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.



Last autumn, we offered **The Great European Migration Challenge: Legalizing and Regulating Mobility**—a timely presentation on the developing

migration crisis which was beginning to overwhelm European countries. Many joined us for what turned out to be a stimulating and bracing discussion. **François Crépeau**, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants, was able to demonstrate that the better outlook is always to embrace change and to work with the actuality of circumstances on the ground. Joining him was **Ambassador Inigo Lambertini**, the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN.

In our previous members-only **Night at the Consulate** event, our New York community had a memorable evening in the company of the Consul General of Ireland, **Barbara Jones**. For a small country, Ireland has made a big impact, and Jones informed and entertained with a survey of how Ireland has built a reputation for innovation, hard work



and determination, as part of its inimitable outlook on life.

Our **Fourth Annual UNA-NY Summer Soirée** took place in July at the Hudson Terrace, where many energetic, globally-minded New Yorkers came together for lots of networking and fun.

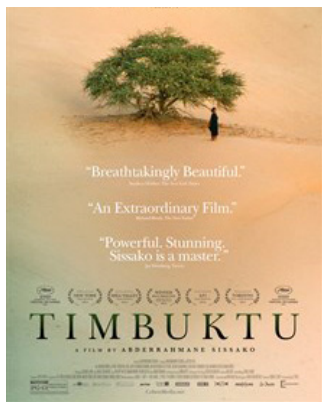
SCREENING THE ISSUES

PROVOCATIVE, INSPIRING, FULL-HOUSE CINEMA

Screening the Issues continues to present stimulating and thought-provoking films and discussion events, in partnership with various New York venues. Continuing into its seventh year, the series provides a meaningful adjunct to the work of the UN with films that educate while addressing important issues and topics.



Our previous season included the 2015 Academy Award Nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, **TIMBUKTU**. We were proud to present director Abderrahmane Sissako's masterpiece, in which the Malian city of Timbuktu is under the occupation of extremist Islamists. Some distance away, Kidane and his family are spared the chaos that prevails in the city, but only for a while, as the effects of the jihadist



presence permeate all relationships in subtle and more direct ways...

A triumph of humanist cinema, the film was widely acclaimed at Cannes and many film festivals, and was included on many 10 best film lists, winning awards from the NY Film Critics Circle and the National Society of Film Critics.

Our screening was made even more special with an appearance by Mr. Sissako himself for the Q+A, along with Ambassador Sekou Kasse from the Republic of Mali, and Ambassador Sidi Mohamed Boubacar of Mauritania.

Many attendees made our last screening from the **BYkids** project a sellout event. In **POET AGAINST PREJUDICE**, the young **BYkids** filmmaker **Faiza Almontaser** asks us all to examine our own notions, attitudes, and biases about other religions, ethnicities and nationalities in our nation of immigrants.

Faiza is a 17-year old senior attending the Brooklyn International High School. In 2006 she immigrated with her family to New York from a small farming town in Yemen. Raised as a religious Muslim, she often struggles to reconcile her cultural background with the realities she meets as a high school student in one of New York City's most socially dynamic neighborhoods.

A post-screening panel discussion featured Faiza herself, joined by **Lopa Bannerjee**, Chief of the Civil Society Section of UN Women, and **BYkids** Founder and Executive Director, **Holly Carter**.

At age 10, Faiza was discouraged by her minimal command of English and the anti-Islamic fervor she encountered among her class-

mates. Determined to find her voice, she learned enough English to begin speaking out against discrimination faced by Muslims in her community, and today also works via a struggle with the written word: through poems and essays challenging common misconceptions of Islamic culture, and expressing her visions for change and equality.

Under the **BYkids** mentorship of the late award-winning filmmaker **Albert Maysles**, Faiza offers a strong voice to the quieted strife of immigrant children in the U.S.



Our late summer screening was an exclusive New York presentation of **THE GOOD LIE**, followed by a panel discussion about the experience of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan and the refugee crisis during the years of the Sudanese war. This inspiring film depicted some of those experiences, as well as the fortunate outcome for some of the war orphans who found their way to safe haven here.

Our guests (clockwise above) included the film's screenwriter **Margaret Nagle**, known for her many award-winning works, including the **Good Lie**; **Ger Duany**,

himself a former refugee among others who also appeared in the film, and who is currently a successful actor and model, as well as a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador;



Phillippe Falardeau, the director of the film; and **Andrew Reynolds**, a research professor specializing in democratization issues.

The highly engaging panel was moderated by UNA-NY board member **Trisha Bauman**.

Our exclusive New York screening of **THE TRIALS OF SPRING** followed its sold-out world premiere at the Human Rights Watch Film Festival. It recounts the story of 21-year-old Hend Nafea, who travels from her village to Cairo to add her voice to the hundreds of thousands of Egyptians demanding an end to sixty years of military rule, and is beaten, arrested, and tortured. After her release, she is punished and imprisoned by her family for daring to speak out and shaming their name. Unbreakable, she sets out in a search for freedom and justice in a country gripped by a dangerous power struggle. Buoyed by the other activists she meets along the way,



she forges ahead despite the odds mounting against her.

The screening was followed by a Q+A with **Gini Reticker**, the film's award-winning director and producer, and **Hend Nafea**, the young Egyptian woman who is the subject of this exceptional and stirring film.



UNA-NY CAREER EVENTS

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.

Last season we held two career events in May, both hosted by the

Hungarian Mission to the UN. The first was a panel, **What's it Really Like to Work for a Non-Profit**, featuring four professionals currently working in the non-profit field.

Careers in the non-profit sector are endless and rewarding, as they focus a priority on helping others in the world while working at something you believe in deeply. They're also more dynamic than many people think. And while they are fulfilling and exciting, such a career sometimes involves meeting unexpected challenges. However, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages, and knowing about both before you make a decision will

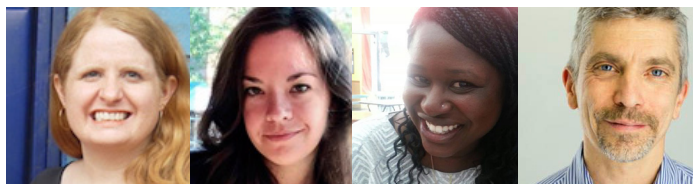
better prepare you for success.

Offering valuable insights, pointers and savvy approaches to seeking and finding non-profit careers were: **Amy Auguston**, Communications and UN Relations Officer for the UN Foundation; **Gwen Franklin**, who has been fundraising professionally for more than nine years, working with nonprofit organizations supporting the arts, environment, and humanitarian relief; **Allison Jones**, who passionately connects people to resources they need for changing the world, in her current role as editor at Idealist.org, where she engages the Idealist community on social media — creating and curating helpful job hunting and career building tips for those who working to impact society; and **Graeme Reid**, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, Graeme is an expert on LGBT rights.



The founder and executive chairman of the Beirut Institute is **Raghida Dergham**, who is also UN bureau chief and senior diplomatic correspondent for Al-Hayat newspaper. She was on hand for our recent winter career event, **Working as a Foreign Correspondent**.

Do you like to write, and speak another language? Do you want to see the world, despite some of the risks you might encounter in today's turbulent global reality? As a frequent commentator on major networks worldwide, Raghida shared knowledge from her own career path, offering advice and rousing the passion of attendees for becoming successful journalists.



UNA-NY BOARD NEWS

We take this opportunity to highlight some of the recent members who have found seats on UNA-NY's Board of Directors.

Ilka Gregory has over a decade of experience in the financial services industry. She a Principal and Senior Wealth Advisor at Bessemer Trust (NY). Before that, she was Managing Director at Third Avenue Management, engaging high-net-worth, family office, and institutional investors. Previously, she worked at Protégé Partners LLC in Marketing and Investor Relations, and Goldman Sachs as a Private Wealth Advisor.

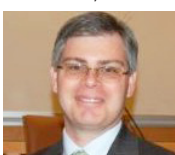


She started her career in management consulting and worked in London, Paris, Singapore, Buenos Aires, Toronto, and Sydney.

Ilka volunteers with Tuesday's Children, a nonprofit serving those directly impacted by the events of September 11, 2001, and she is actively involved in and supports other charitable organizations.

Matthew E. Brotmann is current Asst. General Counsel for MTA Bridges and Tunnels. He is also Adjunct Professor of International Law and Director of International Criminal Court Moot at Pace Law School (August 2002–Present).

After serving nine years as an Asst. DA assigned to the Environmental Crimes Bureau, Investigations Division of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, he served as Special Advisor on Policy and Public Information to the New



York State Attorney General's Office.

While a student at Pace Law School, Dr. Brotmann was Managing Editor of the Pace Environmental Law Review. He was also a member of the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team and received Best Oralist Honorable Mention at the competition in Vienna, Austria.



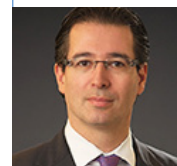
Ian S. Fuller is a Managing Director at WestFuller Advisors (WFA).

A specialist at providing investment and planning advice in asset management, retirement and estate planning, and planned giving for individuals and institutions, he served as a wealth advisor with Merrill Lynch for nearly 5 years, and a partner with LWF Wealth Management Group. Prior to distinguishing his national reputation as a wealth builder, Ian was an analyst with UN Population Fund and KPMG Hong Kong.

Ian is dedicated to community development and the arts, and provides pro bono financial literacy instruction and mentoring to urban youth throughout the NYC metropolitan area. He is the treasurer of the nonprofit art gallery, City With-

out Walls, and is a member of the National Planned Giving Council.

Andrew Komaromi is a member of HarrisBeach PLLC in the Public Finance and Economic Development Practice Group. His practice focuses on public law matters, with a special emphasis on economic development, public revenue finance and taxation. He has experience representing issuers and underwriters in the areas of health care, education, housing, transportation and infrastructure matters, as well as Industrial Development Agencies and companies accessing incentive programs in complex economic development projects.



Mr. Komaromi has represented many of the major underwriters, and his transactional background includes work on fixed rate as well as multi-modal variable rate programs, public offerings, private placements and direct purchase transactions. He is a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers and the New York State Economic Development Council.