We are pleased to join with the

in congratulating

H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the 66th Session of
The United Nations General Assembly and
Former Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN
recipient of the

2012 Humanitarian Award

for his leadership in the UN General Assembly in New York
and recognizing his accomplishments in mediation,
cross cultural understanding and his strong commitment
to building bridges between societies

~ ~ ~ ~

We extend a warm welcome to

H.E. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

2013

Ray Chambers
The McArthur Foundation
MESSAGE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK
ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD DINNER

New York, 25 October 2012

It is a great pleasure to convey warm greetings to the good friends of the United Nations who have come together for this annual dinner.

You gather at a time of profound turmoil, transition and transformation. Our world faces multiple challenges, from climate change to growing unemployment to the terrible bloodshed in Syria. This is a time when we must work together, yet in many parts of the world, the politics of division rule the day.

The deplorable video that has caused such anguish is but the latest example. That is why I very much welcome the theme you have chosen for this year’s dinner, “intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity, peace and development”.

In the humanitarian work of the United Nations, we practice disaster risk reduction. We know that we cannot prevent earthquakes or tsunamis, but we can take concrete steps to limit any damage. We should apply the same practice when it comes to cross-cultural understanding. We may not be able to prevent every merchant of hate in every corner of the world. But we can build bridges that are strong enough to withstand those forces.

Shortly after the release of the video, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations initiative launched a campaign on Twitter called “Represent Yoursell”. In just a few days, the effort engaged more than 3 million people who were determined to ensure that the voices of moderation were not drowned out by the vocal and violent minorities on any side.

This is one small way in which the Alliance has helped to open minds and promote peaceful coexistence. I am pleased to note that your honoree tonight, His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, will take the reins of the Alliance in January. He brings to this role a distinguished record of leadership at the United Nations, including his recent tenure as the President of General Assembly.

United Nations Associations around the world play a vital role in promoting our values and objectives and in bringing our work closer to the people we serve. Thank you for your commitment to that mission. Together, as partners, we can meet today’s tests and seize the opportunities of an era of dramatic change.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
Distinguished Honorees, Guests, and Friends,

I am honored to be able to welcome you to our 2012 UN Day Gala Dinner marking the 67th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. We, at the United Nations Association of New York, look forward each year to this opportunity to celebrate with you, our loyal friends and faithful sponsors, and also to recognize those distinguished individuals who have valiantly contributed to the United Nations’ ideals of selfless service and responsibility.

Our 2012 Humanitarian Award reflect the commitment of this year’s designee, His Excellency Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, outgoing President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and former Permanent Representative of Qatar to the UN. On September 22, 2012, His Excellency was appointed High Representative to The Alliance of Civilizations, (UNAOC) by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. We are honored to announce that both officials are with us tonight.

Our theme this year is “Intercultural Dialogue, Peace and Development.” In conferring the Ambassador’s new title, the Secretary-General observed Ambassador Al-Nasser’s exerted efforts to mainstream the importance of UNAOC as a tool for cross-cultural understanding, dialogue, mediation, and persistence to realizing the UN’s vision of a world free of intercultural conflicts and divisions.

On this 67th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, we take great pleasure and pride in our position and responsibilities as the Host Chapter of UNA-USA.

Please accept this expression of our on-going gratitude to you for all your generous support through the ensuing years. Our mission is to highlight, inform, and inspire the public about the UN’s crucial work. We can’t do it without you.

Sincerely,

Paula Rice Jackson
President
His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

Introduction of the Honoree by His Excellency Ambassador Adrian Neritani

His Excellency Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser  
President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
and Former Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations

Honored for his leadership and accomplishments in mediation,  
cross-cultural understanding and dialogue and his strong commitment to  
realizing the vision of a world free of intercultural conflicts.

REMARKS

Mr. Feike Sijbesma  
Chief Executive Officer, Royal DSM

PERFORMANCE

Farah Siraj

CLOSING REMARKS
Named Jordan’s “Musical Ambassadress”, the Jordanian virtuoso Farah Siraj balances a career that spans the United States, Europe and the Middle East. Farah has performed at some of the world’s most prestigious platforms, including the Nobel Prize Hall, the World Economic Forum, the TV show Good Morning Live in the USA, and the Antena de Oro Awards of Spain. Farah has performed before HM King Abdullah II and HM Queen Rania of Jordan, HM King Juan Carlos of Spain, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktourm and HM King Hamad of Bahrain. In recognition of her humanitarian efforts, Farah also represents Jordan annually on World Peace Day. Farah has toured the Middle East, Europe, the United States and South America, on a mission to spread the message of peace and cultural understanding through her music. Farah currently leads an ethnically diverse quintet based in New York, with world-class musicians from the Middle East, Europe and the United States, performing arabian classics and originals fused with jazz and flamenco. Time Out New York named Farah “The Norah Jones of the Middle East”. Last year, Farah internationally released her album entitled NOMAD, funded personally by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. The production includes middle eastern music, flamenco, jazz, with lyrics in Arabic, Spanish and English.
The United Nations Association of New York (www.unanyc.org) is the New York affiliate and host city chapter of UNA-USA. UNA-NY is dedicated to supporting the principles and vital work of the United Nations in order to strengthen the United Nations system and promote constructive United States leadership. Eleanor Roosevelt was one of the founding forces behind UNA and the specific mission of UNA-NY has changed little from her original vision — we continue to work primarily through public outreach and educational programs.

Our **Monthly Programs** are the main interface with our members and the public. During these programs, expert speakers and panels from various backgrounds focus on subjects relevant to the UN.

The **Worldview Institute** continues to attract young executives and managers seeking to broaden their understanding of international affairs. Our popular and informative seminars (ten sessions) are taught by distinguished associate faculty in academia, diplomacy, and business. This year Worldview Institute topics ranged from US-Pakistan relations and the European Union to counter-terrorism and business strategies with China.

**Screening the Issues**, the film series of UNA-NY, is now in its fourth year and continues to explore the work of the UN with films that address important issues. Shown in the screening room of the Tribeca Grand Hotel, the films are followed by lively discussions with the filmmakers, producers or subject experts from the UN. This year we screened *Granito*, followed by a discussion with the director, Pamela Yates; *The Lady*, with a discussion on Burma with Maureen Aung-Thwin, Director of the Burma Project; *Pad Yatra*, with His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa in attendance; *Fire in Our Hearts and Under Fire*. We also participated in the 2012 Human Rights Watch Film Festival in June and sponsored the screening of three films, *Brother Number One, Color of the Ocean and Salaam Dunk*.

Our **Ambassador Series**, in collaboration with the Columbia University Club of New York, brings UNA-NY and Columbia Club members face to face with UN ambassadors to discuss topical issues. The Ambassador Series is now in its fifth year. This year we heard from Ambassador Namik Tan, the Turkish Ambassador to the US and also from a panel of ambassadors from Ireland, Mexico and India on the role of the EU in global affairs. The panel was moderated by the head of the EU Delegation to the UN. This year we have added the **Consulate Series** to our varied program line-up. We were warmly welcomed by Deputy Consul-General Daniele Ayotte of Canada at the Canadian Consulate and Consul-General Koula Sophianou at the Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus.


Our **Student Alliance Program** encourages globally-minded high school, undergraduate and graduate students to make their opinions heard on international issues. The program continues to grow at St. John’s University and St. Peter’s College. The Student Alliance Program students also organize school wide events, lectures, and films to engage other students and explain the importance of the Millennium Development Goals.

For the past three years, the **Education Department** of UNA-NY has partnered with The Links, Inc. to expand and broaden partnerships through common goals and objectives. The Education Committee works to establish further partnerships and collaborations with colleges and universities. This year, the highlight of our program was a field trip to the Schomburg Museum and Center for Research in Black Culture. The students toured the museum and watched the award winning documentary *A Small Act*, about education ‘across the miles’ in Kenya, where students competed academically for scholarships to attend high school. The Honorable Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, the Kenyan Ambassador to the UN, shared exciting stories with the students on her life in Kenya, her country’s work and achievements in reaching the MDGs, and the importance of students as global learners and active leaders in our world today and tomorrow.

UNA-NY hosted a **Career Program** on the United Nations, *An Insider’s Guide to Getting a Job at the UN*, with John Ericson from the UN Office of Human Resources Management. This November we will hold a program on jobs at the UNHCR.

In July we had an extremely successful **Summer Evening Soiree** at the Soho Grand Hotel. An estimated 500 internationally minded young people met for an evening of fun under the stars during this networking social affair for our new and prospective members.

This October we again celebrate **UN Day** with our Annual Humanitarian **Award Gala** honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to international affairs. This year we honor Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly and former Ambassador of Qatar to the United Nations. We recognize his stellar guidance of the UN General Assembly, his enduring vision of a world free of intercultural conflicts, and his resolute commitment to the values and mission of the United Nations.
PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

1996  Carol Bellamy
       Executive Director, UNICEF

1997  H. E. Mr. Kofi and Mrs. Nane Annan
       Secretary-General of the United Nations and Mrs. Nane Annan

1998  Olara O. Otunnu
       United Nations Under Secretary-General and
       Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

1999  Sergio Vieira de Mello
       United Nations Under Secretary-General for
       Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

2000  Giandomenico Picco
       United Nations Under Secretary-General for
       Political Affairs

2001  Harry Belafonte
       Actor and Activist
       Brian Urquhart
       United Nations Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping

2002  Shashi Tharoor
       United Nations Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

2003  Gillian Sorensen
       Senior Advisor, United Nations Foundation

2004  Mary Robinson
       United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of Ireland

2005  The Links Incorporated
       Liya Kebede
       World Health Organization, Goodwill Ambassador for Maternal,
       Newborn and Child Health
       International Federation of Health Plans

2006  General Electric Foundation
       Ann M. Veneman
       Executive Director, UNICEF

2007  Unilever
       Guy Laliberté
       Founder, Cirque du Soleil, One Drop Foundation
       Rotary International

2008  Toray Industries, Inc.
       His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
       Secretary-General of the United Nations
       His Excellency Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson
       The President of the Republic of Iceland

2009  Frito-Lay, a division of PepsiCo
       Lord Foster of Thames Bank O.M
       Founder and Chairman, Foster + Partners

2010  Royal DSM
       Amir Dossal
       Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships

2011  Johnson & Johnson
       Christy Turlington Burns
       Founder, Every Mother Counts
       Winston Chung
       2011 Inaugural Award for Social Entrepreneur & Philanthropist of the Year

Patchi congratulates
H. E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser,
the honoree of the UNA-NY 2012 Humanitarian Award.
A world free of malaria. It’s within reach.

At ExxonMobil, we are doing our part to help end the malaria epidemic that’s affected the world for centuries. Partnering with the United Nations Foundation, UN agencies, governments and nonprofits, we’re working to save lives from this deadly but preventable disease.

Thanks to increased awareness, wider distribution of bed nets and improved diagnostics and treatments, malaria deaths are down by more than 25% during the past decade—in some countries, cases fell by as much as 50%.

ExxonMobil has contributed more than $110 million toward the fight against malaria across sub-Saharan Africa and in the South Pacific.

To learn more about our initiatives, visit exxonmobil.com/malaria