

# UNA TODAY

**United Nations Association of New York**

*The Manhattan Chapter of UNA-USA*

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801 Second Avenue • New York, NY 10017 • Phone (212) 907-1353 • FAX (212) 682-9185 • E-Mail [info@unanyc.org](mailto:info@unanyc.org)

April 2004

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## *Did You Know??*

Did you know that there are photographic, art, and issue-oriented exhibits at the United Nations Headquarters building throughout the year? They're free and open to the public!

To see a listing of what's on display now and in the months to come, visit our website at

[www.unanyc.org/events.html](http://www.unanyc.org/events.html)

## **New Committees Get To Work**

Over the last several years, the New York Chapter has defined our mission as one of making the United Nations and its accomplishments more visible to New Yorkers. That is a large task, which may be accomplished in many ways.

That responsibility prompted us to, modestly, begin to build the capacity for such an undertaking.

The chapter has now hired a part-time Executive Director. Only a short period of time has passed since our Executive Director took her job in December, however, there is now a much higher level of energy, coordination, and communication.

We literally and figuratively are now a chapter with a mission. It is the **Development Committee's** responsibility

to seek the financial support for this activity.

The Development Committee is presently engaged in the annual solicitation of all

with a \$4,500 pledge. The campaign will conclude in March 2005 after which we will approach, for the first time, the general membership of UNA-NYC for their finan-



Board members. This is an opportunity for Board members to lead by example in the financial support of the chapter. The two-fold goal this year is \$15,000 and 100 percent Board participation. The Development Committee itself launched the campaign

cial support of the chapter. The goal of this drive will be \$10,000. In tandem with these efforts the chapter Advisory Council, under the leadership of Sylvan Barnet, is also carrying out its own leadership drive with the ulti-

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Diplomat Ralph Bunche*

## **Ralph Bunche at 100**

This year marks the 100 year anniversary of the birth of this much-lauded diplomat. For those of you who are not as familiar as you could be with this champion of the UN, here is his biography from the Nobel e-Museum. **Ralph Johnson Bunche** (August 7,

1904-1971) was born in Detroit, Michigan. His father, Fred Bunche, was a barber in a shop having a clientele of whites only; his mother, Olive (Johnson) Bunche, was an amateur musician; his grandmother, "Nana" Johnson, who lived with the family, had been born into slav-

ery. When Bunche was ten years old, the family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the hope that the poor health of his parents would improve in the dry climate. Both, however, died two years later. His grandmother, an indomitable woman who

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## The President's Report



This year, we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Ralph Bunche, a great American and leader of the UN. I feel

honored and fortunate that my fellow board members have called upon me to serve as President of the UNA- New York Chapter. When I began my term in January of this year, I set out an agenda that will raise the profile and activities of our chapter so that you, our fellow members, can fully enjoy and become informed about the many issues that surround the UN and its relationship to our government. Despite the celebrations of this centennial year, we still must remain concerned, as US and global citizens, about the role our nation plays in a world rife with disease, conflict, poverty, and increasing threats to peace and security. The world

desperately needs leadership from all member states that are willing to act in addressing global problems. Therefore, when I reflect on my role as the new president of your chapter, I realize that the part I must play during this centennial year, when we recognize Ambassador Bunche, is to show the value of the United Nations to the world, especially to New York and the rest of the United States. You have my word that, as your new President, I will do my utmost to make this possible.

**Henry G. Sanchez**  
President

## Executive Director's Report

The New York Chapter of the United Nations Association has increased membership by 10 percent over the past year to over 600 members. Our chapter is alive, well, and thriving!

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the nomination to become the new Executive Director and I feel very honored and supported by the Board's vote of confidence last December, electing me to serve in this position.

Last year the chapter bid farewell to some of our Board members and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their splendid

work on behalf of our chapter and we are sure that we can count on their continued support.

Several new members have also joined the Board and Advisory Council. We are very pleased to welcome you. The enthusiasm, energy, and hard work that is so much in evidence is very encouraging and I am grateful for your support, commitment, and time.

Working with the committees is one of the most stimulating and fulfilling parts of my assignment. Collectively, the breadth and scope of our Board's experience is a tremendous asset and

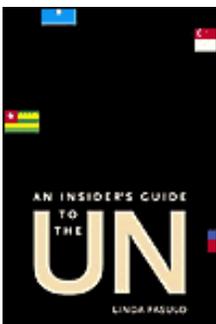
this, combined with a strong education and program schedule now in development, promises to make this year an outstanding one.

Our updated website — [www.unanyc.org](http://www.unanyc.org) — has greatly strengthened our presence on the internet and we are grateful for all the hard work that went into making it a reality. Our upcoming programs are listed on the site along with current events taking place at the UN.

We have begun working with the school and university communities and they show signs of being great sources

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## May 6th Program: Linda Fasulo's Insider's Guide to the UN



On May 6th, **Linda Fasulo**, UN correspondent for NBC News and reporter and commentator for National Public Radio, will take us inside the UN as she introduces and highlights her new book, *An Insider's Guide to the UN*.

Fasulo gives a colorful, lively and generously illustrated introduction of the UN's multifaceted activities. Drawing on interviews with current and former UN diplomats, such as **John Negroponte**, **Richard Holbrooke** and **Madeline Albright**, she explains how the UN operates and what it is like to be a participant. Come meet Ms. Fasulo at a recep-

tion to be held at the Church Center for the United Nations, 777 UN Plaza, 2nd Floor, on May 6th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The program will start at 6:00 p.m. Non-members will be asked to contribute \$10.

Please call (212) 907-1353 to reserve your seat.

## Ralph Bunche at 100

(Continued from page 1)

appeared Caucasian “on the outside” but was “all black fervor inside”, took Ralph and his two sisters to live in Los Angeles. Here Ralph contributed to the family's hard pressed finances by selling newspapers, serving as house boy for a movie actor, working for a carpet-laying firm, and doing what odd jobs he could find. His intellectual brilliance appeared early. He won a prize in history and another in English upon completion of his elementary school work and was the valedictorian of his graduating class at Jefferson High School in Los Angeles, where he had been a debater and all-around athlete who competed in football, basketball, baseball, and track. At the University of California at Los Angeles he supported himself with an athletic scholarship, which paid for his collegiate expenses, and with a janitorial job, which paid for his personal expenses. He played varsity basketball on championship teams, was active in debate and campus journalism, and was graduated in 1927, *summa cum*

*laude*, valedictorian of his class, with a major in international relations. With a scholarship granted by Harvard University and a fund of a thousand dollars raised by the black community of Los Angeles, Bunche began his graduate studies in political science. He completed



his master's degree in 1928 and for the next six years alternated between teaching at Howard University and working toward the doctorate at Harvard. The Rosenwald Fellowship, which he held in 1932-1933, enabled him to conduct research in Africa for a dissertation comparing French rule in Togoland and Dahomey. He completed his dissertation in 1934 with such distinction that he was

awarded the Toppan Prize for outstanding research in social studies. From 1936 to 1938, on a Social Science Research Council fellowship, he did post-doctoral research in anthropology at Northwestern University, the London School of Economics, and Capetown University in South Africa. Throughout his career, Bunche has maintained strong ties with education. He chaired the Department of Political Science at Howard University from 1928 until 1950; taught at Harvard University from 1950 to 1952; served as a member of the New York City Board of Education (1958-1964), as a member of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University (1960-1965), as a member of the Board of the Institute of International Education, and as a trustee of Oberlin College, Lincoln University, and New Lincoln School. Bunche has always been active in the civil rights movement. At Howard University he was considered by some as a young radical intellectual who criticized both America's social system and the established Negro organizations, but generally he is thought of as a moder-

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## New Committees

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mate goal of matching the amount contributed by members.

Why do we turn to ourselves first? Because as we seek funding from foundations, corporations or individual benefactors, they are going to want to know how committed and invested we are in our own mission. An organization which has the interest and support of its leaders and members is an organization worthy of funding.

The Development Committee is mindful of the fact that financial support will be attracted by organizing interesting activities. We will be working with others on the Board to further develop efforts such as a study which profiles the economic value of the UN to the City of New York or a forum series on the UN in the 21st Century.

The **Membership Committee** is excited about the opportunity to pilot programs targeting young adults, while also focusing

on our current members and their participation with the chapter. As we move forward with support from local universities and colleges, we anticipate a successful membership year. We've engaged members as volunteers and our board members are identified at our monthly programs with name badges so you and guests can get to know them. We recently reached out with recruitment letters to professional, minority mothers who would like to be informed about UNA programs.

The **Communications Committee** is making additions to the chapter's web site, reenergizing the newsletter, and developing events where members can interact with one another in a more casual setting than the chapter's formal and structured programs. The committee is considering art exhibits, film screenings,

and other such gatherings that encourage camaraderie and discourse.

***“An organization which has the interest and support of its leaders and members is an organization worthy of funding.”***

The scope of the **By-Laws Committee** is to review the by-laws of the chapter and to make recommendations to the Board for amendments as

deemed appropriate. If the Board approves the proposed amendments, then these are submitted to the membership at the Annual General Meeting to be voted on and subsequently brought into effect.

The **Nominating Committee** has as its primary focus, developing and maintaining a diverse array of active and conscientious Board members. To this end, the committee screens and interviews prospective candidates and solicits nominations for new members. The quality of

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## New Committees

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new Board members has been one of the great strengths of UNA-NY moving forward and we aspire to continue this trend by filling Board vacancies in a controlled and discerning way with similarly dynamic people. In the interview process, candidates are apprised of what is expected of them, including regular attendance at Board meetings and participating actively on sub-committees. Also, members of the Board are required to be an integral part of Board development activities by contributing liberally to the annual capital campaign and supporting the October fund raising event. It is imperative that individuals considering joining the Board feel themselves capable of meeting these basic criteria and are willing to become stakeholders in the organization and custodians of our mission. In a city where time is at a premium, we feel truly fortunate to have a complement of such dedicated individuals who now comprise the Board.

The **Government Relations Committee** is going through a revivification of its priorities and focus. In accordance with UNA-USA's national office, the committee is going to streamline its agenda to four main issues. Primary of the issues is to advocate UNA-USA's policy proposals regarding how the UN and US government should deal with a post-war Iraq. The committee expects to notify our fel-

low UNA-NY members about this policy by summer. Lastly, they are going to take the term "Government Relations" more broadly than before by planning visits to various member state missions so that you, the New York City UNA members, can meet, listen to, and socialize with ambassadors, attaches and foreign service officers from around the world. This will be an extremely fun and informative part of the different programs that UNA-NY presents every month.

**If you are interested in  
serving on our board of  
directors, please contact  
us at (212) 907-1353 or by  
E-mail at  
info@unanyc.org**

The goal of the **Program Committee** is to arrange for recognized authorities to speak on urgent issues in world affairs, so that concerned citizens can form intelligent opinions about these issues. Recent programs have focused on the worldwide water crises, Russian politics under Putin, the Bush doctrine of pre-emption, the remaking of the Middle East to create democracy in Iraq, to name a few. Speakers have included

Ambassador Richard Gardner, Columbia University Professor Edward Luck, Azeen Salimi, Associate Coordinator of Doctors Without Borders, Sir Brian Urquhart, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Ken Pollack, frequent contributor to *Foreign Affairs* magazine.

The **Education Committee** is making an effort to lobby the New York State Board of Education to adopt a UN curriculum at all grade levels in public schools. The curriculum to be proposed will include information on the UN system, a comparison of the UN Charter and the US Constitution, analysis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The committee will work through the UNA Southern New York Division to contribute to their efforts and gather a delegation of UNA-USA members from New York State to press the Board of Regents locally and the Commissioner of the New York State Board of Education. The promotion of the UN and other relevant information in public schools, will establish how important the world body is to our national security as well we the organization's historic and economic importance to New York City.

## Ralph Bunche at 100

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ate. From his experience as co-director of the Institute of Race Relations at Swarthmore College in 1936, added to his firsthand research performed earlier, he wrote *A World View of Race* (1936). He participated in the Carnegie Corporation's well-known survey of the Negro in America, under the direction of the Swedish sociologist, Gunnar Myrdal, which resulted in the publication of Myrdal's *An American Dilemma* (1944). He was a member of the "Black Cabinet" consulted on minority problems by Roosevelt's administration; declined President Truman's offer of the position of assistant secretary of state because of

the segregated housing conditions in Washington, D. C.; helped to lead the civil rights march organized by Martin Luther King, Jr., in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965; (continued next page) supported the action programs of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and of the Urban League. Bunche has not himself formed organizations, nor has he aspired to positions of administrative leadership in existing civil rights organizations. Rather, he has exerted his influence personally in speeches and publications, especially during the twenty-year period from 1945 to 1965. His message has been clear: Racial prejudice is an

unreasoned phenomenon without scientific basis in biology or anthropology; "segregation and democracy are incompatible"; blacks should maintain the struggle for equal rights while accepting the responsibilities that come with freedom; whites must demonstrate that "democracy is color-blind"<sup>2</sup> Ralph Bunche's enduring fame arises from his service to the U. S. government and to the UN. An adviser to the Department of State and to the military on Africa and colonial areas of strategic military importance during World War II, Bunche moved from his first position as an analyst in the Office of Strategic Services to

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## Ralph Bunche at 100

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the desk of acting chief of the Division of Dependent Area Affairs in the State Department. He also discharged various responsibilities in connection with international conferences of the Institute of Pacific Relations, the UN, the International Labor Organization, and the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission. In 1946, UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie “borrowed” Bunche from the State Department and placed him in charge of the Department of Trusteeship of the UN to handle problems of the world's peoples who had not yet attained self-government. He has been associated with the UN ever since. From June of 1947 to August of 1949, Bunche worked on the most important assignment of his career - the confrontation between Arabs and Jews in Palestine. He was first appointed as assistant to the UN Special Committee on Palestine, then as principal secretary of the UN Palestine Commission, which was charged with carrying out the partition approved by the UN General Assembly. In early 1948 when this plan was dropped and fighting between Arabs and Israelis became

especially severe, the UN appointed Count Folke Bernadotte as mediator and Ralph Bunche as his chief aide.

Four months later, on September 17, 1948, Count Bernadotte was assassinated, and Bunche was named acting UN mediator on Palestine. After eleven months of virtually ceaseless negotiating, Bunche obtained signatures on armistice agreements between Israel and the Arab States. Bunche returned home to a hero's welcome. New York gave him a “ticker tape” parade up Broadway; Los Angeles declared a “Ralph Bunche Day.” He was besieged with requests to lecture, was awarded the Spingarn Prize by the NAACP in 1949, was given over thirty honorary degrees in the next three years, and the Nobel Peace Prize for 1950. Bunche still works for the UN. From 1955 to 1967, he served as undersecretary for Special Political Affairs and since 1968 has been under-secretary-general. During these years he has taken on many special assignments. When war erupted in the Congo in 1960, Dag Hammarskjöld, then Secretary-General of the UN, appointed him as his special representative to oversee the UN commitments there. He has shouldered analogous duties in Cyprus, Kashmir,

and Yemen.

Replying to an interviewer on the UN's intervention in international crises, Bunche remarked that the “United Nations has had the courage that the League of Nations lacked - to step in and tackle the buzz saw”<sup>3</sup>. Ralph Bunche has supplied a part of that courage.<sup>4</sup> Ralph Bunche died in 1971.

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1. Bunche pays tribute to this “matriarch” of the family in an autobiographical fragment in *Reader's Digest*, “My Most Unforgettable Character.”

2. See Gregg Phifer, “Ralph Bunche: Negro Spokesman,” *passim*.

3. “Crisis,” in *The New Yorker*, 43 (July 29, 1967) 23.

4. Suffering from heart disease and diabetes, Mr. Bunche resigned as UN undersecretary-general on October 1, 1971. He died on December 9, 1971. From *Nobel Lectures, Peace 1926-1950*, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam

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### Save the Date!

Here are just a few of our upcoming events!  
For more details, visit [www.unanyc.org/events.html](http://www.unanyc.org/events.html)

**Thursday, May 6**

**Linda Fasulo's Insider's Guide to the U.N.**

**Wednesday, May 19**

**Celebrating the European Union**

**Wednesday, June 2**

**UNA of New York Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 14**

**Unilateralism vs. Multilateralism**

**Friday, October 22**

**Annual United Nations Day Benefit Luncheon**

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## Executive Director's Report

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of active new membership.

In summary, my main efforts this year will focus on strengthening our interface with schools and colleges, broadening our appeal to young professionals, building collaborative relationships with UN missions, growing our membership and expanding our donor base. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any information that I can provide.

I look forward to welcoming you to our programs and events. Our year has started out well and promises to offer even more. Please stay involved.

***Ann Nicol***  
Executive Director



## Celebrating the European Union

On **May 19**, in association with the European Union Studies Center of CUNY, UNA of New York has assembled a panel of distinguished Ambassadors to discuss their countries new membership in the EU.

The Permanent Representatives to the UN from **Hungary, Estonia** and **Slovenia** will participate in this program at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Hungary to the United Nations at 227 East 52nd Street. The event will start with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by a panel discussion from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Call (212) **907-1354** to reserve your seat.

An invitation with more details has been mailed to UNA-NY members, or just visit our website at [www.unanyc.org](http://www.unanyc.org).

We look forward to seeing you there!