



**UNITED  
NATIONS  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
NEW  
YORK**

**Summer 2005**

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## President's Report

Henry G. Sanchez

This past year has been a momentous one for the UNA-NY chapter. In 2004, we initiated a series of ambitious programs to raise the awareness of the local and international New York community about the important work of United Nations. Most importantly, as the host chapter of the UN we have an especially important role in informing our fellow citizens that we are proud to have the UN organization in our city. Because New York is the global capital of the world, the cultural capital of the world, and the financial capital of the world, it is fitting that we have the most important multilateral organization in our city. I am here to report that UNA-NY is fulfilling its mission bringing our fellow New Yorkers and the UN closer.

The past year has been filled with a variety of programs, events, and presentations for members and friends. We have had mission visits to the Polish, Swiss, and Turkish consulates. For the first time in my memory our chapter hosted an art exhibition with local high school talent—in the UN lobby!

In early 2004, we began our relationship with a group called the Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC). Thanks to the leadership of YPIC Chair and new Board Member Kevin Jefferson, the group has held regular monthly programs with international speakers.

Our membership has been increasing over the past few years. Since 2004, membership has increased by 20 percent making us one of the fastest growing UNA chapters in the nation. This is due in large part to the variety of programs that we offer our membership.

Without the tireless work of our Executive Director Ann Nicol, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to implement all of our activities. It has been our chapter's goal over the past five years to have an executive director position funded, and we have been very lucky to have the ideal person to fill that role.

I also want to thank our Advisory Council members and Chairperson Sylvan Barnet for helping to develop closer relationships among our Board and Council.

I am delighted to inform you that the winner of the 2005 Eleanore Schnurr Award is one of our current board members and former president of UNA-NY, Jutta Bertram-Nothnagel, Deputy Secretary General of the Union Internationale des Avocats. On behalf of the UNA-NY membership, I congratulate Jutta for this well-deserved honor.

There is an old sport adage—a team manager is only as good as the players. And this is certainly true for our organization! I have been fortunate to serve for an incredibly active board this past year and a half. Like the board members, I am a volunteer and we rely on this spirit of collaboration, cooperation, and a personal sense (*“Report,” continued on page 6*)



The Turkish Mission hosted an evening with UNA-NY on May 12. A discussion panel included (left to right) Consul General Omer Onhon, Turkish UN Representative Ersin Ercin, and UNA-NY President Henry Sanchez.

## **JUTTA BERTRAM-NOTHNAGEL RECEIVES 2005 ELEANORE SCHNURR AWARD**

Ann Nicol

Jutta Bertram-Nothnagel, UNA-NY chapter board member and former president, received the Eleanore Schnurr Award on June 2.

Eleanore Schnurr worked for many years on a number of issues as an NGO representative to the UN and was an outstanding and effective champion of humankind. In recognition of her exceptional service in support of the work of the UN, the Council of Organizations of the United Nations Association of the USA, created the Eleanore Schnurr Award to be presented annually to a non-governmental organization representative who exemplifies her courage and commitment.

Jutta Bertram-Nothnagel, like Eleanore Schnurr, has distinguished herself at the United Nations. Currently she is Deputy Secretary General of the Union Internationale des Avocats, the oldest global association of international lawyers.

She is also the representative for the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, and was the representative for the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the United Nations Association/USA, as well as the Lawyer's Committee on Nuclear Policy.

Jutta received her first law degree, from Maximilian University in Germany and her LLM from New York University. She was a Senior Fellow at the Center for International Studies, also at NYU. She has been Advisor to the French Republic, Adjunct Associate Professor at (*“Award,” continued on page 6*)

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## Chapter News & Committee Reports



UNA-NY sponsored a high school art exhibition in the UN lobby, April 14–25. Students of the Manhattan High School of Art & Design exhibited their issue-related art in conjunction with the United Nations meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The exhibition was open to the public.

## Board Welcomes New Members

We welcome the following members to our Advisory Council and Board. Look to meet them at our program events.

### Kevin Jefferson, Board Member

Since 2000, Kevin Jefferson has worked for First Data Corporation in several positions. He currently works in the subsidiary, First Data International, in the Latin America/Canada Finance Group, which encompasses the Merchant Businesses in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, and Panama, while supporting other businesses in Latin America. In this capacity he is responsible for analytics, deal model development, forecasting, and strategic planning.

In addition to his position on the Board of UNA-NY, Kevin is currently the Chair of the chapter's Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC), which he helped to establish in May 2004. He is also a member of UNA-USA's YPIC National Advisory Council.

Originally from Austin, Texas, he received a BS in Molecular Biology from the University of Texas at Austin.

### Mildred Robbins Leet, Advisory Council

Millie Leet is Co-Founder, with her late husband Glen, and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Trickle Up Program, Inc. based in New York City. Trickle Up was established in 1979 with a mission to help the lowest income people worldwide take their first steps out of poverty by providing conditional seed capital and

business training essential to the launch of a micro enterprise. Among her many awards and recognitions by universities and international institutions, Ms. Leet was honored by WomenAid along with Wangari Maathai and Mother Theresa, with the Women of the World Award presented by the late Princess Diana. She founded the UN Hospitality Information Service resulting in the creation of the New York City Commission for the UN and Consular Corps. She was Chair Emeritus of the Board of the Metropolitan College of New York and Vice President of the US Committee for UNIFEM, which she helped found in 1984. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Women's International Forum and the UN International Task Force on the Informal Sector Development in Africa.

### Jacob Willemsen, Board Member

Jacob Willemsen is founder and owner of New Amsterdam Trade & Consultancy LLC. Since 2002 Jacob has offered various government and corporate clients services in the UN Procurement Market including coordinating UN Procurement Seminars on behalf of government organizations. He is the founder and coordinator for the European Procurement Forum Inc., a cooperation of EU trade representations to the United Nations Headquarters. Jacob also gives presentations to individual government and industry organizations about operating more successfully, efficiently and effectively in the UN Procurement market. He advises and represents individual companies on an individual

basis on how to market their companies to specific UN organizations.

He holds a MS degree in Economics from the University of Amsterdam, where he specialized in International Economic Affairs, Finance and Marketing. ■

—Submitted by Peter Rajsingh,  
Nominating Committee Chair

## Government Relations News

Our Government Relations Committee is prepared for greater activity in the fall. Uppermost on the agenda is advocating for the UN Consolidation Plan to repair the existing UN headquarters building, and construct a new building nearby that would ultimately consolidate all UN agencies and staff in the two buildings while adding more park and open space along FDR Drive. In 2002 the UN asked the UN Development Corporation (created by the New York legislature in 1968 to build other office buildings serving UN agencies and missions) for assistance in refurbishing the entire UN Headquarters complex. Unfortunately, the authorization needed from the New York State Senate is not forthcoming because of other concerns about the UN. This authorization is stalled even though the US Congress and the Bush administration have given their full approval.

The committee is looking forward to activating the UNA-NY membership, as well as our YPIC members, to develop a presence in the local offices of our federal and state legislators.

(See "GR," continued on page 4)

# Chapter News & Committee Reports

## Young Professionals for International Cooperation

YPIC, a nonpartisan, national network of professionals between the ages of 21 and 40, works to promote effective US involvement in international affairs and in the UN. YPIC provides emerging leaders access to resources and contacts that allow them to act on issues of national and global importance. The group is made up of five committees that are region and issue specific: Economic Development, European Affairs, Human Rights, Humanitarian Affairs, and Latin American Affairs.

We've had a very active 2005 so far following our first set of events last fall. In addition to our committee events, we are highlighting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) throughout 2005.

Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, President and CEO of the Ambassador's Club at the UN, was our first speaker of the new year on January 12. He opened our series of events on the MDGs, all held at the Zephyr Grill in the Beekman Tower Hotel, featuring ambassadors, scholars and UN officials and experts.

David O'Connor, Chief of Policy Integration and Analysis, Branch of Sustainable Development within the UN

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, was our second speaker, on February 9. Salwa Kader, President of the United States Federation for Middle East



UNA-NY President Henry Sanchez (right) socializing with YPIC members during the Annual Meeting held at the Polish Consulate.

Peace, spoke on women's rights and the Middle East on March 22. On April 27, Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, Vice President-Multilateral Affairs at the International Crisis Group, spoke about Kosovo and moving towards a final status. On May 25, Meagan Bovell, Programme Specialist at the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) spoke about the third MDG— "Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women." We partnered with the United States Committee for UNIFEM on this event and

look forward to working with them in the future.

We are taking the month of June off to rest up! We will be back with a July 7

panel discussing AIDS orphans from the policy and practical sides. In August, we continue our theme highlighting the MDGs with guest speaker Anika Rahman, President of the United States Committee for the Population Fund (UNFPA). She will speak about the fifth MDG, "Improve Maternal Health." ■

—Submitted by Kevin Jefferson, YPIC Chair

☛ For more information on YPIC and our program events, please check our web site, [www.unanyc.org](http://www.unanyc.org), or e-mail [ypic@unanyc.org](mailto:ypic@unanyc.org)

## UNA-New York Screens Demme's Film, "The Agronomist"

Anne Chene

UNA-NY held a screening of the documentary film "The Agronomist" at the Museum of Modern Art on April 7 in cooperation with Fairleigh Dickinson University and MoMA. Michele Montas, wife of the late Jean Dominique (the agronomist) and fellow radio journalist of "Radio Haiti Inter," was present, along with film director Jonathan Demme. They led an inspiring panel discussion following the film.

The theater at the MoMA was filled to capacity, with over 100 Fairleigh Dickinson students and MoMA and UNA-NY members. Demme introduced the film in a manner that captivated the audience. In his introduction, he revealed that he wanted Dominique to star in one of his "Hollywood" movies and it was not his plan to make a docudrama about Dominique's aspirations to fight against injustice, oppression, and poverty through his radio station "Radio Haiti Inter."

Demme and Jean Dominique met in New York, where Dominique was living in exile. Demme interviewed him extensively and then followed him to Haiti. But once Dominique

reopened his radio station, he no longer had interest in Demme's "Hollywood" movie. "I am here to run a radio station, not to act in a movie," he told Demme. So Demme finished up the interviews and went back to the US.

Demme took the film footage off the shelf after he heard about the still-unresolved assassination of Dominique. Demme gave voice to the late journalist's convictions with this amazing tale of the fight and struggle that Dominique and Montas endured while keeping the people of Haiti well-informed and pursuing their own freedom of speech.

Michel Montas currently works at UN radio, but hopes to go back to Haiti one day and reopen "Radio Haiti Inter." During the panel discussion, she described both the political misgivings of Haitians and their hopes of a new beginning. However, the current political situation prevents her from returning soon.

This first UNA-NY film screening was a huge success and our collaboration with Fairleigh Dickinson and MoMA worked very well. We look forward to many more collaborative events. ■

# Chapter News & Committee Reports

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## Development Committee Notes

The Development Committee continues to stay the course and conclude the fund raising activities it initiated several months ago. The Board Development Fund has now passed \$12,000 on its way to the goal of \$15,000. We remain optimistic that by the June Board meeting we will have met our goals of \$15,000 and 100% Board participation. As this newsletter goes to press, we are sending out another solicitation to general membership. This request for contribution will be generally based upon a very successful letter sent out by the

National Capital Area chapter. We hope that their success will be our good luck!

United Nations Day in October will celebrate the important 60th anniversary of the organization. We are seeking to take extra advantage of the notoriety of the occasion.

We will soon be meeting with the Advisory Council so that we may describe for them ways in which they can play a more sustaining role in the event. We are also talking to corporate sponsors and are hopeful that the money made at this event may propel the chapter to an

improved financial position.

This being the last newsletter of this program year, we on the Development Committee want to thank everyone who has financially contributed, but more we want to thank everyone who has so accelerated the activity, growth and success of the New York chapter. It is your effort that has given our fund raising credibility and purpose. ■

—Submitted by William Karg, Development Committee Chair

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## Communication Committee News

In an on-going effort to draw attention to the activities and programs of UNA-NY, we have mailed out media alerts and press releases prior to monthly programs. Our efforts have met with success, and we can report the following press coverage.

Journalist Damaso Reyes wrote for *Amsterdam News* in February highlighting UNA-NY's program on "African Women and HIV/AIDS" at the Polish Consulate. The guest speaker was Ambassador Judith Mbula Bahemuka, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations. Reyes wrote "while the specter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic has largely faded from Western consciousness, the disease continues to ravage Africa, especially large numbers of the adult population infected in sub-Saharan Africa." He names Ambassador Judith Mbula Bahemuka as one of the strongest advocates for change and quotes her throughout the article with facts and solutions presented by the Ambassador. The *Amsterdam News* article is available in its entirety on the UNA-NY website [www.unanyc.org](http://www.unanyc.org)

Journalist Pete Heinlein from Voice of America recorded the entire March program, "Impending Worldwide Water Crisis and its Impact on the Human Food Chain" with George Fischer, Professor of Geology, and Solomon Katz, Professor of Anthropology. Both professors gave a fascinating and at times disturbing account of our historical and current geological state and the world's quickly disappearing water supplies. Both offered concrete solutions, which need to be implemented in the near future to avert an even bigger crisis. The voice recordings are available on the UNA-NY web site: [www.unanyc.org](http://www.unanyc.org).

**Upcoming events**—The Communications Committee is at the beginning stages of planning another film festival in September 2005. ■

—Submitted by Aenne Chene, Communications Committee Chair

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(“GR,” continued from page 2)

Another priority item for the committee will be to communicate with US legislators on the subject of UN reform and support for constructive institutional improvements—but without the threatened sanction of the US of withholding its legal share of UN funding.

The committee will also seek to strengthen our ties with other organizations with similar goals and interests, for example the City Bar's United Nations Committee, and with local political leaders, all with a view to opening new lines of communication to facilitate more effective action when quick responses to rapidly developing

legislative issues are necessary.

The committee will miss outgoing Chairperson and Board member Michael Cooper. Michael will be leaving for Washington, DC this summer. We thank him for his contributions and wish him the best.

Our new Co-Chairs are Board members Richard Romney and Maureen Basquill Ruf. Richard Romney is a corporate attorney advising corporations, individuals and non-profit organizations. He is co-chair of the International Investment and Development Committee of the Section of International Law of the American Bar Association.

Maureen Basquill Ruf is an attorney

practicing in the areas of non-profit organizations, trusts and estates, business and immigration law. She is a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York where she served on its Committee on Foreign and Comparative Law (1999-2001) and the United Nations Committee (2002-2005). She is also a member of the New York State Bar Association.

UNA-NY will be expecting an active membership to make the committee agenda a successful one. This is an opportunity for us to make a difference!

—Submitted by Maureen Basquill Ruf, GR Committee Chair

## Executive Director's Report

Ann Nicol

It's been an eventful winter and spring for the New York Chapter of UNA and a very successful one.

Last year we enrolled 220 new members. Since the beginning of this year 90 people have joined us. I am proud to say that we are one of the fastest growing chapters in the United States.

This year, we have organized informative monthly programs with many prominent speakers. Among them have been Olara Otunnu, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict; George Fisher and Sol Katz, professors from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Pennsylvania; Ambassador Judith Mbula Bahemuka of Kenya; and Giandomenico Picco, former Under Secretary General.



Olara Otunnu and Executive Director Ann Nicol attending the Annual Meeting on May 24.

We added two members to our Board of Directors, including a member of our young professionals, and two Advisory Council members.

Our mission this year has been strengthened by our association with 200 young people, members of Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC). YPIC holds monthly meetings at the Beekman Tower Hotel's Zephyr Grill where members network and deepen their understanding about UN topics and international affairs. This group is an active and thriving part of UNA-NY.

We have recently initiated a Student Alliance program which empowers middle school, high school and college students to be more informed

global citizens and support the work of the UN. Through this forum, students examine issues and cultivate a sense of global awareness within their educational communities. Our two summer interns are busy sending out packets and setting up appointments at New York City schools. We also assist students in setting up clubs in their schools. Each Student Alliance group is coordinating a United Nations Day activity and participates in outreach programs.

Our chapter has been busy in many new directions. We sponsored a high school art exhibition which was on view at the UN April 14–25. Students of the Manhattan High School of Art & Design exhibited their art work in conjunction with the United Nations meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The exhibition was open to the public.

In April, we sponsored a film screening at the Museum of Modern Art. The film's director, Jonathan Demme, was our special guest and more than 100 people attended (more details inside).

On May 12, the Turkish Mission hosted an event for us at the Turkish Center where we engaged in lively and timely discussions with mission staff, including Consul General Omer Onhon. We were treated to a variety of Turkish food and wine.

Our 2005 Annual Meeting at the Polish Consulate on May 24 was well-attended and featured the UN's Olara Otunnu, winner of the 2005 Sydney Peace Prize.

We now have an agreement with *Foreign Affairs* magazine to receive discounted subscription rates for our members. Please take advantage of this if you have not done so already. Details for subscriptions can be found on our web site, [www.unanyc.org](http://www.unanyc.org).

As the UNA chapter in the host city, we very much look forward to the 60th anniversary of the United Nations—and continue to celebrate the UN as the unique organization that has provided the world with the best hope for global peace and cooperation. ■

## Celebrate the UN's 60th Anniversary at Our Gala Dinner!

Desiree Watson

Join UNA-NY at a gala dinner on Friday, October 21, to celebrate the UN's 60th anniversary! The festivities begin with a reception at 6:30pm and continue with dinner at 7:30pm in the Delegates Dining Room at the UN.

Our gala theme is "Spotlight on Global Health." We will be honoring Links, Inc. and the International Federation of Health Plans (IFHP).

Links, Inc. is an organization of accomplished and dedicated professional women who have contributed significant and noteworthy service through community work in the areas of education and health. We honor them for their commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals, for their work in promoting primary education in South Africa, and for improving maternal health and reducing child mortality in Uganda.

IFHP has a diverse membership of over 100 health organizations and insurers in 25 countries. We honor them for their work in promoting excellence in health care in many regions of the world and their role in the sharing of best practices among health organizations globally.

By honoring these two important organizations, we hope to raise awareness on significant issues dealing with global health as well as build important bridges between the private and public sectors. Funds raised will assist UNA-USA's HERO Campaign, which works with children in less developed countries suffering from HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses, as well as UNA-NY educational programs and development.

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## 2005 Calendar of Events

**Tuesday, August 16**

YPIC program: The Millennium Development Goals and Maternal Health

**Thursday, September 22**

Speaker Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor, *Nation* magazine

**Friday, October 21**

UN Anniversary Gala Dinner

For more information and updates, please check our web site, [www.unanyc.org](http://www.unanyc.org)

## Student Alliance Planned for New York

Etkin Camoglu and Daniel Gregoire

This summer will see the beginnings of a UNA-NY outreach program for high school and college students in the metropolitan area—Student Alliance. The program’s main goal is to identify and inform students who will ultimately defend, uphold, and determine the future of the United Nations.

The Student Alliance program allows students who show an interest in international affairs to be engaged in the mission of the United Nations by providing hands-on educational opportunities. Student Alliance connects motivated young adults through a nationwide network and encourages discussions and debate on a wide range of issues that concern the United Nations.

Participants also conduct activities that promote the UN to those within their community. Participants network with UN dignitaries through the programs of UNA-USA, including meetings at the UN. In addition, the

Student Alliance encourages participation in community events such as a UN Day observance.

UNA-NY is already setting the groundwork with many schools in the city. Currently we are working with seven high schools and six colleges, among them the UN International School, The Dwight International School, Barnard College, and New York University.

When the school year starts up again in the fall, Student Alliance is expected to be ready to begin. High school advisors have already been contacted and are in conversation with UNA-NY.

A July event is planned for college students to provide an introduction to both the UNA and Student Alliance. New York is the home of the UN, and Student Alliance has the potential to engage the youth of the city and give them an important way to support the goals of the United Nations. ■

*(“Award,” continued from page 1)*

Yeshiva University, and has participated in panels at Columbia University School of Law.

A true internationalist, she has been a delegate in her field on five continents. Her academic background has allowed her many positive contributions to legal committees at the United Nations and other institutions of higher



UNA-NY Board Member Jutta Bertram-Nothnagel, recipient of the Eleanore Schnurr Award, chats with Advisory Council Chair Sylvan Barnet at the May 24 Annual Meeting.

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## Meet Our Interns—

**Etkin Camoglu**, a native of Manhattan, I am currently a rising Junior at New York University double majoring in English and American Literature and Middle Eastern Studies with a concentration on the modern Turkish Republic. I am also minoring in Creative Writing and I am part of the Advanced Creative Writing Program at NYU. I am a reporter and writer for the highly acclaimed student-run newspaper, the *Washington Square News*, as well as a writer of fiction for the student creative writing magazine. With my Turkish-American background, I am fluent in Turkish, and spent last summer studying Turkish literature, economics, and society at Bogazici University, the American University in Istanbul. Having just been accepted into the NYU study abroad program, I will be furthering my French speaking skills by attending NYU Paris in the upcoming academic year.

**Daniel Gregoire**, a native New Yorker, I am in my last semester at Metropolitan College of New York, Audrey Cohen School of Human Service and Education. I aspire to become an international public servant and am planning to pursue a master’s degree in Public Administration with a concentration in International Affairs. My sights are set on working at the United Nations or the US State Department. I’m employed at Safe Horizon, a crime victim’s hotline for the City of New York, as a client advocate providing crisis counseling and referral services to victims of crime and abuse. I am a long-time Unitarian and live out my humanist faith in service to others. My personal philosophy is to assist people under the premise that eventually they will be able to assist themselves. I dream of someday living in Washington DC.

education. The brilliance and empathy that has made her an effective representative of various organizations illuminates her current work in the areas of sustainable development and human rights, including the interaction between human rights and environmental protection and human responsibility. We congratulate Jutta for a well-deserved award and recognition. ■

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*(“Report,” continued from page 1)*

and desire to “give back” to sustain the chapter. I want to thank all the board members for the hard work you have all done this past year.

We are charting a course this year of major transformation for the chapter. We have certain goals in place to make this our most successful year in terms of activity, membership growth, and development. Our number one objective is to achieve those goals while making our part-time executive director a full time employee. This is no small task! Nonetheless, we are up the challenge.

With your help, UNA-NY will be on its way to becoming one of the nation’s most effective and professional chapters! ■