



**UNITED
NATIONS
ASSOCIATION
OF
NEW
YORK**

Winter 2005

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President's Report

Henry G. Sanchez

Since the start of my presidency in January 2004, I have been determined to help our chapter become a vibrant and active organization where people can learn about the global challenges facing the UN. At the same time, I wanted our chapter members to engage more with young professionals, visit various missions and consulates, and commit ourselves to the long-term health of our organization. I can report with great pride that we have had an incredibly successful year! Membership is up. We have visited both the Hungarian and Canadian Consulates. And we have invited the New York chapter of Young Professionals for International Cooperation—YPIC—to become involved with our organization (see page 5).

2005 promises to see more activity from our chapter in the areas of cultural events and education, and more programs and social activities where members can meet well-respected people involved with issues of the UN.

Our board is one of the most active and energetic that I have ever had the honor to work with during my years as a UNA member. Most importantly, this past year's success was due in large part to previous board of directors and past presidents raising the necessary funds to hire an executive director for the first time.

UNA-NY Executive Director Ann Nicol deserves special credit for focusing our board on achieving great things in 2004. She is currently working part time, but I am committing our board to continue its good work so that by the end of 2005 we will offer her a full time position. Without Ann Nicol's help and enthusiasm the success of this chapter would be much limited, indeed!

Notwithstanding our accomplishments, we remain concerned about our ability to answer the valid but sometimes extreme criticism directed at the UN and the Secretary General. There remains much to do at the UN in the areas of reform, accountability, and the representation of women and non-governmental organizations. We have done our best to provide an array of program speakers to address the dearth of information surrounding current issues that remain controversial.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the UN. Our programs and activities will reflect this momentous time and are designed to highlight the Millennium Development Goals to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women.

At the same time, we look forward to an agenda that will give members the opportunity to socialize through art and cultural events. We were very happy to help the YPIC host a film festival in December. We are planning future film screenings at various venues, as well as an art exhibition in the lobby of the UN.

Once again I want to thank UNA-NY's board for the opportunity of serving as your president in 2004 and I look forward to doing so in 2005!

Egeland Presentation Launches 2005 Programs

Submitted by Polly Franchini

On January 13, UN Under Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland spoke to an audience of over 150 UNA-NY members and guests at the UN Church Center auditorium.

His topic, "The Tsunami Crisis in Asia and Africa: The World Responds," covered the extraordinary natural disaster at the end of 2004 and the subsequent reactions and strategies of UN agencies, governments and NGOs around the world.

He reprised the situation which has so far taken the lives of an estimated 150,000 people in twelve countries. Millions have been displaced and many tens of thousands are missing.

"Today we are having an unprecedented challenge in so many countries," Egeland told the standing-room-only group. "I am acutely aware that the eyes of the world are upon us—we must prove we are a united nations. And yes, we are responding as united nations." And because the United Nations currently has humanitarian programs in over 100 countries, its local workers were first on the scene of the crises in Asia and Africa.

The UN effort, with Mr. Egeland at the lead, continues a monumental coordination of over 100 local governments, 150 NGOs, military assistance from 15 countries, and tens of thousands of volunteers.

Additionally, the UN must secure, (See "Egeland," continued on page 6)



On January 20, the Swiss Consul General hosted a UNA-NY reception. See "Visits," page 3.

UNA Today

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Ann Nicol, Executive Director

Henry G. Sanchez, President

UN Comes to You—on DVD

Submitted by Kathy Kline, Project Director

UNA-NY has researched and developed a proposal to create an engaging interactive DVD introduction to the United Nations. Our chapter is seizing the opportunity to use this popular technology to tell the United Nations story in a powerful format.

As soon as we secure funding, we're prepared to complete DVD production in 2005, in time for the UN's 60th anniversary. We plan to disseminate copies to US libraries, make them available to UNA chapters, and distribute them for sale in UN bookstores throughout the world!

The primary audience for our DVD will be the American public. The introduction will explain how President Franklin D. Roosevelt conceived the idea for the UN and ensured that representatives from countries around the world would attend the 1945 San Francisco convention. This convention successfully established what is today the only multilateral worldwide security organization. Interactive scenarios based on UN events will present the complexities involved in global issues such as public health, peacekeeping, trade, and the environment.

An award-winning production company has been selected to produce the DVD. They have extensive experience in developing materials for museums and other educational institutions.

☛ If you would like to volunteer time for this project—or can suggest funding sources—please contact Katherine Kline, Project Director, at kklineco@aol.com

Chapter News & Committee Reports

UNA Advisory Council Chair Sylvan Barnet Receives 2004 Eleanore Schnurr Award

Sylvan S. Barnet of Rotary International received the 2004 Eleanore Schnurr Award during the annual meeting of the New York Council of Organizations on June 10, 2004.

Our congratulations go to him—he has given invaluable time and support to our chapter in addition to his outstanding service to Rotary International. We are honored to have Sylvan Barnet, as well as previous winner and former president Hope Miller, on our Advisory Council.

Eleanore Schnurr was recognized for her exceptional service in support of the work of the UN. To honor her as a valued colleague, the New York Council of Organizations of the UNA-USA created the Eleanore Schnurr Award. This is presented annually to a representative of a non-governmental organization whose work reflects a similar level of selflessness and commitment.

Board Welcomes New Members

Submitted by Peter Rajsingh, Nominating Committee Chair

Six chapter members have been honored by being nominated to serve on our board of directors and add their experience and viewpoints to our decision-making. We look forward to an exciting new year with a total of 28 board members. The board also voted in April to invite the chair of the Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) to sit as an observer.

We welcome the following new members to our board. Look to meet them at our program events.

Maureen Basquill Ruf was born and raised in New York City. She earned a BA from Richmond College of the City University of New York, an MA in International Affairs from the Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver and a JD from the College of Law, University of Denver.

She currently practices law in Manhattan at Ruf & Basquill. Her practice areas include Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, Wills, Trusts and Estates and Immigration Law. She is a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and presently serves on the City Bar's United Nations Committee. She is also a member of the New York State Bar Association.

Edward Gray is founder, president and CEO of Analytic Asset Management Inc., and Gray, Seifert & Co., and was senior vice-president at Bessemer Trust Company. He is a member and past president and trustee of the Rotary Club of New York, founder and chairman of the Countess Moira Charitable Foundation, and trustee of the Lichtenstein Foundation. He holds an AB from Princeton University and a degree from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

Joan Levy is a former speech pathologist who has been associated with the United Nations for the past six years. She is chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, an organization representing 1,500 NGOs affiliated with the Department of Public Information. She is the main representative of the NGO End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA) and is on the board of directors of the Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza Park.

Richard Romney is general counsel and senior legal advisor at Dewey Ballantine LLP. He was managing partner in Warsaw, Poland of his firm's Polish subsidiary. He received his JD from the University of Virginia and an AB in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Section of ("Board Members," continues on page 6)

Chapter News & Committee Reports

MoMA to Screen Jonathan Demme's Film, "The Agronomist"

Submitted by Anne Chene, Communications Committee Chair

The **Communications Committee** has been planning a film series to build support for the United Nations among young people, especially college students. The first event in the series is "The Agronomist," a documentary about Haitian national hero, journalist and freedom fighter Jean Dominique and directed by Jonathan Demme. The event will take place at MoMA on April 7 at 8 pm.

Jonathan Demme will introduce and discuss the film along with Jean Dominique's widow, Michele Montas. The event is co-sponsored by our chapter and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

As owner and operator of his nation's oldest and only free radio station, Radio Haiti Inter, Dominique was frequently at odds with his country's various repressive governments and spent much of the 80s and early 90s in exile in New York, where Demme met and interviewed him over the years. Dominique fought tirelessly against his country's overwhelming injustice, oppression, and poverty. But it was Dominique's shocking and still-unresolved assassination in April of 2000 that gave the director the impetus to assemble more than a decade's worth of material into a celebration of this dynamic man and his legacy.

The film will be offered to college students from Fairleigh Dickinson University whose Associate Provost of Interdisciplinary, Distributed and Global Learning Michael Sperling has established the contact with Jonathan Demme. UNA-NY members and students from local New York universities are encouraged to participate.

The aim of these film festivals is to introduce students to issues the UN faces globally. This film focuses on human rights. Future events will feature films focusing on global UN issues. Our chapter looks forward to widening the audience for these events with students across the city.

☛ **For more information and updates, please check our web site, www.unanyc.org**

Development Committee Notes

Submitted by William Karg, Development Committee Chair

Our committee has adjusted the timing of its appeals since the last newsletter, moving from a June-to-June program schedule to a January-to-January fiscal year schedule. This adjustment has necessitated asking some of you for donations twice in the same year. The frequency is not meant to "double-request" you but rather to readjust the schedule.

Letters of appeal went out to selected general membership in December. In order to provide chapter leadership and responsibility, the board began its own pledge drive in the same month. Because these donations are tax deductible, we wanted people to be able to take advantage of the end of the tax year. (Please note that due to the tsunami disaster, the IRS has extended the deadline for charitable giving until the end of January 2005.)

As of this writing we are planning new and creative ways in which the advisory council will be able to be more engaged with chapter activities and financial backing. We are also working toward developing the necessary contacts with private individuals, foundations and corporations who understand the importance of our mission.

Both the general membership and the board fund raising campaigns are now in full swing and we will provide a detailed report in the next newsletter.

We encourage everyone to give to the level of their personal means and comfort. The effectiveness of our chapter, and its support of the United Nations at this very critical time, is reliant on the financial resources upon which we are able to draw.

Mission Visits Off to A Great Start

Submitted by Michael Cooper, Government Relations Committee Chair

In May, the **Government Relations Committee** sponsored an exciting event at the Hungarian Mission to the United Nations. A panel of distinguished ambassadors from Slovenia, Hungary, and Estonia discussed their recent entrance into the European Union. Hosted jointly, the gracious reception included wines and delicacies from both Hungary and Slovenia, as well as Estonian chocolates. About 180 chapter members attended the event and had the opportunity to exchange views with the three ambassadors and their staff, both formally through the presentations, and informally throughout the evening as guests mingled.

In September, Ambassador Allan Rock, Permanent Representative of Canada to

the United Nations invited UNA New York members to the Canadian Mission where he discussed "Human Security: A New Diplomacy." Through the human security paradigm, Canada and other nations in the "human security network" seek to build a world where universal humanitarian standards and

the rule of law are guiding forces that inform international affairs. Those active in the human security network place less emphasis on state sovereignty and assert that meaningful national and international security will elude us until ("Visits," continues on page 5)



Canadian Ambassador Allan Rock hosted an event in September.

Chapter News & Committee Reports

Timely Programs Promote Increased Attendance

Submitted by Sherrie Murphy, Program Committee Chair

Our monthly programs featuring expert speakers have greatly increased program attendance.

This year's opening program on January 13 featured UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland, the UN's coordinator for emergency relief and drew an audience of well over 150 (see page 1).

Our Annual Meeting at the Helmsley Palace Hotel was attended by over 140 people. Our guest speaker was the distinguished Professor Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and special advisor to the Secretary General on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In September, Clyde Prestowitz, author of the bestselling book *Rogue Nation*, spoke to our group about the historical roots of American unilateralism in foreign policy.

In November, Stephen Schlesinger, director of the World Policy Institute at the New School, discussed Latin America and various Latin American governmental strategies—democracy in contrast to authoritarian regimes or revolutions.

Our December program was in collaboration with UNIFEM on "Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Situations."

Programs on Africa, the water shortage facing our world, and many other pertinent topics will be featured in 2005.

Our annual meeting is planned for May 24 at the Polish Consulate.

United Nations Day Annual Luncheon Held at Headquarters

On October 22, 2004, our chapter honored Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Her tireless work and achievements in marshalling humanitarian relief were marked by a standing ovation given to her by an audience of over 150—who rang peace bells donated by Terry Mayer Bells.

("Programs" continues on page 6)



Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson was honored in October.

Membership Up 20%

Submitted by Desiree Watson, Membership Committee Chair

The **Membership Committee** is proud to welcome many new members to UNANY. Our chapter has grown by 20% since January 2004—the largest increase of new members among the top twenty UNA chapters. We continue to sign up ten to fifteen new members at our regular monthly programs.

We have reached out to diversify our membership by supporting the Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC). We hosted an event for Girl Scout Troop 530, who heard a representative of the UN and saw an informative UN film. As a result, Girl Scout Troop 530 now plans to host their own UNA Film Festival for girl scouts in the metropolitan area, including New Jersey.

During 2005, the committee will discuss a membership drive and a fundraising event to engage members in a fun and relaxing environment. We will keep you posted on plans.

We welcome your comments and support, as well as your volunteer efforts to make all our events successful. We continue to be available to help and assist members with questions and issues.

☛ **For more information and updates, please check our web site, www.unanyc.org**

High School Art Planned for UN Lobby

Submitted by Rosemary Clemens, Education Committee Chair

An art exhibition by students from the High School of Art and Design will be featured in the lobby of the United Nations this spring. The idea is to promote the United Nations and its work with the students of New York City, and what a way to do it—through art!

The **Education Committee** secured exhibition space in the UN lobby for three weeks with the help of Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed and his staff at the United Nations.

Participating students will take a general tour of the United Nations as well as an architectural tour given by the UN Curator

Jan Arnesen and her staff. The students will then formulate discussions and study the institution in depth in their classrooms, and then choose topics of interest to focus on to create their art projects. The art projects to be displayed will be selected for the exhibition by well-known artists in the city.

We hope that you will have a chance to come by to look at the artwork exhibited by these very talented students.

☛ **For information and updates about the schedule, please check our web site, www.unanyc.org**

Executive Director's Report

Ann Nicol

We can report much good progress with our many ongoing programs! Our monthly events are growing in popularity and continue to provide informative forums on a variety of current topics. I can report a twenty percent increase in membership during the last year—the largest increase of the top twenty chapters.

We welcomed six new members to the board and a new member to the advisory council. They are listed here in the Nominating Committee report and their biographies outline the varied and valuable experiences that they bring to us.

The committee reports found inside the newsletter describe the impressive work that has been done in 2004 and underline the energy and dedication that our board members have invested in our mission. It has been a fruitful and exciting year for these committees.

We entered into a successful partnership with the Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) in April 2004. We look forward to gaining many active members for our chapter from this group of versatile and committed internationalists. We assisted in sponsoring a YPIC film festival on Human Rights Day in December which was very well attended. Our joint plans for the future include continuing monthly YPIC networking and speaker events, and a reprise of the film festival.

The 60th anniversary of the United Nations in 2005 will be a great opportunity to expand our membership within the New York community. We hope that each member will help to build our support for constructive UN policies on matters of global concern.

In this regard, our outreach to students at the high school and college/university level is a top priority for 2005. I look forward to reporting on the progress of our expanded efforts later in the year.

("Visits," continued from page 3)

we focus on underlying issues related to human security. Again, our members were treated to a wonderful welcoming reception by the Canadians with several ambassadors present from the Human Security Network.

On January 20, the Swiss Consul General and his wife, Carol de Quay

Loretan, hosted a reception in honor of the new members of our board and advisory council at their residence. Over seventy-five members and friends attended this event.

Ambassador Loretan gave

welcoming remarks which were followed by a slide presentation about Switzerland given by Director of the Swiss Tourist Board Rafael Enzler. We mingled, tasted Swiss wines and delicacies, and were entertained by accordion musician Hans Hassler.

Several more UN Mission visits are being planned for 2005.



UNA-NY President Henry Sanchez and UNA-USA Executive Director of National Programs George Garland at the January 20 reception.

New York's Young Professionals for International Cooperation Initiate Programs

Submitted by Kevin Jefferson, YPIC Chair

The United Nations Association's Young Professionals for International Cooperation (UNA-USA YPIC) is a non-partisan, national network of professionals ages 21 to 40 who work to promote effective US involvement in international affairs and in the UN. As part of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, YPIC provides emerging leaders access to resources and contacts that allow them to act on issues of national and global importance. In May, 2004, the board of UNA-NY approved the creation of a local YPIC to outreach and recruit UNA-NY members from New York City's vast population of dynamic young people.

New York's YPIC had its first event on Wednesday, October 20, featuring our Global Issues Speaker Series. The speaker was Gillian Sorensen, senior advisor at the United Nations Foundation,

who spoke on the relationship between the UN and the US.

On November 10, we continued our Global Issues Speaker series with John Washburn, convener, American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the International Criminal Court, who spoke about the ICC and possible US reactions to an active court. Also in November, we participated at UNA-USA's outreach to students and young professionals hosted at the UN. On November 13, over 200 young people, some from as far away as Nevada, came to hear a panel of speakers which included Stephen Schlesinger, director of the World Policy Institute, and Ambassador Patrick Hayford, director African Affairs, Executive Office of the Secretary General.

On December 10, International Human Rights Day, UNA-NY co-hosted a

UNA Film Festival entitled "The Values of Tolerance" with the YPIC. The film festival was held at the New York Film Academy and it was a great success with over 100 people attending.

In 2005, along with our normal monthly events, YPIC will be highlighting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN and current President and CEO of the Ambassador's Club, kicked off our series on January 12.

Currently, UNA-NY YPIC has five committees that are issue-driven and/or regionally focused. They are: economic development; European affairs; global health; human rights; and Latin American affairs.

☛ If you would like to learn more about YPIC, or if you want to get involved, please contact Kevin Jefferson at ypicchair@unanyc.org.

(“Board Members,” continued from pg. 2)
International Law and Practice, the New York State Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Shomwa Shamapande is a partner and founder of Global Development Partners (GDP), an international development consulting firm. Prior to founding GDP, he served as campaign manager for the 2001 Zambian presidential campaign of Dr. Yobert Shamapande and was director at the public relations firm of Robinson, Lerer & Montgomery.

He was senior associate with Bill Lynch Associates, where he was a national consultant with the Democratic National Committee. He served as an adviser to the South African Center for Human Rights in Pretoria and is a legislative fellow on Capitol Hill with the office of Congressman Charles Rangel. He is an adjunct lecturer at Columbia

University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). He holds an MA from SIPA and a BA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Jackie Shapiro is chair of the United Nations Committee of Zonta International and first vice-president of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO). She is on the board of directors of UNIFEM and treasurer of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She is past chairman of the New York Committee for OXFAM America. She was also a Peace Corps volunteer in Korea. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a triple major in history, Chinese language and Asian area studies.

Kevin Jefferson, YPIC observer. Since 2000, Kevin has worked at First Data Corporation in several positions. He currently works in the international subsidiary as the financial controller for

the Merchant Business in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and Panama, while supporting other businesses in Latin America. He received his BS degree in molecular biology from the University of Texas at Austin.

•Four members of the board have resigned. They are Lance Blank, Charlotte Patton, Jim LaPenn, and Charles Nucholls. Nota Biederman has resigned from the Advisory Council. We are grateful for the time and support they have given to our chapter to strengthen our work in support of the UN. We look forward to their continued participation in our programs and upcoming events.

•We also welcome to our advisory council Gillian Sorensen, senior advisor at the UN Foundation, and Stephen Schlesinger, director of the World Policy Institute.

(“Programs,” continued from page 4)

The luncheon took place at the UN West Terrace Dining Room which had been decorated for the event with beautiful flower arrangements donated by Chinadoxis Floral Design. The master of ceremonies was Under Secretary General for Communication and Public Information Shashi Tharoor. Other distinguished speakers included Ambassador William Luers, president of UNA-USA and Ambassador Anne Patterson, Deputy Permanent Representative of the US to the UN.

☛ **For more information and updates, please check our web site, www.unanyc.org**

(“Egeland,” continued from page 1)

coordinate, and distribute transparently the 5 billion dollars in pledges from over 60 donor nations. “The response has been exemplary,” Egeland told his audience during a question and answer session. “The US reaction was exemplary.” Plans are also underway for a world conference on disaster reduction and early warning systems.

In closing, Mr. Egeland told his audience that his biggest challenge in the coming months is to transfer this “enhanced spirit of humanitarian generosity” to “forgotten emergencies” and ensure that funds will not be taken away from ongoing crises, especially the AIDS crisis in Africa. “If we believe a life is equally important in Africa as it is in Kosovo or Banda Aceh, we must give in equal proportions.”

Save the Date! 2005 Calendar of Events

February 17 “African Women and HIV/AIDS”
Speaker: Ambassador Judith Mbula Bahemuka,
Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN

March 2-7 UN60 Commemoration and
UNA-USA Biennial Convention

March 5 Members’ Day at the United Nations

March 16 “The Impending Worldwide Water Crisis”
Speakers: Professor George W. Fisher, Johns
Hopkins University and Professor Sol Katz,
University of Pennsylvania

April 7 Screening of film, *The Agronomist*, at MoMA

April 28 Katrina vanden Heuvel, editor of *The Nation*

May 24 UNA-NY ANNUAL MEETING

June 16 speaker to be announced

Please check our web site for locations and times:

www.unanyc.org