

UNA-Westchester Global Connection



United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) Westchester Chapter

<http://www.unawestchester.org>

February 2010

**United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA)-Westchester, Westchester
League of Women Voters, Women Advancing Microfinance (WAM)
and Sarah Lawrence College**

Invite you to celebrate
International Women's Day 2010
**Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities:
Progress for All**



Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**Sarah Lawrence College*
Esther Raushenbush Library, 2nd fl.
Bronxville, NY**

Featuring:



Nicola Armacost

Managing Director and Cofounder,
Arc Finance, Ltd., New York
(microfinance, energy, water, and
sanitation)

Urjasi Rudra

Coordinator, 'Say NO' – UNiTE Campaign
to End Violence Against Women, UN
Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM),
New York

Moderator: Marcia Brewster, Vice
President, UNA-Westchester

*Discussion and a reception will follow
the program.*

Information: Doris Benson,
dwbenson1@verizon.net, 914 961-6554

**Directions:* Take Cross County Parkway East to exit 5,
Kimball Ave. Turn left on Kimball and go north to the
2nd light at Glen Washington Rd. Turn right into the
college and take an immediate right into the parking lot.
The Library is a contemporary light brick building on
the right as you exit the parking lot. The event will take
place on the second floor. For other transport, see:
<http://www.slc.edu/about/visit/index.html>.

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Editors: Marcia Brewster, Scott Monje

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

The recent earthquake in Haiti has served to highlight the role of the United Nations and its system of organizations in dealing with national disasters—natural and man-made. In spite of the death of the Secretary-General's Representative and his Deputy, the UN has been able to play a major role on behalf of the nations of the world. UN troops have kept the peace. The World Food Programme has been the principle distributor of food. The UN Development Programme has organized a massive public works program to clean up and rebuild the country. The World Health Organization has helped with medical supplies and services. In the absence of the UN, each country would have implemented its own program (some did anyway), and the pressure on the severely weakened Haitian government would have been intolerable. We can be proud of the UN in Haiti.

UNA-Westchester now has about 180 members. I am sure many other friends in Westchester would join us if they received an invitation. Our Board member Narinder Kakar (nkakar@upeace.org) has kindly offered to coordinate our membership drive activities. Please let him know of anyone you think might be interested—or ask your friends to join using the application form at the end of the newsletter or on our website: www.unawestchester.org. And please bring a friend to our coming events for International Women's Day on March 9 and our annual meeting at Siwanoy Country Club on May 16.

In my discussions with the office of Nita Lowey, Representative for the 18th Congressional District and Chair of the International Subcommittee of the House



Appropriations Committee, I learned that she supports many of our positions and would welcome our assistance in preparing background material. UNA-USA President Tom Miller welcomes this initiative.

This edition of *Global Connection* includes the first “Advocacy Corner” by our new Advocacy Chair, Joan Katen. There is also an introduction to UNA member John Carey’s “UN Week” blog. Thanks to Marcia Brewster and Scott Monje for another great newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you for our International Women's Day event at Sarah Lawrence on March 9. And make sure you keep the date of May 16 free for a wonderful afternoon program at Siwanoy Country Club.

Phil Reynolds, President, UNA-Westchester

Call for Nominations for 2010 Board of Directors and Officers

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on May 16. There are vacancies for vice president, three Board members, and two members of the Nominating Committee. The Board encourages members to consider whether they or a member they know might be a candidate for nomination. Nominations should be sent to Dave Finch, Nominating Committee Chair, davidrfinch@juno.com. A slate of nominations will appear in the May *Global Connection* newsletter.

Advocacy Corner

“If the UN is to survive, those who represent it must bolster it. Those who advocate it, must submit to it, and those who believe in it must fight for it.”
Norman Cousins

As advocates for the United Nations and its goal of world peace, there are some things we can do to help it succeed.

1. President Obama is asking the Senate to ratify the UN's Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). He and Russian President

Medvedev are also renegotiating the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of 1991 (START), which expired last December, and are discussing reductions in tactical nuclear weapons. Although START is not a UN Treaty, the new version would contribute to the goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Let us support the President in achieving ratification of these treaties, to make the world safer, by writing to our elected officials and the newspapers.

2. All around our globe, human rights are under attack. Innocent civilians are assaulted for their courage and those who commit crimes are often protected by political immunities. The United States should support the International Criminal Court, which will bring the perpetrators of crimes against humanity to justice. Again, we can influence our politicians by writing to them and to the newspapers.
3. The United Nations does many things to achieve its goal of a peaceful world where economically sustainable development and improved livelihoods are encouraged. In addition to peacekeeping and facilitating diplomacy, the UN also provides people with food, water, and medical care; cares for refugees; repairs infrastructure; and clears mines. Many in the US have little idea of the UN's influence on lives around the world. They condemn it instead of bolstering it. Let us stand up for the UN when it comes under verbal attack.

Dag Hammarskjöld said: "The UN was not created to bring us to heaven, but in order to save us from hell."

Joan Katen

In Case You Missed It: "A Year of Crises: Opportunities for Change," 2010 Members' Day at the UN

An impressive group of experts was on hand to discuss three major crises facing the world over the past year—Afghanistan, the Global Economy, and Nuclear Weapons—at the

United Nations on February 19. These were the themes of the three panels at the UNA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference and 2010 Members' Day. The conference, entitled "A Year of Crises: Opportunities for Change" was organized by co-chairs Jeffrey Laurenti and Catherine White, with George Garland serving as Executive Director. A full Web cast of the proceedings is available at www.tcf.org, the Web site of the Century Foundation.

The 500 plus participants (many of them students) were welcomed by: Jeffrey Laurenti, the Century Foundation; Ramu Damodaran, UN Department of Public Information; Ambassador Byrganym Aitimova, the Vice President of the General Assembly; Tom Miller, President of UNA-USA; and Robert Orr, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning.

The first Panel, on "Afghanistan: From Ramping Up to the Exit Ramp," was moderated by Linda Fasulo, NBC News correspondent at the UN. The excellent panel included: Hassan Abbas, Bernard Schwartz Fellow at the Asia Society; Valentin Gatzinski, Director of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan; and Jeffrey Laurenti. Much of the discussion centered on the failure of nation building in Afghanistan and the difficult situation in that country. Dr. Abbas suggested some of the elements that would be needed to reconcile all of the factions, the hard core Taliban, war lords, and other local people. Religious deradicalization, a larger education project, regional arrangements, and an active international role will be needed.

The second panel, "Hitting the Reset Button on the Global Economy," was moderated by Jeffrey Laurenti and featured: Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development; Anita Sharma of the UN Millennium Campaign; and Werner Puschra, UN Office Director of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Germany). Much of the discussion focused on the unregulated and *ad*

hoc international system for dealing with trade and financial flows. The panel also discussed the Millennium Development Goals, foreign assistance, and globalization. The panelists suggested that a “Tobin tax” on international financial transactions would contribute to financial stability and to meeting the MDGs.

The final panel, on “Turning Back the Bomb: Hard Cases and Grand Designs,” was moderated by Christine Wing of NYU’s Center on International Cooperation. Panelists were: Ambassador Gérard Araud of France; Trita Parsi, President of the National Iranian-American Council; and Randy Rydell, Senior Officer in the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. Much of the discussion was on Iran’s nuclear program and the upcoming sessions on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the UN in May.

Marcia Brewster

***UNA-Westchester Member Profile:
John Carey, UN Correspondent***

President Phil Reynolds met with UNA-Westchester member John Carey on February 8, 2010, in Rye. Carey brings a valuable perspective to the chapter, based on his experience in international law and human rights. He served as vice president of the American Society of International Law; on the Board of Editors, *American Journal of International Law*; as Alternate US Member of the UN Human Rights Subcommittee for 25 years; and as TV producer of *United Nations Week: News and Views*. He is also a former NYU adjunct assistant law professor, a trial judge, and former mayor of the city of Rye, NY. He has an LL.B. from Harvard and an LL.M. from NYU. He is an accredited correspondent at the UN.

Using information from the UN in Geneva and New York, John researches and produces two products aimed at better informing the public about the UN, as follows:

1. *United Nations Law Reports*, a monthly report of 10–12 pages covering UN legal issues that John has edited for 44 years. The subscription

rate is \$140 per year for email (\$180 for hard copy) editions. Contact John at: Box 62, Rye, NY 10580 or at j_pcarey@verizon.net.

2. *United Nations Week—News and Views*, a weekly email newsletter of about 5 pages on UN topics of current interest. It is insightful and free. John has published this since 2003, and on-line archives go back to 2004. You can view the issues since 2004 at: <http://www.unweek.blogspot.com/>. The same material is aired on TV in Rye, Greenwich, and White Plains.

As a result of the meeting, John agreed to share his products with UNA-Westchester and its constituents. In fact, he would be pleased to reach out to a wider audience. John is providing a DVD of his weekly program for distribution to other local TV stations as part of our *Going Global with the UN* series.

The International Criminal Court – A Discussion, December 1, 2009

This article is a summary of the event UNA-Westchester held at Pace Law School in December. Debates of this topic often generate more partisan heat than light, and UNA-Westchester is proud to have sponsored such an informative and dignified discussion of this important and topical issue.

On December 1, 2009, UNA-Westchester hosted a discussion about the International Criminal Court (ICC). Our distinguished panelists were: John Washburn, director of the American NGO Coalition for the ICC; Prof. Jide Nzelibe, Northwestern University School of Law; Don Kraus, CEO of Citizens for Global Solutions, as commentator; and Prof. Alexander Greenawalt, Pace University School of Law, as moderator.

The ICC’s charter, known as the Rome Statute, was signed on July 17, 1998, and the court opened for business on July 1, 2002.

President Clinton signed the Rome Statute on December 31, 2000, in order to be a party to further negotiations, but advised the Senate not to ratify it as it existed. In May 2002 the Bush administration announced its intention not to ratify it (that is, “unsigned” the treaty).

Mr. Washburn outlined the background of the court. The International Court of Justice, or World Court, which has existed in various forms since 1900, is a forum for settling legal disputes among states. The ICC, on the other hand, is a true criminal court. Its purpose is to try individuals responsible for the perpetration of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Cases may be initiated by countries that have accepted its jurisdiction, the court’s prosecutor, or by the UN Security Council. Under the concept of complementarity, cases proceed only if the country with the appropriate national jurisdiction is unable or unwilling to prosecute.

Some have accused the ICC of bias because all the cases in which charges have been brought have been based in Africa, specifically Congo, Uganda, and Sudan. The Congo and Uganda cases, however, were referred to the court by the governments in question. The Sudan case, regarding Darfur, was referred by the UN Security Council. The prosecutor has also examined cases in Colombia, Israel and Palestine, and Afghanistan, in some cases pressing the local authorities to take appropriate action.

Like other institutions, the ICC has organizational problems. Its president is both a secretary-general and a chief judge and has no authority over the prosecutor. The Assembly of States Parties, the ICC’s governing body, has official powers to oversee the prosecutor, but no infrastructure to carry them out.

The Bush administration in its second term was more cooperative about the ICC. For example, it abstained on the Darfur vote in the Security Council, permitting the case to go

forward. The Obama administration has had a more positive attitude toward the ICC; it sent an observer delegation to the Assembly of States Parties for the first time last year. The Defense Department, however, is concerned that US troops operating abroad could be referred to the court by hostile countries.

Prof. Nzelibe raised questions about the court’s vulnerability to political manipulation. Justice comes only after powerful coalitions are willing to trust their fates to a third-party mediator and comply with its decisions. In some cases, when the stakes are high, ruling coalitions will not be interested in what a third-party mediator has to say. So far, whenever a State has referred a case to the court, the State has been interested in turning in its adversary, using the ICC as an instrument of “politics by other means.”

It is not a question of whether the court is capable of serving justice, but of whether the conditions are conducive. The ICC is not to be used as a tool, but its lack of institutional capacity raises the likelihood of its being manipulated by politicians. For example, the president of Uganda has referred cases that are in his interest. He will cease to cooperate when the case ceases to meet his instrumental aims. The ICC lacks enforcement capability; it cannot operate without the cooperation of the referring state. If there is a benefit to victims, it will be a spillover benefit when it corresponds with the leader’s interests.

The ICC is able to indict heads of State, whereas other international courts, including Nuremberg, did so only with the losing side after a war was over.

Regarding politically motivated referrals, Mr. Washburn noted that cases also get into domestic courts in all kinds of ways. Domestic prosecutors do not care about the motives of informants if the information is true. The court independently verifies the evidence.

The ICC is free to reject cases or deem them unsuitable. It tries individuals, but the referral must cover the entire situation. The Uganda referral may be directed against rebel leader Joseph Kony, but the investigation also covers the state army. The court decides which individuals to try. At the same time, the UN Security Council provides a check. It can weigh the balance of justice versus peace, for instance, and ask the ICC to step back if it believes a particular prosecution would undermine the peace. The point is that the ICC is trying people who deserve it. That in itself is an advance.

Of course, all international organizations must rely on independent States to implement and enforce their decisions, Mr. Washburn continued, but we have already seen the ICC start to pressure governments to comply with its decisions, as in the indictment of President Bashir in Sudan. Because the court is permanent, Bashir will always have that warrant over his head. Prof. Greenawalt asked whether the ICC might attempt to put the Bush administration on trial. Prof. Nzelibe noted that someday, someone will refer the U.S. regime or soldiers to the court. The ICC will have to decide whether the United States is willing or able to try them.

In the United States, he continued, there is a strong partisan division on the court. The Republicans have always resisted foreign jurisdiction over Americans, dating back to the League of Nations. Any ICC prosecution that lacks bipartisan support would create a huge partisan cleavage. The United States wanted the indictment process to be controlled by the UN Security Council, where it has a veto, but that was rejected by the other parties.

Mr. Kraus noted that the future of the ICC in the United States depends on whether Americans become comfortable with it. The initial image that Americans had was of a kangaroo court out to get us. Given time and experience with the actual practice of the

court, that image will fade. At this point, Congress and the Department of Defense are still opposed. It is hard to find one senator who is an active advocate.

In closing, Prof. Nzelibe expressed skepticism on the degree of Europe's commitment to the ICC. There have been many situations in which the Europeans could have done more. Mr. Washburn countered that the Europeans have at times pressured the United States to join them, as on the issue of Darfur. Mr. Kraus, however, was skeptical that the Senate cares what Europeans or other foreigners think about the subject.

Scott Monje

***“Building a Future for Haiti” Panel at
Columbia University***

A panel on “Building a Future for Haiti: The Needs of Haiti Now and in the Future” was held at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs on January 25. The panelists included: Elisabeth Lindenmayer, Director, UN Studies Program; Jocelyn McCalla, Sr. Adviser to the Government of Haiti; Bob Orr, Asst. Secretary-General, Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General; Jeffrey Sachs, Director, Earth Institute, Columbia University, and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General; Tatiana Wah, Researcher, Earth Institute, Columbia University; Jean-Marie Guehenno, Former Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO); Ambassador Rick Barton, US Permanent Mission to the UN; and Pablo Ruiz, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP.

This unique panel was composed of a combination of UN, US, and Haitian government representatives, and provided a united and collaborative outlook on Haiti’s future. They presented and discussed the many challenges involved in helping Haiti to rebuild in the wake of the recent tragic earthquake. Many speakers stated that it is not

so much a case of helping Haiti to rebuild, but in fact, to build from the beginning.

A few general points, made by several speakers:

* Haiti's future is in Haiti's hands; the country will need much help from the outside, but its future success is not up to the aid donors, outside governments nor international organizations.

* A major overall plan is needed for the entire country; the challenges will be: who will direct this plan, ensure Haitian input into it, and implement it—not just for the short term, but even more for the long term.

* Implementation of the plan will need to involve major public-private partnerships.

* All aspects need to be tackled together: food, water and sanitation, medical supplies and care, mental health, shelter, care for—and protection of—the orphaned, transportation, roads, agriculture, industry, education, and governance.

* It is not just about delivering aid, but about a systemwide overhaul to ensure that aid gets to where it is intended and its effects can be leveraged long after it has been delivered.

Several panelists spoke of the need to develop something resembling a national planning policy, led by Haitians themselves. The US stands ready to support Haiti, working with the Haitian government, and with UN leadership in a coordinating role. In addition, the Haitian Diaspora abroad can and must play a pivotal role in reenergizing the country.

An infusion of capital is also needed. A new institutional framework cannot be built without it. Haiti must move beyond relief, to reconstruction and development. Ideally, a multidonor fund would be a new approach to getting the necessary financing.

Although not popular among donors, a vital component is more programs like Food for Work and Cash for Work. The Haitian people need to be instrumental in the recovery phase,

but they also must be paid for their work. They do not want handouts, especially in the long run. Haiti cannot be successfully built by foreign NGOs and overseas governments.

In addition to the basic physical needs, there is also, and will continue to be, a great need for mental health services, both for the victims of the earthquake, and for the helping community, which is heroically trying to do so much with so little. It is also a critical need among the Haitians abroad, almost all of whom have lost someone in this disaster.

The road ahead is long, but the Haitian people themselves have begun the journey. They will need—and deserve—our continued support for many years to come.

Mary O'Neill Berry

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! Join UNA-USA Westchester Today!

____ Please renew my membership

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- | | | | |
|--|---------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (one-time payment) | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$ 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory (first year only) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10 |

In addition to my membership dues, I would like to contribute to:

- Westchester Chapter \$ _____
- National Office \$ _____
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- My company matches employee contributions. (My company's matching form is attached.)
- Please send me information on making a Planned Gift.

Name _____ (Please print)
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
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Please make your check payable to UNA-USA.

Or Charge payment to your Credit Card: VISA MC Am. Express

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Please circle areas of interest: Program, Advocacy, Education, Membership, Newsletter

Return this, with your payment to UNA-USA, to:

UNA-USA WESTCHESTER CHAPTER
5 Robin Hill Road
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