

THE FORUM

Newsletter of the United Nations Association of Greater Boston

Winter 2004

United Nations Day October 24, 2003

UN Day Luncheon with Ambassador Andrew Young



UNA-GB's fourth annual UN Day Luncheon with Ambassador Andrew Young on October 24th was a notable success, drawing around 250 members of Boston's business, professional, academic, and internationally-oriented communities. This year's Luncheon honored the legacy and vision of Dr. Ralph Bunche, who, as a UN Under-Secretary General, held the highest position ever by an American citizen in the UN. Dr. Bunche, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, was instrumental in crafting the UN Charter, and as UNA-GB's President, Arthur Holcombe observed: "It is difficult to think of any other man who

contributed more to the initial operation of the UN in its formative years. The trusteeship, peacekeeping and development roles of the UN were all greatly reinforced by his tireless, behind the scenes efforts."

In a time where the role of the UN in the international arena is a matter being debated, Ambassador Andrew Young delivered a strong keynote address based on the importance of quiet diplomacy, negotiation and non-violent action for change. Ambassador Young's rich life experience in a diverse range of professional fields was reflected in his speech, which touched upon the need for a stronger UN, and the importance of a climate of personal trust and honesty in today's world of complex global challenges. Ambassador Young's remarks highlighted the substantial work done by Ralph Bunche to shape the 20th century by his commitment to non-violent change and his determination to bring more equality and justice to the world. Ambassador Young also spoke about the importance of bringing private capital and

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Massachusetts State House UN Day Ceremony

Ambassador Jonathan Moore, Governor Mitt Romney's appointee as Honorary State Chair of United Nations Day, gave the keynote speech on "The United Nations: Limitations and Opportunities" at the 2003 observance of UN Day at the State House. He presented his views about the future of the UN, and following his remarks, UNA-GB Chair Arthur Holcombe kicked off a lively discussion of the possibilities. Jonathan Moore was a US Ambassador to the UN under President George H.W. Bush, and now serves as an advisor to the UN Development Program on postconflict reconstruction, as an associate at the Shorenstein Center at Harvard University,

and as a member of the UNA-GB Advisory Council.

In addition, the program included a tribute to the International Decade of Literacy, Secretary-General Kofi Annan's annual UN Day message, and a UN Day proclamation from Governor Romney. Participants in the Second Annual Walk for Peace, held in honor of victims of violence and co-sponsored by the Peace Abbey in Sherborn and the Coalition for a Strong UN, completed their journey from the Peace Abbey to the State House. Walkers also raised money to benefit the Greater Boston Adopt-A-

"State House Ceremony" Continued on page 5

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, March 4, 2004

International Networking Evening

Hosted by the Global Business Alliance of New England. 3:00-6:00 Workshops, 6:00 Reception and Networking. Mass Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza.

Monday, March 8, 2004

International Women's Day

Join us as we celebrate International Women's Day with the highly-acclaimed international documentary film, *Peace by Peace: Women on the Frontlines*. 6:30 pm Reception, 7:00 pm screening. Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, Cambridge.

Friday, April 16, 2004

Consuls Ball

An evening of dinner, dancing, and fun, this international gala event will honor the Boston Consular Corps. All proceeds will benefit Global Classrooms Educational Programs. Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

Saturday, May 1, 2004

Adopt-A-Minefield 5K Walk

Help save arms, legs and lives by walking 5K for Adopt-A-Minefield. This fundraiser is a fun way to join the effort for landmine clearance. 10:00 am on the Charles River Esplanade.

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Conference on Priority Goals for Women in the 21st Century

This day-long conference will explore many of the issues facing women. See the conference description on page 5 inside. Kennedy School of Government

Complete listing of upcoming events can be found on www.unagb.org. Pre-registration for all events is requested. Calendar of upcoming Educational Programs on page 4.

Is Arab-Israeli Peace Possible?

Reflections by Aaron David Miller's on How to Get There

"When you are swimming away from a shark, you don't have to swim faster than the shark, you only have to swim faster than your friend." Old Arab Proverb

In the context of escalating violence in the Arab-Israeli conflict, UNA-GB and the Boston Committee on Foreign Relations invited Aaron David Miller, former advisor to six Secretaries of State, to address a luncheon audience at the Union Club in Boston. Mr. Miller currently serves as President of the not-for-profit organization, "Seeds of Peace," which is dedicated to bringing together young people from Palestine and Israel in order to encourage constructive dialogue between the two sides.

Although Mr. Miller was far from optimistic as far as the current crisis in Palestinian-Israeli relations is concerned, he expressed the belief that it was still within the realm of possibility to find a solution to the decades-long conflict. He stressed his belief that an equitable and durable solution to the conflict exists, and that a solution can only be found through the imperfect process of negotiation. Mr. Miller emphasized that, because of the proximity problem from which the two nations suffer, there can be no winner until a solution is found. However, he also pointed out that,

at this point in time, we have moved beyond the "roadmap," and that the process of understanding the other side appears to have come to a complete halt. Mr. Miller argued that, in many ways, both Arabs and Israelis suffer from a kind of "functional insularity," which leads them to believe that their side has a monopoly on pain and suffering.

Nonetheless, Mr. Miller underlined his faith in the power of human agency to overcome adversity, in this case adversity in the form of entrenched prejudice. In addition, he emphasized the necessity for the United States, as the only nation with significant power of influence over Israel, to get more actively involved in negotiating a solution to the conflict. Mr. Miller made a compelling argument for US engagement in the conflict by pointing out that, as far as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict was concerned, US foreign policy, national and moral interests coincided. Accordingly, Mr. Miller stressed the need for a sustained policy of conflict resolution management, and in particular the need for commitment from the US President to finding a solution. US engagement may be the greatest hope for a solution to a conflict that has caused so much grief for too long. □

United Nations Day Luncheon

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technology into the development process and in this way meet basic human needs, a strategy successfully used by his company, Good Works International.

Ambassador Young concluded that there is a promising future where institutions like the UN and devoted individuals like Ralph Bunche can play an important role, saying, "with institutions like the United Nations, and support like the United Nations Association, and an understanding that globalization is a reality, and that there is an

interdependence from which we can never escape, and that as we continue to put our shoulders to the wheel and live up to the courageous, quiet, behind the scenes, effective but powerful workings of the likings of Dr. Ralph Bunche, then we too will see better days ahead."

I think that the whole notion of trusteeship, being able to change the world without violence, was really a product of Ralph Bunche's administrative and intellectual genius.

Ambassador Andrew Young

University (gold sponsor), and cosponsors Cambridge College, FL Putnam Investment Management Company, Hunt Alternatives Fund, Ginny and Pete Nicholas, and the Stride Rite Foundation. □

Message from the UNA-GB President

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan announced on the 26th of January that the UN would send a team of elections specialists to Iraq to determine when and how elections could be held to choose a transitional national assembly that would oversee the transfer of sovereignty to an Iraqi government that best represents the interests of all the Iraqi people. In making the announcement, Kofi Annan stressed that "consensus among all Iraqi constituencies would be the best guarantee of a legitimate and credible transitional governance arrangement for Iraq."

This mission is in response to appeals from representatives of the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraq Governing Council after their plans for convening a complex process of 18 regional caucuses to select a transitional national assembly before 30 June was rejected by Iraq's most powerful Shi'ite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Al-Sistani had demanded direct elections to determine the representation in the assembly, which would choose a cabinet and head of state to take power by 30 June. At his announcement, Kofi Annan also stated that "I have concluded that the United Nations can play a constructive role in helping to break the current impasse" between the US Government and Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Breaking the impasse quickly is essential as the current Iraqi Governing Council efforts to draft a new interim constitution by 28 February have been halted due to the inability to determine how the assembly and government are to be chosen. For this reason, Kofi Annan is under pressure to send the UN elections mission to Iraq in early February, although he has not yet been able to determine whether the security situation would enable the mission to travel freely for consultations with local groups in all regions of Iraq.

More generally, Kofi Annan has been reluctant for the UN to return to Iraq "President's Message" Continued on page 4

Changing Faces: Tragedy and Triumph

UNA International Documentary Film Festival comes to Cambridge

The UNA Film Festival (TF Boston), was held for the second time on December 5 and 6 at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The films, shown under the theme, "Changing Faces: Tragedy and Triumph," looked at a variety of challenges faced by people around the world and the power of the human spirit to overcome adversity.

On Friday night, about 120 people viewed films including *Nisha*, about a young girl living with AIDS in India; *Bombies*, a film about the lasting impact of cluster bombs in Laos; and *Dangerous Art*, a film about a weapons-for-tools program in Mozambique. Filmmakers John Ankele and Anne Macksoud joined us for the second year to discuss their film, *The Global Banquet: Politics of Food*, which examines the impact of corporate globalization in the food industry on small farmers in the US

and the developing world.

Saturday's films touched on the role of conscientious objectors during World War II in *The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It*. Other films looked at the president's relationship to his people in Slovakia in *Letters to the President*; farming co-ops in the US and in Mozambique in the film *Cultivating Opportunity: Self-Help Solutions to Poverty in the US and Africa*; and an innovative Mexican community working with disabled individuals in *Our Own Road*. We were also pleased to welcome Gayle Ferarro, whose film *Anonymously Yours*, was screened on Saturday afternoon. Interviews with women in Burma formed the basis for the film, which

The films looked at a variety of challenges faced by people around the world.

presented a stark picture of trafficking of women.

Despite blizzard conditions on both Friday and Saturday, the film screenings were well attended by UNA-GB members, students, and other members of the public. The films were hard-hitting, but hopeful.

The UNAFF (TF Boston) is a traveling program of the UNA Film Festival, which presents high-quality documentary films on critical international issues, and was hosted in Cambridge by UNA-GB with the Kennedy School New England Alumni Association.

Special thanks to our gold sponsor, Marriott Boston Cambridge; our silver sponsors, Artra International and Julius Babbitt; the UNAFF TF Committee, and the Friends of the Festival. We hope that you will join us for the 2004 UNA Film Festival for another look at international issues through the eyes of documentary filmmakers. □

Adopt-A-Minefield® Campaign

Night of a Thousand Dinners

Adopt-A-Minefield Fundraisers on November 6

Over 100 people throughout the Greater Boston area participated in the 2003 Night of a Thousand Dinners fundraising evening on November 6. A combination of events, t-shirt sales and general contributions brought over \$1700 to the Greater Boston AAM Campaign.

UNA-GB's AAM Coordinator, Leslie Cook, organized a NIKD event at Boston University. The event was possible thanks to the kind support of BU student groups. As a result of their support, every dollar raised at the BU event was forwarded directly to the Greater Boston AAM Campaign. The keynote speaker for the evening was Gina Coplon-Newfield, Coordinator of the United States Campaign to Ban Landmines. The program also featured a video on the issue of landmines, and a speech by Lisa Franchini, a former

AAM intern in the U.K. Over fifty students attended BU's NIKD.

UNA-GB's Young Professionals for International Cooperation celebrated Night of a Thousand Dinners with a gathering at the Union Oyster House. The meeting brought together around 30 people.

During the evening the NIKD video was shown, and Calliope Sudborough, a former

AAM intern from UNA-GB, spoke from a personal perspective about why Adopt-A-Minefield is important.

In addition to the BU and YPIC events, many individuals contributed to AAM for the Night of a Thousand Dinners. It was a fun, creative way to help those living with landmines. Plan to join us next year as a host or guest. □

To date, the Greater Boston AAM Campaign has raised \$16,580 toward our goal of \$30,000 for clearance of one minefield.

Fact: Landmines were responsible for 34% of casualties in the Persian Gulf War; 33% of U.S. casualties in Vietnam; and 284 casualties in the UN peacekeeping and NATO operations in Bosnia.

May 1, 2004, Walk for a Landmine-Free World

Join the effort! Take part in the 5K Walk on the Esplanade for Adopt-A-Minefield® on May 1, 2004.

- Mark your calendar now. The walk will end where EarthFest 2004 begins, so plan a fun day on the Esplanade.
- Register with UNA-GB. Your registration helps us plan ahead. The first 200 people to register will receive a free walk t-shirt.
- Secure sponsors/pledges for the walk by telling your neighbors, family, and friends about Adopt-A-Minefield and the AAM Walk.
- Enlist others to join the Walk. Come as a team with your friends, school club, co-workers, or community group.
- Lace up your walking shoes. The Walk will take place rain or shine, so come prepared.

Registration information is available on our website, www.unagb.org. For further information, contact the AAM Coordinator at demining@unagb.org.

Global Classrooms Model United Nations Conference

for Middle School Students

The United Nations Association of Greater Boston in cooperation with Northeastern University held their first annual Global Classrooms Model UN conference for middle school students on October 18, 2003 at Northeastern University. The Model UN conference offered an opportunity for middle schools throughout the Greater Boston area to participate in a Model UN simulation. Over 75 students from five schools attended the all-day event.

Before stepping into their ambassadorial roles, students research global problems as part of the Global Classrooms curriculum. Student delegates navigated the UN's rules of procedure, prepared draft resolutions, plotted strategy, and negotiated with supporters and adversaries to resolve conflicts. Model UN gives students a chance to learn public speaking, negotiation skills, emphasizes non-violent behavior and understanding other points of view and cultures.

The conference hosted two committees, the Security Council and the Commission

on Human Rights. Experienced Model UN students from Northeastern University staffed both committees. The middle school

When asked, "What was the best part of attending the Global Classroom Model UN Conference?" the students' response was overwhelmingly positive.

- The best part about the conference is learning about other countries.
- I was on the Security Council and even though I couldn't vote, I knew I had a big say.
- Having veto power. I met super-duper cool people, our resolution passed, plus the food was good.

students represented both UN members as well as countries in conflict and simulated debates on preventing armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula (Security Council) and preserving the rights of North Korean Refugees (Commission on Human Rights).

Teachers' highlights for the conference were:

- Seeing shy students speak
- Watching students grow through their experience.
- Students' experience gained in public speaking and team building.

The success of the conference set a

precedent for future conferences, and plans are in progress for a conference for high school students this May 20-21, followed by another conference for middle school students on May 22. The conferences will be held at Northeastern University again. For more information on upcoming conferences, seminars, or the *Global Classrooms* Model UN curriculum, contact Sarah Wolff, *Global Classrooms* Director, at UNA-GB, 617-482-4587.

Thanks to the many Northeastern University students who participated, and to Sbarro and Starbucks for their kind support. □

Global Classrooms Events

Pre-registration is requested for all upcoming educational events. For more information or to register for educational programs, please contact Sarah Wolff at 617-482-4587.

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Teachers' Roundtable: Resolving Conflict on the Korean Peninsula
Workshop for middle and high school teachers and other educators. Handouts will be provided. 3:30-5:00pm.

Saturday, March 13, 2004

Professional Development Seminar: South America

The Essequibo Valley Conflict is a good first scenario for teachers who are starting Model UN in their classrooms or who instruct middle school students. PDP's Awarded. All Day.

Thursday, April 1, 2004

Teachers' Roundtable: Human Rights vs. Terrorism

Workshop for middle and high school teachers and other educators. Handouts will be provided. 3:30-5:00pm.

Thursday-Saturday, May 20-22, 2004

Global Classrooms Model UN Conference

Model UN conference for high school students May 20-21, followed by a conference for middle school students on May 22.

Attention Young Professionals

Greater Boston Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) jumped into high gear last September and has since become a major force in fostering information about international relations and the UN to young professionals in the Boston area. We were pleased to have UNA-GB President Arthur Holcombe of the and African peace and securities expert Eric Berman come speak to our group. In November we held a *Night of a 1000 Dinners* event at the Union Oyster House, and we closed out the year with a holiday dinner at the Chau Chow City Restaurant in Chinatown and the UNA Film Festival.

In the upcoming year we hope to organize more exciting events, which will include monthly ethnic dinner outings, international potlucks, film viewings, discussion meetings and lectures. To find out more about YPIC, please visit www.unagb.org, or to join our listserv, send a blank email to ypicboston-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. □

President's Message

Continued from page 2

without a clear political mandate. From the UN standpoint, it would be desirable for it to play the same role in the Iraq political transition process to sovereign status that it did successfully earlier for Afghanistan. The humanitarian role of the UN in Iraq is more certain. From Cyprus and Jordan, UN officials travel to Iraq on a daily basis to help oversee major continuing humanitarian relief activities being carried out by local Iraqi employees throughout Iraq.

There is also evidence that Lakhdar Brahimi, the retiring UN Representative to Afghanistan over the last two years, may be requested by Kofi Annan to play a future role as advisor to the Secretary General on Iraq and issues related to the Arab and Muslim world. He is highly respected in Washington, and could help to ensure the international legitimacy of the political transition process.

*Arthur N. Holcombe
UNA-GB President*

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON
and the Kennedy School of Government's
WOMEN AND PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

Announce a One-Day conference on

Priority Goals for Women in the 21st Century

Tuesday, 4 May 2004

Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Women comprise 70 percent of the world's poor
and two thirds of its illiterates.

Women occupy 14 percent of the world's management and
administrative positions and 10 percent of its parliamentary seats.

Many women live with the threat of some
form of violence throughout their lives.

Conference Topics:

- Women and Islam
- Women in Government and Politics
- Globalization and its Impact on the Status of Women
- Women, Violence and Human Rights
- Women's Leadership in Securing Peace, and Security Affecting Women

Conference Background:

The UN-sponsored Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995 endorsed a broad agenda of follow up actions to promote women's equality and basic human rights. Despite progress, much remains to be done to achieve internationally agreed upon norms regarding gender. In many Islamic societies, religion is used as a tool of repression of women by men, keeping them from acquiring education and training. In many regions of the world, illicit trafficking of women across borders is increasingly common. Working women are also commonly exploited by relatively low wages, long hours and limited benefits. Domestic violence remains problematic in all countries of the world.

Conference Objectives:

The conference will draw on foreign and local experts from UN organizations, the US Government, universities and non-governmental organizations. Speakers will explore findings in the conference topic areas, but also make recommendations for corrective actions. A final report on the conference proceedings will be prepared and widely circulated.

*Detailed conference program and registration information
will soon be posted on www.unagb.org.*

State House Ceremony

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Minefield program.

The Berklee College Jazz Rock Ensemble provided music, and an informal reception in the Great Hall followed the ceremony. In the reception area, literacy organizations displayed information about their work in

Greater Boston, and proclamations were exhibited from cities and towns throughout Massachusetts recognizing UN Day and the varied work of the UN.

We thank the F.L. Putnam Investment Management Company and contributors to the Daniel S. Cheever UN Day Fund for their generous support of the UN Day State House observance. □

UNA-GB Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Membership Categories

Note: One membership covers both the national organization, UNA-USA, and the Boston Chapter, UNA-GB.

Student _____	\$10
Introductory (first year only) _____	\$25
Individual _____	\$40
Family/Household* _____	\$40
Fixed Income* _____	\$25
Lifetime Membership _____	\$1000
Sponsor* _____	\$100
Patron* _____	\$500
Benefactor* _____	\$1000

* Please indicate the number of persons
included in this membership _____

___ YES, I/We would like to receive email
notices about Young Professionals Group
(YPG) events for the 20-40 age group.

Additional Contributions

Education Outreach _____

Programming _____

General Contribution _____

Total Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable and return to:

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Email: info@unagb.org

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The United Nations Association
of Greater Boston
One Milk Street, Boston, MA 02109



Consuls Ball

to benefit
Global Classrooms

Friday, April 16, 2004

Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston

Reception and Silent Auction ~ 6:30pm Dinner ~ 7:30pm
Cocktail Attire or National Dress

The gala evening will feature a Silent auction of local and international offerings, Reception and opportunity to meet the consular corps, International dinner menu and buffet dessert table, and dancing to the Bo Winiker Orchestra.

Don't miss this special evening!

For further information, or to purchase tickets, please call 617-482-4587
\$150 individual, \$250 patron, tables available

Call for Auction Items

The Consuls' Ball will feature a silent auction with high-end items including getaway packages, fine dining, experiential packages such as good food and good conversation, fine art, and more. The proceeds of the auction will support Global Classrooms programs bringing Model United Nations to the classroom in area schools.

If you have an item that you would like to contribute to the silent auction to benefit Global Classrooms or for more information about the auction and Global Classrooms programs, please contact UNA-GB at 617-482-4587 or send an email to pamelafrank@earthlink.net.