



Letter from the President

Dear U.S. National Committee for UN Women,

For the first time, an organized USNC-UN Women national delegation, which included national board members, chapter presidents, and members at large, took part in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This year's theme was the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, with the review theme being the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men. Towards this end, USNC-UN Women held its first CSW parallel event, "Part of the Solution: Men, Healthy Masculinity and What Men Should Be Doing", at the Church Center for the UN. Moderated by USNC-UN Women board member Don McPherson, this standing-room only event featured a panel discussion with men who are leaders in the field of engaging men and boys to become active in ending violence against women and changing the culture of traditional masculinity to one that not only discourages gender-based violence, but also encourages men and boys to be active allies in ending violence against women. The panelists spoke about needing to connect men and boys with their inner humanity and of using the ecological model (looking not towards individuals, but to society) to end VAW. The feedback from the event was very positive. Many, many thanks to Don and the other panelists

(see below) for a very successful event!

The same evening, national and chapter members joined friends of the NY chapter for a wine reception at the stunning Ana Tzarev art gallery. The evening opened with a personal video greeting by the artist. With Roz Abrams, TV journalist and women's rights advocate, as emcee, the evening honored several NY-based organizations that work to end gender-based violence, including NYWA's Domestic Violence Committee, GEMS, Voices of Women, Men Can Stop Rape, CONNECT, Safe Horizon, No More Partnership, the Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and the Joyful Heart Foundation. Kudos to Cheryl Benton and her entire NY chapter board for a great evening!

During the annual CSW UN Women national committees meeting, held this year on March 12, Kristin Hetle, director of the Strategic Partnerships Division at UN Women, opened the meeting with an organizational review. Details included an update on the regional structure, which will encourage decentralization and quicker decision making and response in the field, and continuing steps towards results-based management and accountability towards donors. Antonie DeJong, director of resource mobilization, specifically addressed the need to raise more funds for UN Women. Additional presentations were given by Don Kossuth, fund development consultant, Carolyn Hardy, head of private-sector partnerships, and Aina liyambo, deputy head of resource mobilization, on advocacy.

USNC-UN Women members also met with Peggy Kerry, NGO liaison at the US Mission to the UN, and Wenchi Yu, Senior Advisor, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, US Dept.

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Event Summary: UNited to End Violence Against Women

By Eden Greenfield

Surrounded by vibrant paintings and sculptures, women and men from around the world gathered to recognize organizations that are helping to end violence against women.

As part of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the wine reception held at the Ana Tzarev Gallery addressed many important issues: ending violence against women, human trafficking, and how individuals and organizations are continuing to raise awareness of these issues. Quentin Walcott, Co-Executive Director of Connect, made note that “ending violence against women is about the survival of humankind.”

Cheryl Benton, President of the Metro NY Chapter of USNC-UN Women, also recognized many organizations dedicated to raising awareness of this issue and stated that the theme of violence against women “impacts every level of society.” Don McPherson, former NFL player and women’s rights advocate, spoke about how “men must become part of the solution if we are to ever end violence against women.” Please take a look at our photo gallery for the CSW reception.



USNC board member, Caroline Slobodzian, and USNC president, Maggie Forster Schmitz, at the meeting of UN Women National Committees

of State, to present an overview of USNC-UN Women and our advocacy and fund development efforts. A good discussion ensued about engaging the private sector and USNC’s efforts to help UN Women in this regard. The USNC-UN Women team also underscored that the US government should contribute more to UN Women.

Finally, all this activity was kicked off on Sunday, March 10, with a cocktail party held in the rooftop bar of the Kimberley Hotel. USNC-UN Women welcomed national board members, NY chapter members,



In the photo above, from left to right: Joe Samalin, Outreach and Training Manager, Disaster Distress Hotline; formerly with Safe Horizon, Men Can Stop Rape and A Call to Men (New York) Neil Irvin, Executive Director, Men Can Stop Rape (Washington, DC) Quentin Walcott, Co-Executive Director, CONNECT (Brooklyn, New York) Donald McPherson, USNC board member Not in the photo: Bafana Khumalo, Senior Programme Specialist, Sonke Gender Justice Network (South Africa)



Panelists addressed a full house!



USNC treasurer, Luci Hamilton, and East Florida chapter president, Lalita Janke, at the US Mission to the UN.

representatives from other national committees, and friends of USNC-UN Women. We are grateful to Morgan Stanley for sponsoring this event and to Alyssa Rakovich for organizing the soiree!

Best regards,

Maggie Forster Schmitz

USNC Launches Planned Giving Program

What is Planned Giving?

With maturity and wisdom often comes an interest in ensuring that our loved ones, as well as the values that have played important roles in our own lives, are protected both now and in the future. Planned Giving is a strategic vehicle you

can use to address your own financial concerns and challenges while also extending the benefits of your generosity far into the future.

Why Planned Giving for UN Women?

A gift of hope provided via your will allows you to leave behind your legacy of caring about improving the lives of women and girls all over the world. Your bequest will help us reach a day when violence against women is no longer tolerated - and also ensure that intolerance remains a force that continues to prevent it!

Important Things to Know About Bequests

- Your gift to the US National Committee for UN Women may be of any size - all are welcome!
- Bequests may be: a specific amount of money or a specified percentage of an estate; a residuary bequest giving the US National Committee for UN Women whatever remains from your estate after all other bequests have been satisfied; or a contingent bequest, payable in the event that primary beneficiaries do not survive you or requiring that the US National Committee for UN Women meets certain conditions.
- You may designate the US National Committee for UN Women in more than one of these ways if you choose.
- Since your Will takes effect only at your death, all provisions of your Will are revocable and can be changed at any time.
- Bequests are tax deductible for estate tax purposes.
- You should consult a qualified

attorney to assist with establishing your bequest.

Please remember the US National Committee for UN Women in your will and your estate plans. If you have any questions, contact Caroline Slobodzian at: plannedgiving@unwomen-usnc.org.

2013 Conference in Sarasota, FL: June 8... JOIN US

The Power of One

The United States National Committee of UN Women will hold its annual conference on Saturday, June 8 at the Lido Beach Resort in Sarasota.

The Conference theme is THE POWER OF ONE. State, national and international powerbrokers will share their ideas on how one person or one organization, can make a difference in the lives of women around the world.

The conference kick-off speaker is Dr. Raymonda Burgman, Associate Provost of New College. The first session, THE POWER OF ONE ORGANIZATION is a panel of socially conscious organizations who have implemented programs that empower others. The second session, "THE POWER OF ONE INDIVIDUAL," will feature individuals who have impacted women's lives around the globe, in Sierra Leone, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Guatemala.

The luncheon keynote speaker is Maria Leticia Guelfi, UN Women Program Specialist for Latin American and the Caribbean Section.

The afternoon sessions are the POWER OF YOUTH, focusing on what young people can do to make

Solar Engineer Grandmas



Each year Barefoot College in Tilonia, India trains 100 illiterate and semi-illiterate grandmothers from rural India and 80 more from around the world to be solar engineers.

When the women return from this UN Women-backed program to their villages, they are prepared to integrate solar technology - solar home units, water heaters, solar cookers, etc.- into their communities, to perform maintenance, to teach the skills to other village women, and to manage the finances for their own local solar workshops.

The woman here was photographed during a six-month program in March 2012 that included women from countries such as Uganda, Liberia, and South Sudan.

Take Part



"The International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) is one of the most important actions the U.S. government can take to help end violence like rape, domestic abuse, and so-called 'honor' killings," says Ritu Sharma, cofounder and president of Women Thrive Worldwide, a nonprofit advocacy organization in D.C. "In some countries around the world, upwards of 70 percent of women experience violence. It's just not an option for us to stand by and do nothing." Luckily, the current Administration has enacted some of IVAWA's core elements, but groups like Women Thrive are committed to seeing the whole Act passed.

USNC-UN Women applauds our representatives for passing VAWA and urges our supporters to continue to pressure for passage of IVAWA. Help us fight for women and girls worldwide by contacting your Senators and Representatives today!

Girl Power Globalized

New Girl Scouts Badge Aims to End Gender Violence
Alison Singh Gee, TakePart.com

When most women think back on their Girl Scout experiences, they remember roasting hotdogs and s'mores over a campfire (which might have earned them a Simple Meals Badge), selling Thin Mints (Cookie Business Badge), or singing carols at a retirement home (Legacy Badge). Now members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) can earn a whole new kind of badge developed in conjunction with UN Women. Stop the Violence: Speak Out for Girls' Rights is a new curriculum that teaches girls about self-protection, makes them aware of violence against girls and women, and educates them about how to seek help for themselves or for other females who are threatened by violence.

"Violence against women and girls—it's a global phenomena," says Nanette Braun, chief of communications and advocacy at UN Women. "It's not just a widespread occurrence in one particular region or country. Up to 70 percent of women and girls may be abused in their lives."

One way to stem this pandemic of violence, Braun says, "is to prevent it from happening in the first place. We want to teach zero-tolerance of violence against women. This program is about teaching girls about their rights and the issues surrounding violence so they can recognize when it's happening and prevent it. We want to teach girls and boys what their rights are, what they are entitled to, and what should not happen in any circumstances."

The Girl Scouts and the UN introduced an international pilot program, teaching the curriculum to some 1,500 Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in countries such as Madagascar, Kenya, the Philippines, and Ireland. Participants can earn a badge by completing six sessions from the activity pack, which encourages them to think about and understand the issues and develop the skills to speak out and take action on them. The activities are age-appropriate, so youngest groups might start out with leaders storytelling and playing games that prompt girls to recognize gender bias and get them thinking about inequality. Older girls might make posters for the cause, visit shelters for abused women, and develop speaking skills to communicate with groups outside WAGGGS about such violence.

The curriculum will be available to the ten million Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 145 countries, in print and online, by summer 2013. WAGGGS expects that by 2020 at least five million children and young people will have taken part.

Already, those in the pilot program have been deeply touched by the experience. A Girl Guide leader in the U.K. says she noticed a difference in the way girls viewed gender and what they perceived as acceptable behavior. Many units ran community events to raise local awareness of violence, and there were positive responses from parents who went along. The message is moving outward, into family discussion and through communities. One leader said, "The parents I spoke to were really grateful to us for tackling these subjects, and one parent told me that her daughter had initiated some really interesting conversations at home about these issues."

Braun says UN Women intends to extend its curriculum to an even wider audience. "We are going to talk to governments through the United Nations," she says. "We're hoping to engage the Boy Scouts too."

a difference, and POWERFUL POSITIONS ABROAD, with panelists who have served in various capacities abroad.

Conference registration is \$60 for



USNC-UN Women members and includes continental breakfast and the luncheon. Student registration is \$15. Conference registration is \$75 for non-members. But, non-members may select the member rate when registering if they join USNC by the date of the conference.

There is an evening poolside cocktail party with music and hors d'oeuvres for \$40.

6.08.13

Become one of the inspired!



Register online at:
www.unwomen-usnc.org/2013conferenceregistration
or call 202-469-8732.

A registration form is also included on the last page of this newsletter.

Through Women's Eyes International Film Festival

Through Women's Eyes international film festival, sponsored by the Gulf Coast Chapter, just completed its 14th year. This is the 4th year in which TWE has partnered with the Sarasota Film Festival. This festival was exceptional in every way. The film committee, composed of 19 members from the Gulf Coast Chapter, reviewed more than 150 films. The selection process was very difficult this year because of the wonderful films submitted to the festival.

Three films, "Trailblazers in Habits," "Monsters," and "Homefront Heroines," were world premieres. All the directors of these films, along with eight others associated with the fifteen films shown during the two day festival, were present for discussion after the films.



From left to right, Jean Hadden, Virginia Hitchcock, Terry Brackett, Ann Fries, Mary Dailey, Nancy Jones, Mary Wolf, Beverly Peyser, Dr. Sherry Lawrence, Carol Zehner, and Elaine Foster

Nancy Tong, director of "Trailblazers in Habits," came from Hong Kong and Natasha Novik and her producer, Natasha Pogonicheva, from the Russian Federation. The filmmakers represented the international nature of this festival - Israel, the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe, Canada and the United States.



Artistic Director, Ann Fries (top left), with directors at the reception.

On Saturday night, the celebration continued at the Art Center Sarasota. This event was chaired by Virginia Hitchcock and Abigail Shearer Robinson. Like the festival, the food was international.

On Thursday evening, TWE, the Sarasota Film Festival and Dream Weaver, a beautiful store located on St. Armand's Circle, hosted a reception for all of the women of film who were in town for both festivals. This was a great party and Dream Weaver was an exceptional venue for the event.

Each year, TWE and SFF present the Impact Award to an exceptional woman in the industry who has stepped outside her role as an actor or director. This year, the award went to Muriel Hemingway for her work in mental health and suicide awareness. The award was presented by Carol Buchanan, former President of the US National Committee.

Through Women's Eyes is already looking forward to our 15th year which will be on April 5 and 6, 2014.



Hope to see all of you there next year.

International Women's Day Celebrations

International Women's Day celebrates the economic, political, and social achievements of women past present, and future.

Dallas/Ft Worth Celebrates International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2013, the Dallas/Fort Worth chapter of the US National Committee for UN Women celebrated International Women's Day at The Mercury in Dallas.

The evening was hosted by Tamara L. Holmes, Dr. Joy Macci, DFW chapter president. and featured keynote speaker Dr. Dilshad Deyani, founder and president of the World Women Global Council.

Seven international women advocates, representing East Asia and the Pacific Region, were honored. Each shared best practices and stories of the impact movement to empower women and girls in their country.

Dr. Khaing Mya Nwe, BURMA

Senior Project Manager,
Reproductive Health Program
Myanmar Medical Association

Ms. Wahidah Zein Br Siregar, INDONESIA

Vice Dean of Academic Affairs
Sunan Ampel State Institute of Islamic Studies

Ms. Young Mi Cho, REPUBLIC OF KOREA Director, Y Movement National YWCA of Korea

Ms. Vanisa Dhuru, NEW ZEALAND Chief Executive Officer Volunteering New Zealand

A Day of Impact: Young Professionals to Host Conference and Fundraiser

By Katherine Garcia

On May 9th, the Metro NY Chapter Young Professionals committee will host a full day of exciting events. As part of our efforts to strengthen community awareness through information technology, we are proud to partner with Google to present a professional development conference: "Turning Idealism into Action".

At the Google NY office, expert speakers will share their insights during presentations and interactive panel discussions. Young professionals will engage in dialogue with 20+ passionate and inspiring executives from every sector such as Antonie (Ton) de Jong, UN Women; Maggie Rowan, TriBeCa Film Enterprises; Sophia Mendelsohn, JetBlue; and Frank Supowitz of the NFL. Throughout the day, Dana Galin, Co-Founder of Defineum, will be leading the audience in exercises to strengthen leadership skills and highlight the key qualities these talented leaders share. Participants will explore how they can maximize innovation to strengthen economic competitiveness and expand opportunities.

Participants will leave the day with:

- A sneak-peak of technology trends from Google
- Ideas to help leadership pursue strategic goals when resources are limited
- Practical steps that can be taken to move along the path when planning strategic technology adoption
- New contacts and partnerships among conference participants

Conference attendance is free of charge for 125 young professionals. RSVP is required and space will fill up quickly. For participants that cannot attend or live outside of NYC, Google has offered to live stream the event as a Google Hangout.

After the conference, the Young Professionals will host its fourth annual "A Night to Say NO" to Violence Against Women, a fundraiser benefiting UN Women.

Since last year's event successfully raised \$10,000 for UN Women, the steering committee has set this year's goal at \$15,000. We will be raffling prizes throughout the evening thanks to our generous sponsors: Missoni, Ted Baker, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, New York Yankees, New York Mets, Crossfit NYC, Equinox, Soul Cycle, Streb Brooklyn, Rent the Runway, Hanky Panky, Conde Nast, BKNY, Chelsea Piers and much more!

We will increase awareness for the UN Secretary-General's campaign, Say No-UNiTE to End Violence Against Women by prompting attendees to sign the SAY NO global call and taking pictures of the SAY NO body signal. To show your support to end the violence, check out Our Action Page. As a joint force, everyone stands "UNiTEd" rallying support for ending violence against women everywhere. Visit: <http://4thannualsayno.eventbrite.com> for details.

**Ms. Yun Li,
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Associate Professor and Director
of the Gender Studies Center
South China University
of Technology

**Ms. Perla Villanueva,
PHILIPPINES**

Socio-Economic Development
Program Director
God's Love for the Indigents
Ministry, Inc.

**Ms. Saleemah Ismail,
SINGAPORE**

Co-Founder and Member
of the Board of Directors
Aidha Micro-Business School

The guest list included members of Soroptimist International - Rockwall, students and parents of Parish Episcopal School, Barbara Rodriguez of Refuge City, Brigitte Kimichik, and a host of other community leaders and friends.

The DFW Chapter of USNC-UN Women was launched on October 24, 2012, United Nations Day.

Vero Beach Celebrates International Women's Day

Sixty-two women and 7 men gathered together to celebrate International Women's Day at the Sea Oaks Beach Club, Vero Beach, Florida, to honor how far women have come; as well as to address critical issues related to gender equality, violence against women, and women's rights.

"When one of us makes it, all of us women make it," said Lalita Janke, President of the USNC-UN Women, East Florida Chapter. "International Women's Day is an opportunity for all to celebrate the success and progress of women."



Carol Jean Jordan, Katie Posey

Catherine A. Lambert, financial advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, spoke of the importance of short and long term goals and the inclusion of philanthropy in financial planning. Jeanne Selander Miller, author of "A Breath Away", shared her powerful poem, "Why I Write," and everyone was moved to silence. Dr. Josephine Beoku-Betts, professor and director, Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Florida Atlantic University, shared her views on women and politics in Africa. She had just returned from



Robin Dapp, secretary off USNC-UN Women, East Florida Chapter, recognized the elected officials present and read a welcome letter by Indian River County Commission chairman, Joe Fletcher. "We women in the United States are fortunate to have many rights. However we cannot take them for granted," she said.

teaching for a year in Sierra Leone. Dr. Beoku-Betts was recognized by the Florida Commission on The Status of Women and received the 2012 President's Leadership Award, Florida Atlantic University.

Gulf Coast Chapter International Women's Day

Speaker Paola Gianturco, author of "*Grandmother Power: A Global Phenomenon*," with chapter president Sharon Burde and event chair, Deb Jennings, are shown below. The chapter celebrated with a brunch and the program by Gianturco, who spoke about her interviews around the world with grandmothers.



2013 USNC-UN Women Annual Conference and Member Meeting

THE POWER OF ONE

June 8, 2013

Lido Beach Resort, Sarasota, FL

TO REGISTER BY MAIL, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM & SEND IT WITH YOUR CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO USNC-UN Women, 1120 20th St. NW, #500 North, Washington, DC 20036

First name:

Last name:

Email:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP/Postal Code:

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Telephone:

Type of Registration (please select one):

- \$60.00 Conference only - USNC-UN Women Member
- \$100.00 Conference & Reception - USNC-UN Women Member
- \$75.00 Conference only - Non-Member*
- \$115.00 Conference & Reception - Non-Member*
- \$15.00 Conference only - Student
- \$55.00 Conference & Reception - Student
- \$600.00 Conference & Luncheon Sponsor Table for 10

**Become a USNC-UN Women member through the day of the conference and still take advantage of the member registration rate today! www.unwomen-usnc.org/join*

Payment Method:

- Check payable to USNC-UN Women is enclosed
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If you have questions, please email director@unwomen-usnc.org or call 202-469-8732.

1120 20th Street, Suite 500 N
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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

