

Third Annual United Nations Study Visit

Deputy Secretary-General Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Delivers Keynote Luncheon Address



Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro

NEW YORK, NY – On May 1, 2008 the Women's Foreign Policy Group hosted its third annual UN Study Visit focusing on "The UN in the Second Year of Ban Ki-Moon's Leadership." The conference drew over 90 participants from corporations, non-profits, foundations, international organizations, the diplomatic community, and the media.

The VIP Luncheon was attended by senior-level UN officials, UN Ambassadors from the Bahamas, Estonia, Indonesia, and Mongolia, in addition to representatives from the Missions of Croatia, Jordan, Liberia, and the US, and the NY Consuls General of Austria, Indonesia, and Slovenia.

Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, **Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro**, delivered the keynote luncheon address outlining major global problems – such as the global food crisis – and their effect on women. In addition to describing the UN's efforts, Dr. Migiro spoke about the impact women can have in addressing these problems. The conference also featured briefings by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent Representative of the US Mission to the UN; Kathleen Cravero, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and Chair of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict; Dr. Robert Orr, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning; and Jane Holl Lute, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Officer-in-charge of the Department of Field Support. The in-depth briefings covered current issues including the challenges of peacekeeping, violence against women in conflict zones, top priorities of the Secretary-General, and US-UN relations.

In her remarks, Dr. Migiro warned that the food crisis may undermine the many advances the world has made in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that rising food costs could push one hundred million people deeper into poverty, and that this "development emergency" is

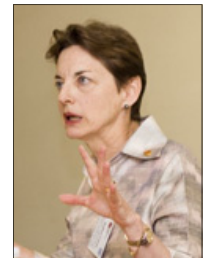
taking its heaviest toll on women. Additionally, Dr. Migiro discussed how the effects of climate change disproportionately burden poor women in African countries who, as subsistence farmers, depend on natural resources to provide for their families. She also noted that no country in Africa is on track to meet the MDG for reducing maternal mortality rates.

Yet, the Deputy Secretary-General also emphasized that the same women hit hardest by the food crisis are ready to hit back and she called on the world community to support them. Dr. Migiro said sufficient investment is needed in the right mix of policies, aid, and incentives so that, for example, African farmers – 80% of which are women – can move their communities from subsistence farming to commercial farming and industry. With a yearly investment of eight billion dollars, the Africa MDG Steering Group estimates African states can procure enough fertilizer and improved seeds to allow them to double agricultural yields. "And then, I predict, female farmers on the continent will unleash Africa's vast potential," the Deputy Secretary-General said.

Dr. Migiro also detailed the UN's efforts regarding the food crisis, which include the Secretary-General's UN Task Force on the Global Food Crisis, a special session to be held by the UN's Economic and Social Council, and a high-level conference on food security in Rome. Additionally, she talked about how the Secretary-General's comprehensive, rapid-fire response to the food crisis includes key strategies to mobilize international assistance, give governments the best information to boost agricultural production, and address the structural and policy issues behind the crisis.



Amb. Alejandro Wolff



Dr. Kathleen Cravero



Dr. Robert Orr



Dr. Jane Holl Lute

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Ambassador Ochir Enkhsetseg of Mongolia



Ambassador Tina Intelmann of Estonia



WFPG President Patricia Ellis, Under-Secretary-General Kiyo Akasaka



Susan King of the Carnegie Corporation of New York



Peggy Blumenthal of the Institute of International Education



WFPG Board Member Gillian Sorensen moderating a morning briefing session with Assistant Secretary-General Jane Holl Lute



Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro with the WFPG Board



Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro with Event Sponsors, WFPG Board Chair Maxine Isaacs and Melinda Blinken



(from left) WFPG Board Members Ann Korologos and Theresa Loar, with Peggy Hatton, Event Cosponsor Melinda Blinken, Vicki Assevero, and WFPG Board Member Donna Constantinople



Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro with Patricia Ellis

(cont. from page 1)

Deputy Secretary-General Migiro also highlighted the efforts the UN is making in gender parity among its leadership. After acknowledging the progress the UN has made, Dr. Migiro explained that much more needs to be done both within the UN and across the world to empower women, stating that, "the truth is, we could learn a lot from Rwanda on this score". Women take up almost half the seats in parliament in Rwanda.

Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, US Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, spoke about the challenges and opportunities for UN-US relations under Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's leadership. He explained that the US "wants this place to work" and that the perception of UN-US enmity stems from the tough questions that the US – as the largest UN funder – asks about financial priorities and expenditures. He also addressed the American perception of the UN, lamenting that even well-informed Americans are unaware that the member states are ultimately responsible for most of the organization's actions, not the Secretary-General. In addition, he declared the polarization of developed and developing member states to be the largest obstacle to the organization's success.

Ambassador Wolff spoke of the challenges the US faces at the UN, explaining that member states – wary of the world's largest power – often band together to oppose the US, which frustrates US efforts to find international support for actions that reflect its values and interests. He pointed out that the difficult relationships the US has with these states at the UN is not reflective of its bilateral diplomatic relations with these same countries. He explained that the "underlying reality" of member states selecting their permanent representatives to the UN on the basis of internal politics rather than diplomacy is the cause of the difficulties the US has with dealing with many states at the UN.

Dr. Kathleen Cravero, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and Chair of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, spoke about sexual violence against women in conflict zones and in post-conflict nations. Dr. Cravero discussed how the UNDP can be more effective in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The Resolution specifically addresses the disproportionate and unique impact of war on women, as well as the under-valued and under-utilized contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace that women can uniquely provide. Resolution 1325 also urges women's equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security.

Dr. Cravero also discussed myths concerning gender violence and outlined a plan of action, calling upon governments and NGOs to address abuses. She criticized UNDP's current approach to women in war, calling it impersonal, distanced, and missing the mark in making significant improvements. She called on the organization to leave behind what it thinks it

knows on the issue and to take a fresh look at it through the eyes of individual women. Additionally, in dispelling certain myths she explained how measures taken to improve leadership, justice, and equality in post-conflict areas do not necessarily benefit women and that a more targeted approach is required. Dr. Cravero outlined an 8-point UNDP agenda for women's empowerment and gender equality in crisis prevention and recovery.

Dr. Robert Orr, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, spoke about the three sets of priorities of the Secretary-General: delivering results to those most in need, improving accountability both internally at the UN and among member states, and focusing on "global goods" which are issues that cross state borders such as climate change, health, and terrorism.

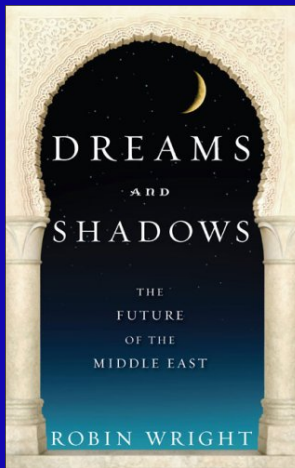
Dr. Orr pointed out that making progress on global goods issues will improve the organization's often-criticized reputation for accountability. He spoke of Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's new "accountability compact" for the organization and acknowledged that the UN staff is willing to do more and spend more time on fulfilling this. However, Dr. Orr called upon member states to honor the compact as well. Speaking of global goods, he explained, "We can't make the kind of change we need and the reform we need if member states pass all these wonderful resolutions and don't back them up with resources."

Dr. Jane Holl Lute, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Field Support, addressed the challenges of the UN's peacekeeping missions, pointing out that although the UN is the world's second largest deployed military presence, it has no standing military capability, strategic planning capability, or regularized training. In addition, she called on the UN to make a greater investment in people, explaining that they are its most valuable peacekeeping asset.

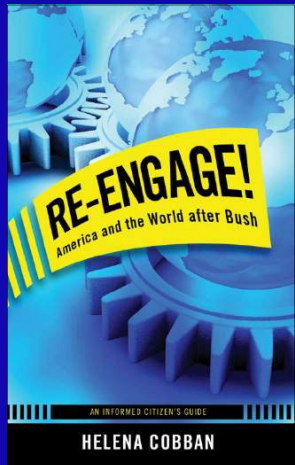
Dr. Lute also termed the recent allegations of sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers one of the most serious setbacks the UN has faced. She explained that, in her capacity as Officer-in-Charge of Field Support, she was "in charge of our effort to fix ourselves" and said that the standards of the organization's peacekeeping operations have suffered because of its rapid growth. To address this problem, Dr. Lute helped to put into place a three-part program of prevention, enforcement, and remediation. Additionally, she sought to remedy the problems by promoting the purpose and pride that are part of peacekeeping operations and by vigilantly maintaining a system of zero tolerance, zero complacency, and zero impunity.



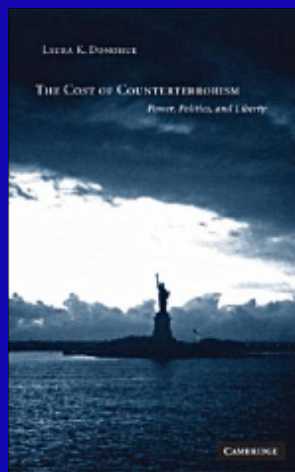
Visit www.wfpg.org for more photos and transcripts of the briefing sessions and luncheon address.



Robin Wright
*Dreams and Shadows:
The Future of the Middle East*



Helena Cobban
*RE-ENGAGE!
America and the World after Bush
An Informed Citizen's Guide*



Laura K. Donohue
*The Cost of Counterterrorism
Power, Politics, and Liberty*

WFPG Authors Series Spotlight: Robin Wright

Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East

On May 13, 2008, Robin Wright, *The Washington Post's* Diplomatic Correspondent, spoke to the Women's Foreign Policy Group at a reception and program event at the Slovenian Embassy. Ms. Wright discussed her book, *Dreams and Shadows: The Future of the Middle East*.



Ms. Wright explained that she wrote the book in response to the failures of the US in Iraq, which she partly attributes to the limited knowledge the US had of "what was happening inside the country" before the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, "I wanted to make sure that the United States didn't do this again." Rather than looking only at the Middle East as a strategic interest, Ms. Wright called on the US to take a look at the internal dynamics of the countries.



Miriam Mozgam, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Slovenian Embassy, Robin Wright, and Patricia Ellis

In visiting the Middle East to write the book, Ms. Wright was struck by a new dynamic of change at the local level and in many isolated and diverse pockets of the region. She came away from her visits with an impression that the region has stopped asking whether or not it would accept change and has started asking how to make it happen. She also came away having been inspired by the extraordinary individuals she met who are leading the way. Her book primarily focuses on the human experience of these men and women. Ms. Wright likened these individuals — who include a Syrian activist and human rights lawyer, a Egyptian middle-class divorced woman, and a younger brother of the Supreme Leader of Iran — to Nelson Mandela and Lech Wałęsa because of what they are doing for the region.

Authors Series: Laura Donohue

The Cost of Counterterrorism



On June 13, 2008, Dr. Laura K. Donohue, a fellow at CISAC at Stanford Law School, spoke to the Women's Foreign Policy Group in Washington about her new book, *The Cost of Counterterrorism: Power, Politics, and Liberty*. She explained how the creation of counterterrorist laws has led to the expansion of executive power, despite initial limits and safeguards. In her book, she explores this disturbing trend, which offsets the balance of power and creates a fundamental shift in the governmental structure. Dr. Donohue gave several examples of the recent expansion of executive authority in the US and the UK and warned against viewing counterterrorist law in terms of an either/or choice between security and freedom. She also suggested ways the legislature and judiciary can push back against the executive by increasing transparency and resisting the temptation of taking extreme measures after the occurrence of a terrorist attack.

Authors Series: Helena Cobban

RE-ENGAGE!



On June 19 and June 26, 2008, veteran journalist Helena Cobban, long-time contributor to the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Boston Review* discussed her new book *RE-ENGAGE! America and the World after Bush, An Informed Citizen's Guide*. Cobban spoke about the devastation caused by the current approach to US foreign policy, which relies on imperialistic military power. She explained how the US could improve its relationship with the rest of the world simply by changing its policy to address "global inclusion" and human security. She also highlighted four topics from her book that need to be re-conceptualized in order for Americans to re-engage with the international community: traditional security, global inequality, human rights, and climate change. Ms. Cobban also suggested specific steps the next president can take to encourage re-engagement, such as setting a date of withdrawal from Iraq, closing Guantanamo Bay, and joining the Bali negotiations on climate change.

Spring Embassy Series Event: Ambassador Al-Mughairy

On April 24, 2008, Oman's Ambassador to the US, H.E. Hunaina Al-Mughairy hosted WFPG members and guests at a Spring Embassy Series event at her residence in Washington, DC. Ambassador Al-Mughairy, an economist and the first woman ambassador to the US from an Arab country, spoke about women in the Arab world and the US-Oman Free Trade Agreement. The Ambassador discussed how the status of women throughout the Arab world varies greatly from country to country in terms of their achievements. For example, although the literacy rate for women throughout the Arab world is only at 40%, the rate in Jordan exceeds 80% and in Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Tunisia, and the UAE, the number of women attending secondary education exceeds the number of men. Some women in the Arab world are



making great strides in the political and economic sphere. In her own country, Oman, an increasing number of women have become ministers in the last few years. She also pointed out that women own one of the most successful enterprises in the Middle East and North Africa region and that women investors manage investments worth more than \$35 billion in the Gulf region.

Ambassador Al-Mughairy also described Oman's path to diversification and development and the instrumental role of the US-Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA). She noted that Oman's leaders are very aware that its significant oil and gas resources

will not last forever. The Ambassador also hopes that the US-Oman FTA will help Oman alleviate employment problems caused by the doubling in population from 1996 to 2010.

WFPG Cosponsors International Women's Day Luncheon



On March 6, 2008, the UN Foundation (UNF), the UN Information Center (UNIC), and the WFPG cosponsored a luncheon to celebrate International Women's Day at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-9th CA) delivered the keynote address about the importance of combating violence against women, improving educational programs, and increasing the attention the US gives to women's issues in foreign aid and diplomacy.

Kiyotaka Akasaka, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, discussed a new initiative by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: a multi-year campaign to intensify action to end violence against women and girls. He explained how the campaign will combat "lower intensity" acts of discrimination, which rarely make headlines, but are no less important in the struggle to protect women's rights. He stressed that adopting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Charter, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is only the first step. For states which must also be proactive in implementing effective measures that transcend the laws and customs of their people.



Carnegie Scholar Islam Series: Human Rights in Iran



On February 15, 2008, Abdulaziz Sachedina, Ph.D., a 2005 Carnegie Scholar and a Frances Myers Ball Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia, addressed the Women's Foreign Policy Group at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. The audience included representatives from NGOs, international organizations, think tanks, the State Department, embassies, and the media.

In his talk, Dr. Sachedina explained that the current secular scholarship on human rights and democracy suffers from a "credibility gap" among native cultures in Islamic countries. He noted that this is partly because secular scholarship denies that religion is capable of playing a positive and constructive role in encouraging societies to accept the notion that all human beings have

dignity. Dr. Sachedina said he understood the reasoning behind the secular intellectual's stance, noting that religious communities tend to "divide the world between believer and nonbeliever" and some, unfortunately, view nonbelievers as less than human.

As a practicing Muslim who studied in Iraqi and Iranian seminaries, Dr. Sachedina has credibility in Islamic countries, which secular scholars lack, that enables him to discuss human rights with Islamic seminarians whose scholarship has significant influence in Islamic society (he suggested that these scholars seek guidance in human rights and democracy from the Qur'an, where a theory of natural law and religious pluralism can be found). By engaging Islamic seminarians in such conversations, Dr. Sachedina believes it possible to promote Muslim societies that have deep respect for human rights and pluralism. However, he warned that insensitive attempts by the West to promote human rights and democracy would continue to backfire.



Dr. Sachedina said he found that the Iranian people willingly embrace what he believes is the defining characteristic of any democratic system: the accountability of public officials to the public. However, in Iran the country's religious establishment does not regard itself as accountable to the public but, as an Islamic republic, the Iranian theocratic government believes it is accountable only to God. The religious class are aware of the crisis and its members realize that, once they stand for election, they can no longer be part of this privileged class.

WFPG Partners with NYU to Mentor Students and Young Professionals



On February 27, 2008, the WFPG held its first Mentoring Fair at New York University as part of our mission to encourage and promote the next generation of international affairs leaders. The event drew over 130 students and young professionals from the New York area. Universities represented include NYU, Columbia, St. John's, Fordham, Yale, CUNY and Rutgers. The fair was co-sponsored by the International Public Service Association, the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and the NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development.

WFPG members and friends shared their career expertise with young women and men about career paths in this rapidly changing field including: the US Foreign Service, the UN, international law

and business, NGOs, and human rights. This forum allowed for an informal exchange, which both mentors and mentees found beneficial. Young professional Sarah Doerrer was enthusiastic to be able to "find out what certain careers were really like, both the good and the bad, and what got the mentors from point A (where we are) to point B (where they are)."

And WFPG member and mentor Joanne Fox-Przeworski found it inspiring "to know there are so many interesting, committed women out there who would like to be a part of a larger world." The WFPG would like to thank the mentors who participated and encourage all of its members to join us at our 2009 Mentoring Fairs on New York and Washington, DC.

Carnegie Scholar Islam Series: Women and Islam

On March 11, 2008, the Women's Foreign Policy Group held a panel discussion with three Carnegie Scholars on Women and Islam. The event was co-hosted by the Institute for International Education's Kaufman Conference Center in New York. The panel featured three Carnegie Scholars, Professors Beth Baron of the City University of New York, Marion Holmes Katz of New York University, and Farzaneh Milani of the University of Virginia. The audience included representatives from NGOs, international organizations, UN Missions, the State Department, consulates, and universities. The three scholars spoke about women and Islamic law, the history of women's rights in Muslim countries, and the differences in freedom of women in these countries. The lively question and answer period touched on the current headscarf debates in Turkey and France and the need of a vehicle for communication among women across state and religious borders and across generations.



Patricia Rosenfield and Hillary Weisner of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Patricia Ellis of WFPG, and Peggy Blumenthal of IIE with Carnegie Scholars, Farzaneh Milani, Beth Baron, and Marion Holmes Katz

Professor Milani spoke on myths and realities concerning women and Islam and how the unprecedented flourishing of a new genre of books, articles, and movies has produced a distorted image of the Muslim woman as a virtual prisoner. Professor Milani terms these publications and movies "hostage narratives" and explained how the hostage stereotype – though grounded in certain realities – has harmed Muslim women by overshadowing clear strides forward. She also discussed how typical Iranian women both in and outside the country do not see themselves the way many of the hostage narratives describe them. She also noted that the veil, which originally was also worn by women of other religious faiths, including Christianity, has become, in Western eyes, the monopoly of Islam. She lamented the "over-politicization" of the veil in countries such as France and Turkey and the inordinate amount of attention it receives in the West, where issues that more directly affect Muslim women, such as segregation and mobility, are rarely discussed.

Professor Katz discussed how religious stereotypes containing damaging misconceptions often occur in the context of political and social debates and serve to culturally polarize religious groups. Additionally, she noted how many erroneous claims are based on outdated Islamic practices. Professor Katz compared using the Qur'an or the Hadith to predict the content of contemporary "Islamic" agendas to looking in the Bible for instructions on a single-payer health care system. However, Professor Katz also discussed how Muslim women can use their religion's texts to shape their arguments for women's rights in new and advantageous ways. For example, the website of a Malaysian group, Sisters in Islam, asks visitors, "Do you know your Islamic rights?" This group has successfully made arguments for views that are ethically right and religiously justified yet oppose the current male-biased political reality.

In her comments, Professor Baron explained how the US insists on viewing Middle Eastern Muslim women as contained, controlled, and hermetically sealed from the world by Islam while continuing its centuries-old practice of imposing its own religious, cultural, and political systems on Muslim countries without listening to the women affected by this policy. She outlined the trajectory and impact of Western involvement in the Middle East and in the lives of its women, covering, in chronological order, missionaries, "modernizers", and groups advocating democracy. Professor Baron also noted that Islam, though once thought to be anathema to democracy, is now seen – both in the West and in the Middle East – as able to exist as a part of civil society.



Visit www.wfpg.org for photos and the transcripts of WFPG events.

2008 WFPG Board of Directors

WFPG Board Welcomes New Board Member Debbie Dingell

Debbie Dingell is the Vice-Chair of the General Motors Foundation and a senior executive at General Motors, is an active civic and community leader in both Michigan and Washington, DC and is a recognized national advocate for women and children. Ms. Dingell is also a national Democratic strategist, a member of the DNC and has chaired numerous political campaigns. As a respected, bipartisan voice, she is a regular contributor to media programs including Fox News and MSNBC. She chairs or sits on numerous boards in both Michigan and Washington, DC. Much of her recent work has focused on ethical issues and social responsibility as it relates to government and business.



Maxine Isaacs, *Chair*



Maxine Isaacs is a faculty member at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, where she has taught foreign policy, public opinion, and presidential politics. She worked in the White House and US Senate for former Vice President Walter Mondale, US House of Representatives, and was a fellow at the Institute of Politics and Times Mirror (now Pew) Research Center on the People and the Press. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the Arlington Virginia's Signature Theatre board. She is also a Trustee of Skidmore College, the Folger Shakespeare Library, Sidwell Friends School, and the Council for Excellence in Government. Previously, she was on the Board of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

Gail Leftwich Kitch, *Vice Chair*



Gail Leftwich Kitch is the Executive Director of By the People, an initiative of MacNeil/Lehrer Productions (M/LP), which uses public television to spur citizen dialogue around public policy issues; she previously served as President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Prior to that she was Director of Cambridge Forum and principal of Strategic Business Consultants, an international business consultancy. A lawyer by training, Ms. Kitch is a former chair of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and was a Radcliffe College Public Policy Fellow.

Dawn Calabia, *Treasurer*



Dawn Calabia is a senior advisor for Refugees International. Additionally, she is a consultant on strategic communications, the UN, human rights, refugees, congress, peacekeeping and post-conflict and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She served the UN as Deputy Director, UN Information Center Washington, and Senior Government and NGO Relations Officer for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Previously, she served as Director of Refugee Policy and International Affairs, US Catholic Conference MRS Office, and served for 11 years on Capitol Hill on the House International Relations Committee, and with a NY Representative. She holds a BA from St. John's University and an MSW from Fordham University.

Donna Constantinople, *Secretary*



Donna Constantinople is a founding partner of KMA Communications, a management consultancy providing counsel to over 100 national and international corporations, industry associations, and non-profit organizations. The firm's work includes strategic staffing/executive recruitment, executive counsel/training, senior management/corporate governance, internal/external communications, special events, media and public relations. Ms. Constantinople holds degrees in political science/economics from Northwestern University. She serves on the Board of the Women's Leadership Forum, and previously on the Women's Campaign Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation/Decatur House Council.

2008 WFPG Board of Directors

Isabel Jasinowski



Isabel Jasinowski is the VP for Government Relations and a Corporate Officer of Goodyear. She serves as the company's senior registered lobbyist and has worked at Goodyear since 1981. Having started her career as director of local issues for Governor Jimmy Carter's 1976 presidential campaign, she has more than 25 years of government relations and Capitol Hill experience. Gaining most of her international trade and business experience at the US Department of Commerce, Ms. Jasinowski set up and ran the Office of Business Liaison, reporting to the Secretary of Commerce. She was born in New York City to a family with a long tradition of transatlantic business and government involvement. She graduated cum laude with honors from Barnard College, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, and completed her master's degree at Columbia University. She speaks French fluently.

The Honorable Ann McLaughlin Korologos



Ann McLaughlin Korologos is Chairman of the RAND Board of Trustees. RAND is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis. She is Chairman Emeritus of The Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit educational institution founded in 1950. Ms. Korologos as US Secretary of Labor under President Ronald Reagan. Ms. Korologos currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of AMR Corporation (and its subsidiary, American Airlines), Harman International Industries, Host Hotels & Resorts, Inc., Kellogg Company and Vulcan Materials Company and is a member of the governing boards of a number of civic, non-profit organizations including the Board of Overseers of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She is married to Tom Korologos and lives in Washington, DC.

Theresa Loar



Theresa Loar is the Vice President of Global Strategies for CH2M HILL, a global engineering and consulting firm. During the Clinton Administration, she worked at the highest levels of the US government to promote and protect women's human rights, including executive level diplomatic positions in the White House and the State Department. She served as Director of the President's Interagency Council on Women and Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues. Co-founder and Founding President of the Vital Voices Global Partnership; Board Member Tahirih Justice Center; Co-Chair Corporate Council, Women & Politics Institute, American University.

Tracey McMinn



Tracey McMinn is a Manager of International Government Relations at Shell. She began her career in Washington, DC, with Pennzoil Company and then the US Department of Energy. After 9 years, Tracey relocated to France with the International Energy Agency, and then to Australia as Government Relations Manager for Shell. In 2003, she returned to the US with Shell, first in Houston and now in Washington. Tracey has a BA from Cornell University in International Relations, and a MA from The American University's School of International Service.

Diana Villiers Negroponte



Diana Villiers Negroponte is a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. She has taught at Georgetown University and Fordham University, practiced international trade law with Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker and written a book on El Salvador's peace process. She is a member of the Board of Freedom House, Opportunity International (micro-finance) and the Global Leadership Council of Habitat for Humanity International (housebuilding). She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Advisory Council of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars' Mexico Institute.

2008 WFPG Board of Directors



Ponchitta Pierce

Ponchitta Pierce is a journalist with extensive experience as a television host, producer and magazine writer. She worked at CBS Television, WNBC-TV New York and hosted programs for WNET Channel 13 (PBS). In addition to her work in television, Ms. Pierce writes on subjects ranging from politics and health to finance and social policy. She has served as a Contributing Editor for Parade magazine and McCall's magazine and Roving Editor for Reader's Digest and has written for many national publications including *AARP The Magazine (Modern Maturity)*; *Family Circle*, *More*, *Newsday*, and *Ladies Home Journal*. Several of her interviews appear in *My Soul Looks Back in Wonder: Voices of the Civil Rights Experience* (AARP/Sterling Publishing). She serves on the boards of several nonprofits, the Foreign Policy Association, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



Susan Rappaport

Susan Rappaport serves on the boards of the Rothko Chapel; Houston, a human rights group honoring legacy of Oscar Romero; Washington Environmental Film Festival; Folger Shakespeare Library Poetry Series. She is Co-Chair of Vital Voices Northern Ireland/ Middle East/ South Africa Project; Washington Council for Human Rights First. She was the Editor of *Traveler's Guide to Art Museum Exhibitions*, 1989-2000, Harry N. Abrams, Inc.



Gillian Sorensen

Gillian Sorensen is formerly UN Assistant-Secretary General for External Relations; Special Adviser to the Secretary General for Public Policy and New York City Commissioner for the UN. She is currently a Senior Advisor at the United Nations Foundation and a national advocate on matters related to the United Nations and the United States-United Nations relationship, addressing audiences as diverse as Rotary International and the Air Force Academy; university students; staff and Members of Congress; journalists and leaders of civil society.



Patricia Ellis, *Ex-Officio*

Patricia Ellis, President and Co-Founder of the Women's Foreign Policy Group, previously covered foreign affairs for the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, was a fellow at Harvard's Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, and taught at American University, specializing in foreign affairs news coverage. She has done research at the US Mission to the United Nations and the MIT Center for International Studies. She is a founding member of the International Women's Media Foundation and member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She frequently moderates foreign policy programs and speaks on mentoring, women's leadership, and international affairs careers.

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WFPG: Staff Activities, Office Visitors, and Summer Interns

In March, **WFPG President Patricia Ellis**, spoke at the International Women's Day Luncheon (see page 5). She discussed the current state of women's leadership worldwide, specifically relating to the UN and women foreign ministers and ambassadors. Also in March, **WFPG Director of Operations, Kimberly Kahnhauser**, participated in a panel on NGO operations, *Non-Profit Boot Camp: Skills to Change the World*, at New York University.

In May, **Elvan Salman**, a political science student from Istanbul, Turkey, visited the WFPG office. Ms. Salman discussed current political and social issues facing Turkey.

Welcome WFPG Summer Interns!

"As an intern with the WFPG, you are able to see a wide range of possibilities for careers in international affairs and what's even better is the opportunities I had to speak with so many women about their paths, interesting and varying, that led them to their current high-level position."

-Lauren March, 2008 Intern



From left: Andrea Gordon, a junior at Boston College, Courtney Stuckwisch a recent graduate of the University of Virginia, Molly Doran, a graduate student at American University, and Maureen Lanigan, a senior at Boston College

Members in Action: WFPG Member News

Dr. Margaret (Maggi) Cary launched www.auntsandnieces.com, an online resource for the Aunting Community.

Barbara Crossette is teamed with George Perkovich of the Carnegie Endowment to write a chapter on India for a Stanley Foundation book on how leading nations will play their roles in global affairs in the coming decade. The current issue of *World Policy Journal* includes her article on the late prime minister Indira Gandhi's legacy in South Asia. Barbara received Fulbright Award for international reporting in June.

Sarah Doerrer was accepted as a Susan Schiffer Stautberg Leadership Foundation 2008-2009 Fellow. The Foundation's mission is, "to identify high potential young women and facilitate their ability to make a difference in their communities, their chosen fields and the world at large".

Nadine B. Hack, President beCause Global Consulting, accepted one of South Africa's 2008 National Orders, which is the highest awards that country bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals and is the equivalent to the US Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Elizabeth Latham participated in the Leadership Council for the Women, Faith, and Development Alliance Breakthrough Summit. In her commitment to the summit, she pledged that the US Committee for UNDP will raise funds to send over 100 Somali Women to college.

Joanne Leedom-Ackerman published new editions of her novel, *The Dark Path to the River* and her short story collection, *No Marble Angels*. A political thriller about strong minded men and women, *The Dark Path to the River* tells a love story that moves between Wall Street and Africa.

Gail Leftwich Kitch, Vice Chair of the Women's Foreign Policy Group Board of Directors, was the 2008 commencement speaker at Wells College in Aurora, NY. Ms. Kitch addressed "What is Possible," which she presented as a statement to the audience, rather than a question.

Katherine Marshall of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University, recently published her book, *The World Bank: From Reconstruction to Development to Equity*.

Ponchitta Pierce, Member of the Women's Foreign Policy Group Board of Directors, wrote the essay, *African American Philanthropy, A Deep-rooted Tradition Continues to Grow* for the *Carnegie Reporter*.

Grace E. Richardson was one of six recipients of Cornell University's Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award. The prestigious award honors alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary service to Cornell University through long-term volunteer activities within the broad spectrum of its various alumni organizations.

The WFPG wishes Ambassadors Eva Nowotny of Austria and Nabil Fahmy of Egypt, two WFPG members, a fond farewell as they leave their posts in the next few months.

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