



## MEANINGFULWORLD

Newsletter

Spring Issue, 2013

21 MARCH

### **Meaningfulworld at the United Nations**

#### **Interfaith Harmony Week**

#### **A Message from Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon**

--  
New York, 1 February 2013

For billions of people around the world, faith is an essential foundation of life. It provides strength in times of difficulty and an important sense of community. The vast majority of people of faith live in harmony with their neighbours, whatever their creed, but each religion also harbours a strident minority prepared to assert fundamentalist doctrines through bigotry and extreme violence.

These acts are an affront to the heritage and teachings of all major religions. They also contravene the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms the right of all to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. It is imperative that the moderate majority is empowered to stand firm against the forces of extremism. But, this can only be achieved through strong leadership.

We live in times of turmoil and transformation – economic, environmental, demographic and political. These transitions bring both hope and uncertainty. Our job is to ensure that hope wins, and our task will be made easier if the followers of all faiths collaborate in common cause. Let us never forget that what divides us is minuscule compared with what unites us. Working together, we can achieve all our goals for peace, prosperity and physical and spiritual well-being.

## ATOP Meaningfulworld Organizes a Parallel Event for United Nations 57<sup>th</sup> CSW Transforming Violence against Women Around the World

Renoude Charles, and Jane Kearns



ATOP Team from left to right: Renoude Charles, Jane Kearns, Dr. Ani Kalayjian, Katrina Martinez, and Leysa Cerswell

During the past two weeks the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) held its 57<sup>th</sup> session at the United Nations, where a series of workshops, conferences and side events took place. Once again, The Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention (ATOP) Meaningfulworld organized a parallel event presenting a symposium on ***Empowering Women Around the Globe: Transforming Violence through Mind-Body-Eco-Spirit*** on 14 March, 2013 at the UN. The conference warmly welcomed close to a hundred attendees from academia, NGO's, grass root organizations, UN staff and others who came from near and far. We provided ATOP membership applications, information handouts, as well as the 7- Step Integrative Healing Model. Symbolic figures and energy balancing healing oils collected from around the world set the peaceful atmosphere for the panelists and the audience.



The conference ended with a Q&A period led by Dr. Kalayjian. Questions were raised regarding why do men engage in violent acts? Why are some men so gentle yet unappreciated by women? And why do women engage in violence toward one another? In conclusion, the human race is like a bird with two wings, one man and the other women. If we don't learn how to fly harmoniously together, then the human race will be destroyed.

Leysa presenting on Empowering Women

read more at: [meaningfulworld.com](http://meaningfulworld.com)

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## Educating through media, ABC television news



Dr. Ani being interviewed by ABC 7

On Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Dr. Ani Kalayjian, founder and president of the Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention/ Meaningfulworld, will appear on an edition of Open, hosted by Daren Jaime. Dr. Kalayjian will discuss the trauma of the school massacre in Newtown, Connecticut that occurred the prior Friday, as well as her work with victims of trauma and survivors from around the globe.

Dr. Kalayjian was also interviewed on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> with ABC Channel 7 regarding the school massacre of 26 elementary aged children and 6 adults in Newtown. Known as an internationally recognized expert on mass trauma, Dr. Kalayjian has been committed to healing survivors locally and internationally, has served on United Nation panels, and has been a psychology professor at Fordham University.

A Guide for those who know children affected by mass shootings is provided in the link below that may be helpful for those who care for children that may be grieving, troubled, or confused regarding school shootings.



Dr. Ani being interviewed by Bronxnet

[http://meaningfulworld.com/images/helping\\_children\\_cope\\_after\\_school\\_shooting.pdf](http://meaningfulworld.com/images/helping_children_cope_after_school_shooting.pdf)

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**ATOP Meaningfulworld At Columbia University**

## ATOP Meaningfulworld Participates in the 2nd Annual Conflict Resolution Internship Fair at Columbia University

*Blanka Angyal and Jessica Harlow*

The Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity (AC4) held its 2nd Annual Conflict Resolution Internship Fair on Thursday, February 21, 2013, at Columbia University. The event was a true success, bringing together nearly 200 students and organization representatives from the New York area. In addition to organizations providing information about internship opportunities, the event also featured a special panel of ACR-GNY professionals, who met with students to discuss their career goals and ambitions and provide guidance about the field of conflict resolution. Students who participated in the internship fair had the chance to take part in a raffle with prizes including a lunch with AC4 Directors Beth Fisher-Yoshida and Peter Coleman, or resume editing advice from the AC4 staff.

We are honored to collaborate and partner with such committed individuals and organizations and to become a link towards transforming visions into action for the communities plagued by inequality, oppressions, injustice, and violence, locally as well as globally. Some of the organizations that stood out for me were: lokashakti, Tribal Link Foundation, INC., Tanenbaum, Outward Bound Peacebuilding, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. lokashakti is a crowd sourced global listing of organizations, actions, and events that facilitates real-world local activism by giving people concrete ways to get involved. Tanenbaum is an organization which works on combating religious prejudice locally and globally, while addressing identity-based conflict and bullying. It was impressive to see a list of their peacemakers from all over the world, including countries that Meaningfulworld has served! In our Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Missions interns join not only to transform conflicts, but to facilitate personal and collective healing, encouraging discovery of meaning through empathy and forgiveness, and instill educational programs for peace building.

Read more at [Meaningfulworld.com](http://Meaningfulworld.com)

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## New Members Joining the Meaningfulworld Team!



**Carol Raff** is a retired school social worker with over thirty years of experience counseling and advocating for school aged children. She holds a Master's in Social Work from Rutgers' University and is currently conducting social history evaluations for nonpublic schools in Passaic County, N.J. Carol is an energetic physical fitness specialist and YogaFit instructor. She is currently teaching yoga to senior citizens, cancer patients at Hackensack University Medical Center and psychiatric hospital patients at Christian Health Care Center. Carol also serves as a volunteer for 'Mentoring Moms', which is a program for mothers who have been involved in the Bergen County Division of Child Protection and Permanency. Carol is a loyal, honest and personable individual who is

committed to a job well [done](#). As for her personal life, Carol enjoys playing tennis, leading bicycle rides for the Bicycle Touring Club of North Jersey and sharing time with her five granddaughters! We welcome Carol as a United Nations Representative to ATOP Meaningfulworld's U N Team as well as the Representative to the Armenian Constitutional Rights Protective Center



**Justin Daehym Oreizi** is currently working on a Masters Degree in Conflict and Dispute Resolution from the University of Oregon School of Law; he plans to graduate in June 2013. Justin recently completed his Bachelors Degree in American History from the University of Hawaii. Justin plans to involve himself with the rest of his career focusing on youth empowerment in third world countries. He plans on utilizing his new found appreciation of non profit organizations as well as honing his skills in fundraising and grant writing. Justin also holds a mediation training certificate and is excited about integration of his mediation education through his internship with ATOP Meaningfulworld. ATOP Meaningfulworld welcomes Justin as a graduate intern and as the new Chair of the Grant Committee.



**Ms. Renoude Charles**, a native of Haiti, is an undergraduate student at Montclair State University studying Psychology and plans to pursue her PhD in Industrial & Organizational Psychology. Her current studies include global issues of Human Rights, Immigrants in the workforce as well as communication and performance effectiveness in organizations. Renoude's career goals are to become a successful member in international psychology and to assist in increasing productivity in both developed and developing countries around the world. Renoude hopes to one day create a youth program that will serve as a home to youths impacted by socioeconomic challenges providing mentoring, counseling and other resources to assist children in developing positive goals while transforming their challenges. Renoude has started Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Outreach Training Program and hopes to graduate next June and participate in many upcoming Humanitarian Missions with ATOP Meaningfulworld.

**Jane Kearns** Jane has always had an open spirit and love for people. In her twenties she bought an around the world plane ticket and began a 3 year adventure. She had previously worked in television syndication but upon her return to NY she entered the fields of headhunting for lawyers and eventually worked in real estate. Simultaneously Jane trained in numerous holistic healing modalities such as The Barbara Brennan School of Healing, The Institute of Core Energetics, Integrated Kabbalistic Healing and most recently Somatic Experiencing trauma resolution work. Over the years she has gained deep insight on transformation and healing of the whole self. She currently provides counseling and healing to individuals in NYC and supports others on their journey to wholeness. Jane is currently working on her thesis for completion of her masters degree from SUNY New Paltz where she studied Counseling Psychology, provided psychological counseling to college students and implemented campus workshops on stress management and awareness of cultural diversity. ATOP Meaningfulworld welcomes Jane to the United Nations team.



**Blanka Angyal** has a Hungarian ancestry, grew up in Romania and immigrated to US. She graduated with an advanced Masters of Arts and Masters of Education in Counseling Psychology from Teachers College - Columbia University. Her experience in counseling is working with transfer college students, severely mentally ill homeless women, and an after school program for students in Harlem and the Bronx. Blanka brings a broad experience of implementing Participatory Action Research (PAR) with youth, elderly, and minority communities. Currently, she is assisting a professor with the supervision of facilitator teams who conduct school-wide PAR groups in two public middle schools in Bronx and collaborates with the department of counseling at John Jay College in starting their own PAR initiative. ATOP Meaningfulworld welcomes Blanka as a graduate intern Coordinating Clinical Training Programs and joining the international research team.

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#### Intern Highlight: Jessica Harlow

Jessica Harlow began her internship with ATOP Meaningfulworld last summer as a Research and Fundraising Intern. She has written and edited press releases as well as co-authored an article entitled International Migration: Current challenges and lessons learned. Jessica has also presented this research at the 24th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research at Fordham University in October 2012. She is a very diligent, conscientious, and hard working intern, a wonderful leader, and a practical young lady. Since her appointment, she has grown and expanded her network and has been appointed to be the Clinical Coordinator of the Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Outreach Monthly Training Programs. She also has organized a fundraising dinner at Applebees in Manhattan. Jessica is also planning to graduate this June at the United Nations Conference receiving her Meaningfulworld Ambassador degree for service to countries around the world. She is anxious to join one of the 4 upcoming Humanitarian Teams.



ATOP Meaningfulworld at EPA 2013 in NYC.

From right to left: Jessica Harlow, Victoria Alexander, Dr. Ani Kalayjian, and Nira Shah

Jessica is continuing her graduate degree in Psychology at the City University of New York where she is working on her thesis, as well as working at AHRC. AHRC was originally the acronym for the "Association for the Help of Retarded Children." After years of advocacy across the nation and internationally by individuals served and their families, the term "mental retardation" is no longer

used. At AHRC Jessica works with adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It has been wonderful to have Jessica on our team, and we are so glad that the feeling is mutual as she put it: "Working with ATOP Meaningfulworld has really brought happiness to me and has made me feel more fulfilled." Thank you Jessica -:)

## ATOP Meaningfulworld at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference



Wesley Beeks presenting (right) with Victoria Alexander (left)

The Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention (ATOP) Meaningfulworld organized and presented a symposium at the 84th Annual Eastern Psychological Association Conference. There were 2,800 people in attendance. The presenters came from as far away as Alaska, Russia, and Brazil. The EPA plans to return to the NYC Marriott in 2016. Chairing the symposium was Dr. Ani Kalayjian, Founder and CEO of Meaningfulworld. Presentation topics were: Post-Traumatic Growth and Mindful Healing in Palestine, DR Congo, and Kenya by Nira Shah, Intern Coordinator, and Leysa Cerswell, Secretary; Faith-Based Organizations and the Psychosocial Well-Being of Iraqi Widow Refugees in Jordan by Maryann Zoma, guest Speaker from Lebanese American University; United Nations International Day of Happiness by Jessica Harlow, Clinical Coordinator; and Impact of Hurricane Sandy: Coping, Resilience, and Preparedness by Victoria Alexander, Research and Fundraising Intern, and Wesley Beeks, Press Secretary. Fellow Intern and Newsletter Editor Michael Reda was also in attendance.



APA Division 52 International Psychology at the Eastern Psychological Association

read more at

[meaningfulworld.com](http://meaningfulworld.com)

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## Call for Workshop Proposals 2013

### 2013 International Council of Psychologists Conference: “Towards Peaceful Intergroup Relationship”

### Jakarta Conference July 4-7, 2013 APA--ICP HONOLULU Conference, August 1-4, 2013

The ICP, Inc. 2013 CE Program Committee invites proposals for full day or half day seminars for the 2013 International Council of Psychologists, Inc. Conference *Towards Peaceful Intergroup Relationships*.

Workshops proposals are to focus on key themes and interventions in Peaceful Intergroup Relations. ICP, Inc workshops are conducted in a supportive learning environment wherein the leader and participants are to have opportunity to exchange knowledge and skills about the workshop theme. All participants will have the opportunity to earn APA continuing education units or ICP, Inc. World Continuing Education Credits.

**Workshop Proposal Content:** Proposals are to 2-3 pages and contain the following information:

1. Proposed Title of the Workshop: A brief description of the Workshop, specifying the workshop goals and the international Scientific Psychology theme and/or intervention that will be the focus.
2. A brief description why the workshop is of particular [interest](#). An indication as to whether the workshop is to be considered for a half or full day meeting.
3. A list of the presenters and their roles.
4. Supply contact information, including the names, postal addresses, phone numbers and email



addresses of CV of the workshop presenter.

5. If a similar was presented in the past include information on where, when, and attendance.

6. ICP will advertise your workshop through the conference program and other media publications.

**Proposal Submission:** Workshop proposals need to be submitted by **April 1, 2013**. Presenters will be notified of the committee's decision by **May 30, 2013**. Inquiries concerning workshop submissions need to be sent to Dr. Ani Kalayjian [DrKalayjian@Meaningfulworld.com](mailto:DrKalayjian@Meaningfulworld.com) cc Scientific Program Chair Dr. Tara [Pirtarapirimces@msn.com](mailto:Pirtarapirimces@msn.com)

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## **Liberating Kosovo: Coercive Diplomacy and U.S. Intervention**

Book By: David L Phillips

Review by ATOP Meaningfulworld intern Victoria Alexander

In the book *Liberating Kosovo: Coercive Diplomacy and U.S. Intervention* by David L. Phillips, the history of Kosovo's existence and fight for independence from the Serbian Republic of Yugoslavia is examined and an in depth timeline of the foreign aid they received throughout their struggle is brought to light. Kosovo and the Kosovars' nine year struggle for freedom is a less well known part of history. Phillips spends the majority of the book highlighting the enormous effort given from U.S. politicians in combination with the unyielding resilience of the Kosovars throughout a decade to ultimately lead to their independence in 2008.

While U.S. domestic advocacy through various politicians helped bring issues involving Kosovo to higher platforms, international negotiations between countries didn't always result in favor of the persecuted territory. Numerous attempts to promote freedom in Kosovo like the United States deployment of troops to Yugoslavia in the early 90's and the UN's effort to take preventative measures to protect Kosovo from outside threats through the peace keeping operation United Nations Preventative Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) fell short and faced continuous road blocks from outside nations and their economic tensions with one another.

*Liberating Kosovo* presents the reader with a step by step story of Kosovo from the start to finish. Throughout the text we are reminded of the importance to work together as U.S. leaders, politicians, NGO's and citizens to maintain ethical human rights in our own community as well as abroad. David L. Phillips incorporates and details these meaningful issues into *Liberating Kosovo* while promoting them in his daily life and work as Director of the Program on Peace-Building and Rights at Columbia University.

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## **ATOP Meaningfulworld Outreach to the Community**

**Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention**

**ATOP of Meaningfulworld**

*Stage III:*

**Cultivating A Meaningfulworld View & Seeds Of Forgiveness**

[www.meaningfulworld.com](http://www.meaningfulworld.com)

We welcome you to make a difference in your life! Join us for Stage II: Conflict

Transformation as part of the Certificate Training Program. The training utilizes the Seven-Step Biopsychosocial and Eco-Spiritual Model as developed by the founder of the Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention (ATOP), Dr. Ani Kalalyjian. ATOP was founded in New York in 1990 and since then, ATOP has achieved global recognition training professionals to broaden their skills as humanitarian outreach volunteers and has responded to over 25 mass disasters. Participants in the training will learn about transforming the self, family, work, and home environments through the use of non-violent constructive communication models of conflict. All trainings are led by Dr. Kalayjian.

Certificate Training Program: Stage II Conflict Transformation utilizing the Seven-Step Biopsychosocial & Eco-Spiritual Model  
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013

[for more info go to www.meaningfulworld.com](http://www.meaningfulworld.com)

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#### ATOP MEANINGFULWORLD INTERFAITH FESTIVAL



Dr Ani Kalayjian (left) meditating with Interfaith presenter David Young (right)

On 7 December 2012, Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention, Meaningfulworld held its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith festival, celebrating self-healing, compassion, collective consciousness, and peaceful reflection. The event reflected a gathering of different faiths and holistic messages; the room was decorated with artifacts of many religions, which were collected from the organization's humanitarian missions worldwide, along with candles, aromatherapy scents, and banners of love, peace, and wholeness. In addition, the group's interns displayed beautiful necklaces and jewelry made by After a moment of silence by ATOP/MeaningfulWorld intern and United Nations Representative Katherine Kaze, the event began with a meditation by Swami Parameshanada, of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha. Swami Parameshananda centered the group on concentrating on the OHM chant while relaxing the body and becoming mindful of the surrounding world.

read more at:

[www.meaningfulworld.com](http://www.meaningfulworld.com)

## **Upcoming ATOP Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Psychosocial Outreach Training Programs**

### **Healing, Peace-Building, Empowerment Training Dates for 2012-2013**

7 December Interfaith Healing Circle, no training  
26 January 2013  
23 February 2013  
23 March 2013  
27 April 2013  
18 May 2013  
6 June 2013 Graduation and Annual Conference

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## **Past Events, 2012-2013**

### **May**

3 May, Psychology on International Humanitarian Outreach Program around the Globe: Healing, Transforming, Developing and Empowering at Teachers College Columbia University. <http://www.tc.edu/> Palestine/Israel

### **April**

12 April - ATOP Meaningfulworld Symposium on Preventing Genocide: Nations Acknowledging their Dark History: Psychological, Economic, and Cultural Perspectives, at the United Nations.

12-14 April, Behavioral Science Conference: Toward a Global Psychology at St. Francis College, Brooklyn NY. <http://www.stfranciscollege.edu/eventsDetailsNoReg.aspx?Channel=/Channels/Admissions/Admissions%20Content&WorkflowItemID=b478660a-5d90-4bb8-ba6e-8b5e07de6ffa>

8 April, The 8th Annual Morton Deutsch Awards for Distinguished Contributions to Social Justice at Teachers College Columbia University. Please RSVP [icccr@tc.edu](mailto:icccr@tc.edu)

### **March**

1-3 March, ATOP organized a panel on International Disaster Relief

at the International Program, Eastern Psychological Association at Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh  
PA. <http://meaningfulworld.com/images/epa%202012.pdf>

8 March, on the International Women's day and UN commission on the status of women's 56th convention ATOP Meaningfulworld organized a symposium addressing women's issues as they impact humanity at large.

### February

29 February, ATOP was one of handful peace and conflict resolution organizations at the Columbia University Internship Fair.

8 & 22 February, Meditation Session with host A. Kalayjian, continuing every other Wednesday.

21-25 February, ATOP Meaningfulworld presented at the Annual Conference of the Trainers of School Psychology, at Philadelphia, PA.

22-25 February, Meeting of Society for Cross-Cultural Research at The Rivera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas. <http://www.sccr.org/sccr2012/>

15 February, Dr Kalayjian presented a lecture at NYU Medical Center on Transforming Bullying, Teasing, and other Forms of Violence. <http://meaningfulworld.com/images/transforming%20bullying%20at%20nyu%20feb%2012%202012.pdf>

9-13 February WNGE Board meeting, and Positive Aging Conference sponsored by Fielding Graduate University, Dr. Kalayjian attended MAKE WNGE SECTION AND GET MORE INFO FROM FIELDING UNIVERSITY SITE

## Future Events

### March

28 March, CSVGC-NY is pleased to announce our 28 March meeting to be held at noon with special guest, Dr Hans-Peter Duerr at 100 UN Plaza, Lobby Level, 327 East 48th street (at 1st avenue). Dr Hans-Peter Duerr is a noted quantum/nuclear physicist, philosopher, author and peace advocate on :The Convergence of Science, Spirituality and Global Peace. RSVP to [maenakao@hotmail.com](mailto:maenakao@hotmail.com)

### April

25 April, 6th Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations, themed "Psychology and Violence in the Global Context: Antecedents, Consequences, and Prevention". Cosponsored by ATOP Meaningfulworld

### May

2-16 May in the Middle East, healing, peace building and conflict transformation  
June

8-22 June in Haiti, 7th team follow up post earthquake rehabilitation  
26 June- 15 July in Africa: Kenya, Rwanda, and DR Congo, peace building, empowerment, and leadership

## July

31 July- 4 August APA conference in Hawaii at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Check website for details on nearby resorts and hotels, as well as photos from previous years. <http://www.apa.org/convention/>

## September

21 September, UN International Day of Peace

28 September, all day Humanitarian Outreach and disaster relief Training Program

## October

21 October, Spirit of the United Nations

26 October, all day Peace Building, conflict transformation and forgiveness training program.

## November

16 November, all day Meaning-making, forgiveness and leadership training program

## December

6 December, Interfaith healing festival and holiday party

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## Ancestral Healing CD

Transforming Generational Trauma into Healing and Meaning-Making, by Dr. Ani Kalayjian.



Ancestral Healing Meditations is available in four languages: English, German, Spanish, and Armenian

Price: \$ 20.00

*"This is a gracious and powerful vision which will help anyone relate to the difficulties of this world with deeper purpose and meaning." Andrew Harvey, Hope a Guide to Sacred Activism*



*"Dr. Kalayjian, through her ancestral meditation CD From War to Peace, guides us through a magical world of transformation. Her vision brings understanding, healing, and peace."--  
Swamini Sri Lalitambika Devi, Author of Mantra and the Goddess*

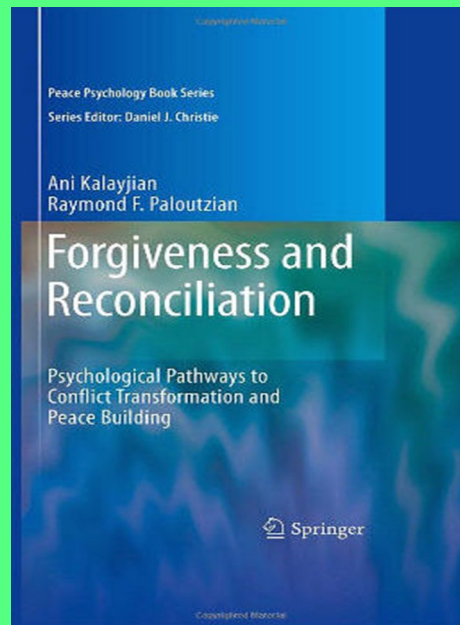
*"The journey is extraordinary! I don't have the words to talk about its transformational healing on me- I just want to say, God bless you dear sister! Your CD has helped me heal."--  
Dr. Christine Overton, President & CEO Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce*

For more

info: [http://meaningfulworld.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=12&Itemid=18](http://meaningfulworld.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=12&Itemid=18)

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## New Arrivals at United Nations Bookstore



## Committees

Research Committee: Vice President Jennifer De Mucci

UN Interns & Representatives: Dr. Ani Kalayjian, Jennifer De Mucci, Johnanne Winchester, Mileka Ackie, Katrina Martinez, Carol Raff, Jane Kearns, Renoude Charles

Co-Chairs of Publications Committee: Jennifer Doran & Nira Shah

Grant Committee: Justin oreizi (chair) Elizabeth Tomboulion, Mileka Ackie, Michael Reda, Katrina Martinez, Victoria Alexander, & Blanka Angyal

Chair of Clinical Training Program: Jessica Harlow

Fund Raising Committee: Mileka Ackie, Michael Reda & members Johnanne Winchester, Jessica Harlow, Victoria Alexander, & Jessica Harlow

Youth Empowerment Program Director: Crystal Barry

Youth Empowerment Program Team: Jessica Harlow

Secretary: Leysa Cerswall

Press Secretary: Wesley Beeks

Web Master: Yuki Shigemoto

Doctoral International Internship Coordinators: Richard Griff and Shayla Tumbling

Newsletter Editor: Michael Reda

We express deep gratitude  
For your volunteer spirit...  
For your impassioned endeavors in life ...  
For your passion to care ...  
For your openness to share ...  
For your trust to commit ...  
For your outreach to uplift ...  
For your loyalty to give...  
For your courage to take this journey  
Of love, compassion and passion ... and  
For your unconditional support to ATOP of Meaningfulworld...

*Dr Ani Kalayjian, Officers, Board, Staff, Interns, UN Representatives*