



CSVGC-NY

NGO COMMITTEE ON SPIRITUALITY, VALUES AND GLOBAL CONCERNS-NY



A Committee of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)



15TH SPIRIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS AWARDS

Annual award honors the dedication of amazing women of the UN international community in four categories

UN Diplomat



H.E. MENISSA RAMBALLY

Permanent Representative of St. Lucia to the United Nations

UN Secretariat



H.E. THILMEEZA HUSSAIN

Director, Regional Commissions New York Office

NGO



MS. DENISE SCOTTO, Esq

Vice President and NGO Representative of International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

Youth



KEHKASHAN BASU

Founder-President, Green Hope Foundation



IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 79TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CSVGC-NY

THE TILLMAN CHAPEL, UN CHURCH CENTER
NEW YORK | 23 OCTOBER 2024

Fostering foundational principals for a sustainable tomorrow

The Spirit of the United Nations Award is presented by the CSVGC-NY to distinguished diplomats, UN secretariat, non-governmental organizations and international community leaders whose personalities and contributions to the United Nations Agenda embody the spiritual values and universal principles we are dedicated to upholding.

This annual initiative envisions a world where spirituality and universal values serve as the driving force and sustainer behind our collective efforts to address social well-being, ecological integrity, and inclusive prosperity. We create a path towards sustainable life on Earth, harnessing the power of collaboration and compassion to overcome global challenges and build a better future for all.

Luis Lopes

Luis Lopes



OCT 2024
CSVGC-NY

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Bruna Okubo



Luis Lopes



Adriana Parmegiani



Danilo Parmegiani



Luis Lopes



Luis Lopes



Rute Estevan



Luis Lopes



SPIRIT OF THE UN AWARDS: 15TH EDITION CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CHANGEMAKERS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Text by Tatiana Androsova and Sabita Geer

Photos: Luis Lopes, Felipe Moura, Bruna Okubo, Adriana Parmegiani and Rute Estevan

OCT 2024
CSVGC-NY

Luis Lopes



The event opened as beautiful sounds of the flute played by Premik Russell filled the air with serenity and calm, signaling the guests to relax and prepare for a wonderful afternoon of celebrating each other's accomplishments and the 79th anniversary of the UN.

Rosleny Ubinas, Secretary of CSVGC-NY and NGO representative of Baha'i International Community, welcomed all as Master of the Ceremony.

At a tumultuous time when the numerous oases of seeming tranquility and prosperity in the world are being threatened by both environmental degradation and the specter of growing wars as a result of persistent conflicts and climatic turbulence, the celebration of the importance of spirit was the predominant theme of the gathering bringing together Spirit of the UN Awardees and their presenters with the leaders, members and guests of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values, and Global Concerns-NY (CSVGC-NY), a Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), in the Tillman Chapel of the United Nations (UN) Church Center, on last October 23rd, Wednesday.

Luis Lopes



Danilo Parmegiani, Chair of the Committee and NGO representative of the Legion of Good Will, expressed gratitude to the distinguished awardees, guests, volunteers, sponsors, Committee members, and friends. He also introduced the 2024 honorees and emphasized the initiative's purpose under the theme: "Fostering Fundamental Principles for a Sustainable Future."

Luis Lopes



Luis Lopes

Celebrating CSVGC-NY 20 Years of Impact:

Diane Williams, Founder and Chairperson Emerita of CSVGC-NY and NGO Representative of the Academy for Future Science, delivered an inspiring keynote address. She reflected on two decades of dedication by NGO leaders to fostering spiritual values within the UN agenda, honoring their transformative contributions to global dialogue and action.



Distinguished 2024 SUNA Winners

UN Diplomat Category:

Ambassador Menissa Rambally, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the UN, inspires us with her steadfast dedication to the ideals of the United Nations. In her words, 'Everything we do serves as a reminder of what the United Nations stands for.' She received her award from Ambassador Neville Gertze, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the UN, who highlighted the award as sowing seeds that bring to light the Culture of Peace.



Luis Lopes

UN Secretariat Category:

Ambassador Thilmeeza Hussein, Director of the New York office of UN Regional Commissions, underscored the urgent threat of rising sea levels, particularly for her home country, the Maldives. The award in this category was presented by Ambassador Isaiah Chabala, Former Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN, who emphasized the importance of vision and purpose in building peace.



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NGO Category:

Denise Scotto, Esq., Vice President and NGO Representative of the International Federation of Women in Legal Affairs, has dedicated her career to tirelessly representing and mentoring a diverse array of women who might otherwise go unheard in global discussions. Diane Williams, founder of CSVGC-NY, exemplified tenacity and commitment to fostering these vital voices.



Luis Lopes

Youth Category:

Kehkashan Basu, the remarkably young yet profoundly wise Founder-President of Green Hope Foundation, has been a dedicated advocate for her generation's future from a young age. Her award was presented by Carl Murrell, representing the Baha'i International Community, who emphasized the role of compassion as we confront a challenging future.



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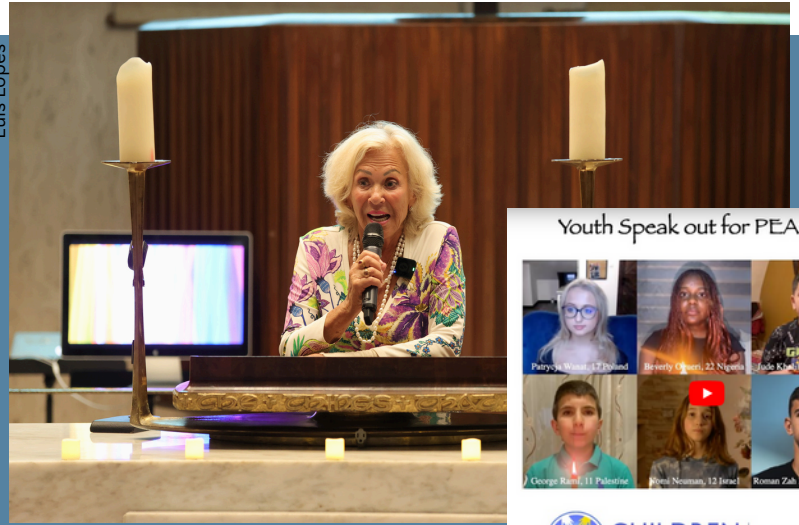
Luis Lopes



The melodious singing of Michelle DellaFave accompanied by Jim Ferraiuolo on the oboe, added flavor to this extraordinary ceremony.

In conclusion Nina Meyerhof, NGO representative of Children of the Earth, showered the assembly with the heartbreaking and inspiring voices of young people speaking for peace from different sides in some of our latest conflicts.

Luis Lopes



Youth Speak out for PEACE

Patrycja Kozłowska, 23 Poland	Beverly Roberts, 22 Nigeria	Abdo Khalil, 16 Palestine
George Rashed, 11 Palestine	Amal Nouman, 12 Israel	Demian Zakh Pasha, 15 Romania



In a moment of reflective celebration, Sabita Geer, Vice-Chair of CSVGC-NY and NGO representative of the Brahma Kumaris, enveloped all present in a compassionate embrace, reigniting the 'Spirit of the UN' by inviting each attendee to light a candle: "looking at the world we have today, and envisioning the world we prefer to live in, ask your heart: what more can I do to make this vision a reality? What was that 'spirit' that motivated the formation of the UN 79 years ago and what can we do to keep the flame of hope going?"

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Finally, Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, Former UN Under-Secretary General, underpinned it all with a call to continue to blow, no matter the obstacles, the still missing breath of spirituality into our United Nations, so that we, humans, may overcome the challenges that face us.

Pulling this event together were the CSVGC-NY Executive Committee and Council members, and the numerous unnamed minds and hands who had assembled it.



Bruno Okubo



Luis Lopes



Adriana Parmegiani



Luis Lopes



Luis Lopes



Luis Lopes



Rute Estevan



Luis Lopes



Felipe Moura



Luis Lopes

Danilo Parmegiani



2024 Spirit of the United Nations Awards

Special Thanks to:

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations; Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP)

CoNGO - Conference of NGOs in Relationship with the United Nations

Music Performances (in order of presentation)

Premik Russell Tubbs, Flutist
Michelle DellaFave, Singer
Jim Ferraiuolo, Oboist

Photos and Videos

Luis Lopes
Adriana Parmegiani
Felipe Moura
Bruna Okubo
Rute Estevan
Milanni Lima

2024-2025 CSVGC-NY Executive Committee Members

Officers

Chair, Danilo Parmegiani, Legion of Good Will
Vice Chair, Sabita Geer, Brahma Kumaris World
Spiritual University
Corresponding Secretary, Rosleny Ubiñas, Baha'i
International Community
Treasurer, Keiko White, Universal Peace Federation
International

Council Members

Nina Meyerhof, Children of the Earth
Laurence Singer, Global Family for Love and Peace

SUNA Working Group Members

Diane Williams, Academy for Future Science
Isaiah Chabala, Visionary Empowerment Inc.
Sharon Hamilton-Getz, Institute of International
Social Development
Tatiana Androsov, The Thanks-Giving Foundation
Genie Kagawa, Universal Peace Federation
International

And all the wonderful volunteers who are
supporting this program

Sponsoring Organizations

Diane Williams, Academy for Future Science
Baha'i International Community
BlockbusterPrint
Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
Children of the Earth
Global Family for Love and Peace
Monica Willard, United Religions Initiative
Ladiône Skincare
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Sharon Hamilton-Getz, Institute of International Social Development
The Thanks-Giving Foundation
Universal Peace Federation International
Visionary Empowerment Inc.

and all dear volunteers and friends