

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Margaret Corbin
United Nations Association of Rochester
494 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607-1911
(585) 473-7286
unar@frontiernet.net

**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF ROCHESTER HOSTS
AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT MARCH 8th**

Rochester, NY. February 21, 2005 – The United Nations Association of Rochester (UNAR) will host “*A Closer Walk: A Focus on Women and AIDS, Global and Local Responses*” at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at the Hickey Conference Center on Buffalo Road in Rochester. The event will feature speaker Rebecca Solomon, a medical, social worker and health care writer who has worked with HIV/AIDS since 1986.

Excerpts from the 2004 documentary film *A Closer Walk*, written and directed by Robert Bilheimer, will be shown followed by a discussion of global and local efforts to fight the deadly disease. The film documents the epidemic in Africa and the way in which it has overwhelmed the public health system, as well as its effects in central Europe and India. The film is composed of interviews with patients, doctors, nurses, the Dalai Lama, and Kofi Annan.

Margaret Corbin, president of UNAR said, “*We want people to understand the devastation to women that this disease has caused. We must seek ways to reverse the AIDS crisis regionally and on a global scale.*”

International Women's Day (IWD) is sponsored by the United Nations on March 8th every year in an effort to raise awareness of the need to eradicate issues that women face in countries such as India, Jordan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and many countries in Africa. Women in these cultures endure brutality, murder, and institutionalized violence on an ongoing basis. UN sponsorship of IWD has been ongoing since 1975.

Tickets for the IWD event are available for \$10.00 at the door with the proceeds to benefit the All About You Women's Group, a program of Catholic Charities Community Services. For more information or to register please contact the UNAR office at 473-7286.

Now in its 60th year, the United Nations Association of Rochester (UNAR) is vital part of the Rochester community. Established in 1945, UNAR is a local chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA). UNAR is dedicated to encouraging members of the Greater Rochester community to address global issues such as human rights, international justice, equitable development, and fair trade. For more information on UNAR, please visit www.unar.org or call (585) 473-7286.

###