

Wednesday, 3 July 2019 | New York | UN Staff One Percent for Development Fund

'Author-for-Literacy' event features Paul Auster



Best-selling author Paul Auster (Photo: Francoise Bouffault)

Prize-winning, best-selling author Paul Auster contributed his time and talent to spotlight the 35th anniversary of the [UN Staff One Percent for Development Fund -NY](#) (the 1% Fund) at a standing-room-only literary event and reception held in the meeting room of the UN Correspondents' Association (UNCA) on 13 June.

As the 1% Fund's 2019 'Author-for-Literacy', Paul Auster read his work to spotlight the group's literacy projects: the Kitengesa Community Library in rural Uganda and the children's library of the Centre Culturel Anne-Morisset in Haiti.

Paul Auster's publisher, Picador, donated 125 copies of the author's new book, *Talking to Strangers*, to the evening's book-signing. All contributions taken in benefitted the literacy projects.

The author read excerpts from *Talking to Strangers*, a collection of his essays and articles written over a 50-year writing career on topics as diverse as homelessness, post 9/11 New York, high-wire artist Philippe Petit. There are essays on writers such as Franz Kafka, Samuel Beckett, Stéphane Mallarmé, filmmaker Jim Jarmusch, and on and why the author has never stopped using his trusty manual typewriter to compose all his writing.

Paul Auster's books have been translated into 40 languages, and have won a number of international prizes, including the Prince of Asturias Award, the Prix Medici Etranger, the Premio Napoli, and the Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

The author has fans in many countries and event attendees greeted him with a rousing multilingual welcome in the six official languages of the Organization.

The event marked the second time Paul Auster presented his work for the 1% Fund. In 2008, he presented in the DHL Auditorium.

Besides New York, UN Staff 1% Funds are also at duty stations in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Helsinki, and FAO in Rome.

UN Staff, who become members, commit to making monthly contributions of \$10, or more, to a fund that offers grants to launch community projects in developing countries.

Contact us:

Alice Harrison, Convener: harrison@un.org

Robert Johannsen, Treasurer: johannsen@un.org

Pat Duffy, Special Events: duffy@un.org

