



University for a Night 2016

Wednesday, May 4, 6:00–9:30pm in New York City



University for a Night brings together leaders from around the world to share ideas and inspiration about working together to create a more prosperous, just, and sustainable world.

We also honor leaders who exemplify what the evening stands for: working together for the common good.

The 2016 David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award honorees are Othman Benjelloun and Dr. Leïla Mezian Benjelloun of BMCE Bank Foundation and Kennedy Odede and Jessica Posner Odede of Shining Hope for Communities.

Event Committee

Carlos and Natalia Bulgheroni
Peggy Dulany
Corinne Evens
Dorian Goldman and Marvin Israelow
Hadeel Ibrahim
Raza Jafar
Antonio Madero
Carlos and Gabriela Rodríguez-Pastor
Monica Winsor and Joshua Mailman

Program

6:00pm **Cocktail Reception**

6:45pm **Plenary** hosted by Zainab Salbi, humanitarian, author, and founder of Women for Women International and the Nida'a Show

Welcome by Don Mohanlal, CEO of Synergos

Presentation of David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award to Othman Benjelloun and Leïla Mezian Benjelloun by Peggy Dulany, founder of Synergos

Introductions at tables

Presentation of David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award to Kennedy Odede and Jessica Posner Odede by Kim Samuel, president of the Samuel Family Foundation, and Peggy Dulany

8:00pm **Dinner and Table Discussions**

Sponsors (as of April 27, 2016)

Changemakers

Carlos and Natalia Bulgheroni
David Rockefeller

Carlos and Gabriela Rodríguez-Pastor

Champion

The Rockefeller Foundation

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Ricardo Betancourt and Family
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Charles Butt
Corinne Evens
Dorian Goldman and Marvin Israelow

Raza Jafar
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David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Honorees



Othman Benjelloun and
Dr. Leïla Mezian Benjelloun

Othman Benjelloun and Dr. Leïla Mezian Benjelloun are founder and chair, respectively, of the BMCE Bank Foundation. Through the foundation, the Benjellouns are using education as a vehicle for broad-based and sustainable development in Morocco and other parts of Africa. The BMCE Bank Foundation creates and supports schools and associated economic, health, and environmental programs in order to build more prosperous rural communities, including those of the Amazigh/Berber people. It is helping to bring community voice into the development process while working closely with government to ensure that its impact is scalable. Language learning is at the heart of the foundation's education work, and its programs include promotion of the Amazigh/Berber language and culture – as well as Arabic, French, and Mandarin.

Mr. Benjelloun is an internationally recognized leader in finance, industry, and corporate social responsibility. He is the chairman and chief executive officer of BMCE Bank of Africa Group, with operations in 31 countries, including 20 in Africa. The bank plays an important role in economic, social, and environmental development in Africa. Among its social responsibility efforts, it created the African Entrepreneurship Award to

support innovators who are increasing employment and prosperity in their countries.

Mr. Benjelloun is also chairman of FinanceCom, a holding company in the financial, transport, technology, industrial, insurance, and telecommunications sectors.

Mr. Benjelloun heads the Professional Association of Moroccan Banks, is an advisor at the Center for Strategic International Studies in Washington, D.C., and served as chancellor of Al Akhawayn University, appointed by His Majesty Hassan II. Mr. Benjelloun was awarded the title Commander of l'Ordre du Trône du Royaume du Maroc, Commander of the Swedish Royal Order of the Polar Star, and Commander of l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of the French Republic. He was decorated by His Majesty King Juan Carlos with the Orden de Isabel la Católica of the Kingdom of Spain. He studied engineering at l'École Polytechnique de l'Université de Lausanne.

Dr. Leïla Mezian Benjelloun is an ophthalmologist with degrees from the Universities of Madrid and Barcelona. She practiced medicine for more than 25 years in Moroccan public hospitals and in her private surgical clinic. Dr. Mezian Benjelloun served as president of the Regional Alaouite Organization for the Protection of the Blind. She has served as vice president of the Association of Medical Doctors in Morocco and president of the Benjelloun-Mezian Foundation, whose objectives are restoring national monuments and granting scholarships to Moroccan students worldwide. She was decorated Officier dans l'Ordre Arts et des Lettres of the French Republic.



Kennedy Odede and Jessica Posner Odede

Kennedy Odede and Jessica Posner Odede are co-founders of Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO). SHOFCO combats extreme poverty and gender inequality in Kenya's largest slums – Kibera and Mathare – by linking tuition-free schools for girls to accessible, holistic community services for all, allowing girls' schools to be portals for large-scale social change. Mr. Odede and Ms. Posner Odede devised the innovative SHOFCO model, which combines free and low-cost services, and is changing the way the world thinks about solutions to urban poverty.

Because of their work, thousands of girls receive quality education and are better able to take ownership of their futures, and tens of thousands of people receive health, sanitation, and economic empowerment services. Those services will reach 100,000 people in 2016.

Together, they are using a holistic approach to development, working with a wide range of partners to achieve tremendous impact.

Mr. Odede and Ms. Posner Odede first met in 2007, when Ms. Posner was working with SHOFCO in Kibera as a study abroad student. She became one of the first outsiders to live inside the slum.

They recently released their *New York Times* best-selling memoir entitled *Find Me Unafraid: Love, Loss, and Hope in an African Slum*. The work of Mr. Odede and Ms. Posner Odede has been featured at the Clinton Global Initiative and in the documentary *A Path Appears*.

Mr. Odede is one of Africa's best-known community organizers and social entrepreneurs. He was raised in Kibera, where he experienced the devastating realities of life in extreme poverty. Although he was entirely informally educated in his youth, Mr. Odede received a full scholarship to Wesleyan University, from which he graduated in 2012. He has been published in the *New York Times* and was named one of *Forbes* 2014 30 Under 30: Social Entrepreneurs.

Ms. Posner Odede is an internationally recognized social entrepreneur. She won the 2010 Do Something Award, was named America's Top-World Changer 25 and Under live on VH1, and is a recipient of the prestigious Echoing Green Fellowship. She graduated with honors in African-American Studies from Wesleyan in 2007 and was the youngest person to receive Wesleyan's distinguished alumni award.



About Synergos

Synergos is a global nonprofit organization that fights poverty and its effects. We help solve complex problems on issues such as health and nutrition, agriculture, education, and employment.

We create solutions by promoting and supporting collaboration among business, government, civil society, and marginalized communities around the world. Our advantage is an approach that builds trust among stakeholders so they can create solutions together.

Our major partnerships are improving:

- education in Brazil
- agriculture in Ethiopia and Nigeria
- maternal and child health and nutrition in Namibia
- lives of vulnerable children in Mozambique and South Africa
- social development, education, and employment in Mexico.

We also recently concluded a partnership that improved child nutrition and girls' empowerment in India. In addition, Synergos Consulting Services offers similar support to businesses seeking to increase their social impact.

Synergos also works with networks of individual leaders around the world, helping increase their impact as changemakers. Our networks include the Synergos Senior Fellows, the Global Philanthropists Circle, social entrepreneurs in the Arab World, and leaders working to improve the lives of children in South Africa.



Above, from top: Community members in Guanajuato, Mexico, who benefit from the work of a foundation led by a Synergos Senior Fellow; reading program in Amman, Jordan, founded by a Synergos social entrepreneur.

Opposite: Maternal and child health clinic constructed with Synergos support in Swakopmund, Namibia.



Above, from left: Global Philanthropists Circle affinity group meeting; class at an affordable university in Saltillo, Mexico, co-founded by a Synergos Senior Fellow; youth leaders training in our social connectedness program in South Africa.

Cover, from left: Education partnership supported by Synergos in Pará, Brazil; members of an agricultural cooperative in Oromia, Ethiopia, benefitting from Synergos' work in that country; global meeting of Synergos Senior Fellows.



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