

UNA-Westchester Global Connection



United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) Westchester Chapter

<http://www.unawestchester.org>

May 2010

Annual General Meeting, 2009–2010, at Siwanoy! Join us!

Climate Change and Sinking Islands —
From Manhattan to Seychelles: A 21st Century Tragedy
Sunday, May 16, 2010, 2:00-4:00 P.M.



Ronald Jean Jumeau
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
and Ambassador to the United States
for the Republic of Seychelles

Siwanoy Country Club, 56 Siwanoy Blvd., Bronxville*

Cosponsored by
Greenburgh Nature Center and Teatown Lake
Reservation
Featuring:



Larry Winter Roeder, Jr., MS
Editor in Chief
ClimateCaucus.net

Moderated by: Marcia Brewster, Former Senior Officer for Water Resources,
United Nations Division for Sustainable Development

Small island nations and coastal lands are at risk of being wiped out. If we do not invest in them and lower carbon emissions by 2050, those nations and coastlines will vanish and their populations will turn into unwelcome refugees in different cultures where the richness of their own cultures will be lost. Let us discuss what we can do now.

The program will be preceded by a brief annual meeting and followed by a question-and-answer session and reception. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact: Phil Reynolds, philreynolds60@hotmail.com, 914-472-5490.

*Directions: Take Cross County Parkway East to Exit 10; turn left on New Rochelle Road; go 1 mile and turn right at traffic light; go up hill and proceed ½ mile to Siwanoy Blvd. and Club entrance on right.

In This Issue ...

Letter from the President	2
Annual Report, 2009–2010	2
2010 NPT RevCon ... Eh, What?	3
Nominations for Board of Directors	7
Advocacy Corner	7
Westchester High School Students to Receive UNA-Westchester Awards	7
Youth Assembly meets at the UN, Aug., '10	8
Model UN Programs Tap UNA-Westchester Board Member	8
YPIC Holds 'Careers in the UN' Event	9
In Case You Missed It: International Women's Day Program at Sarah Lawrence	9
Current Board Members, Officers, and Committee Chairs	10
Letter to Senators on Nuclear Non-Proliferation	11
<i>Editors: Marcia Brewster, Scott Monje</i>	

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Once again, the major portion of our May *Global Connection* is taken up with my Annual Report, so I will keep this letter brief. In fact, I would simply urge you as UNA-Westchester members to participate and enjoy our Annual Meeting and reception from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 16, at beautiful Siwanoy Country Club. We need your votes, your ideas, and your responses to the issues related to climate change that will be discussed.



I hope to see you there or to receive your support for our slate of Board Candidates (please see page 7).

-- *Phil Reynolds*

UNA-USA Westchester 2009–2010 Annual Report (July 1–June 30)

Introduction

This has been an auspicious year for UNA-USA and UNA-Westchester with aspirations at the beginning of 2009 becoming realities in 2010. In particular:

- The U.S. dues for the UN's Regular Budget and Peacekeeping Budget are paid up
- The U.S. has accepted a seat on the Human Rights Council
- The U.S. has sent observers to the meetings of the International Criminal Court
- The U.S. has negotiated a revised Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia
- There has been a positive change in the perception of the U.S. by UN Member States and the people of the world.

We can only hope that, with the support of organizations like UNA-USA and its 133 Chapters, these positive trends in our international relations will continue.

UNA-USA National

This was a year of consolidation and transition for UNA-USA and for UNA-Westchester. In March 2009 Tom Miller took over from Bill Luers as president of UNA-USA. Faced with a reduction of the UNA-USA national budget from \$12 million to \$4 million, Tom eliminated some of the peripheral programs, such as HERO and Adopt-a-Landmine, and focused on UNA-USA's core mission of supporting the UN and U.S. leadership in the UN. Unfortunately, Tom resigned in February 2010 at a time when the Association's finances and possible association with the UN Foundation were very much up in the air. Ed Elmendorf, former chair of the Council of Chapters and Divisions, kindly stepped up to the presidency for a transitional period of six months. Clearly we need to support our UNA-USA through this critical transition period.

UNA-Westchester Board

For its part, UNA-Westchester has strengthened its Board with the addition of Narinder Kakar, who represents the University of Peace and the IUCN at the UN; Amanda Raz, who works on international affairs at the 92nd St. Y; and Mary O'Neill Berry, who represents the International Association of Applied Psychology at the UN. Marcia Brewster has been our active vice president.

In view of a possible move from the area, I have resigned as president with effect from June 30, 2010. This will open the way for new leadership to continue our important mission. The Board meets at the White Plains YMCA (250 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains) at 7:30 P.M. on the first Monday of each month. Association Members are welcome to attend as observers.

Advocacy

Joan Katen, an adjunct professor of political science at Pace University, took over as chair of the Advocacy Committee in January 2010 from Molly Bruce.

-- *continued on p. 5*

2010 NPT RevCon ... Eh, What?

Coming in May at UN headquarters in New York will be the 2010 Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Review conferences are held every five years to update the treaty and make other adjustments to changing circumstances. While this one will not necessarily be a make-or-break moment for nuclear nonproliferation as some people contend, it will be an opportunity to make progress toward a long-term goal.

What Is the NPT? Signed in 1968 and in force since 1970, the Non-Proliferation Treaty is a multilateral agreement intended to halt the spread of nuclear weapons and to pave the way for their eventual elimination. It is, in essence, a three-part bargain between countries with nuclear weapons (Nuclear Weapons States, or NWS) and countries without them (Non-Nuclear Weapons States, or NNWS). The parts of the bargain are: (1) Countries without nuclear arms agree not to acquire them. (2) Countries with nuclear arms agree to reduce their nuclear arsenals and eventually to eliminate them. (3) All countries have the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Initially to remain in force for 25 years, the NPT was indefinitely extended by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.¹

The treaty recognized five countries as NWS: the United States, the Soviet Union (now Russia), the United Kingdom, France, and China. Three states have never signed the NPT: India, Pakistan, and Israel. India and Pakistan have developed nuclear weapons. Israel is believed to have done so as well, but has not acknowledged it or conducted nuclear tests. North Korea signed the NPT, but withdrew from it in 2003 and subsequently

¹ The conference is described in Jayantha Dhanapala with Randy Rydell, *Multilateral Diplomacy and the NPT: An Insider's Account* (New York: United Nations, 2005).

tested nuclear weapons. These cases represent the main failures of the non-proliferation regime to date. On the other hand, although the U.S. government has repeatedly asserted over the years that dozens of countries stand on the verge of becoming nuclear states, the total number has yet to reach ten.² South Africa, which developed nuclear weapons, and Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, which inherited them from the Soviet Union, voluntarily gave them up. Perhaps as many as two dozen countries—ranging from Sweden to Libya—have ended nuclear-weapons programs before they came to fruition. The total world stock-pile of nuclear weapons, which numbered about 65,000 in 1986, has been reduced by roughly two-thirds.³

How Is the NPT Implemented and Enforced?

The task of policing the agreement was assigned to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a member of the UN family created in 1959 to promote the peaceful development of nuclear energy. With a secretariat based in Vienna, the IAEA is run by a General Conference of member states and a Board of Governors elected annually by the General Conference.

The IAEA signs a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with each non-nuclear NPT signatory, which permits IAEA inspectors to visit and monitor facilities to ascertain that nuclear materials are not being diverted to military purposes. States found to be in violation of their commitments may be referred to the UN Security Council for appropriate action. The failure to discover illicit nuclear activities in Iraq prior to the Persian Gulf War (1990–91) led to the

² William C. Potter, "The NPT and the Sources of Nuclear Restraint," *Daedalus* 139:1 (Winter 2010).

³ Michael Krepon and Samuel Black, "Good News and Bad News on NPT," *Arms Control Today* 40:2 (March 2010); Robert S. Norris and Hans M. Kristensen, "Nuclear Notebook: Worldwide Deployments of Nuclear Weapons, 2009," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 65:6 (November–December 2009).

innovation of the Additional Protocol in 1997. The Additional Protocol permits wider inspections aimed at discovering unauthorized activities at undeclared sites. Not all signatories have agreed to the provision, but some nuclear-fuel exporters have made adoption of the Additional Protocol a precondition for sales.

What Are the Issues? As with so many things in life, the answer to this question depends on whom you ask. When discussing the NPT, the United States and other NWS tend to focus on compliance to the first part of the bargain by NNWS. Key issues in this regard are North Korea and Iran. North Korea has withdrawn from the treaty and developed weapons. Iran insists that it is merely pursuing its right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The U.S. and other countries, however, suspect that Iran intends to develop nuclear weapons. The U.S. has argued that Iran forfeited its right to peaceful development by conducting research and development for 20 years before its activities were discovered. The Obama administration allows that Iran could regain that right if it verifiably forswears nuclear weapons development. To date, Iran has not developed nuclear weapons or enriched uranium to weapons grade but may be moving in that direction. Other issues of concern to NWS include some not in the original treaty, such as securing excess nuclear material, nuclear smuggling operations by non-state actors, and nuclear terrorism.

The grievances of NNWS focus more on the second and third parts of the bargain, which were the reasons that they had agreed to sign the treaty in the first place. The NNWS call on NWS to fulfill their commitment to disarm, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), to extend “negative security assurances” (that is, promises not to use nuclear weapons against NNWS), and to assist in their development of nuclear energy. Many countries want to see weapons of mass destruction banned from the Middle East

(meaning Israel as well as Iran). Some countries (India chief among them) resent the very existence of a treaty that grants the right to possess nuclear weapons to some while denying it to others. Other countries resent the U.S. agreement in 2006 to support civilian nuclear activity in India despite the country’s refusal to sign the NPT.

What Are the Prospects for 2010? The 2005 Review Conference was widely viewed as a failure.⁴ Expectations for 2010, however, were raised by a number of recent events. In April 2009, Pres. Barack Obama called for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons in a gradual and verifiable manner. His plan was endorsed by the UN Security Council in September 2009. On April 6, 2010, the Obama administration issued a Nuclear Posture Review, which stated that the United States would not use nuclear weapons against NNWS if they are in compliance with the NPT—marking the first time U.S. nuclear strategy has been used to encourage NPT compliance. Two days later, the United States and Russia signed a new arms control treaty, the first such treaty in eight years and the first verifiable one in 19 years. On April 12–13, representatives of 47 countries and several international organizations met in Washington to discuss ways to assure the security of stockpiles of nuclear fuel (“fissile material”) in order to keep it from falling into the hands of terrorists. The Obama administration has also announced plans to resubmit the CTBT to the Senate for ratification. Less successful has been a long-proposed treaty banning the further production of weapons-grade nuclear material (Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty), which has stalled in the UN Conference on Disarmament.

⁴ Wade Boese, “Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Meeting Sputters,” *Arms Control Today* 35:6 (July–August 2005); Rebecca Johnson, “Politics and Protection: Why the 2005 NPT Review Conference Failed,” *Disarmament Diplomacy* No. 80 (Autumn 2005).

Particular goals that the United States seeks to promote in this year's RevCon include: universal adherence to the Additional Protocol; the establishment of real and immediate consequences for NPT violators; and the elaboration of means to discourage countries from withdrawing from the NPT. Despite this signs of progress, continued tensions around Iran and North Korea—and within the U.S. Senate—have given rise to doubts about the outcome of the NPT RevCon. Yet, past experience has shown that goodwill and persistent, creative diplomacy can—sometimes—overcome considerable differences.⁵

Some very useful Web sites on these issues are: the IAEA (<http://www.iaea.org>); the Arms Control Association (www.armscontrol.org); the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (<http://www.cns.miis.edu>).

- *Scott C. Monje*

Annual Report (continued from p. 2)

Molly, who will still remain active on the Advocacy Committee, chaired it for six years and brought the wealth of her wisdom and experience to keep us active and plugged into the UNA-USA advocacy agenda. The Advocacy Committee identified nuclear non-proliferation, human rights and international justice, and climate change as this year's main focus areas. Types of intervention include: contact with elected officials; op-ed articles and letters to the editor; and public meetings arranged by the Program Committee.

Program

The Program Committee, chaired by Doris Benson, responded to the advocacy agenda with the following programs:

- October 2009: UN Day: Think Globally—Act Locally: Realizing the Millennium Development Goals One Village at a Time.

- December 2009: Perspectives on the International Criminal Court and U.S. Membership
- March 2010: International Women's Day: Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities, Progress for All
- May 16, 2010, Annual Meeting: Climate Change and Sinking Islands—From Manhattan to Seychelles: A 21st Century Tragedy

Although the quality of these programs was exceptional, attendance by members was lower than expected. We urge you to support your UNA-Westchester, gain information and inspiration, and enjoy the fellowship of like-minded internationalists by coming to our Annual Meeting, 2:00–4:00 P.M., Sunday, May 16, at the Siwanoy Country Club.

Education

Marcia Wallace, chair of the Education Committee, and several volunteers distributed information on Student Alliances and other items at the December 2009 Conference of Social Studies Teachers in Westchester. She and her Committee also ran the High School Essay Contest, in which one of the Westchester students, Nicole Chi, won the third prize at the national level. On May 14, 2009, 30 Mt. Vernon High School students met with Mayor Clinton Young and embarked on a UNA-Westchester-funded trip to the UN, UNICEF, and the German Mission to the UN. In February 2010, The Friends of Mayor Young donated \$1,000 to UNA-Westchester towards future trips.

The Yonkers third-grade project enables UNA-Westchester volunteers to explain the UN to about 1,200 pupils. A new Student Alliance was established at Sleepy Hollow High School and efforts are underway to expand Alliances in other schools and universities.

⁵ Jayantha Dhanapala, "The Management of NPT Diplomacy," *Daedalus* 139:1 (Winter 2010).

Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC)

Amanda Raz has continued to lead UNA-Westchester YPIC and, with her team, has established an active and enjoyable program for young professionals in Westchester including:

- Screening of “The Reckoning” (on the International Criminal Court) Nov. 2, 2009
- Fund-raising for the Rotary-supported Zambian COMACO project, which was described in our October program.
- A ‘Careers at the UN’ program on April 21, 2010, at Manhattanville College

YPIC volunteers provided invaluable support to UNA-Westchester in publicity and computer technology. We are truly grateful.

Web site

John Robinson, an independent IT consultant, has kindly agreed to develop, host, and manage the UNA-Westchester Web site (www.unawestchester.org) as a critical element of our networking and outreach. With assistance from students at Pace University, John is redesigning the site to meet the needs of our chapter and to make it Westchester’s go-to place for international affairs.

Newsletter

Marcia Brewster and Scott Monje have maintained a high standard for our quarterly newsletter, the *Global Connection*, which is our main link with our members. The Advocacy Corner is a recent addition to the newsletter. This year several UNA-Westchester members contributed excellent articles, and more are welcomed.

Membership

Narinder Kakar has kindly offered to coordinate our membership drive. In 2009 our membership dipped down to 137, but by March 2010 it had gone back up to 215. In 2010 invitation letters were sent by the president to 120 Westchester-based members of the Association of Former International Civil Servants (i.e. retired UN staff). Narinder

will be following up with phone calls. He will also be contacting UNA members whose membership has lapsed over the last few years. Our December event on the ICC was done in cooperation with the CEO of Citizens for Global Solutions, and invitations were sent to some 130 CGS members in our area. As the response to these initiatives has been somewhat disappointing, Narinder would welcome assistance from UNA-Westchester members. We hope that members will also bring friends to our events and spread the word about UNA-Westchester.

Finance

Dave Finch has continued as our loyal treasurer and kept us solvent through good times and bad. These were the finances for calendar 2009:

- Opening Balance	\$14,576
- Total 2009 Income	2,735
- Total 2009 Expenditure	6,094
- End-of-Year Balance	<u>11,217</u>
- Net 2009 Change	- 3,359

In January 2010, the Board expressed concern at the declining finances and Board members immediately contributed \$2,400, bringing total contributions (as opposed to dues) for 2010 to \$3,527. These generous contributions are critical for UNA-Westchester to maintain its activities and they are much appreciated.

Conclusion

As noted above, I have resigned with effect June 30, 2010, so this will be my final UNA-Westchester Annual Report. The past three years have been both challenging and fulfilling. I thank you all, especially the Board, for your support and active co-operation. I wish you all the best as we face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the UN, the U.S., UNA-USA, and each and every one of us.

- *Phil Reynolds, President*

Nominations for Board of Directors

In accordance with Article IX of the By-Laws, the Nominating Committee presents the following slate for consideration at the Annual General Meeting:

President: Marcia Brewster
VP: Narinder Kakar
Secretary: Scott Monje
Treasurer: David R. Finch
Board Class '13: Joan Katen
Karen Rockwell El-Badry
Claire Heskestad
Nominating Committee: John Lloyd
Peter Mook

Résumés of the new candidates will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you would like to nominate additional candidates, please contact David Finch, Chair of the Committee (DavidRFinch@juno.com, tel. 914-381-6347).

Advocacy Corner

"If the UN is to survive, those who represent it must bolster it. Those who advocate it, must submit to it, and those who believe in it must fight for it." - Norman Cousins

As advocates for the United Nations and its goal of world peace, there are some things we can do to help it succeed. Please write, call, or e-mail your senators and ask them to support the renegotiation of a strong Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Please use the draft letter on page 11 to send to your senators. We must try to save our world from the scourge of nuclear war.

Senator Schumer's e-mail:
http://schumer.senate.gov/new_website/contact.cfm
Senator Gillibrand's e-mail:
<http://gillibrand.senate.gov/contact>

In the area of human rights, UNA/USA National asked its member chapters to submit an analysis of the US record on human rights as a precursor to the periodic review that is coming up for the US as a member of the Human Rights Council. The Advocacy

Committee of UNA-Westchester looked carefully at the pros and cons of the United States' actions vis-à-vis human rights and submitted a letter with our findings to National. Our submission was gratefully and graciously received. A warm thank you letter was sent to our Chapter, indicating that parts of it are being used for the UNA-USA report for the Department of State (DOS).

If you would like to see how your representatives voted on various bills or what lobbying groups support them, check out the Non-partisan Project Vote Smart at www.votesmart.org, a wonderful resource.

Dag Hammarskjold said: "The UN was not created to bring us to heaven, but in order to save us from hell."

- Joan Katen

Westchester High School Students to Receive UNA-Westchester Awards

Three local students will be awarded prizes for their excellence in essays on the United Nations, which they submitted to the 2010 UNA National High School Essay Contest.

Westchester Chapter awards will be presented to: First Prize Winner Nicole Chi, an 11th-grade student at Scarsdale High School; Second Prize Winner Olivia Rosen, a 12th-grade student at the Masters School; and Third Prize winner Anne-Marcelle Ngabirano, a 9th-grade student at Mount Vernon High School. They will receive awards of \$300, \$100, and \$50 respectively. The awards will be given at the UNA-Westchester Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 16, at Siwanoy Country Club.

We submitted the essay of Nicole Chi, our First Prize winner, to the national contest, and she was awarded Third Prize at the national level, carrying with it an award of \$500. The three national-level winners were selected from over 400 submissions from across the country. The essays were reviewed by a national panel of judges that included

academics, UN experts, and non-profit leaders. The topic of the essay this year was Millennium Development Goal No. 8: Developing a Global Partnership for Development. The students were asked to write a letter to President Obama recommending ways in which the United States could accomplish the goals of partnership in development. The essay contest brings out students' critical thinking, research, and scholarship regarding these global issues.

- *Marcia Wallace*

Youth Assembly Meets at the UN, August 2010

The 7th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations takes place August 4–6, 2010. All youth 16–24 years of age are encouraged to apply. The Youth Assembly is one of the largest youth gatherings on the UN's annual calendar and focuses youth leaders on commitment to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals. This year there will be a special U.S.-China exchange for teens, with 100 Chinese youth meeting 100 U.S. teens. The Leadership Seminar will take place during and after the Youth Assembly at the UN; participants receive a certificate from Fairleigh Dickinson University for the portion held at that campus, August 7–11. Registration is very limited; to find out more go to: www.faf.org or call 1-800-526-2908.

- *Patrick Sciaratta*

Model UN Programs Tap UNA-Westchester Board Member

UNA-Westchester Vice President Marcia Brewster was invited to be keynote speaker at two Model UN programs at area high schools in March 2010: the Ursuline Model UN on March 6 and the Westchester Model UN (WESTMUNC) at Hastings High School on March 20. The article below was submitted by Althea Diaz, co-president of the Model UN at the Ursuline School.

The Ursuline Model UN Conference (TUSMUNC)

It is uncommon to find enthusiastic high school students donning business attire and working vigorously on a Saturday morning. However, on March 6, 2010, about 40 high school students from the Fordham High School's Model United Nations Club and the Ursuline High School's Model UN Club convened at the Ursuline School in New Rochelle to address the issue of drug cartels.

The conference commenced with the opening speech by the co-presidents and organizers of the conference, Althea Diaz ('10) and Jackie Joseph ('10). The keynote speaker, Ms. Marcia Brewster, who is a former UN officer and vice president of UNA-Westchester, enlightened the participants with her informative discussion on the United Nations, women's rights, and water resources policies. After the opening ceremonies, the delegates were divided into two groups based upon the geographical positions of their countries. For several hours, the delegates discussed possible solutions to the issue of drug cartels, and drafted several working papers. Upon the conclusion of the conference, the two groups congregated in a plenary session and formulated a coherent resolution on the elimination of drug cartels.

The conference would not have been a success without the gracious support and guidance of Ursuline's Model UN co-moderators, Ms. Carolyn Gallaher and Ms. Flo LaValle. Ms. Gallaher shared her view on the significance of the Model UN: "Too often, violence is used to resolve conflict. I give my time to Model UN to support students learning about negotiation and compromise." Also, through the donation of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Diaz and the small sponsorship of Cosí, lunch was supplied to the participants. The Ursuline Model UN Club expresses its gratitude for the effort and charity of these people.

The Ursuline Model UN conference was a day filled with challenge, debate, and even fun. Its goal was to serve as a vehicle to further the understanding of international drug cartels and to help students familiarize themselves with the parliamentary procedures of the United Nations. It was to the pride of the Ursuline co-presidents that it surpassed everyone's expectations, even their own.

- *Althea Diaz*



Jackie Joseph, Marcia Brewster and Althea Diaz at Ursuline Model UN, March 9, 2010

WESTMUNC at Hastings High School

Turnout was good with students from over 30 high schools in the Tri-State area attending the Westchester Model UN, held for the 34th year at Hastings High School on March 20.

WESTMUNC is an intensive three-day event, at which students are placed in committee sessions with the opportunity to debate real issues that face this world. This year the topic was water resources and their role in the politics, health care, and economies of both the United States and foreign countries. The program was ably organized and led by Hastings senior Lena Street, who served as secretary-general. The theme was appropriate to the day, which was on the vernal equinox and two days before World Water Day. Ms. Marcia Brewster was invited to give the keynote address because of her long career as

senior officer for water resources in the sustainable development division of the UN.

YPIC Holds 'Careers in the UN' Event

On Wednesday, April 21, 2010, the UNA-Westchester YPIC Group partnered with Manhattanville College's Duchesne Center for a "Careers at the UN" event, which was at Manhattanville's Reid Castle. Marcia Brewster, vice president of UNA-Westchester and a former senior officer at the UN, gave a slide-show presentation about employment opportunities at the United Nations Secretariat. Afterwards, Phil Reynolds, former director of the U.N. Development Programme's Global Water Program and current president of UNA-Westchester, and Peter Mook, former lead education economist for the East Asia and Pacific Region at the World Bank, joined Ms. Brewster on a panel. The members of the panel discussed their own personal career paths and choices as well as the importance of networking, internships, language study, and other topics. The audience of about 20 people, ranging from current college students to recent graduates and seasoned professionals, met with the panelists afterward for a networking session over refreshments. Many of the participants completed evaluations of the presentation and requested more information about the UN, UNA-Westchester, and YPIC.

- *Amanda Raz*

In Case You Missed It: International Women's Day Program at Sarah Lawrence College, March 9

UNA-Westchester, with cosponsors Women Advancing Microfinance (WAM), the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Westchester, Bronxville LWV, and Sarah Lawrence College, organized an outstanding event on March 9 to celebrate the 99th anniversary of International Women's Day (the actual day was March 8). We had two excellent speakers,

Nicola (Niki) Armacost, managing director of Arc Finance, and Urjasi Rudra, UNIFEM coordinator of the 'Say No'- UNiTE Campaign to End Violence Against Women. The program was moderated by Marcia Brewster.

Following the welcome by Judith Schwartzstein of Sarah Lawrence and Phil Reynolds, president of UNA-Westchester, Ms. Rudra opened the program by describing the many ways that violence can prevent women from participating in the workforce and in society in general. She presented a large number of actions that have already been taken and that we can take as individuals to help empower women and encourage men to join as partners. You can learn more and register actions at:
<http://www.saynotoviolence.org/>.

Niki Armacost, who is also a trustee of the village of Hastings and worked for 16 years at Women's World Banking, provided a number of examples of how women have been able to improve their lives through small micro-finance loans for business, as well as for access to energy and water in the household. For more information, see:
www.arcfinance.org.

The discussion was lively and wide ranging. A lovely networking reception followed the program.

Current Board Members, Officers, and Committee Chairs

Phil Reynolds, President, 914-4 72-5490,
Philreynolds60@hotmail.com
Marcia Brewster, VP and Newsletter, 914-924-2460, mmbrewsterny@aol.com
David R. Finch, Treasurer and Nominating, 914-381-6347, DavidRFinch@juno.com
Scott C. Monje, Secretary, 203-797-3465, smonje@scholastic.com
Doris Benson, Program and Hospitality, 914-961-6554, dwbenson1@verizon.net
Marcia Wallace, Education and Youth, 914-681-0101, mtswal@optonline.net
Lee Bloom, Southern NY State Division, 914-834-5203, LeeHBloom@aol.com
Joan Katen, Advocacy, (914) 629-0123, jmkaten@yahoo.com
Narinder Kakar, Membership, (917) 365-4175, nkakar@upeace.org

Directors: Mary O'Neill Berry, John Lloyd, Amanda Raz, Karen Rockwell El-Badry, Brenda Smith; Margaret Bruce (*ex officio*), Sarah Angel, and John Robinson (*ex officio*)

Our Mission: The UNA-USA is dedicated to educating, inspiring, and mobilizing Americans to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations, strengthening the United Nations system, promoting constructive United States leadership in that system, and achieving the goals of the UN Charter.

Our Vision: A world in which humanity is spared the scourge of war, human rights are honored, the natural environment is protected, and the United States is a constructive member of the United Nations for the well-being of all humankind.

(Please use this letter to send to your Senators)

Letter to Senators on Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Dear Senator _____,

In the spirit of nuclear arms reduction as agreed to by the United States and Russia, when they recently renewed the START Treaty, we at UNA-USA, Westchester Chapter, call upon all who care about the future of our planet to endorse further international agreements with a goal of limiting nuclear proliferation and eliminating nuclear weapons.

In September 2009, the United Nations Security Council, by a 15-0 vote, endorsed a strategy for reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is due to be renegotiated at the United Nations this year. It is based on three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology. The United States should play a leading role at the UN conference to be convened in New York in May 2010 to review the status and implementation of NPT. We welcome the fact that President Obama seeks the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons and will work to strengthen the NPT as the basis of international cooperation on non-proliferation.

The United States was the first country to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which bans all nuclear bomb tests. Nevertheless, our country is one of the nine nuclear-capable countries that have not yet ratified the treaty.

In this age when the threat of nuclear terrorism looms large, we must do whatever it takes to prevent nuclear material from falling into the hands of terrorists.

We call upon our leaders to rise to the challenge in order to ensure human survival, and negotiate a treaty which will enable us to look forward to complete and total nuclear disarmament.

Sincerely,

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

____ Please renew my membership

____ Please enroll me as a member of UNA-USA at the following level:

- | | | | |
|--|---------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (one-time payment) | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Member | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$ 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory (first year only) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10 |

In addition to my membership dues, I would like to contribute to:

- Westchester Chapter \$ _____
- National Office \$ _____
- Total enclosed \$ _____
- My company matches employee contributions. (My company's matching form is attached.)
- Please send me information on making a Planned Gift.

Name _____ (Please print)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make your check payable to UNA-USA.

Or Charge payment to your Credit Card: VISA MC Am. Express

Number: _____ Exp.Date: _____

Signature _____

Return this, with your payment to UNA-USA, to:

UNA-USA WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

5 Robin Hill Road

Scarsdale, NY 10583