

UNA-Westchester Global Connection



United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) Westchester Chapter
<http://www.unawestchester.org> April 2013

Please join our celebration of Spring!

UNA-USA Westchester Annual Meeting

“Peace and Security—Essential for Development”

Sunday, April 28, 2013, 4:00–6:00
(registration starts at 3:30)

Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605*

Featured Speakers:



H.E. Mohammed Loulichki

*Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN,
Member of the Security Council and Chair of the Security Council
Counterterrorism Committee*

Narinder Kakar

*Permanent Observer for the International Union
for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the
University for Peace at the UN in New York*



Program Highlights:

Brief annual meeting and elections
Addresses and discussion session
Awards to Pace University student Andrea
Bogojevich for her essay on Lebanon as a
microcosm of forces in the Middle East

The program is cosponsored by the
University for Peace and Pace University.

A reception will follow the program.

Please register:

<http://unawestchester.eventbrite.com/> or contact
unawestchester@gmail.com.

***Directions:** The church is located near Exit 25 of the
Hutchinson River Parkway: Take the Hutchinson River
Parkway to Exit 25 for North St. Follow the sign to White
Plains (LEFT if you are traveling NORTH; RIGHT if you
are traveling SOUTH) onto North St. At first light, turn
LEFT onto Rosedale Ave. Go one block and look for sign.
Turn RIGHT onto Sycamore Lane.

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Editor: Scott C. Monje, Marcia Brewster

Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

As the major portion of our April newsletter is taken up with our Annual Report, I will keep this letter brief. We have had a number of excellent programs this year, and I thank my outstanding Board for their ideas, participation and support. It is a pleasure to serve with such a cooperative and intelligent group of people.

Now it is time for our Annual Meeting, when we would appreciate inputs from the rest of the members of our Chapter. I urge you as UNA-Westchester members to participate in and enjoy our program and reception from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, April 28, at the beautiful Community Unitarian Church in White Plains. We are excited to have the ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN and member of the Security Council speak to us about the importance of Peace and Security to Development. We also welcome our board member Narinder Kakar, who will give us some of his insights on the post-2015 development goals. I am sure it will be an excellent program.

Please join the discussion and bring your votes and ideas to the meeting. We would love to have more members contribute to our committee work and sincerely solicit your thoughts for future programs, educational and youth outreach, and ways to revitalize our membership. Please bring your friends and enjoy an afternoon of interesting discussion and fellowship.

I hope to see you there and welcome you to our celebration of spring.

—*Marcia Brewster*

Nominations for the Board of Directors

In accordance with the by-laws, the Nominations Committee has put forward a slate of nominees for vacancies on the Board of Directors as follows:

Directors: for a term of two years

Donald Carlson
J. Yuhanna Edwards
James Rapp
Lilli Schindler

Résumés for the new board members are found on page 7.

The chapter will retain its five officers and four of its directors who have one more year in their current terms.

Officers: to complete their terms for another year:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| President | Marcia Brewster |
| Vice President | Claire Heskestad |
| Secretary | Scott C. Monje |
| Treasurer | David R. Finch |
| Nominations Committee Chair: | |
| Marcia Wallace | |

The following four directors will complete their terms for one more year:

Joan Katen
Karen Rockwell El-Badry
Robina Singh
Brenda L. G. Smith

We are losing two of our board members and will miss their contributions to our work. Messrs. Audley-Seymour Foster and Narinder Kakar will be stepping down as directors. We thank them both for their service and the valuable contribution they have made to UNA-Westchester.

We welcome new candidates for the Board and encourage you to join one of our Committees.

***UNA-USA Westchester 2012–2013
Annual Report (May 1–April 30)***

Introduction

UNA-USA Westchester has had a very good year with some excellent programs in new venues and a heightened degree of enthusiasm from its members.

We were all extremely saddened by the loss of our friend and venerable human rights icon Margaret “Molly” Bruce, who was a font of knowledge about the UN, the UNA, and the history of human rights. Molly died at the age of 94 on Thanksgiving Day 2012. Besides her long career at the UN, she served UNA as advocacy chair for years at the chapter and division level. We had a wonderful tribute to her for Human Rights Day at the Eleanor Roosevelt Leadership Center at Val-Kill, in Hyde Park, NY, on December 11 (Gillian Sorensen was the speaker) and a touching memorial service with her family and many friends at the UN Church Center on January 19. We miss Molly terribly.

UNA-USA Annual Meeting

President Marcia Brewster and Communications Chair Robina Singh attended the UNA-USA annual meeting in Washington in June. We met with chapter and national leaders from UNA-USA and our colleagues from the UN Foundation. The relationship between the UNA-USA and the UNF has matured, and we could see the advantages of the alliance, especially in terms of access to people and resources in Washington, DC. We are still fighting for a more prominent UNA-USA presence in New York, to be near the UN.

We heard a number of fascinating presentations by senior U.S. and UNF officials, and met with UNA-USA staff, such as Troy Wolfe, who is responsible for Model UN programs. We worked with him subsequently to support Model UN programs in Westchester. We also spent a “Day on the Hill” and met with staff of Representatives Elliot Engel, Nita Lowey, and

Nan Hayworth, as Congress was not in session. While the prospects for strong U.S. support are limited right now, all our representatives are in favor of paying our dues to the UN. A report on the annual meeting is on our Web site: www.unawestchester.org.

UNA-Westchester Board

At our chapter’s annual meeting in April 2012, we had to elect the whole Board of Directors under the new by-laws adopted on the same day. Many of our previous directors stood for election under the new by-laws, some for one-year terms and some for two-year terms so that we could stagger them). The officers elected at the annual meeting were: Marcia Brewster, president; Claire Heskestad, vice president (also chair of the Education Committee); David Finch, treasurer; Scott Monje, secretary; and Marcia Wallace, chair of the Nominations Committee. We welcomed three new board members: J. Yuhanna Edwards, current president of the Mount Vernon City Council, who became cochair of the Advocacy Committee; Lilli Schindler, a staff member at the UN’s Department for Public Information, now cochair of the Program Committee; and Robina Singh, director of operations at the National Association of Asian MBAs (NAAMBA), who is now chair of the Young Professionals program and of the Communications Committee. The other board members elected were: Narinder Kakar, Membership Committee chair; Joan Katen, Advocacy Committee cochair; Brenda L. G. Smith, Program Committee cochair; Audley-Seymour Foster, Education Committee; and Karen Rockwell El-Badry, Education Committee.

This year we will elect four members of the board. We will no longer have the highly respected service of two directors, Narinder Kakar, who has served as vice president and Membership chair, and Audley-Seymour Foster, who served on the Membership and Education committees. We thank them for their considerable contributions and will miss their

insights. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people on our board.

The board meets at the White Plains YMCA (250 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains) at 7:30 P.M., normally on the first Monday of each month. Check the Web site to make sure of the date. All UNA-Westchester members are welcome to attend as observers.

Advocacy Committee

Joan Katen and Yuhanna Edwards served as cochairs of the Advocacy Committee in 2012–2013. Joan continued to write an Advocacy Corner piece in the newsletter and urged her fellow directors to write to Congressional representatives. Joan and Yuhanna told the board about Project Vote Smart (www.votesmart.org/), which provides information on how each nominee for national office stands on the issues.

It has not been a good year for getting support for the UN from our Congressmen and women. There is little motivation for Congressional representatives to fight for the UN when the budget is being cut all around. For example, none of the representatives whose staff we met was willing to push for a waiver on the law prohibiting the United States from funding UN organizations that have admitted the Palestinian National Authority as a member. Nonetheless, we continued to advocate through our representatives for a stronger U.S. presence at the United Nations.

Program Committee

The Program Committee, ably led by Brenda L. G. Smith and Lilli Schindler, organized, sponsored, or participated in the planning of several activities:

April 29: Our *2012 Annual Meeting* featured inspiring speakers (Environmental Judge Merideth Wright and Hudson Riverkeeper Paul Gallay) and a wide-ranging discussion and reception at the Community Unitarian Church in White Plains. First-place awards were

presented to the two students who won the high school essay contest, Nadia Floyd and Anne-Marcelle Ngabirano, both from Mount Vernon High School. We also recognized the Riverkeeper organization for its outstanding work in protecting the Hudson River and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., for its commitment to empowerment, resource conservation, and environmental justice in the spirit of the United Nations.

October 21: Our *UN Day* program celebrated the United Nations' 67th Anniversary with an exciting event on the theme "Sustainable Energy for All: Solutions for a Prosperous World." The event examined international and local sustainable energy solutions. It drew over 100 people, from local elected leaders to senior officials of the UN and a number of Westchester student award winners with their families and teachers.

Participants were able to explore exhibits of sustainable energy solutions set up outside by Groundwork Hudson Valley's Science Barge and inside by five high school students from Yorktown. Their experiments on solar and geothermal energy and other sustainable solutions were impressive. Other exhibitors included the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and local energy providers. As people came in, they were entertained by the solar-powered rock band, Solar Punch.

Our keynote speaker was Nikhil Seth, director of the UN's Division for Sustainable Development. He was joined by Elizabeth Silleck, regional coordinator of NYSERDA's Energy Smart Communities Program. A lively discussion followed.

Sustainability awards were given to nine Westchester students by UNA-USA Westchester and the UN Division for Sustainable Development, as well as from local political leaders. Five students were from Yorktown High School, and one each from

Edgemont High School, Hastings High School, and Yonkers High School.

January 6: Award-winning author and board member Joan Katen presented excerpts from her book, *Love at the Edge*, and clips from the film *Promises*. She then led a discussion on the struggles of people trapped in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event was held at the Harrison Public Library, and the room was filled with a very appreciative audience. A holiday party followed.

February 4: *Mid-Atlantic Conference and Members' Day* at the United Nations. A number of UNA-USA Westchester members attended the event on the theme: "The U.S. at the UN: Opportunities for Renewal." The conference was opened by Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and included three very interesting and provocative panel discussions. More than 500 people attended, including a large number of students.

March 10: Our *International Women's Day*, on the theme "Contributions of Women to Peacebuilding Operations," featured keynote speaker Judy Cheng-Hopkins, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. Ms. Brewster moderated the discussion on how women can contribute to peacebuilding solutions in postconflict countries.

We were pleased to recognize and honor two outstanding local female political leaders: Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the first woman to be elected a conference leader in the New York State Legislature, and MaryJane Shimsky, majority whip of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, for their dedication to women's rights. A lively reception followed the program and award presentations.

April 28: Our *2013 Annual Meeting* will address the theme "Peace and Security—Essential to Development" and will feature keynote speaker H.E. Mohammed Loulichki of

Morocco, who is a member of the Security Council and is chair of the Council's Counterterrorism Committee. Our own Narinder Kakar, permanent observer of the University for Peace and of IUCN to the UN, will provide insight on the post-2015 development goals.

A short business meeting will be held and officers will be elected. We would love the inputs of all members on directions for the future. A reception will follow. Please register for the event, if you can, at: <http://unawestchester.eventbrite.com/>

Education Committee

The Education and Youth Committee, chaired by Claire Heskestad, a teacher at Sleepy Hollow High School, continues its outreach: Marcia Wallace and Karen Rockwell manned a booth at the Westchester–Lower Hudson Council for the Social Studies, handing out 50 UN information packets and many posters to local teachers. They were assisted by Jim Rapp and Lilli Schindler. Marcia Brewster provided support to Mercy College during their summer Model UN program for high school students, and we partnered with Hastings High School to revive the Westchester Model UN program (WestMUNC).

Karen Rockwell continued her program of teaching third-graders in Yonkers about the UN with the help of Bonnie Lieberman and Helen McInnis. From the board, Marcia Brewster, Marcia Wallace, and David Finch participated and they brought on Jim Rapp, new to the Education Committee, to assist. They encourage more volunteers to participate in this enriching program about the UN at a number of public schools.

The committee is reaching out to Model UN teachers and advisers in Westchester County to create an educational network that will foster new relationships with local school districts.

Nominations Committee

Chaired by Marcia Wallace, the Nominations Committee developed a slate of four nominees to fill the vacant places on the board. Nine directors, including the four officers and the chair of the Nominations Committee, will be serving out the second year of their two-year terms. The slate of four nominees will be submitted for a vote by the membership at the annual meeting. The committee took note of the important contributions of outgoing directors Narinder Kakar and Audley-Seymour Foster. The other members of the Nominations Committee were James Rapp, Lilli Schindler, Patrick Sciarratta, and Robina Singh.

Young Professionals Program

With the theme of CONNECT.ENGAGE.INSPIRE, our Young Professionals Program aspires to connect and engage young professionals (YPs) in discussions of international importance, inform and educate YPs on the work of the UN, and encourage YPs to advance the ideals of the UN at home and around the globe. The YP team, spearheaded by Robina Singh, expects to organize an International Careers event later this year. Stay tuned for details! Interested in getting involved? Contact Robina at robina.ny09@gmail.com.

Web Site and Social Media

Robina Singh has taken the initiative to keep our Web site up and other social media up to date. These are crucial to our outreach and networking.

- Visit www.unawestchester.org for announcements and updates.
- Check out our [Calendar](#) for upcoming Chapter and external events.
- Connect with us:
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)
- [Join Our Mailing List](#)

We have started to use Eventbrite for event registrations and will continue to do so.

Newsletter

Scott Monje has maintained a high standard for our newsletter, the *Global Connection*, which was issued four times during the past year. We may increase electronic distribution to save on costs during the coming year. Newsletter ideas and contributions can be submitted to unawestchester@gmail.com.

Membership

In 2012 our membership remained steady at about 140 members. We have recently seen quite a few new members, but several others have not renewed. We need assistance with retaining and attracting members, and we would love your ideas on the types of programs that could encourage more Westchester citizens to support United Nations programs. Please speak to Marcia Brewster or Marcia Wallace with your ideas.

Finance

Dave Finch has continued as our loyal treasurer and kept us solvent. These were the finances for the calendar year 2012:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Balance, Jan. 1, 2012: | \$9,600 |
| 2012 Income: | 1,855 |
| 2012 Expenditures: | 2,783 |
| Balance, Dec. 31, 2012: | 8,672 |
| Change | - 928 |

Essential to our financial health were generous contributions from chapter members, which are critical to the maintenance of our activities.

Conclusion

It is an honor for me to continue to serve as your president. I would love to have more of our members contribute to our association through our program, education, and advocacy committees. Please contact me with your ideas.

—*Marcia Brewster*

Meet the Nominees for Director

The chapter is pleased to introduce the four nominees to fill current board vacancies.



Donald Carlson has had a rich and varied career, working first as a newspaper reporter and then as an information officer within mainstream Protestantism. After living and working in Southeast Asia for three years, he completed a master's degree in international relations at New York University. He then moved into the field of multinational corporate travel management and spent most of his second career with American Express. Don is the author of *The Lure of Oil*, *The Cry for Water*, a novel set during the early years of the oil industry. He and his wife, Anne-Marie, the chair of the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations, live in White Plains.

J. Yuhanna Edwards is the current president of the Mt. Vernon City Council. He has held other city posts, including Parks and Recreation commissioner and director of Civil Defense and Emergency Services. He is a NY State licensed insurance consultant. As a combat paramedic in the Vietnam War, Mr. Edwards received a gunshot wound and was honorably discharged in 1968. In addition to the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Distinguished Service Military Awards, Mr. Edwards has received numerous awards for his dedication to youth and senior citizens. He holds several leadership positions, board appointments, and organization memberships, and has served on the UNA Board for one year in the capacity of Advocacy Committee cochair. Mr. Edwards is a graduate of Mercy College. He has been married for 42 years and has three children and five grandchildren.



James Rapp has been an information technology executive at Citibank for over 20 years. His current area of focus is IT infrastructure supporting Citi's Global Network in 100+ countries. Jim has been active with UNA-Westchester for almost two years. His efforts on the program and education committees and regular attendance at board meetings, have led to his interest in further contributing as a board member. His particular personal interests are energy conservation issues and outreach to young people. Jim is an avid bridge player who supports Youth Bridge at local and national tournaments, most recently in Philadelphia, where U.S. and Chinese Junior National Players competed. A highlight of the competition was Bill Gates's encouragement that they "play bridge and have fun." Jim holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. He lives in White Plains and is newly married.



Lilli Schindler has worked for the United Nations in the Department of Public Information (DPI) for the past 20 years. She currently manages the Group Programs Unit and the Public Inquiries Unit in DPI's Visitors Services Section. Previously, she worked in the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Section of DPI. She began her career in the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General. Having grown up in Westchester, she comes from a UN family, as her father, a Brazilian national, and her mother, a Dutch national, both worked for the organization from its inception. She holds a B.A. from Brown University and an M.A. from Columbia University. She has served on the board for one year in the capacity of program committee cochair. Lilli lives in Rye, with her husband and three children.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (this can also be submitted on line at www.unausa.org):

____ 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:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Westchester Chapter | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lee Bloom Memorial Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Office | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Total enclosed | \$ _____ |

My company matches employee contributions. (My company's matching form is attached.)

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

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