

UNA-Westchester Global Connection



United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) Westchester Chapter
<http://www.unawestchester.org> February 2014



The UNA-Westchester Young Professionals Program presents

Half the Sky

A Documentary in Honor of International Women's Day 2014

Springing from the success of the No. 1 National Bestseller by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky; Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* is a PBS documentary that focuses on the oppression of women and girls worldwide and their efforts to overcome it. Come join us as we travel across the world to meet inspiring women who fight to change their circumstances and show insurmountable strength in the face of adversity.

Guest Speaker **Diana Mao**, President and Cofounder of the Nomi Network.

Discussion following the film will be led by **Marcia Brewster**

Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

James V. Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St., Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706*

Sunday, March 2, 2014, 12:30–3:30 P.M.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH TRIBUTE TO WOMEN OF WESTCHESTER:

UNA Teams up with the Westchester County Board of Legislators to pay tribute to outstanding women of Westchester County! Please join us on Monday March 24, 6:30 pm: Legislative Chambers, 8th floor, 148 Martine Ave., White Plains, NY 10601

Entrance is by donation, \$5 recommended for members and \$10 for nonmembers.

Sponsored by UNA-Westchester Young Professionals Program, Emma Clancy Chair.

Directions to the Event: Exit the Saw Mill Parkway onto Farragut Parkway in Hastings-on-Hudson. Farragut Parkway becomes Farragut Avenue. At intersection with Broadway (Route 9), make a slight left onto Main Street. The James C. Harmon Community Center is on the left.

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Editors: Scott C. Monje, Marcia Brewster

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,



As we get deeper into 2014, the board of UNA-Westchester has been busy with a number of interesting activities. We hope you have been involved in them, too, or will be in the near future.

One of the activities has been to work with the UNA's Southern New York State Division to promote a regional dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda. (You can be part of the global process at www.myworld2015.org.) In November we participated at the round table held at the New York Times building in Manhattan. This was followed by another consultation held on Human Rights Day (December 10) at the FDR Museum and Library in Hyde Park. We selected the themes that we felt were most important (education, health, food and agriculture, good governance, water and sanitation, climate change, energy, and gender equality) and found people in the area who are either experts or interested professionals from the UN, community organizations, schools, or NGOs. Having come up with our priorities, we included them in our inputs to "The World We Want." This will be fed into the UNA-USA's compilation of regional dialogues all over the country, which will be the stakeholder part of the USA's contribution to the overall process. The student videos shown at our UN Day program in October were also presented.

This process became part of the Members' Day/Mid-Atlantic Conference on February 7, which had the theme "Building Peace in an Age of Upheaval." I moderated a session on "What World Do We Want? The Post-2015 Development Agenda." The panel featured Paul Ladd, who is Head of the UNDP Team on the Post-2015 Development Process; Chris

Whatley, Executive Director of UNA-USA; and Jeanne (Ginger) Stillman, President of the Southern New York State Division. It was a great panel, followed by a lively discussion. I hope that many of you were able to attend the conference. We had about 700 people in attendance, including many students and a lot of UNA members, and it was an excellent event. Besides our panel, two other panels covered the topics "Making Peace, Keeping Peace, and Building Peace" and "Human Rights Challenges: 2014 and Beyond." The three panels followed the three main pillars on which the UN was founded: Peace, Development, and Human Rights. There was an additional panel with three members of the US mission to the UN, who discussed the type of work they do. If you were not able to attend, please take a look at the photos at <http://www.unausa.org>, at the division's website: <http://www.unasouthernny.org>, and at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/unasouthernny/>. A summary report is being prepared.

We are also delighted to announce that our recently launched Young Professionals' program is hosting the chapter's celebration of International Women's Day this year. Emma Clancy, chair of the YP program, has organized a film screening of *Half the Sky*, Nicholas D. Kristof's and Sheryl WuDunn's excellent documentary about women and their challenges and triumphs. It will be held in Hastings at the community center on Sunday March 2 at 12:30. There will be a discussion after the film, and refreshments will be served.

Finally, we are planning to hold our annual meeting on May 4 at the Community Unitarian Church in White Plains from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. We are working on the theme and speakers and will inform you of the details by e-mail and in the next newsletter. Of course, we will elect the Board of Directors and will have a short annual meeting, so your participation is very important.

— Marcia Brewster

Korea and the United Nations: A Complex Relationship

The year 2013 marked the 60th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War, a conflict sanctioned by the young United Nations with resolution 83 on June 27, 1950. Of the 93 member states at the time, 16 gave combat support, 5 medical support, 39 material support, and 3 more expressed their intent to support the Republic of Korea (ROK, or South Korea) in its effort to repulse the act of aggression committed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, or North Korea). Today, the UN is led by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, citizen of the ROK, which also holds a seat as non-permanent member state of the UN Security Council (UNSC) until the end of 2014. This powerful combination may well facilitate steps toward a resolution to the conflict that has gripped the peninsula since 1945 and lead it on a path toward improved relations and eventually unification.

Surprisingly enough, the two Koreas did not become member states of the United Nations until 1991, just as the Soviet Union was coming apart. The DPRK and the ROK were both admitted on September 17, along with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. For almost 40 years, powerful permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely the People's Republic of China, the USSR and the US, kept the two countries from benefitting from UN membership due to the issue of unification and the lack of a peace treaty between the two nations. By the time it finally happened, the ROK had reached the peak of its miracle economic growth, while the DPRK was facing extreme poverty, famine, and human rights violations, focusing instead on the development of its military and nuclear capacities.

While waiting for UN membership, the ROK completed the necessary steps to join UNESCO, accepting its convention on

September 14, 1988. To date, it has 10 cultural locations and one natural location designated as World Heritage Sites, with 15 more waiting to complete the process. The DPRK joined UNESCO ten years later, on July 21, 1998. Its second World Heritage label was officially bestowed to the Kaesong Historic Monuments and Sites this past year.

The presence of Ban Ki-moon at the leadership of the UN Secretariat since 2007 is significant for Korea. Born at the end of World War II, he experienced the Korean War first hand as a child. Mr. Ban's responsibilities as former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the ROK and his tenure at the United Nations have given him an advantage in trying to resolve the crisis through diplomatic means. Mr. Ban continues to advocate for a nuclear-free world through a five-point plan. His position and expertise may well be a factor in the de-escalation of tensions between the two countries.

—*Claire Heskestad*

Resources on Korea:

Choices Program—Conflict on the Korean Peninsula: North Korea and the Nuclear Threat http://www.choices.edu/resources/supplemental_northkorea.php

Council on Foreign Relations multimedia presentation—Crisis Guide: The Korean Peninsula <http://www.cfr.org/north-korea/crisis-guide-korean-peninsula/p11954>

UNESCO World Heritage websites:
ROK: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/kr>
DPRK: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/kp>

Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/736/>

Patrimonto World Heritage Adventure (cartoon) <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1009/>

1991 UN Membership—Korea
<http://www.nytimes.com/1991/05/29/world/north-korea-reluctantly-seeks-un-seat.html>

"South Korea Plans to Seek UN Membership"
<http://www.fas.org/news/skorea/1991/910407-rok-usia.htm>

South Korea as UNSC member (2013–14)
<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/09684.pdf>

Advocacy Corner

My report for this newsletter concerns two topics. The first is our ongoing effort to meet Representative Eliot Engel, who now represents many of us in Southern Westchester. So far we have not been able to get an appointment. We would like to ask him to support paying US dues to the United Nations, as well as the UN's quests for peace in Palestine/Israel, and in Syria. We would also urge him to support UN efforts to conclude a treaty with Iran that will ensure that Iran's nuclear program will be used for peaceful energy rather than weaponry. We hope that a meeting time and date will be arranged soon with Rep. Engel. I will keep you posted as to developments in this area.

The second thing on which I would like to report is an idea that came to me during a conference on "The Effects of Conflict on Global Health," which I helped to arrange at Pace University on Oct. 23, 2013. During that conference, I realized that it is very difficult to change the direction of governments when they are ingrained in negative behaviors. So I have made the following recommendation for a children's book series to the board members of UNA-Westchester and asked for their support in bringing this to the UNA-USA national board. I believe that if we focus on the grassroots and on children and education, we can change people and governments over time, making them more willing to focus on establishing world peace, as outlined below:

Proposal for a Post-Conflict Book Series for Grades K–12

Considering the fact that many areas of conflict, after the peace is temporarily restored, lapse back into conflict,

And considering the fact that many leaders are stuck in patterns of power-grabbing, nepotism, and corruption, as well as patterns of thinking that prevent peace and democratic practices in their nations and towards other nations,

Our best hope is changing the mindset of society by giving children an education in peace, justice, democracy, and restorative practices.

The book series would be utilized in grades K–12; would teach children the basic concepts of: living together in peace; the history and growth of democracy; elections and how they function; and how to establish a civil society. Part of the curriculum would be experiential: students would hold elections in class, relinquish the presidency at a prescribed time, and practice conflict resolution and restorative justice.

Implementation: 1. A three-person editorial board. 2. Curriculum writers and artists to illustrate the books.

I believe that this book series will contribute to the establishment of the United Nations' goals of world peace, human dignity, and freedom from want as those children who are taught this curriculum will foster peace, sustainable development, and human rights in their countries.

—Joan Katen

A Reader Responds

Chapter member Col. (ret.) Arthur DeRuve responds to Frank Brodhead's commentary, "The U.S.-Iran Nuclear Deal," which appeared in the December 2013 issue of UNA-Westchester Global Connection. UNA-West-

chester welcomes members' commentaries and responses. All opinions are the authors' alone.

Frank Brodhead's commentary, in my opinion, would be more appropriately entitled "The Chamberlain Syndrome." Contrary to Mr. Brodhead's expressed opinion that "the deal is a step toward peace and away from war," it is simply a repetition of a mistake we have made numerous times in the past from which we have failed to learn our lesson. It is a deal made with evil people who need a breather from the opposition expressed against their actions. This gives them time to regroup and strengthen their position while intending to reassert their evil in the future from a position of greater power. Such people loathe signs of weakness, but respect and fear signs of strength. It is not a "bomb, bomb Iran" mentality as Mr. Brodhead accuses. Rather, it is a mentality of letting "the bully" know that we will not tolerate bullying! Remember, for example, our peace-through-strength stance in the 1980s, which brought the Evil Empire to its knees and brought freedom to hundreds of millions of people.

History is replete with examples of so-called "peace negotiations" with tyrants in which such negotiations did nothing but give the aggressors time to strengthen their positions, while the good guys talked themselves silly. Does he remember or has he read about Hitler going into the Ruhr Valley, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland? Mr. Chamberlain's "peace negotiations" resulted in over fifty million deaths worldwide. Is he aware that we negotiated with the Tojo regime up to the very hour Pearl Harbor was bombed? Has he reflected on the League of Nations negotiating with Mussolini about Ethiopia? Does he remember how we failed to bomb the bridges over the Yalu River in Korea (*to show good faith to our enemy*), then spent months and months "negotiating" with the Chinese Communists on the size and the shape of the negotiating table?

Does Mr. Brodhead forget that we won every significant battle in Vietnam without, mistakenly perhaps, even using all of the possible force that was available to us? Yet, we lost the peace because of "negotiating-minded" senators who failed to deal with the blatant violations committed by the Communists of all "agreements" reached during the fighting and after it had stopped. How many millions of Southeast Asians (in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos) were slaughtered by the Communists after hostilities ended because of our "negotiating blindness"?

Iran is talking to us only because sanctions are hurting the power grip it has on its people. Any easing of the pressure of these sanctions simply allows that dictatorship time to strengthen its hold on its people and embolden its threat to its neighbors. Instead of playing the "Ban the Bomb" card, a failed tactic of the past, we should expand and tighten existing sanctions until this evil regime collapses from within. It worked on the "Evil Empire"; it would also work, given a chance, on the "Evil Imams" of the Middle East. The idea that "negotiating" with this evil, à la Chamberlain, will make it go away brings to mind Albert Einstein's classic premise that doing the same thing over and over again in hopes of getting a different result is the height (and definition) of insanity.

—Col. (ret.) Arthur DeRuve

A New Stage of Peacekeeping?

Peacekeeping operations have evolved considerably over the decades as UN forces have sought to adapt to the changing character of military conflicts. Rather than separating national armies that have agreed to a cease-fire, the UN's "blue helmets" these days find themselves in distant, isolated regions facing undisciplined, irregular forces that ignore both national borders and international agreements.

The military effectiveness of UN peacekeeping forces is often limited, not necessarily by a lack of capacity but by (1) a restrictive mandate

from the Security Council, defining what a particular peacekeeping mission is permitted to do, and (2) the limits set by individual troop-contributing countries—countries that are willing to help bolster the prospects of peace in a distant land in support of a given cease-fire but that are reluctant to expose their troops to danger by taking over someone else's cause and fighting someone else's fight. These are not casual considerations. Active military operations mean taking sides in someone else's civil war. This could taint the UN's reputation for impartiality, making participants in current and future civil wars suspicious of its intentions. It can also expose civilian UN and other humanitarian personnel to violent retaliation.

Sometimes, however, the international community gets fed up. War has ravaged the eastern Congo since 1998. Successive rebel groups have formed, dissolved, and reformed under new names, sometimes with the assistance of neighboring countries. Agreements have been negotiated, signed, and abandoned. Millions have died. The existing peacekeeping force, MONUSCO (Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation en République démocratique du Congo), was unable to cope with the situation.

In March 2013 the Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 2098, authorizing the formation within MONUSCO of an "intervention brigade" of three infantry battalions, one artillery company, and one special forces and reconnaissance company. Its stated objective was to "neutralize and disarm" rebel groups, such as the March 23 Movement (M23, the latest incarnation of a local rebel movement); the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR, the exiled remnants of the group most responsible for the 1994 Rwanda genocide); and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA, the exiled remnants of a charismatic Ugandan rebel movement), all of which had exploited ethnic tensions, marauded

the civilian population, and commandeered natural resources for their own profit.

In November 2012, M23 had seized control of Goma, one of the principal cities of eastern Congo. By November 2013, M23 had been driven from the field and its leader detained. The prospects for peace and stability in the region were greatly improved, if still not guaranteed. The intervention brigade was not the sole reason for this, and the circumstances may be difficult to replicate. In addition to the rare unanimity on the Security Council, the Congolese situation had led to a high degree of cooperation from the country's neighbors, which was key to cutting the rebels off from outside support and safe havens. Congolese reforms and sincere efforts to include the peoples and interests that the rebels at least pretended to represent will still be necessary to prevent another resurgence of fighting and consolidate peace in the long term. Nonetheless, the UN showed itself able to adapt to a difficult situation and have a positive effect.

—*Scott C. Monje*

Call for Nominations to the UNA-Westchester Board of Directors

The Westchester Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA is seeking interested and committed members of UNA-Westchester to join its Board of Directors in its work to support the work of the United Nations. You may nominate yourself or other members whose experience or expertise you think will contribute to the —office is two years, from July 1, 2014, until June 30, 2016. It is advisable to obtain the permission/agreement of the potential nominee before submitting the name and contact information. Send your recommendations to Marcia Wallace, the Nominations Committee Chair, at mtswal@optonline.net. All information will be held confidential.

To be included in the official slate, nominations should be received by February 26, 2014. A provisional slate will be presented to the board for its approval at its meeting of March 3, 2014. The approved slate will be distributed to the

membership at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, May 4. At the Annual Meeting the slate will be presented to the members for a vote of approval. Further nominations may be made from the floor.

We appreciate your show of interest and participation and welcome your recommendations, not only for nominations but in support of the general efforts of the organization as well. We encourage members to participate on one of our committees and look forward to working together. Please contact any of the current board members and committee chairs listed on this page.

—*Marcia Wallace*

An Exclusive Benefit for UNA Members

The United Nations Association of the USA is proud to announce a new benefit for its members. The United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) will now offer membership to UNA members. This is the first time that the UNFCU has made membership available to anyone other than United Nations employees. UNFCU offers its members an array of financial solutions to meet their varying financial needs at every stage of life—from youth savings to insurance, retirement planning, award-winning lending plans, and financial literacy programs. Members have secure access to their accounts via numerous e-banking channels, and in this way the institution remains constantly available.

UNFCU Benefits

- Tailored products/services, many first-to-market
- Competitive rates, low/no fees
- Financial Literacy Programs—webinars/video broadcasts conducted by financial experts
- A legacy of safety and soundness for 66 years
- Once a member; always a member
- Member-ownership that gives you a direct say

- A strengthened connection to the United Nations; UNFCU serves only the UN community

For more information and to join UNFCU, please visit the UNA-USA section of its website at www.unfcu.org/unausa.

UNA and UNFCU share a common vision—an unwavering focus on the United Nations and a deep commitment to serving the UN community. This new partnership will pave the way for each of our memberships to extend their support for the UN and UN causes.

Board of Directors, including Officers and Committee Chairs

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Ex officio: George Garland, Jeanne Betsock Stillman.

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 | Free |

Please indicate your choice of Westchester Chapter (#126) in your application.

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

- Westchester Chapter \$ _____
- Lee Bloom Memorial Fund \$ _____
- National Office \$ _____
- 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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