

UNA-Westchester Global Connection



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

<http://www.unawestchester.org>

February 2015

UNA-Westchester, the Yonkers Riverfront Library, and
The Young Professionals Program
Invite you to celebrate

*International Women's Day 2015:
Women's Contribution to Peace and Security*

Sunday, March 8, 2015

Yonkers Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701
Registration at 2:00, Program 2:30–4:30 P.M.

Featuring a screening of
Women, War, and Peace: War Redefined
Produced by Peter Bull

Discussion following the film will be led by **Linda Fasulo**, NPR
Independent Correspondent at the UN, and will
include **Gerardo Porteny Backal**,
Consultant for Global Youth Engagement, UN-
Women's 'HeForShe' Campaign



A reception with refreshments will follow
Register at www.unawestchester.org



Also: Mid-Atlantic Conference and Members' Day at the UN, Friday Feb. 20, 2015
Full-day program at the UN: "The UN at 70: A Year for Bold Action" Please join UNA
members from around the country for an exciting event at the UN, including keynote
addresses by prominent UN officials and panels on climate change, global health,
human rights, and the political situation in the Middle East. The event will be held in
Conference Room 4. You must register in advance to attend: www.unausa.org.

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Editors: Scott C. Monje, Marcia Brewster

Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

Our UN Day event at the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester (October 26, 2014) engaged over 80 high school and college students and another 40 interested

community members. Students were asked to contribute their ideas to “The World I Want” consultations related to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. We were delighted by the way our 10 young facilitators were able to draw out innovative ideas from the student participants. It was great to have the active involvement of the YWCA, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Links, Inc., Sister to Sister International, and many high schools and colleges in Westchester. A report, photos, and a video are on our website. The board of UNA-Westchester expects to continue to work with these groups in future activities aimed at engaging students and young professionals. In particular, we will be working with the AKA Sorority (Zeta Nu Omega and Pi Iota Omega chapters) on Model UN and Global Classrooms programs at high schools around the county.

I was honored and gratified to be awarded the Lee H. Bloom Leadership Award by the Southern New York State Division of UNA-USA in December. As many of you will probably remember, Lee Bloom was our senior statesman for decades, and we have missed his counsel and insights greatly since his passing in 2011. A special thank you goes to Karen Rockwell El-Badry and Brenda Smith for nominating me for the honor.

Also in collaboration with the Southern NY State Division, some of our chapter members participated in a Human Rights Day event on December 10 at the FDR Museum and Library in Hyde Park, NY. The theme was “Bringing

Human Rights Home: Inequality, Race, and the United States.”

We are now preparing for an exciting UNA Members Day/Mid-Atlantic Conference on Friday, February 20, with the theme “The UN at 70: A Year for Bold Action.” I encourage all members to attend this conference. It normally attracts over 700 people, including many students and a lot of UNA-USA members. It will feature panels on climate change, human rights, and global health. Of particular interest to members may be the political panel on “Return to Iraq: The Rise of ISIL and the End of Arab Spring.” Please register to attend and see the program at our website www.unawestchester.org.

We are also excited about our International Women’s Day program, which will be held at the Yonkers Riverfront Library from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M. on Sunday, March 8, 2015. Our Young Professionals Program, led by cochairs Andy Laub and Martha Perez, is organizing the event. It will feature a screening of “Women, War, and Peace: War Redefined,” a PBS documentary produced by Peter Bull, with commentary by NPR correspondent to the UN Linda Fasulo. A discussion and reception will follow. We encourage you all to participate in this great program.

Finally, the board is planning to hold our annual meeting on Sunday, May 31, 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 details by e-mail and in the next newsletter. Of course, we will elect members of the board of directors and will have a short annual meeting, so your participation is very important.

Please bring a friend to our UNA events. We would love to meet like-minded citizens and expand our chapter.

—*Marcia Brewster*

The Next Evolution of Peacekeeping

Last October, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon named a panel, the High-Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations, to undertake the first comprehensive review of peacekeeping in 14 years. The panel will examine the current state of peace operations, including the changing nature of conflict, evolving mandates, and administrative arrangements, and ferret out the emerging needs for the future.

The original rules of peacekeeping conformed to the original mission: separating and observing conventional military forces that had already agreed to a cease-fire. An early example was the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), which was established to patrol the armistice line between the Egyptian and Israeli armies in the aftermath of the Suez Crisis of 1956. Peacekeepers were to: (1) operate only with the consent of both parties, (2) remain impartial between the parties, and (3) use limited force, generally only in self-defense, if any at all. The mandates, size, and equipment of peacekeeping missions reflected these principles, and they were effective in extending the length of cease-fires, increasing the likelihood of postconflict democratization, and reducing the probability of renewed conflict (or, as they say, postconflict recidivism). The nature of the situations into which peacekeepers were inserted, however, began to change. By the 1990s they were being inserted into places where no meaningful cease-fire was in effect. As a result, peacekeepers became witnesses to horrible atrocities that they were neither authorized nor equipped to stop. The most infamous cases were, of course, the Rwandan genocide of 1994 and the seizure of the UN safe-haven at Srebrenica in 1995 and the subsequent execution of some 8,000 Bosnians.

Bureaucracies change only slowly, especially when change requires consensus among many,

many bosses, as in the case of the United Nations, which answers to its member-states. In 1999, however, a new-style peacekeeping mission was deployed to Sierra Leone, which had been ravaged by civil war. Its mandate included a novel provision—seemingly obvious, yet unprecedented in the history of UN peace operations—to protect the civilian population. Today 130,000 peacekeepers are deployed in 16 different operations; two-thirds of the operations involve ongoing conflicts, and 98 percent of the troops are mandated to protect local populations. Another new task is “violence abatement.” So-called peacekeepers are increasingly deployed in ongoing conflicts and expected to establish favorable conditions for a *subsequent* peace process. Still, even the more robust peace operations rarely permit peacekeepers to take action beyond self-defense and the protection of civilians. They almost never engage in combat with the belligerent parties. The rare exception is the “intervention brigade” that was mandated in 2013 to suppress specific rebel groups in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (See “A New Stage of Peacekeeping?” *UNA-Westchester Global Connection*, February 2014.)

Nevertheless, peacekeeping forces can have an indirect impact on conflicts in two ways: (1) by addressing commitment problems and (2) by raising the expected costs of continued combat. The commitment issue arises in those situations in which parties are willing to settle but do not commit to it because they fear that the other side will cheat and attack them once they’ve disarmed. The presence of a neutral armed force willing to protect former combatants can affect that calculation. Likewise, the presence of armed troops interceding between parties and monitoring their actions reduces their opportunities for advancing militarily against one another, eliminates the element of surprise, and makes it easier for the international community to assign responsibility for violations, all of which raises the expected costs of combat. Neither mechanism is

foolproof, but both can contribute to an overall reduction in violence. Needless to say, a mission has greater credibility and effectiveness if the contingent is large and has a high proportion of combat troops relative to police and unarmed observers.

In relation to the new review, the United States has proposed a number of reforms that it considers priorities as peacekeeping operations increase in number and face ever more challenging mandates. First, it wants to see an expansion of the number of countries donating troops beyond the relatively few developing countries that provide most of the forces now. It particularly hopes for some of the more capable countries in Latin America and East Asia to expand their participation. The second priority concerns the capabilities of peacekeeping forces. To that end the United States is contributing to the development of rapid-response capabilities in Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda—all countries with peacekeeping experience and demonstrated commitments to protecting civilians—as part of the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (A-Prep). In addition, the U.S. Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), which began under the Bush administration, has provided troop training to hundreds of thousands of peacekeepers. Third, Washington wants to build greater consensus behind the new, more aggressive mandates. Some countries, including some longtime troop contributors, are skeptical of the more ambitious operations, which put their soldiers in harm's way to protect strangers; they prefer to reassert the traditional peacekeeping model. The U.S. position is that the old model has become irrelevant, especially in the context of failed states and extremist nonstate entities. Fourth, while recognizing that the UN has already changed considerably, the United States would like to see further institutional reforms. These include improvements in planning, rapid troop deployment, quality of mission leadership, and clear and enforced standards of behavior. Washington is also

spearheading efforts to lengthen troop rotations in order to improve institutional memory and to introduce incentives and disincentives, such as financial penalties for countries that send troops without adequate equipment or financial premiums for troops that are willing to accept higher risk levels.

Yet even without a review, changes have come about, for example with regard to technology and intelligence gathering. The use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs) has already added to UN peacekeepers' ability to survey the terrain and locate potentially hostile forces. Hervé Ladsous, the under-secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, hopes to add signals intelligence to that, despite the disrepute that has grown since Edward Snowden's revelations about U.S. signals-intelligence practices. He also hopes to promote the gathering of human intelligence by local host governments. According to the plan, multiple intelligence sources should feed into a peacekeeping mission's "fusion cell," where information will be combined and analyzed to support effective strategies. The first experimental fusion cell was established in Mali in July 2013.

A long-running problem has been the UN's lack of direct authority over peacekeeping contingents. Troops on UN missions are on loan from those countries willing to provide them, and they report to their national military commands, not to the UN. This limits the organization's ability to control their actions or set effective standards for equipment, training, discipline, or behavior. If soldiers violate rules, the UN must call on the soldiers' national authorities to remedy the situation. To help deal with what Ladsous calls issues of "quality control," he appointed a director of strategic partnerships, a kind of inspector general, in 2014. Ladsous also asserts his right to dismiss and replace force commanders who do not meet the requirements of their assignments, but at the UN this is still considered a nontraditional view.

Resource bibliography:

Barbara Crossette, "UN Peacekeeping Upgrades Its Reactions to Conflicts and Adds Surveillance Tools," *PassBlue* (November 11, 2014), <http://passblue.com/2014/11/11/un-peacekeeping-upgrades-its-reactions-to-conflicts-and-adds-surveillance-tools/>.

"Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN, at the American Enterprise Institute on UN Peacekeeping Reform," November 7, 2014, <http://usun.state.gov/briefing/statements/233866.htm>

"Secretary-General's Statement on Appointment of High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations," <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8151>

"Reform of Peacekeeping," United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/reform.shtml>

Lisa Hultman, et al., "Beyond Keeping Peace: United Nations Effectiveness in the Midst of Fighting," *American Political Science Review* 108:4 (November 2014), <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9427258&fulltextType=RA&fileId=S0003055414000446>

—*Scott C. Monje*

Educator's Corner: Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN)

The Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN) held its 16th annual conference at United Nations headquarters in New York City on Friday, January 30. The full-day conference, which was cosponsored by Delta Kappa Gamma (a professional honorary society of women educators), offered educators, students and concerned citizens an opportunity to listen to a variety of speakers,

view video addresses, meet recipients of Best Practices and Poster Design Awards, and attend an Information Fair highlighting some major UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

For those of us who teach about the United Nations or advise Model UN Clubs, this was a perfect setting to refresh, resource, and reconnect. Chaired by Anne-Marie Carlson, the conference was efficiently organized and intellectually stimulating. Since this year is the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN, Bob Clark, acting director of the FDR Library in Hyde Park, NY, and Stephen Schlesinger, former director of the World Policy Institute, paid tribute to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the visionary planner of the organization. Mr. Schlesinger also praised Dag Hammarskjöld, the second secretary general, for setting the tone as a "true moral leader."

Chris Whatley, executive director of UNA-USA, discussed aligning teaching about the UN with modern technology and social media as well as federal education initiatives such as the Common Core. Troy Wolfe, director of UNA-USA's education programs, presented an overview of the new curriculum guide, entitled *Economics of Globalization*, which correlates to the College, Career, and Civics Readiness expectations and offers a real-life approach to economics, including Model UN mini-simulation activities. The website also includes guides to teaching *Human Rights* and *Sustainable Development*.

Two panels focusing on *Striving for Peace and Security* and *Advancing Human Dignity and Social Justice* presented allocutions from the ambassadors of Sri Lanka and Palau as well as representatives from the UN Women, Peacebuilding, and Nuclear Policy departments, and a journalist who reports about the United Nations. Their dynamic and passionate presentations not only fascinated the audience, but also reminded us of our responsibility to educate today's young

generation and tomorrow's leaders about the many facets, challenges, and successes of this unique organization. The highlight of the day was a short video clip about Kenneth Payumo, a former New York City police officer who stood unarmed with two other civilians and denied 80 heavily armed men entrance to the UN compound in Bor, South Sudan, a year ago, thus protecting the 12,000 displaced people who had just sought refuge there. Sometimes in the face of adversity, it is one person who turns the tide by standing for what he or she knows is the right thing to do. While emulating FDR, Hammarskjöld, or Payumo may seem a daunting task to young students, taking an active role in civil society and speaking up about climate change, violence against women, disarmament, freedom of the press, or world peace is a first step in the right direction. Our role is to facilitate that process.

For more information:

www.TeachUN.org: CTAUN teaching materials and activities

www.un.org/en/un60/60ways: 60 ways the UN makes a difference

www.unausa.org: Model UN information, updates, briefings, videos, curriculum guides.
www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/for-educators/curriculum/economics-of-globalization: Guides

www.unausa.org/modelun101: Model UN club tips and Model UN simulations

unchronicle.un.org: Quarterly magazine covering a range of UN activities

www.teachunicef.org: Materials, news, information about children's rights, health, and education

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/south-sudan-in-their-own-words-ken-payumos-story/3895912627001?page=2> (6:13)

Madam Ambassador

When Madeleine Albright served as U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, she used to speak of the "G-7." She

did not have the conventional definition in mind, the group of seven advanced industrial countries that held annual summit meetings. No, she was referring to the sum total of female ambassadors serving at the UN. As the BBC's Nick Bryant recently commented, when they met together, "two black VIP limousines could have comfortably ferried the entire female ambassadorial corps to the meeting."

Times have begun to change. By the end of 2014, the number of female ambassadors in the General Assembly had risen to 31 (about 16 percent of the 193 members), a record in the history of the UN. Not only that, but the ratio was even higher on that ultimate male bastion, the Security Council. Out of 15 members, 6 were women, constituting 40 percent of the total. Among permanent members of the Security Council, however, the story is a bit different. While the United States has had four female ambassadors over the years—Jeane Kirkpatrick, Madeleine Albright, Susan Rice, and now Samantha Power—no other permanent member has had even one. Come on, folks, let's get a move on!

Partnership between UNA and AKA Sorority to Bring Global Education to High Schools

UNA-USA and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA), in October 2014 embarked on a new partnership with the aim of creating global citizens and fostering support for the United Nations. The partnership, set to last until mid-2016, will engage a new generation of "ambassadors" in the vital work of the UN through globally focused workshops and activities, including Model UN simulations.

As part of the partnership, UNA-USA has provided ten AKA regional representatives with training, tools, and resources to empower local chapters of the sorority to bring UN-centered educational programming to local high schools and communities. AKA members will now have the resources needed to organize

classroom Model UN simulations, conduct community outreach activities, and celebrate UN milestones, including UN Day. These activities will create new constituencies in support of the UN while educating them on the global impact of the UN's transformative work.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with AKA," said UNA-USA executive director Chris Whatley. "The Model UN experience is instrumental in creating global citizens and college- and career-ready kids."

On Saturday, January 10, 2015, Mr. Troy Wolfe, director of the UNA-USA Education Program, introduced this new partnership, and its current focus on teaching and learning, to members of AKA's Westchester chapter, Zeta Nu Omega, and to members of UNA-Westchester, under whose leadership Zeta Nu Omega will launch this global initiative. It is expected that the new partnership will be launched with schools in Mount Vernon, Sleepy Hollow, and White Plains, which have Model UN programs or UN clubs. UNA-Westchester is already involved with each.

The international president of AKA, Dorothy Buchanan Wilson, has chosen "Launching New Dimensions of Service" as a programmatic theme. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is an international service organization of college-educated women founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard University. AKA comprises 260,000 members in 986 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the U.S., the Caribbean, Canada, Japan, Germany, South Korea, and countries of Africa. The president of the Westchester chapter, Zeta Nu Omega, is Lynda Bagley.

Leadership Award

On December 8, the UNA's Southern New York State Division presented the Lee Bloom Leadership Award to our own president, Marcia Brewster. Since she was away, the

award was formally accepted by Vice President Brenda Smith. Karen El-Badry joined Brenda in representing the Westchester chapter. Lee Bloom's son, Doug, presented the award along with representatives from the division. A second recipient of the Lee Bloom Award was Donna Rosa of the Northern New Jersey Chapter. Molly Bruce's daughter, Anne, was also present to participate in the Margaret K. Bruce Advocacy Award given to Gabriel Levitt of the Brooklyn chapter.

Board of Directors, including Officers and Committee Chairs

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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
35 Heath Place
Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706