

## Advocacy Corner

The Advocacy Committee will be working on a number of key issues this year. We zeroed in on them at a wonderful, productive retreat that was held at the beautiful home of board member Marcia Wallace.

1. Joan Katen will be moderating the “Great Decisions Series” at the Harrison Public Library. This series studies U.S. foreign policy and its effects worldwide. Participants in the series are briefed on various foreign policy issues, such as the United Nations and its future on the global scene, the EU after Britain, and nonstate actors and terrorism. Participants read a few pages on each topic in a briefing book, see a film on the topic, and hear a speaker. Then they vote on what they want U.S. policy in these areas to be. The Foreign Policy Association tallies the votes and sends the results to Congress and the executive branch. Thus, our government will have a good idea of what the American public feels our foreign policy should be in these areas. What a wonderful chance to support United Nations perspectives for those who wish to do so. If you are interested in learning more about these issues and making your views known, please call the Harrison Public Library at (914) 835-0324. We will begin the series on January 17, 2017, when our briefing books will be available.
2. Yuhanna Edwards, after his success in Mount Vernon, is still leading our initiative to have the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) implemented in local cities. We hope to expand CEDAW acceptance to communities throughout our area. Please join Yuhanna.
3. Scott Monje, our resident excellent writer will be publishing op-eds and blog posts supporting UN positions.
4. Victor Madubuko, our webmaster, will help us tap into the United Nations information feed so we can stay on top of important issues as they come up.
5. We will also continue meetings with our elected representatives to encourage them to support UN positions and to fund the United Nations. We will ask them to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One issue related to SDG Number 16, Peace and Justice, is criminal justice reform. We will support the UNA Southern New York State Division as they urge a senate vote on the Redeem Act which seals the records of nonviolent offenders after they have served their time in prison for crimes committed.

*Please join us on the Advocacy Committee and lend us your talents. We have open spots on the committee and exciting work to do. Call Joan Katen at (914) 698-7060, if you are interested in working with our team.*