



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Westchester Chapter

# The Global Connection

Volume 4 #1 Online • February 2021

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## Greetings, Members and Friends of UNA-Westchester

2021 is a year in which we are starting to feel a renewed sense of hope and ever-more determination, in the words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres: "Hope, as I believe it is possible to change gear and put the world on the right track. Determination, as we must all do everything we can to make it happen."

With vaccinations in the pipeline, we can feel that there is at least a light at the end of the long Covid-19 tunnel, even if that light is still off in

the distance for many of us.

In the US, a change of Administration has set a course for a renewed commitment to multilateralism, a refreshing turnaround so welcomed by all of us who truly value US-UN relations.

There are, of course, so many challenges which lie ahead, both locally and globally. The Secretary-General puts it so well when he speaks of determination, though, and that certainly describes so many UNA members who show a great commitment to work together to impact positive change both locally and globally.

The Secretary-General has cited a number of priorities for 2021, but among the top are the equitable distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine and effective communication on the virus and on the vaccine; a recovery from the pandemic which embraces renewable energy and green and resilient infrastructure; and a focus on the many areas of economic and societal life globally which have been particularly impacted by the virus. He is encouraged that "Governments are finally starting to listen to scientists, businesses, cities, academia and in particular, the young people who have been global leaders .... "

Our UNA-Westchester Board is grateful for your interest, support, and commitment to making our community and the world at large a better place. Thank you for all that you do.

### Lilli Schindler

Second Vice President, Board of Directors  
UNA Westchester

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## AN ALL-VIRTUAL GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT: "Unlike any other we have hosted before!"



UNA \* USA

We're only a few weeks away from our first [all-virtual Global Engagement Summit](#), taking place February 19-20. With [registration now open](#), we're hoping you'll help us promote this event to others in your network!

We've created a [promotional toolkit](#) which includes—but is not limited to—sample social media posts, relevant handles and hashtags, important links, and speaker information. As we continue to confirm speakers, we'll provide additional promotional language to the toolkit. Therefore, we encourage you to visit the toolkit often.

This year's summit is unlike any other we've hosted before. We look forward to welcoming more Americans than ever before to participate in our virtual summit, connecting them to the lifesaving work of the United Nations, and ultimately, encouraging them to join our growing movement of 20,000 Americans united in their support for the United Nations.

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# The "New Normal" Media Contest

By the United Nations Association of Westchester  
For students grades 6-12

**Win awesome prizes and have your work featured on UNA social media!**

**Cash prizes will be awarded for overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners\***

Covid-19 has brought many new challenges for students, but it also brought new opportunities. Students and educators have been forced to adapt and innovate in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal #4, "Quality Education."

**What has the "new normal" meant to you? We want to know!**



**How to Enter:** develop a creative response to the question above, such as:

- A personal essay (500-1000 words)
- A compare/contrast essay (500-1000 words)
- A poem (20-100 lines)
- A song
- A video (3-5 minutes)
- A PowerPoint (5-10 slides)
- An art piece

Send your submission to [unawestchester@gmail.com](mailto:unawestchester@gmail.com) & learn more at [unawestchester.org/education](http://unawestchester.org/education)

\*Separate awards will not be awarded for each written/media category.

**DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2021**

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**UNA-Westchester International Womens Day Event**

## **"Powerful Women of Westchester in Public Life"**

*(Theme of UNs CSW 65: Women's full, effective participation & decision-making in public life)*

**Sunday, 7 March 2021, 3:00pm Live, on Zoom**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

**3:00 PM via Zoom**

**International  
Women's Day**

**Powerful Westchester Women  
in Public Life**



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Westchester Chapter**

**Moderated by Sanda Ojiambo,  
Executive Director, UN Global Compact**

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**Human Rights Day – Artistically Speaking**

On December 13, the UNA Westchester chapter honored Human Rights Day, with an artistic



twist. Rather than inviting yet another speaker to remind us of the heritage of Human Rights Day, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and how the UN has been the beacon for the promotion of human rights since its creation, we came up with another idea: How have artists translated these issues in their own work?

In fact, examples abound in all aspects of the arts. Perhaps artists know better than most the need for freedom of expression – and have often been the ones who have suffered most under censorship's yoke. So, our issue at first was: where to focus during a short zoom; where would we cull the best ideas while remaining open to hearing the ideas and questions of others around this important and timely topic.

We began by looking inward: one of our talented Board members helped create a plan that directly impacts and expands upon the very concept! Ms. Tricia Baldes developed and helps teach a core curricular topic in the Westchester school system called Rock-Your-World.

READ THE REST: [HERE](#)

**Patrick Sciarratta**

Communications Chair,  
UNA W Board  
Editor,  
The Global Connection



**Register now for Westchester's inaugural Model United Nations conference!**

Saturday, April 17 - 1 PM - via Zoom

An opportunity for high school & college students to:

- engage in **debate & diplomacy**
- improve **public speaking skills**
- **meet UN officials**

Admission is free of charge.

Learn More: [unawestchester.org/westmun](http://unawestchester.org/westmun)

Register: [westmun.eventbrite.com](http://westmun.eventbrite.com)

**Do you know a high school or college student who is passionate about international affairs and the United Nations, and wants to improve their diplomacy and debate skills?**

**Encourage Them to Register for WestMUN!**

WestMUN is Westchester's first Model UN conference in recent years.

This special event is presented by the United Nations Association, Westchester Chapter's **Young Professionals** – and held entirely via Zoom.

WestMUN will feature two committees open to high schoolers and one committee open to college freshmen and sophomores, focused on UN Women, the World Health Organization and UNESCO. Students who are passionate about international affairs and interested in improving their public speaking and diplomacy skills are welcome to attend. Participating students will have the opportunity to hear from and network with UN officials as well as other students from all around Westchester; add participation in this conference to their resumes; and compete for the exciting "Best Delegate" gavels!

For those who are new to MUN, there will be training sessions held over the upcoming months to help them prepare.

The conference will take place on Saturday, April 17th via Zoom.

Students can register via Eventbrite [here](#) and learn more on our website [here](#).

WestMUN Directors and Young Professionals Co-Chairs

**Raina Kadavil and Paul Presendieu**

Members, UNA W Board of Directors

WestMUN and the Young Professionals Program are presentations of UNA Westchester •  
Annual membership is free to youth and students. Join today [here](#).

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## UNA Westchester Board Member Dan Bena Delivers Opening Remarks at Boston University Model UN Conference

"Thanks to the recommendation of fellow Board Member, Raina Kadavil, I had the pleasure and honor of providing opening remarks to frame the two-day Model UN Conference, hosted by Boston University Academy. It was an honor, indeed, to get a sense of the remarkable young middle- and high-school leaders of the next decades. The student Secretariat was remarkably professional, prepared, impassioned, and articulate, and it was great to see the value of the UN being embraced so fully. Watch this slightly abridged (10 minutes) encore video of my comments, and tell us what you think of the "4Hs" I describe!!" - Dan Bena

**900  
Seconds**

**BUAMUN IX**  
January 30 & 31st, 2021

A place for the next generation of diplomats to tackle real world problems, both past and present

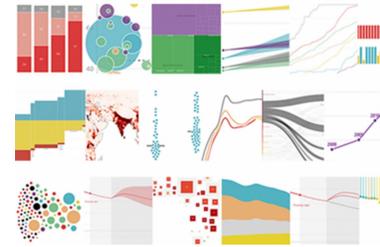
**Dan Bena**  
Founder & CEO, Dan Bena, LLC  
Head (Ret), Sustainable Development &  
Corporate Water Steward, PepsiCo  
Board, United Nations Association (UNA) Westchester  
Professor (hon) & Trustee, Glasgow Caledonian University  
Senior Advisor, SafeWaterNetwork.org

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*Arguably, very cool ...*

**2020 Atlas of  
Sustainable Development Goals**

The Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2020 presents interactive storytelling and data visualizations about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights trends for selected targets within each goal and introduces concepts about how some SDGs are measured. Where data is available, it also highlights the emerging impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDGs.



The Atlas draws from the World Bank's **World Development Indicators** database, as well as from a wide variety of relevant data sources from scientists and other researchers worldwide.

[View it here](#)

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## 2021: A Year of Healing and Hope A Message from United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres



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### 2021 Calendar of Upcoming Public Events for UNA Westchester

19-20 February - UNAs ONLINE Global Engagement Summit: [INFO AND REGISTRATION HERE](#)

7 March 3 pm - International Women's Day: "Powerful Women of Westchester in Public Life"

17 April 1 pm - Westchester Model UN

16 May 3 pm - Annual Meeting: Election of officers

24 October 3 pm - United Nations Day: 76th anniversary

Board meetings (7 pm, generally on first Mondays; virtual in 2021)

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# From the UNA-USA-Westchester Chapter Membership Committee

## Join Us!

Are you a humanitarian?

As our President, J. Yuhanna Edwards, tells us, that is the only criterion for joining the Westchester chapter of UNA-USA. If you care about the world and its people, if you believe in reaching across national borders, if you cherish the notion of a nation and a world based on justice, equity, and peace, this is an opportunity for you. If you are looking for the chance to work with other socially conscious people, to contribute your expertise, experience, and interest in areas such as social media and advocacy, to be a voice for change, and to support and protect the increasingly vital work of the United Nations, this is the organization for you.

Every year, the Westchester UNA-USA chapter hosts events on Human Rights Day, the anniversary of the United Nations, and International Women's Day. Each year there is an Annual Meeting and Community Consultation on the Future of the United Nations at which your voice can and will be heard.

Our events are amazing—important, timely, educational, moving. Among our many public events this past year, the chapter held an online discussion on .....

READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE: [HERE](#)

*And* - See below for information about becoming a member.

Welcome!

**Ronnie Lichtman**

Membership Chair

Board of Directors, UNA W

AND: Please also send an email to our Membership Committee Chair ([Ronnie.lichtman@gmail.com](mailto:Ronnie.lichtman@gmail.com)) so we know you have joined and can invite you to our welcome for new members.

*See below, to join us ...*

Now ...

would be the perfect time for ALL our friends to join as Members.

Remember, Students Join Free! Thank you!

You can become a member easily by going to <https://unausa.org/join/>

Make sure you click on Westchester in the drop-down box.

If you are 12-25, it's free.

For all others, first year membership is only \$25.00

If you prefer to send a check, include your full name, address, phone number, email, and chapter location (Westchester, of course!) and mail to:

Memberships

UNA-USA

PO Box 96397

Washington, DC 20090-6397

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### MASTHEAD & SUBMISSIONS

Editor

Patrick L. Sciaratta

Line Editor

Marcia Brewster

Online Placement

Nicole Butterfield

Social Media Editor

Raina Kadavil

## UNA WESTCHESTER LEADERSHIP

### Officers

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**Marcia Brewster** and **Lilli Schindler**, Vice Presidents  
**Karen Rockwell El-Badry**, Secretary  
**Larry O'Connell**, Treasurer  
**Joan Katen**, Nominations

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**Demetrios Mihailidis**  
**Paul Presendieu**, Young Professionals Co-Chair  
**Patrick L. Sciaratta**, Communications Chair  
**Brenda L. G. Smith**, Advocacy Chair

Photos: Reprinted from [un.org](http://un.org), [www.unawestchester.org](http://www.unawestchester.org), and other related sources.

Submissions for consideration to the UNA -USA Westchester Newsletter:

All articles must be reviewed for content and quality . Submissions for Consideration should be sent to the Communications Chair: [Patrick@vnclm.org](mailto:Patrick@vnclm.org).

The article should be:

- 500-800 words - The lead paragraphs will be published in the magazine, with a link to the UNA -USA Westchester site, and any related site, where the complete article may be viewed.
- Commentary and Event-oriented articles on a relevant tone, highlighting recently past or upcoming events are preferred.
- In the context of the relationship between the United Nations and the Westchester community and United States are preferred.

The article should not contain any of the following:

- Advertorial/for-profit message or endorsement of any kind
- Information unrelated to the work of the UN in some capacity
- Inappropriate information or language, specific political or religious advocacy

The article can be a:

- Personal Essay
- Op-ed
- Narrative
- And include video content

Here are some guiding topics to help you get started:

- Actions you have taken to address the issues presented/discussed at/by the UN
- How the UN has shaped or changed your thinking about national or international issues: the SDGs, pending debates, USA - UN relations, etc.
- Your perspectives on the UNs global development goals and challenges
- Experiences with community action of any kind in relation to UN goals or challenges
- Stories about global friendships and collaborations that started at UN Conferences, etc.
- Submit articles in Word (.doc) format to this address: [Patrick@vnclm.org](mailto:Patrick@vnclm.org) with the subject line "UNA USA W Newsletter: 'Title of the Article'." Once reviewed, it may take about 14 business days until the article is acknowledged as received and a decision is provided as to its use in the UNA USA W Newsletter.
- Along with the article, kindly provide a brief description about the author (1 -2 sentences), together with relevant information such as a website link, a Twitter handle, and other contact information, if applicable.