

UNA-Westchester Global Connection



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

Please Join Our Celebration of Spring!

UNA-USA Westchester Annual Meeting

***“Corporate Social Responsibility and
Partnership with the United Nations”***

**Sunday, May 4, 2014, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
(registration starts at 3:30)**

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

Featured Speakers:



Amir Dossal

Chair, Global Partnerships Forum (www.partnerships.org); Former Director, UN Fund for International Partnerships; Co-Chair, Sustainable Oceans Alliance; co-founder, Pearl Initiative, CEO-led program for accountability in the Middle East

Dan Bena

Head, Sustainable Development Global Operations, PepsiCo; Member, Public Health Committee, Safe Water Network and Leadership Group, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); Steering Board, International Finance Corporation’s 2030 Water Resources Group



Program Highlights:

- Brief annual meeting (Marcia Brewster, President, presiding)
- Keynote addresses and discussion session
- Partnerships Fair
- Recognition of Model UN Teams
- Reception with refreshments

Please register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/una-usa-westchester-annual-meeting-2014-tickets-10940127215> or contact unawestchester@gmail.com.

***Directions:** 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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Editors: 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. In fact, I would simply urge you as UNA-Westchester members to participate and enjoy our Annual Meeting and reception from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 04, at the beautiful Community Unitarian Church in White Plains. We are excited to have Amir Dossal, the former head of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, and Dan Bena, head of PepsiCo's Sustainable Development Global Operations, speak to us about Corporate Social Responsibility and Partnerships with the United Nations. We expect to have an informal "Partnerships Fair" to showcase some local organizations that are involved in international partnerships. We also plan to recognize any winning Westchester team from the National Model UN conference being held in April.

Also, please put our celebration of UN Day on Sunday, October 26, on your calendars. We are hoping to hold it at the White Plains YWCA with a focus on youth issues.

Please join the discussion and bring your votes and ideas to the meeting. We urge our members to participate in and contribute to our committee work. The board sincerely solicits 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 also personally want to thank you all for your support to me and the board for its harmonious cooperation.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting 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:

Officers: to complete their terms for another year:

President	Marcia Brewster
Vice President	Brenda L. G. Smith
Secretary	Scott C. Monje
Treasurer	David R. Finch
Nominations Committee Chair:	
Marcia Wallace	

Directors: for a term of two years

Claire Heskestad
Joan Katen
Karen Rockwell El-Badry
Robina Singh

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

Emma Kennedy Clancy
J. Yuhanna Edwards
James Rapp
Lilli Schindler

The nominees for the Board of Directors are all current members of the Board, and the group works very well together. We welcome additional nominations from the floor, and we encourage participation on our various committees (Advocacy, Communications, Education and Youth, Membership, Program, and Young Professionals).

***UNA-USA Westchester 2012–2014
Annual Report (May 1–April 30)***

Introduction

The Westchester chapter of the United Nations Association (UNA-USA) has had a very good year with some excellent programs in new venues and a heightened degree of enthusiasm from its members.

Patrick Madden resigned as Executive Director of UNA-USA in June 2013, and was succeeded by Chris Whatley, formerly with the Council of State Governments. Chris has been very active in our programs related to the post-2015 Development Agenda and at the Mid-Atlantic/Members Day conference on February 7, 2014. Membership in UNA-USA now tops 17,000, of whom about 4,000 are students.

UNA-USA marked its 70th anniversary in 2013 (it was founded in 1943, two years before the UN). We honored one of our most prominent members, Dr. Brenda L. G. Smith, with a legacy award to mark the 70th anniversary at our UN Day celebration in Mount Vernon.

UNA-USA has established new partnerships with: the Department of State, International Organizations Bureau; Seton Hall University, Whitehead School of International Diplomacy; Department of Defense – UNA Veterans program; and the UN Federal Credit Union. We were also happy that the US has appointed a Youth Observer to the UN, currently Tiffany Taylor. We have invited Tiffany to speak to our group on UN Day in October 2014.

UNA-USA Annual Meeting

President Marcia Brewster and Program Cochair Jim Rapp attended the UNA-USA annual meeting in Washington in June. We enjoyed meeting and talking to the chapter and national leaders from UNA-USA and our colleagues from the UN Foundation (UNF). We appreciate the access to Congress that the

location of UNA headquarters in Washington provides, but we continue to lobby for a stronger presence in New York. We have gained a few UNA staff at the UNF office in New York—in education and communications—who can assist with our programs at the UN itself and have provided support with high school and college Model UN programs.

One session of the annual meeting was devoted to a “Board Development Toolkit,” which gave us ideas on how to develop and improve the chapter board profile, including: a recruitment checklist; outreach and candidate identification; accountability measures, including annual goals and plans; and deliverables. We had detailed discussions on how to enhance membership and increase diversity; ensure financial health; increase community engagement; and engage youth.

We had individual meetings with UNF/UNA staff on website and social media. We learned that UNA national can provide content for our website and Facebook and can train people in social media. Content includes UN News, Newsfeed from the UN, the Interdependent, World Bulletin and others. Now that our website is much improved, it is time that we take them up on this offer. We also met with the UNA staff in charge of educational programs to discuss Model UN and Global Classrooms. They can help us with messaging and resources for middle school, high school, and college. We invite Westchester teachers who are advising Model UN programs and UN Clubs to participate in our education program.

Finally, I attended a UNA-Women breakfast where we discussed the new advocacy platform for the group. Later in 2013 the coordinator for UNA-Women (Tanisha Dyll) left the organization, so there was not much activity until March, when the group organized a side event at the Commission on the Status of Women program on March 13, 2014.

The last day of the meeting was devoted to visiting Congressional representatives: “Day on the Hill.” Jim and I were not able to stay for those meetings, but members of the board met with Representatives Elliot Engel and Nita Lowey in their NY offices in March 2014.

Attending the annual meeting is a good way to meet the leaders of UNA-USA and to get an idea of what the organization is doing at the national level. I encourage members of our chapter to attend the meeting this year, which will be held June 8–10 in Washington.

UNA-Westchester Board

At our Annual Meeting in April 2013, we elected four people to the Board of Directors: Donald Carlson, J. Yuhanna Edwards, James Rapp and Lilli Schindler.

Don Carlson was unable to continue in his position on the board and resigned early in his term. We were very happy to welcome Emma K. Clancy to fill the empty board position and become chair of Young Professionals. She has done a fantastic job of launching the program, as reported below.

This year we will re-elect all five officers and four members of the board. All the incumbents were willing to run for office this year, so we are fortunate to have such a stable and harmonious group of people on our board.

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

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee, cochaired by Professor Joan Katen and Councilman J. Yuhanna Edwards, organized several activities to support the work of the UN. UNA-Westchester was one of the sponsors of a very successful conference held at Pace University

on October 23, 2013. The topic of the conference was: “The Effects of Conflict on Global Health,” and it featured keynote speaker Brian Williams of the UN Peacebuilding Support Office in New York. Also from the UN were Mr. Kurt Chesko of the Mine Action Service and Mr. Narinder Kakar, Permanent Observer to the UN of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the University for Peace. These speakers gave us an excellent picture of the tremendous harm conflict causes to human mental and physical health and how the UN attempts to help those affected by conflict. Other speakers from the medical field and the armed forces gave us their perspectives on the effects of conflict. Many of the 200 attendees were interested in the extent of UN efforts to alleviate human suffering in postconflict situations.

Also, Advocacy Committee members visited Congresswoman Nita Lowey (914-683-3275) and Congressman Eliot Engel (914-699-4100) to ensure their support for President Obama’s budgeted monies for UN Peacekeeping as well as for the UN General Fund. I am delighted to report that both our Congressional representatives were very supportive of the UN and its work and agreed to support the budget for Peacekeeping and the General Fund.

Program Committee

The program committee, ably led by Jim Rapp, Lilli Schindler, and Brenda L. G. Smith, organized, sponsored, and/or participated in many activities:

April 28: Our *2013 Annual Meeting* addressed the theme “The Vital Contribution of Peace and Security to Development” and featured 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. Mr. Narinder Kakar, Permanent Observer of the University for Peace to the UN, provided insight on the post-2015 development goals, and Pace University student Andrea Bogojevich

provided her insights on peace in the Middle East. We honored award-winning teams from Mercy College and Pace University who were recognized by the National Model UN conference in New York City.

October 20: We had a fabulous *UN Day* program to celebrate UNA's 70th anniversary and the United Nations' 68th anniversary with an exciting event on theme "Celebrating International Diversity in Westchester: Partnerships for Global Progress." The event, held at Wartburg Conference Center in Mt. Vernon, drew over 160 people, ranging from local elected leaders (including Mount Vernon Mayor Ernest Davis); dancers, singers, and musicians; and middle and high school winners of the Southern NYS video competition on "The World I Want" and their families. We had messages from General Assembly President John W. Ashe and from Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary-General's Envoy for Youth.

We presented a legacy award to outstanding member Brenda L. G. Smith and to the student participants in the video competition (all of whom came from Westchester). This was all followed by a wonderful international buffet. Special thanks go to Jim Rapp, Emma Clancy, and Yuhanna Edwards for making UN Day such a special celebration this year.

November 1 and December 10: In collaboration with the Southern NY State Division, the chapter participated in the *Post-2015 Development Goals roundtables* (NY Times building in Manhattan in November and FDR Center in Hyde Park in December). These were very interesting discussions among experts and activists to formulate goals for the post-2015 period. Our input will be part of the official US contribution to the dialogue. UNA members are encouraged to provide their inputs at <http://www.myworld2015.org>.

February 7: *Sixth Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference and Members' Day* at the United Nations. A number of UNA-USA Westchester

members attended the event on the theme: "Building Peace in an Age of Upheaval." The conference was held in the UN General Assembly Hall and was attended by about 700 people, including many students. Marcia Brewster moderated the panel on the Post-2015 Development Goals featuring Paul Ladd of UNDP; Chris Whatley; and Jeanne Stillman, President of the Southern NY State Division. The other main panels were on "Making Peace, Keeping Peace, Building Peace" and "Human Rights Challenges: 2014 and Beyond." This conference has become one of the main vehicles for raising awareness of the work of the UN among US citizens.

March 2 and March 24: *International Women's Day and Women's Month: Our Young Professionals*, headed by Emma Clancy, organized the Women's Day event with a screening of *Half the Sky*, a documentary on the struggles and triumphs of women around the world, in Hastings-on-Hudson on March 2. Speaker Diana Mao of the Nomi Network led a lively discussion on challenges for women throughout the world. To mark Women's History Month, on March 24 UNA and the Westchester Board of Legislators honored five outstanding women of Westchester: Congresswoman Nita Lowey; microfinance banker Nicola Armacost; UN Assistant Secretary General Judith Cheng-Hopkins; correspondent Linda Fasulo; and UN peacekeeper Nana-Fosu Randall.

May 4: Our *2014 Annual Meeting* will address the theme "Corporate Social Responsibility and Partnership with the UN" and will feature keynote speaker Amir Dossal, Chairman, Global Partnerships Forum, and Dan Bena, head of Sustainable Development Global Operations at PepsiCo. We will recognize the outstanding student teams to the National Model UN competition in NYC.

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 at: www.unawestchester.org.

Education Committee

The Education and Youth Committee, chaired by Claire Heskestad, a teacher at Sleepy Hollow High School, supported UNA Southern New York State's video competition for schools with the theme "The World I Want." The contest winners presented their videos at our UN Day event in October, and award certificates were handed to all participating students, as well as their mentors or teachers.

The committee continued its outreach in the teaching community. Marcia Wallace and Karen Rockwell manned a booth at the Westchester-Lower Hudson Council for the Social Studies in December, handing out UN information and many posters to local teachers. Claire Heskestad led a workshop entitled "South Korea: From Failed State to 21st Century Power."

Karen Rockwell continued her program of teaching third-graders in Yonkers about the UN with the help of committee members. From the board, Marcia Brewster, David Finch, Jim Rapp and Marcia Wallace participated. 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

The 2014 slate required nominations for the five Officers and four Directors for a 2-year term effective July 1, 2014. All incumbents were willing to continue on the board, so the committee's work was very much simplified. Members were asked to send additional nominations through the February Newsletter. The slate, which was accepted by the board on March 3, will be submitted to members in the

April Newsletter, satisfying the requirement that membership be notified within 14 days of the election. The slate will be for approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 4, 2014.

Class of 2016:

President	Marcia Brewster
Vice President	Brenda L. G. Smith
Secretary	Scott Monje
Treasurer	David R. Finch
Nominations	Marcia Wallace
Directors:	Claire Heskestad Joan Katen Karen Rockwell El-Badry Robina Singh

The following Directors in the Class of 2015 will continue to serve for the coming year: Emma Kennedy Clancy, J. Yuhanna Edwards, James Rapp, and Lilli Schindler.

Submitted by the Nominations Committee: Marcia Wallace, Chair; Board members Lilli Schindler and Robina Singh; Members at large: Doris Benson and Patrick Sciarratta.

Young Professionals Program

The Young Professionals Program (YPP), chaired by Emma Kennedy Clancy, has had a wonderful year of growth and outreach. The program was launched in December 2013, with Asif Khan of the UN Foundation attending and showing how young professionals in New York can become more involved in the work of the UN through programs such as Girl Up. Since then the YPP has grown to include young professionals from all over Westchester.

Most recently, the YPP hosted a special film screening of *Half the Sky* in honor of International Women's Day 2014, which was well received. The event featured Diana Mao, CEO and cofounder of the Nomi Network, who is making great strides helping victims of sex trafficking in Cambodia and India become economically independent and prosperous.

The YPP is excited to host career and networking events in the future, as well as more educational events to inspire the community to become more involved in promoting change both locally and globally. Please visit our link on unawestchester.org or e-mail questions to yp.unawestchester@gmail.com for more information on how to become involved!

Finance

Dave Finch has continued as our loyal treasurer and kept us solvent. These were the finances for calendar 2013:

Balance 1 January 2013: \$8,752
2013 Income: 2,452
2013 Expenditures: 2,757
Balance 31 December 2013: 8,447
Change: - 305

Website and Social Media

Robina Singh has taken the initiative to improve our website by changing the host to Weebly. Thanks also to intern Robbie MacDonald for enhancing the website and our social media outreach. 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 utilize 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 three times during the past year. We may increase electronic distribution to save on costs during the coming year. Newsletter contributions can be submitted to unawestchester@gmail.com.

Membership

The Membership Committee seeks to: 1) increase membership by attracting new members, welcoming and including them; 2) retain existing members by contacting them before their membership lapses; 3) reenlist those who have lapsed.

In 2013–14, we made a major effort to understand accurately the methods and terms of the reports that we receive from National. It has taken the membership chairs time to appreciate the terminology used (joined, active, new, lapsed, etc.) and to work with the National office. Going forward, we are more confident of how best to approach individuals.

While we have not held specific events to gain new members, every chapter event includes efforts to encourage guests to register. We sent letters of welcome to 18 new members, and letters of encouragement to 13 who expressed interest in becoming members.

In an effort to retain members who were listed on reports as “Lapsed,” we sent letters to encourage them to continue membership and phoned several. Finally, we received reports from two people who were dropped from the report, indicating that they were no longer members, but who had actually paid their dues. This type of situation must be rectified, and they should be reinstated as paid up members.

In 2013 our membership remained at about 125 members. We need assistance with our membership drive, and volunteers are encouraged to speak to Marcia Brewster or Marcia Wallace with their ideas.

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 and Committee Chairs*

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 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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