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## UNA-USA Southern New York State Division

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Dear UNA-USA Members and Friends:

It's not too late to register for the UNA-USA Annual Meeting (June 12-14) in Arlington, VA. This is a great time to meet UNA leaders from around the country and to visit your Congressperson and Senator. Go to: [2011 ANNUAL MEETING](#)

Membership in UNA-USA

As a UNA-USA member it's important that you renew your membership and also that you help others to join. Only by increasing our numbers and voice can we make a difference in promoting US-UN relations. Go to: [UNA-USA JOIN](#) - Our Division has about 120 members in addition to those who are chapter members. On the website, for Chapter Selection, go to NY and choose #462 - S. NY State Division. We want to more than double our numbers of people in those areas where we don't currently have chapters and want to build new ones: Mid-Hudson Valley, The Bronx / Riverdale, Nassau and Suffolk. Ask your friends to join! If you are interested in starting or joining a group (10 members) or a chapter (at least 25 members), let us know. We have enough members in several of these areas, but need leadership teams.

The Inside View on the UN

Be sure to sign up to receive updates in [The Inside View on the UN](#), the Division's Blog. Recent articles include reports on UNA Queens' Earth Day Celebration and its May 3 program featuring high school student essay contest winners. You can view the videos on YouTube. John Carey of the Westchester Chapter writes an excellent weekly article on UN-related current affairs.

We are starting to add notices about meetings at the UN for which you can register or, in some cases, links to webcasts. The first of these was on sustainable consumption and production. Upcoming events include a series on Legitimacy and the UN (see the blog for details).

Also, Kathy Kline, a member of the NY chapter, has written an article about her involvement and new knowledge about the UN as a representative of AARP.

Peg Byron of the Brooklyn Chapter has written an article about the [April 27 Orientation](#) for about 20 new board members including six YPIC members and volunteers. Robert Skinner and Jayan Khalil of the UN Foundation and Roger Nokes of UNA spoke to the group. See the article for details and photos (at bottom).

Orientation Handouts Available

If you are interested in receiving handouts given at the orientation, including "What is the UNA-USA Southern New York State Division?," "Nuts and Bolts for Chapters and Divisions," and "Eight Areas Where the United States Benefits by Working with the UN," send an e-mail to unasouthernny@gmail.com

Advocacy with Your Congressional Representative

UNA-USA membership helps us be informed citizens. As a result of our strategic alliance with the United Nations Foundation, we now have access online to the a valuable booklet - the [2011 Congressional Briefing Book](#) on the United Nations. Chapter titles include About Us (Better World Campaign and UNA-USA), The Value of the UN, Economic and Social Issues, Peace and Security Issues, and U.S.-UN Priorities for 2011 plus appendices.

Energy Project

The Division's new Energy Project features grassroots involvement in the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (led by UN Foundation), and in support of UN Energy, focusing on energy needs of developing countries and reducing the energy footprint of developed countries. UN Energy will next meet on June 2 at the UN.

If you would like to become involved as activities around this develop, or if you have ideas you would like to share, send an e-mail to board members George Garland (gagarland@gmail.com) or David Stillman (ppafoundation@gmail.com).

Upcoming Events

- UNA Southern NY State Division Board Meeting, May 9, 801 Second Ave., 2nd Floor. 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. If you would like to attend, please email: unasouthernny@gmail.com We will focus on membership, advocacy and the Division's new project to promote cleancookstoves and UN Energy.
- The New York City Chapter will hold its Annual Spring Luncheon on May 11, at the Delegates Dining Room, featuring Making a Difference: Women Who Care. To register, go to: [Annual Spring Luncheon: Women Who Care](#) Also see: <http://unanyc.org/events/calendar.html>
- All are welcome to attend the Westchester Chapter's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. Gillian Sorensen will speak on "Facing the Crises of our Times: The United States and the United Nations in

the 21st Century" The meeting will be held at Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains, NY 10605. The program is free and a reception will follow. For information, contact: Brenda Smith at bsmith0825@aol.com (914) 428-6008 or Claire Heskestad at claryenne@aol.com (845) 629-8971.

Recommended Event

- Community Development International will host an event at the Church Center for the United Nations on May 17, 6 to 9 pm on the subject "Forests: Conservation and Management - Best Practices" See: www.cd-international.org to purchase tickets.

I hope to see you soon! Feel free to write or call about any of the items above, or about UNA-USA, and we will try to put you in touch with the right person.

Warm regards,

Ginger

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