



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America
A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION
Southern New York State Division

United Nations Association of the USA Southern New York State Division News

Serving chapters, groups, and members-at-large in the five boroughs of New York City and in the counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester and reaching friends across the country.

UNA-USA is a Program of the UN Foundation.

March 25, 2014

Dear UNA Colleagues and Friends,

A busy time leads to a lengthy newsletter. See the block at the bottom for Chapter events in Brooklyn, New York City (Manhattan), Queens, Westchester and Northern New Jersey. Thank you to all who participated in the Commission on the Status of Women events and who celebrated International Women's Day!

On the light side - Have you seen the celebrations for the **International Day of Happiness**, (March 20) hosted by singer/songwriter Pharrell Williams? See <http://24hoursofhappy.com/> and also enjoy **UN Foundation's New York Staff including President Kathy Calvin celebrating the day**. On the serious side - you can contribute to humanitarian needs around the world by clicking at the end of the video.

The **UNA-Post 2015 Development Agenda Report** is now available. Summaries of our Division's events on November 1 (NY Times Building, Manhattan) and December 10 (FDR Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park), are included. UNA-USA President Chris Whatley presented the findings to the UNA Women event on March 13.

On March 27, a screening at the United Nations of **Mother of George** will be sponsored by the Ghana Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Made in Africa, and UNA-SNY Young Professionals. A Q&A session will follow with film Director Andrew Dosunmu and Writer Darci Picoult of the New York Times. 5:45 - 9pm. Go to: <http://www.unasouthernny.org/events1.html> for registration information.

Join us on April 8: About 10 spots are available at a **Post-2015 Development Agenda event** with students of S. Ilgu Ozler, Associate Professor at SUNY New Paltz. This will be held from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Please e-mail unasouthernny@gmail.com and we will send you full information including your opportunity to select topics for roundtables and background readings. Division Board members George Garland, David Stillman, Marcia Brewster and Jeanne Betsock Stillman will participate.

Afterward, a group will meet with Professor Ozler and other New Palz and Hudson Valley leaders to discuss establishment of new **UNA Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter**. If you would like to get involved, please write to unasouthernny@gmail.com. As soon as the chapter is officially formed members will be transferred from the UNA-SNY to the Chapter. Join now and become a Charter Member!

An all-day Student World Affairs Conference will take place at Vassar College on **April 12**, organized by UN Club students from Marist College and from other colleges in the area, working with the Hudson Valley World Affairs Council. Students will present papers on Global Governance, Democratization, Human Rights, Sustainable Development, Education and International Security. David Stillman and I will participate on behalf of the UNA Southern NYS Division.

Warm regards,

Jeanne Betsock Stillman
President, UNA Southern New York State Division (UNA-SNY)

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook! - <http://www.facebook.com/UNASouthernNY> and the UNA Energy Project at <https://www.facebook.com/unaenergy?ref=hl>
@UNAEnergy @UNASouthernny Join our unaenergy@googlegroups.com to keep up with important issues in local and global energy issues.

Global Moms Relay

Use your Social Media Skills to help Moms and Kids!

by Kathy Calvin, President, UN Foundation

Note: This program launched in early March and we have learned that \$112,000 have already been raised!

"Mothers around the world are changing their communities for the better. That's why today we're launching the **Global Moms Relay to celebrate the power of motherhood and to promote health and happiness for moms and kids everywhere.**

Here's how it works: Through Mother's Day, May 11, community leaders and celebrities including Jennifer and Lynda Lopez, Arianna Huffington, Nigel Barker, and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka will share personal stories of how a mother has changed his or her life.

Every time you share one of these stories on social media, Johnson & Johnson will donate \$1 (per share) to one of three initiatives that support the United Nations' **Every Woman Every Child** movement to help women and children everywhere lead healthy lives.

The first leg of the relay will benefit the Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action (MAMA), which uses mobile phones to provide new and expectant moms with vital health information.

We hope you will join the Global Moms Relay, read and share inspiring stories, and help create a better future for moms around the world. Your actions can lead to big change and healthier, happier families."

Southern NYS Division to participate in Universal Periodic Review of the U.S. Human Rights Record

by Ryan Kaminski, UNA-USA Leo Nevas Human Rights Fellow

Seeking to identify and expand bridges between UNA-USA members and the UN, UNA-USA is collaborating with chapters to conduct consultations for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the U.S. human rights record in 2015. The UPR is a tool of the still relatively new UN Human Rights Council-established in 2006-which assesses the human rights record of all 193 UN members. The UPR offers a key window for grassroots activists and UN advocates to offer observations, ideas, and recommendations related to the human rights records of UN members. During the first review of the U.S. in 2011, for example, hundreds of civil society groups in the U.S. participated in the process. Ultimately, the U.S. even accepted many of the ideas during its inaugural review in Geneva, Switzerland where the Council is based. Now it is your turn.

In 2014, the UNA-USA chapters and division across the country will, for the first time ever, conduct consultation meetings on human rights topics ranging from the prevention of human trafficking to preventing violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation to advancing the rights of women and girls among others. The goal of the consultations is to develop concrete, actionable, constructive recommendations related to the U.S. UPR that will be synthesized into a report and sent directly to the UN Officer of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and U.S. State Department for review.

In May, the Southern New York State Division will hold a consultation focused on advancing the rights of women and girls, and on human trafficking. We may engage in other topics separately later. All, whether seasoned UN veterans or those who simply interested in the topic, are encouraged to participate and to share their perspectives. More details to come!

Chapter News and Events

Brooklyn - UNA Brooklyn is springing ahead with plans for some diverse and compelling events. They are expected to include a program exploring education -- its significance and barriers -- for girls in post-conflict and refugee environments. Also on the drawing board is a panel with military, policy and legal experts who will discuss their views and experiences with UN peacekeeping through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. In addition, members are preparing to advance UNA's advocacy mission via meetings with individual members of Brooklyn's congressional delegation. Meantime, the Chapter aims to have its revamped web site up and running in the weeks ahead, making it easier to keep up with these and other activities.

New York (Manhattan) - The Chapter will co-host an event at the Japan Society on March 27, on "JAPAN'S NEW NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY AND ITS IMPACTS ON REGIONAL STABILITY." On April 21, Ambassador Thomas Pickering will speak on "Iran-U.S. Relations: Challenges and Opportunities." The Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting on April 30 followed by a Book Talk with author Marwan Muasher on The Second Arab Awakening and the Battle for Pluralism. For information on all events, go to <http://www.unanyc.org/events/>.

Queens - Be sure to visit the Chapter's elegant new website (congratulations!) to learn about their recent Earth Day event, held on March 23: <http://unaqueens.org/>. The Chapter is sponsoring a High School Essay Contest --

deadline April 11. Students can choose from three topics, all in relation to refugees around the world. Find details by opening the HS Essay Contest tab on the website.

Westchester - UNA [Westchester's website](#) reports on events in March celebrating International Women's Day and Women's History Month. The chapter joined the Westchester Board of Legislators to honor five prominent Westchester women, including Congresswoman Nita Lowey. Westchester Chapter president Marcia Brewster, board members Joan Katen and J. Yuhanna Edwards, and Southern NYS Division board member Oneater Sinclair of the Bronx met with Congressman Eliot J. Engel to talk about UNA's advocacy issues. They reported on an excellent meeting and many common interests.



I. to r. Yuhanna Edwards, Joan Katen, Congressman Engel, Marcia Brewster, Oneater Sinclair

On March 26 the Westchester Young Professionals will host an event on "**Education and Economic Empowerment**," at Greenburgh Town Hall. On April 3, Marcia Brewster will join Southern NYS Division Board Member David Stillman in a presentation on **International Careers** at Mercy College.

Northern New Jersey - The Northern New Jersey Chapter will hold its board meeting on April 5. On April 11 members will meet with Ambassador Ferit Hoxha at the Mission of Albania to the UN in Manhattan. For details, see:

<http://nnjunausa.weebly.com/events.html>

Chapters in the Division:

Brooklyn Chapter: www.unabrooklyn.org

New York (Manhattan) Chapter: www.unanyc.org

Queens Chapter: www.unaqueens.org

Westchester Chapter: www.unawestchester.org

Northern New Jersey Chapter: www.nnjunausa.weebly.com

Note: Brooklyn is in the midst of mounting a new website.



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