



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.

April 22, 2014

Dear UNA Colleagues and Friends,

Happy Earth Day! In our area we are starting to enjoy the return of green grass, daffodils, forsythia and the budding out of trees. Time to get out, see friends, and participate in the lives of our communities!

Students from Professor S. Ilgu Ozler's class at SUNY New Paltz and students representing Oakwood Friends School met on April 8 to discuss the **Post-2015 Development Agenda**. This replicated the events the Division sponsored last November and December as part of the UNA-USA nationwide effort. Faculty and other guests also joined this lively student-led event.

Afterward, the organizing group of our **UNA Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter** met to select possible officers and decide on next steps. Their next planned meeting is scheduled for May 19, when we expect that Chapter will meet all requirements to be fully formed. The group will send an invitation to this event to Division members who live in the Mid-Hudson Valley. **Photos from both events are available here.**



Organizing group: standing, l to r, George Garland (Division Treasurer); Richard Kelder, Bruce Sillner, Ilgu Ozler, Stephen Miller, Stephen Pampinella. seated, l to r, Sue Books, Jeanne Betsock Stillman (Division President), and Pat Sullivan.

Also, on April 12, at Vassar College, students from Mid-Hudson Valley Colleges and Universities organized the **2014 Student World Affairs Conference of the Mid-Hudson Valley**. Students presented papers on topics including international security, global governance, human rights, democratization and sustainable development. Faculty and professional practitioners in the field critiqued the papers and presentations, which will be published in the fall.

UNA-SNY Young Professionals have held elections for Chair and Vice Chair. Congratulations to Melinda Richardson (Chair) and Nicole Diaz (Vice-Chair). You can "meet" the current board at **<http://www.unasouthernny.org/our-team.html>**

Several positions are open and will be filled in early May.

A great thank-you to Jackie Huang and Divya Krishnan who have stepped down from their positions as YP Chair and Vice-Chair and to others who have recently left the board. Congratulations also to several YPs who are going to Grad School in the fall!

On **Wednesday, May 21**, the Division will hold a consultation to provide an **American grassroots voice in the Universal Periodic Review of the U.S. Record on Human Rights**. The event is limited to 35 participants. Please email unasouthernny@gmail.com if you are interested and would like to attend. The event will take place from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at 801 Second Ave., 9th Floor (UN Foundation Office) in Manhattan.

After introductory remarks from several speakers, we will divide into two groups: one will focus on **advancing the rights of women and girls** and another on **human trafficking**. Confirmed speakers are Ryan Kaminski, Leo Nevas Human Rights Fellow and Sarah Elizabeth Porter, ECPAT-USA. More details and background information will appear in the next newsletter.

It's not too late to help with the **Global Moms Relay**, so we're repeating Kathy Calvin's letter, below. You can use your Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and other social media accounts to earn contributions toward important maternal and child health-saving programs.

The **Southern NYS Division Board** will meet from on **Monday, May 12, 5:30 - 7:30 pm** at 801 Second Ave., 2nd floor conference room, (at E. 43rd St.). Please email if you are interested in attending. unasouthernny@gmail.com This will be followed by a meeting of the Energy Project, open to all. Events are being planned for June, with information to come soon.

See the block at the bottom for Chapter events in Brooklyn, New York City (Manhattan), Queens, Westchester and Northern New Jersey. Congratulations to Northern NJ for their advocacy work with both NJ Senators!

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."

Chapter News and Events

Brooklyn

- The Brooklyn Chapter is 2-4 weeks away from launching its new and improved website. We are in the process of recruiting advocates to meet with congressional offices in the summer in DC and in the Fall in Brooklyn. We are planning three events for 2014: 1) A reading showcasing the work and experience of author/humanitarian worker Jessica Alexander who wrote "Chasing Chaos." 2) An event to bring Brooklyn women and girls together to raise money and awareness about Girl Up. 3) An expert panel to feature efforts of the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Section of the UN Department of Peacekeeping. That panel will be lead by Christopher O'Donnell, DDR Section, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Nassau County - As part of the Earth Week celebration, Division Board and Energy Project members Dr. George Garland and Dr. David Stillman will speak on Thursday, April 24, at Adelphi University. Their presentation is on The Future of Bioenergy and Clean Cookstoves. 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - Science Building, Room 215 S Division Board Member Peter DeBartolo, Administrative Director of the Levermore Global Scholars Program, is organizing the event.

New York (Manhattan) - 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. SAVE THE DATES: May 9 and June 17, for film screenings. For information on all events and to register, go to <http://www.unanyc.org/events/>.

Queens -

Queens Library Enrich Your Life in collaboration with Partnership to Eradicate Human Trafficking (PEHT) of the UNA-USA Queens Chapter will hold an event on **Saturday, April 26, on "Our Children, Our Neighbors: Human Trafficking in Queens, a conversation."**

Human trafficking is the second largest criminal economy in the world and is growing every day partly due to economic conditions. Queens is home to two major international airports which makes it a prime target for labor and sex trafficking of women and children. Of late the crimes are not only against immigrants; the newest victims are US born children. What can we do to help victims and protect ourselves and our children?

For details, see: <http://unaqueens.org/p-e-h-t.html>

Westchester - The Chapter's 2014 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4 from 4 to 6 P.M. at the Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Avenue, in White Plains. The topic is **"Corporate Social Responsibility and Partnerships with the United Nations,"** featuring Mr. Amir Dossal, Chairman, Global Partnerships Forum and Special Representative of the Secretary-General of ITU Mr. Daniel Bena, Head for Sustainable Development Global Operations at PepsiCo. For details, see:

<http://www.unawestchester.org>.

On April 3, Mercy College's Model UN Program and Club and the Environmental Sustainability and Justice Club (ENVISAJ) welcomed panelists for their "The World Is Ours" international careers program. Panelists included Marcia Brewster, President, UNA-USA Westchester; Dayna Hyppolite, First Secretary, the Permanent Mission of Haiti; Prof. Michiko Kuroda, International Relations and Diplomacy Program at Mercy, and David Stillman, representing PPAF and the UNA Southern NYS Division. Dr. Sheila Gersh, Director of the Center for Global Engagement moderated the very lively session. Westchester Board members Yuhanna Edwards and Brenda Smith also met with the students.



Northern New Jersey - The Northern New Jersey Chapter will host a tabletop exhibit and make a presentation about UNA at the World Expo Day at Ramapo College.

Date/time: Friday, April 25, 2014 12:00-3:00

Donna Rosa reports that they had had a fantastic meeting with Senator Mendez's office last Monday, and now are taking UNA's advocacy agenda to **Senator Cory Booker**. If you'd like to join, please let Donna know by Friday, April 25 latest. All are welcome!

Date/time: Monday, April 28, 2014 2:00 PM

Location: One Gateway Center, 23rd Floor

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: (973) 639-8700

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.

