



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.

June 5, 2014

Dear UNA Colleagues and Friends,

I hope you are enjoying the start of the summer, new beginnings, graduations, and family get-togethers. Our Division is proud to welcome and congratulate the new **Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter**, which had its organizational meeting on May 19. (See more below.)

Our consultation on the **Universal Periodic Review of the U.S. Human Rights Record under the Human Rights Council, held on May 21** at the UN Foundation New York office was a great success. It focused on advocating for women and girls, and combating human trafficking. Thank you to the speakers, facilitators and participants (See article below.) Our Division's report will be submitted to UNA-USA for incorporation into the UNA-USA document that goes to the UN Human Rights Council. Videos of the plenary and reporting sessions are available at:
www.YouTube.com/UNASouthernny

Upcoming on **Wednesday, July 16**, is our second event related to the **Universal Periodic Review of the U.S. Human Rights Record**. This will focus on incarceration practices in the U.S., and recommendations concerning these. One area of emphasis will be the **International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**. If you are interested in participating or in helping to facilitate this event, please email with your name, phone number and any special experience or interest: unasouthernny@gmail.com .

On **Monday, June 23**, The **Southern NYS Division Board** will meet from **5:30 - 7:30 pm** at 801 Second Ave., 2nd floor conference room, (at E. 43rd St.). Please email if you would like to attend: unasouthernny@gmail.com This will be followed by a meeting of the **Energy Project**, open to all. Events are being planned for later in the summer. Look for a special Energy Edition of this newsletter.

Also, **SAVE THE DATE (June 24)** and look for more information about **UNA SNY Young Professionals' networking event and fundraiser for UNICEF's TAP Project**. An evening get-together is planned. Check the Calendar on the Division website.

Finally, we want to congratulate **Joan Levy, Division Vice President - Advocacy and Vice President at the UNA NYC (Manhattan Chapter)** for being awarded the Distinguished Service Award at the Chapter's Annual meeting! For more, go to:

http://www.unanyc.org/news/2014/20140430_annual_meeting.html

ACTION ITEMS:

If you have not already, it's important for everyone to make your voice heard concerning **"The World We Want."** Spend a few minutes on the website--Americans are very underrepresented and it is

important for us to tell the United Nations and all the countries of the world that we are participating in creating the "Post-2015 Development Agenda." In our newsletter a month ago Chris Whatley, UNA-USA Executive Director, informed us that fewer than 40,000 Americans had gone on line. As we write, the number is 44,585. JOIN IN AND MAKE YOUR PRIORITIES HEARD:

myworld2015.org

You can **Thank a UN Peacekeeper** by going to this link and [signing a card](#). the UN Foundation will deliver the card to the brave men and women in uniform from the U.S. and 121 other countries who serve in blue helmets. The 16 missions and one political mission are located in: Western Sahara, Central African Republic, Mali, Haiti, D.R. of the Congo, Afghanistan, Darfur, Golan Heights, Cyprus, Lebanon, Abyei, Kosovo, Liberia, South Sudan, and India/Pakistan (UNMOGIP), Cote d'Ivoire and Middle East.

See the block at the bottom for Chapter events in Brooklyn, Mid-Hudson Valley, New York City (Manhattan), Queens, Westchester and Northern New Jersey.

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.

Universal Period Review Held on May 21, 2014



l to r: Sarah Elizabeth Porter, Jeanne Betsock Stillman, Latanya Mapp Frett, Lia Cairone

On Wednesday, May 21, the Division held a consultation to provide an American grassroots voice to the Universal Periodic Review of the U.S. record on Human Rights. The event took place at the UN Foundation Office in Manhattan. The consultation began with introductory remarks by Latanya Mapp Frett, Vice President - Global, Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Sarah Elizabeth Porter, Development Associate at ECPAT USA; and Ryan Kaminski, Leo Nevas Human Rights Fellow of UNA-USA. Jeanne Betsock Stillman, Division President, moderated the session.

Participants then divided into two groups: one, facilitated by Corinne Whitaker, reproductive health consultant, focused on advancing the rights of women and girls. The other, facilitated by Joan Levy, UNA-SNY Board member and board member of ECPAT USA, focused on human trafficking. Each group discussed its specific topic, arriving at recommendations and specifics to include in the final stakeholder's report that will go to the Human Rights Council.

After about an hour, the participants reconvened to share their findings. Joshua Cooper, Leon Nevas Human Rights Task Force member, coordinated those discussions and also provided his insights into the Human Rights Council UPR processes. The meeting was a great success with almost 30 participants working hard for the 2 ½ hours of the consultation to brainstorm on these two prominent issues. Corinne Walker (women and girls) and Maria Almario (human trafficking) are leading drafting of our reports.

Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter Forms!

We are happy to announce that the Mid-Hudson Valley organizing group has met all the requirements for a new Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter and held its first meeting with members from the area on May 19th. The meeting included 13 members, who adopted the chapter by-laws unanimously.

The slate of officers was also elected unanimously, establishing S. Ilgu Ozler as the President and advocacy chair, Stephen Pampinella as Vice President - Communications, Bruce Sillner as Treasurer, Sue Brooks as Secretary, Richard Kelder as Membership Chair and Stephen Miller as Program Chair. The United Nations Day event, which is to be held October 24th on the SUNY New Paltz campus, was then discussed. It will focus on human trafficking. Kathleen Durham, who was elected to the Programming Committee, will aid Stephen Miller with planning.

The Human Rights Day event will be held December 10th in the Wallace Center at the FDR Library. Its focus will be on prison reform, identified by our Division and the Chapter as an important human rights topic. The Chapter also spoke of the possibility of co-sponsoring an event with the World Affairs Council. Stephen Pampinella will attend the UNA-USA Annual Meeting in Washington, from June 8-10, with a visit to the Hill on the 10th.

The next chapter meeting will take place on September 8th or 9th at 5 pm, with notice going out to members and the community.

Chapter News and Events

Brooklyn

- The Brooklyn Chapter has launched its splendid new website: www.unabrooklyn.org
Congratulations! Upcoming events will be featured on the site. Go to the News and Events page.

Mid-Hudson Valley -

The Chapter is seeking new members and volunteers for its programming committee.
Contact: smiller@oakwoodfriends.org

Nassau County - Look for news soon about UN Day events in the fall. Meanwhile, congratulations to new graduates of Adelphi! We welcome your continued participation in UNA.

New York (Manhattan) - SAVE THE DATE: June 18, for screening of "Home is Where you Find it." The Special Guest is Simon Bland, Director, UNAIDS / New York. For information on all events and to register, go to <http://www.unanyc.org/events/>.

Queens -

The winners of the **High School Essay Contest** were announced at a reception held at Queens Borough Hall on Thursday, May 29. Hong Tat Kong took first place while Tzuhsin Wang was the second place winner. Both are students at Newcomers High School in Long Island City.

The students were asked to discuss a major refugee crisis in the world today. Both winners responded to one of three questions about a refugee situation: Taking a specific refugee group, discuss the steps that might be taken to solve their problems. Hong Tat Kong selected the Syrians and Tzuhsin Wang wrote about the Chinese.

Model UN Class of 2014 - Edison HS in Jamaica, Queens

The Thomas A Edison Vocational and Technical High School Model UN Class, many of whom are Gen UN members, decided to work on women's empowerment and education in Pakistan. The students decided to support a vocational school for women in Bhaun, Chakwal District, Pakistan where women learn tailoring and basic computer skills. Javed S. Admad, Treasurer of the Queens Chapter, had introduced the idea to the class last fall.

On May 30, the students held a fashion show at which they modeled outfits for women and men made by women at the school in Bhaun. The clothes are available for purchase and the proceeds will be donated to the school in Bhaun, now called the Human Enlightenment Centre.

Westchester -

The Westchester Chapter is planning its UN Day event, to be held on Sunday, October 26th, at the White Plains YWCA. Tiffany Taylor, currently U.S. Youth Observer to the UN, will speak. The theme is: Youth Engagement with the UN. For updates on events, see: www.unawestchester.org

Northern New Jersey

- The chapter is hosting a dinner this evening to celebrate **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**. The guest is Gery Juleff. Mr. Juleff spent 25 years working for the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as Deputy Head of Mission in Kinshasa, DRC, and Deputy Consul General in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Trattoria Rustica
517 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, NJ 973-783-3436
6:30 PM- 8:00 PM

Chapters in the Division:

Brooklyn Chapter: www.unabrooklyn.org

Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter (UNA Hudson Valley): [Facebook page](#)

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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